

mixed her up something, and gave her, which brought the labour on again, stronger than ever; but that all was of no use, as the pains went off again after a time, and that she had then sent for me; (5 miles distance) but, that the midwife, half an hour previous to my arrival had persuaded her to take another dose of the stuff, so as to have it over before the Doctor came, and the pains had returned, as I then saw.

Upon examination I found the right arm protruding through the vulva, wrapped in a piece of cloth "for fear of cold," as the midwife said, and carefully tied to the patient's thighs "for fear it should go back again."

On learning the history of the case, I was very angry with the midwife, and asked why she had not sent for assistance sooner; when she coolly told me, that as long as she had "*the smut*" she did not expect to require any one's assistance. I asked to see "*the smut*," when she produced a bag, like a small money bag, from which she took a quantity of the Ergot of Rye, the use of which, she said, she had learned from the Doctors in the States. "So you have been giving her this," I said. "Yes," she replied, "and I *always* give it, when the case is a long one, and I never knew it fail until now." My temper, I confess, was ruffled, and after rating her soundly, for her presumption and rashness in administering such a powerful remedy without a knowledge of its properties, and the circumstances under which it was proper to give it, I left her to assist my patient.

As the Uterus was still acting strongly under the influence of the Ergot, and fearing its rupture, I tranquillized it as soon as possible, by a full dose of Tinct. Opii. When the uterine action had entirely ceased I proceeded to turn, having previously given an enema and emptied the bladder by catheter. But the turning was a task very difficult of accomplishment. The Uterus embraced the *fœtus* so firmly and closely, as to defy all my efforts to dislodge the shoulder from the brim of the pelvis; so great was the difficulty, that I now began to revolve in my mind, the expediency of performing Embryotomy, fully persuaded that my patient would sink before I could complete the operation, and thus afford the old midwife a chance of retorting on me, the hard words I had just previously showered on her. I confess, at this moment I envied the City Surgeon his facility of consultation with his medical brethren. As the grasp of the Uterus on the *fœtus* seemed the result of spasmodic contraction, induced by the action of the Ergot, I resolved to try the effect of warm fomentations to the abdomen, and after their application for half an hour I had the extreme gratification of finding the uterus gradually relaxing its hold, so as to enable me to push up the shoulder, reach the feet, and safely complete the turning of the child, by bringing down the inferior extremities, and leaving them in the vagina, until the return of