

administration of the pills. No evidences of a living fœtus could be detected by a careful examination with the stethoscope. The urine was scanty, and of a reddish yellow color, communicating a very slight tinge to paper, and yielding a flocculent precipitate on the application of heat and nitric acid.

" About midnight the nurse observed something like labor pains coming on, with discharge of liquor amnii. On examination the os uteri was found moderately dilated, and the head descending.

" After the lapse of a few minutes tremendous convulsions set in with loss of consciousness, the convulsions being so violent as to render it almost impossible to keep her in bed. The pupils were widely dilated, and did not contract even on the application of a strong light. The face was flushed, and the breathing somewhat laborious; the pulse 136, strong and full.

" About forty ounces of blood were immediately taken from the arm, after which there was a decided improvement in most of the symptoms. The spasms became much less violent, and the respiration more tranquil; the pupils contracted on the application of light, and the pulse lost its hardness though it retained its frequency.

" Meanwhile the head descended slowly into the cavity of the pelvis, and on a close examination the bones were found to be quite loose, and the scalp presented all the characters of intra uterine maceration. An arm, and a fold of the funis, could also be felt on passing the finger up behind the arch of the pubis.

" About 2 o'clock, a.m., on the 26th, finding that the head was making very little progress, and wishing to bring the labor to a close as speedily as possible, ʒi of ergot was infused in ℥iii of boiling water, and when cooled about the half of it administered. In about half an hour the progress not being so great as was desirable, it was resolved to introduce a fillet and endeavour to extricate gently by that means, forceps not being at hand, and the violent movements of the patient rendering their application somewhat hazardous. While in the act of adapting the fillet, a strong pain brought the head down sufficiently to enable the fingers to be passed behind it, and to obtain a good hold of the loose and folded scalp, by which means the fœtus was forthwith extracted without difficulty. The placenta followed immediately with a few clots of blood, and the uterus contracted in the usual manner.

" After the termination of the labour she seemed much easier. The pains disappeared for a time, and she appeared to drop into a quiet slumber. After a short time, however, the convulsions returned in a