

the instinct to breathe. Mrs. B.'s late history is very melancholy. She lived in this section of country some years and became the mother of a fine healthy boy, who still survives. Her husband and she removed to a distant State of the Union, and last summer, when she was about ten weeks pregnant she found her husband and his brother smothered in a well by mephitic air. Her health since her return home has not been good, and for a month previous to her confinement she became subject to rather alarming fainting attacks. The cause of the want of development of the brain of a child in utero, seems like other deficiencies of important parts, but little understood. The most ingenious theory I have seen is that of Professor Rudolphi of Berlin, who almost seems to have proved that these cases originate in hydrocephalus occurring at a very early period of the life of the foetus. An account of this theory, a discovery of Rudolphi, is given by Dr. Beatty in the *Medical Gazette* April 17th, 1846. One fact seems to bear out this explanation of Rudolphi's, that in every case there is an excessive quantity of liquor amnii. See note in Ramsbotham's *Midwifery*. I have within the last two years met with two other cases of deficiency of parts, which are worth recording, one a fine smart boy, now over 4 years old, who has no hands or metacarpal bones except one thumb, and who has to hold things by his wrists. One foot is entirely gone from the ankle, the other foot is all right, except that the big toe looks more like a thumb. The other case has only a thumb and two fingers on one hand, and these fingers are grown together. There is also a great deficiency of ribs, and also part of the sternum.

Case of Fracture of both Femora, and humeri and laceration of Scrotum. By JOHN MORRISON, M.A., M.D.

Hugh McD——, æt. 4.—strong, stout boy, on November 18th, 1873, was standing near a perpendicular shaft in his father's flour mill. This shaft was only $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches