

CASE OF QUINTUPLE BIRTH OF LIVING CHILDREN.

By Dr. Serlo.

Dr. Serlo of Krossen relates the following remarkable case:—The mother *æt.* 34, had had five favourable labours, and was now pregnant for the sixth time. During the last few weeks, she had become so large and cumbersome as to be obliged to keep her bed. Dr. Serlo saw her the day before delivery, and found her abdomen enormously distended in every direction, and hard, and projecting much towards the right. The fetal movements were feeble. She was weak, and had a small, rapid pulse, with oedema of the thighs and legs. On examination the os was found partly open, and the membranes flaccid; but no part of the child could be felt. As the pains proved very inefficient, Dr. Serlo next day delivered her by the forceps of a small living child, and soon after of another, which presented by the feet. In like manner three others were successively delivered by the feet, the accoucheur breaking the bag of waters in each which presented while he was in search for the placenta. Contraction of the uterus was produced after some minutes.

All the children were alive and crying, but the second died in three hours, the fourth in twelve, the third in seventeen, the fifth in twenty five hours; and the first, which had been delivered by the forceps, in nine days. The author supplies the weights and admeasurements of the children and the funis; but we are not aware of the exact relation which those of that part of Germany bear to our own.

| | Length. | | Weight. | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| | Child. | Funis. | Child. | Placenta. |
| 1st child..... | 15 inches..... | 24 inches..... | 3½ civil pounds..... | 28 oz. |
| 2d „ | 12 „ | 11 „ | 2½ „ | 14 „ |
| 3d „ | 13 „ | 15 „ | 3½ „ | 25 „ |
| 4th „ | 14 „ | 14 „ | 3 „ | 20 „ |
| 5th „ | 14 „ | 11 „ | 3 „ | 20 „ |

Med. Zeit., 1850, No. 50.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

ON THE IODINE OF FRESH-WATER PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

By M. Chatin.

In his second memoir, M. Chatin comes to the following conclusions, the results of very multiplied investigations.

1. The detection of iodine in the aquatic plants of the various parts of the world confirms the deduction derived from the examination of those of the vicinity of Paris, *viz.*, the presence of this substance in the mass of the globe, and in most of its fresh waters. 2. The different conditions of the soil of former epochs of vegetation, in reference to the prevalence of water, may be deduced from the amount of iodine in fresh-waters, is proved by the examination made of those of about 300 rivers, fountains, and wells. From this it results (*a*), the water is rich in iodine in proportion as the soil through which it flows is ferruginous. (*b*). The proportion contained increases with that of iron, so that ferruginous waters may just as truly be termed iodined waters. (*c*). Waters of igneous soils are, upon an average, more iodined, and especially more uniformly so, than waters