

the patient on her left side, in the usual obsteric position. Should reduction still be impracticable, and the symptoms be urgent, lessen the bulk of the distending body, by producing abortion. The liquor amnii may be evacuated by a cathether, or a douche bath applied. Finally, puncture the walls of the uterus. If this is attempted by the vagina, the trocar must be directed perpendicularly to the uterine walls, hence point it obliquely backward to the hollow of the sacrum. After the evacuation of the liquor amnii, as the danger is less urgent, the attempts to reduce the uterus may be suspended for a while. Nature will expel the contents of the womb, and by involution its bulk will be lessened, and there will be a spontaneous termination of the difficulty. Opium and chloroform are the most useful means to relieve pain and spasms. Stimulants and nourishment must be given to support the strength, and ursenic poisoning may be met by nitromuriatic acid and ether.—(*Lancet*, December 3, 1859.)

UTERINE CATHETERISM WITH CAT-GUT, AS A MEANS OF PRODUCING ARTIFICIAL PREMATURE LABOR.

By DR. C. BRAUN.

In substituting the cat-gut for the uterine sound, and injections, M. Braun proposes especially to avoid those lesions of the membranes to which the employment of the other two methods so easily give rise. The bougies which he uses are one foot in length, and two or three lines in diameter. Before introducing one of these into the uterus, it is softened at one end to the extent of a third of an inch, by being dipped in hot water. It is then anointed and passed into the uterine cavity, directed by the index finger of the left hand, and pressed in by a gentle rotation. It should be arrested after having passed about twice the breadth of the finger into the orifice of the neck.

M. Braun prefers these bougies to gum elastic probes; he has always observed them to provoke the pains about the end of twenty-six hours. He withdraws the bougie a short time prior to the rupture of the pouch of waters or the birth of the infant. He has employed uterine catheterism, either with the cat-gut or with the elastic probe, twelve times during the years 1857 and 1858, for the purpose of producing premature labor; of sixteen infants, he recorded eleven who lived, and five still-born. Eight mothers were saved, and the four who died, succumbed to causes foreign to the operation, as pneumonia, tuberculosis, Bright's disease. The operation was performed five times with the cat-gut, and four times with French, very flexible, gum-elastic probes; in none of these cases were the membranes broken. This accident, on the contrary, he was not able to avoid in three cases where he employed probes which were very slightly flexible, obtained from English instrument makers.—(*Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, 1858, No. 46; *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, December, 2, 1859.)

POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE: ITS PREVENTION.

By T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M. D., of New York.

The frequency of this form of hemorrhage is, in a great degree, due to a neglect of the proper measures for its prevention. Contraction of the uterus, and that alone, will check any hemorrhage from its cavity. The causes of this accident of labours are inertia uteri, uterine exhaustion, sudden emptying of the womb, adherent placenta, accumulation of blood in the uterus, mental emotion, and an excited state of the circulation. The means for the prevention of hemorrhage are the observance of the following rules:—After delivery of the head, permit the uterus to expel the body, unless it be absolutely necessary to interfere.

Let the hand of an assistant firmly compress the uterus, and follow the child down in its birth.