

the ergot of rye, was valueless. Pains more of a grinding than forcing kind, showing that the labour was declining. I watched attentively the operation of the pains upon the head of the child; the head slightly descended, but it was with trifling impulse, so that they were not able to force the head past the os coxygis, which was plainly the obstructing cause. I should also remark that the patient's face was swollen, her countenance excessively anxious and discoloured, the lips were blue, and the upper lip greatly swelled, which the attendants declared was from biting it during her excessive pains; they said these pains had lasted day and night; they said she was so much easier that they felt quite relieved, for she had pulled them about with extreme violence.

Finding no effectual pains to follow the ergot of rye, I at once resolved to relieve the patient with the forceps. She prayed that it might be done speedily. I did not examine if the child was alive or dead, for the head was so low that I was sure that I could give immediate assistance. After the usual preparations, I introduced first one blade and then a second, with the utmost facility; immediately brought them to a lock, and had a slip knot tied around the handles. During the operation I desired the woman to tell me if I gave her the slightest pain—she complained not, and I was surprised with what facility I locked the instruments, without an assistant hand to guard the perineum, which is apt to be pinched by the handles of the forceps—so lax was the woman's perineum. Waiting for a pain, I now enquired if the introduction of the instruments had given her any inconvenience; she said not the slightest. A pain came by one or two movements with the instrument, and by a small amount of traction, the head of the child passed the os coxygis (at least that portion that lodges against the bone), at one pain, and descended low enough for me, by pressure behind the os coccygis, to retain it in position. The forceps were now quickly removed, and assisting the next pain with my hand, the head was born. I hurried the body along as fast as I could by hooking my fingers into the arm pits, but it descended very slowly, notwithstanding that abundant pressure was maintained above the pubes. The body was now born, the external parts yielding with the greatest facility, so much so, that I am perfectly certain that there was not the slightest laceration.

Attention was now given to the child; a hot bath was in readiness, and I proceeded to employ artificial respiration, but I found the child dead and *stiff*. When I tried to bend the arm it would not yield. The body was firm and incompressible, and it was evident that the child had been dead for a considerable period.

We now returned to the mother, and soon after assisted the after-birth, which came readily away. A bandage and towels were applied,