

of the other, he decides upon the mutilation of the child, it will doubtless appear to him reasonable not to wait until the increased size of the fetus at term shall add to the difficulties and dangers of embryotomy; therefore, the production of abortion within the first four months of gestation will seem to be fully justifiable. But the conditions are different when the life of the mother is compromised by vomiting, however severe it may be. In the first case the danger is inevitable; and unless abortion occurs spontaneously the Cæsarian section is the only resource, and we are aware of the usual consequence of the latter. But however intense the vomitings may be, and notwithstanding the state of exhaustion to which they reduce the female, still they are not inevitably fatal. Patients, whose condition justly excited the greatest solicitude, have been known to resist until the latter months, and even until the term of their pregnancy, and then give birth to strong and healthy children. Others, whom the vomiting had reduced to a hopeless condition, have been suddenly restored to the most complete health." Of the latter kind of cases, one fell beneath the notice of Professor Cazeaux, and three were related to him by M. P. Dubois. The operation, moreover, is not devoid of danger; for, although successful cases have been recorded by the British authorities already referred to, many unsuccessful cases doubtless remain unrecorded. Our author has a personal knowledge of seven cases in which the operation was performed by skilful hands. "Of these, but one woman survived; all the others perished, one of the latter dying only fifteen days after the first attempt, and ten days after the abortion was accomplished." To those who refer the failure in these cases to the fact that the operations had been delayed until the vital powers of the patient had become too exhausted, he pertinently replies, I believe this fully; but here it is that the most difficult question arises. When is the operation proper? If you act too soon may it not be said, whilst instancing the cases of spontaneous cessation of the vomiting, as in those which have been quoted, that you have destroyed the fetus without advantage? If you act too late, may you not be equally reproached, in view of the failure of all known operations, with an attempt which may have hastened the fatal termination? Where will the prudent practitioner place the limit of expediency?

Recent chemical researches into the composition of the blood of pregnant women, has enabled us to truly appreciate the character of certain morbid conditions present during the period of gestation. Formerly, when a woman complained of headache, vertigo, dimness of vision, ringing of the ears, flushings of the face, &c., it was immediately attributed to plethora, and bleeding was at once proposed and practised. Now, however, and we are in a great measure indebted for it to M.