

to be finally expelled. It may be remembered that this bone (former by the conjunction of the scapula and caracoid bone) describes two sides of a triangle, measuring (on the present occasion) one inch and three-quarters between its unconnected extremities. The scapular portion was fractured by the force applied to withdraw the bone.

It is to be apprehended that the man's assertion, of his not being conscious of having swallowed the bone, is untrue, and it may also be questioned whether he did not suffer pain during its transit. It is rather surprising that the orifices of the stomach and colon did not offer greater obstacle to its passage, and that the man's sufferings did not compel him to disclose the accident sooner.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

XX.—*On the Nature, Signs and Treatment of Childbed Fevers; in a Series of Letters addressed to the Students of his Class.* By CHAS. D. MEIGS, M.D., Professor of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, &c. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: B. Dawson. Pp. 356.

Dr. Meigs in the dedication, which extends over eleven pages, explains the appearance of this volume. He tells us that during one session he found that the history of childbed fevers had conducted him to the last hour of the term. But feeling how inadequate was that short time to the fulfilment of the important duty before him, he engaged in an off-hand promise to furnish his instructions as to childbed fevers by writing and printing his thoughts concerning them in a series of letters for the especial perusal of his students.

Dr. M., in stating his views of the nature of childbed fevers—the name of his own selection—asks, Is there such a thing as a childbed fever? and replies—"I am compelled to answer in the negative, where ore I must consider the word a false and misleading one, since it implies that the disorder is a fever, when, in fact, it is not a fever but a phlegmasia or pure inflammation." This sentence contains an explanation of the author's opinion, and as it begins the discussion, it certainly is rather premature. We do not feel, however, inclined to enter into any disputation upon this point, for what is there in a name, &c. Childbed fever comprehends five distinct cases: metritis, metro-phlebitis, peritonitis, ovaritis, and a case in which all the foregoing disorders, or any two