

and the patient now expressed her gratitude for the relief she felt, and declared her belief, that she never could have been delivered without the use of the instruments. That they gave her no inconvenience, to be compared with the horrid pain she had experienced, for the last twenty-four hours.

When the child was born, it was observed that the unpleasant smell was greatly increased, and offensive brown-looking matter covered its skin, and ran from its mouth.

I now left the patient in a state of comparative repose, but when I returned in the evening, the attendants pointed out that the bad smell was very unpleasant. I advised them to examine if they could find any cause for — they did so—and called me to see the dreadful state of the parts. One mass of slough, presenting the most frightful appearance, I ever saw in such a case. I particularly examined to see if I could find any laceration of the parts; they were black, but firm and continuous.

The next day, finding the patient had not made any water, I endeavoured to introduce the catheter, but could not find the orifice, the parts were so swollen and charged. I advised hot fermentations, &c., and after a little time she made water pretty freely, but not to my satisfaction emptying the bladder. In a day or two the slough began to separate, and I now tried again, and drew off considerable water, and continued the use of the catheter until the tone of the bladder was restored.

The parts were now almost completely cleaned, and have regained their normal sensibility; for, curious to say, that when I examined them on the second day, she had scarcely any feeling in the parts, so insensible had they become, from the pressure or irritation of the child's head. The patient has often complained of pain at the extremity of the bone, (the os coccygis) and this appeared to be increased on going to stool, as though the bowels had been injured in some degree, by the pressure of the child's head.

It is worthy of remark that she had a slough upon the arm, from an injury received during the violence of her struggles, and is still deficient in the power of the left arm from the same cause—while the ribs into which the abdominal muscles are inserted, are still in considerable pain upon any inordinate motion—showing the enormous amount of power expended in the vain attempts, before the head of the child passed the os coccygis.

From the facts now advanced, I think it is plain to the meanest capacity, that the woman was in imminent danger; that the indications of the employment of the forceps were surely evident; that the case demanded immediate relief at any risk, and in the most speedy manner possible, while the result has fully borne out my diagnosis, and explained