

sequelæ of the case, were essential; and deeply interesting and important *data*; and would have served as *collateral evidence* in support of the new system advanced; if there had been ever a shadow of *primary proof*. That which is here denominated a "physiological paradox," I will show to be a physiological impossibility, if "effect be the natural result of cause."

To establish a "physiological paradox" positive evidence is necessary—that the functions of an organ or viscus, are other than previous observation, experience and opinion had assigned to it. Let us then sift the proof in this case, that a "living child," was born with a "decomposed placenta." As the proof here adduced is altogether *negalite*, it is inadequate even to invalidate *positive* evidence to the contrary. I will, however, detail the facts as they are given in support of the case; and leave your physiological readers to judge for themselves of their value, in support of the writer's opinion.

1st. The "noisome smell" which pervaded the apartment, and which all present were so sensible of as "spit," "hold their noses," and ask the doctor for "snuff."

2nd. The question put to the patient by the doctor "had she anything sore about her," and her prompt answer, "No"

3rd. The unmistakeable evidence of "where the noxious *incumbent* came from.

4th. After describing his intensely excited curiosity, he says:—"whilst the laws of physiology prevented me even for a moment looking forward to a decomposed placenta, but which, nevertheless, *did exist* and was lying in the vagina," &c., &c.

Here there is a broad and positive assertion, that there was a "living child, with a decomposed placenta;" but alas! for the proof. He continues, "I bandaged my patient and did all that was usual under similar circumstances; but *on turning to examine* this physiological paradox, I found, to my indescribable sorrow, it had been thrown into the stove." "*Horribile dictu!*" An officious old dame had destroyed the proof, which must now rest on the assertion of the writer, (excepting the "noisome smell" and the *the shape of the placenta*), who "can vouch" for it, although the only opportunity he had of examining the placenta, was for an instant in its transit from the vagina to the stove. He had not even an opportunity of making an accurate ocular examination of this phenomenon, much less what was most important in such a case, viz: a minute anatomical and microscopical one.

The closing sentence, however, of this extraordinary communication, crushes down the whole superstructure; and is as follows. "Of course I am not prepared to say *to what extent* decomposition had taken place, but I can vouch for its being both *very great* and of *long continuance*, since