

after five or six pains, a male child was born, the after birth which was very small being ejected with it. The child was dead probably due to the detachment of the placenta during a paroxysm of coughing. The uterus was still of such a size that I inclined to the belief it contained another foetus but was assured that it had been that size for years. I banded her when the abdomen presented the appearance in outline "2." There was no secretion of milk, the lochia was suppressed on the day following and pneumonia had extended to the left lung. Dr. Orton saw the patient with me on that day and taking the surrounding circumstances into consideration we entertained but faint hopes of a favorable termination to the case, however, under heroic doses of brandy and stimulating expectorants she seemed to progress slightly, but on the afternoon of the 25th acute cardiac pain set in, cyanosis very marked, she died in a few hours after. Apart from the peculiar condition of parts, the case is singular from the ease with which natural labor was completed. There was literally no abdominal wall, the contents being confined by skin alone, which from the impulse of each cough threatened to give way. The idea that the muscles of the abdomen play any part in the process of parturition, I have always doubted, when finding the abdominal walls lax and applying a binder for the few cases that I have found benefited by the proceeding in a far greater number it seemed to me to retard labor. As a person endeavoring to burst open a door retires each time to gather fresh impetus, so I believe the uterine walls the sole expeller of its contents requires free space to expand to full extent so as to gather fresh force for the next expulsive effort. The abdominal walls in this case consisted of skin only. This woman was a strong active person celebrated for her rowing powers and for the work she performed on her husband's farm. She seemed to have a hazy idea as to when this protrusion commenced, but from what I could gather, originally a neglected small umbilical hernia had eventuated in this condition, each successive confinement, at which she was

always attended by women, and never at any time bandaged, contributed their quota to its aggravation, and finally attained the above enormous dimensions.

#### NEW INVENTIONS FOR USE IN DENTAL SURGERY.

The modern practice of dental surgery, requiring as it does so extensive a use of the dental engine, and that often in a cramped position, is much more laborious than formerly, when the forceps had almost unlimited sway, and any labour-saving appliances are welcomed. Mr. Coxeter has invented an electric dental engine. The whole apparatus weighs but a few ounces, and is held in the hand when in use, like the electric mallet, which it resembles in shape. The electric current is generated by a large primary battery, or the engine can be worked by means of accumulators or a dynamo. It is spoken highly of by some dentists who have used it, but seems to be rather deficient in power for heavy work. Another invention for a similar purpose is Hastie's water motor, which was introduced by Mr. Walter Campbell, of Dundee, and, as its name implies, is worked by hydraulic pressure. As it is now fitted it is almost perfect as a dental motor, but it requires a considerable force of water, and is hardly practicable unless supplied direct from the main.

**GRINDELIA PROPERTIES.**—*G. robusta* has the reputation of being almost a specific for certain forms of asthma, and externally in rhus poisoning. *G. squarrosa* has similar properties, but is less known and used.

**ANEURYSM OF INNOMINATE ARTERY.**—Dr. James Dunlop ligatured the right common carotid and subclavian arteries for innominate aneurysm, at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, on August 1st, and the patient is so far doing well. This is the second case of innominate aneurysm operated on by Dr. Dunlop within a few months. The first case has been almost a perfect cure, and the patient has been seen this week by many members of the Association to be strong and well, and with barely a trace of his former ailment.—*British Medical Journal*.