

two cows, and the whole five had drank of the milk at breakfast for the first time.

And now, if it was not the milk that was at the bottom of the affair, what was it? It is not necessary to say that I claim no very great exercise of skill in the treatment. All, however, recovered in a few hours, and whatever anxiety we experienced soon disappeared.

HOURLASS CONTRACTION.

Is it not remarkable that I should have been in the practice of medicine all these years and meet with only one instance of hour-glass contraction at the internal os (fully twenty years ago) and one case (a few days since) of contraction at the middle of the uterus? With the single exception of ectopic gestation, I fancy I have seen about everything else that a medical man is expected to contend with in the practice of midwifery.

The confinement that I wish to describe went on well enough apparently until the delivery of the placenta was attempted, when I failed to find it where I expected. As there was then no reason to suspect that there was anything wrong, I waited a few minutes for its arrival down near the mouth, and in the meantime the nurse compressed the womb. However, soon after this it became evident that the patient was flowing badly, and the second attempt was made to reach the afterbirth, with the result that the uterus was found contracted in the middle and the placenta well shut up above the constriction. The next thing to do, was to get it out of its prison or enclosure and control the hæmorrhage. With the hand, or rather fingers, arranged conically, the constriction was dilated, the placenta detached and delivered, but not without a little pain and loss of blood on the part of the patient and the loss of more or less perspiration on the part of the doctor. This accomplished, and a full dose of ergot given, a good contraction was secured, and an arrest of the hæmorrhage obtained. The only after-treatment she received beyond the ordinary consisted in washing out the cavity of the womb with a mild antiseptic the next day. Her husband told me yesterday that his wife was all right—as well