

if you please, carry your hand into the uterus; you may, if you please, burst the vagina; you may, if you please, rupture the uterus, turn the child, and pull its head from its body; but have some little mercy. Give a trial of those natural efforts, which, by the wise accoucheur, are never hastily distrusted. The natural efforts failing, puncture the head, should the lever or forceps have been previously tried without success."

In breech and footling cases, these instruments are useless, and only protract a delivery which cannot be accomplished with them. Craniotomy, therefore, should be had recourse to, so soon as we are satisfied that we have made use of as much exertion as we think ourselves warranted in doing, after the head had been placed in the most favorable position.

5thly. *Size of Head*.—A better idea of this may be formed by comparing it with "average size" heads of a fœtus at birth, and of a British Canadian

	Fœtus at Birth.	British Canadian.	Mrs. W's. Child.
From occipital protuberance over vertex to nasal spine,	5½*	11	22½
Greatest circumference,	11	22½	29½

The records of midwifery that I have been enabled to consult afford no such instance of a hydrocephalic monster—one alone excepted:—"In 1834, Mr. T. Marsh, Coleford, Gloucester, attended Mrs.——, in labor with her sixth child. After long delay, Mr. M. dispatched a messenger to some five miles distance for instruments, but before his return, nature—the safest of accoucheurs—had accomplished delivery. The dimensions of the child's head were as follows:—Radix nasi to protuberantia occipitalis, 26 inches; front occipital circumference, 32 inches; ear to ear, across vertex, 24 inches. Around chin and across vertex, 30 inches."† If these measurements be correct, we must, in order to account for unassisted delivery, suppose one of two things to have existed, either an extraordinarily capacious pelvis—such a pelvis as we sometimes "read of"—or a scalp loosely covering the fluid, or, probably, both. Excepting, therefore, Mr. Marsh's case, as an extraordinary anomaly, the largest circumference I have seen recorded is 27 inches. Instances of hydrocephalic heads, under this in size, are numerous. Two

* In these measurements of the child's head, no allowance is made for the elongation, which usually, and sometimes to a great extent, occurs in labour.

† London Medical Gazette, vol. xvii., p. 486.

‡ I distinctly recollect having read of a head of this circumference, but on again looking for the passage containing it I am unable to find it. This, however, makes me no less certain.