

"baby." My patient had so often spokem to me of feeling the movements of the child, that I did not for a moment doubt the presence of a *fœtus in utero*. The hæmorrhage I had accounted for, by supposing there was some malposition of the placenta.—*British Med. Journal*, July 13, 1867.

Materia Medica and Chemistry.

DR. RICHARDSON'S STYPTIC COLLOID.

This preparation was brought before the Profession at the first of Dr. Richardson's lectures, to which we have previously directed attention. It consists of ether and alcohol, saturated with tannin and gun-cotton. When diluted with an equal quantity of ether, it may be used in the form of spray. Undiluted, it is applied with a brush. The fluid coagulates the blood, serum, albumen, liquor sanguinis, and pus. When brought into contact with a wound, the ether and alcohol are volatilised by the heat of the body, and the tannin and gun-cotton are left intimately combined on the surface. The tannin converts the albumen into tough leathery membrane. The cotton gives a certain consistency. Numerous experiments, some of which were repeated at the lecture in question, show that solidification of the fluids is not the only effect, but that deodorisation is produced by this application. As the animal tissues form a combination with the dressing, the exclusion of the air is perfect, and the healing process uninterrupted. After operations, or in recent wounds from accident, the treatment by this process is most simple, and reduces the cases to a state similar to that of sub-cutaneous lesion.

The edges are to be brought carefully together (with a suture when necessary) in the usual way. Then the *styptic colloid* is to be applied freely with a brush. A thin layer of cotton wool soaked in the colloid may then be laid along the line of the wound, and, if thought advisable, a further layer of the liquid laid on with the brush. In a suppurating wound it is only necessary to brush over the surface, so as to leave a layer of colloid upon it.

Compound fractures may, in Dr. Richardson's opinion, be most advantageously treated with this new remedy. The styptic colloid may be poured into the wounded cavities, and thus the case reduced to one approaching simple fracture.

A great advantage of this dressing is that it need not be removed unless there were fœtor from the wound prior to its application, or unless it should be raised by fresh discharge, or symptoms of suppuration should occur.