Dr. January

THE

BRITISH AMERICAN JOURNAL.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. I.—Notes of Obstetrical Cases. By JAMES A. GRANT, M.D., Attending Physician, General Protestant Hospital, Ottawa.

Case I.—Hydatiginous degeneration of the ovum; expulsion at the fifth month; severe uterine hæmorrhage; recovery.

July 20th, 1861. I was requested to visit Mrs. B., et. 35 years, said to be in labour. According to the husband's statement, she has been of active habits and healthy, until within the last few months, during which time she complained of more than fasual constitutional debility, and although the mother of six children, on any previous occasion, experienced neither such strange and indescribable feelings of deliquium at protracted intervals, nor such rapid abdominal enlargement. Always regular as to her catamenia, except during utero-gestation and suckling; has never been the subject of abortion. Menstruation has continued regular from the weaning of the last child, up to the time at which conception was supposed to have taken place, a period of nearly four years. At the expiration of three months from the cessation of menstruation, a slight hæmorrhage was observed, and supposed to have been produced by over exertion in household affairs. I was consulted at this time and advised the ordinary measures which proved effectual; again at the fourth month hæmorrhage occurred. more profuse than formerly, and attended with forcing pains like those of parturition; rest, moderate diet, and cold applications, succeeded in staying the discharge, and affording considerable ease and comfort to the patient. At this period the most marked indications of advancing utero gestation existed. During former pregnancies she considered the abdomen neither so prominent at the fifth month, nor so out of ratio with the enlargement of the breasts. Within the last few weeks these unaccountable dimensions aroused her fears to a recognition of existing dissimilarity to any previous period. At the end of the fifth month, pains of a severe bearing-down character set in, attended with severe flooding, and prior to any medical assistance being rendered, beyond that of an ordinary midwife, a large basinful of hydatids was discharged, adhering together like an immense cluster of grapes, and having the precise appearance described by Cru-Prior to expulsion, the pains continued at short intervals, about four