

of napkins each day; and during the whole of this time she enjoyed excellent health, was without the least pain, and was able to walk three or four miles daily, and to nurse-tend a sister, who was attacked with severe rheumatic fever. This change was followed by an almost instantaneous improvement in her general health, and she was soon after enabled to undergo the fatigues of a long journey, which she bore remarkably well.

The foregoing cases I have given in detail, because they exhibit, in a convincing manner, the great utility of electro-galvanism where all other remedies had failed; and (as in the last one) where the disease was of such duration as to afford *but little prospect of success from medical treatment*. I may be told that many measures, such as sea-bathing, horse exercise, travelling, residence in the country, change of scene, enjoyment of society, &c., have frequently produced as speedy cures in cases equally obstinate. True; but how many times are we consulted by females whose avocations and circumstances do not admit of such remedies being employed? In this country, as elsewhere, the object of the physician should be, to avail himself of all means which, without abandoning *in toto* the powerful adjuvants just mentioned, will render him and his patient, so to speak, independent of them; and; in the class of diseases now under consideration, electro-galvanism comes in opportunely to our assistance.

It must be borne in mind that electro-galvanism acts in these diseases, not specifically, but just as it does in all other cases where there is a manifest *depression* of nervous power and vascular action. Our general experience of the remedy clearly shews that it is not in instances of exalted nervous power, or of great arterial excitement, that it acts beneficially; but, on the contrary, its powers are best exemplified where these functions are, as it were, below the ordinary standard. Bearing this fact in mind, we are not likely to be misled as to the cases of amenorrhœa and dysmenorrhœa, in which it should be employed, with the greatest prospect of success; nor shall we recommend it in those instances where the above indications are absent, to the exclusion of active remedies, which both the pathology of the disease, and our own experience, point out as the most appropriate.

Montreal, June 20, 1846.

CASE OF CONCEALED DELIVERY.

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On the 16th November, 1845, at a quarter past one, p.m., I was called to Mr. K.'s, to see his servant, Bridget Cloone, ætat. 40, who was said to be suffering from colic and pain in the back. Laying my hand on the

abdomen, I perceived that she was about seven or eight months pregnant. On my charging her with the fact, she denied it stoutly, said she had menstruated two months before, and finally, finding that she made no impression on my opinion, she declared, in the most solemn manner, "that whatever was inside of her, it was no child." The reason for this statement will appear presently. I had her removed to the University Lying-in Hospital, whither I went in an hour after, and finding that the physician in ordinary had not arrived, at the matron's request I examined her, per vaginam, and found the os uteri dilated and the membranes protruding; presently I detected what appeared to be a cord, lying coiled in the upper part of the vagina, and on pulling at it, a free extremity came down, but not to the os externum. There were no clots of blood in the vagina. At half-past five I returned, and found Dr. McCulloch in attendance; the child just being born by the feet, and the woman still persisting that there was no child. The child was feeble, but not at all exsanguined. It survived a few hours. To the placenta was attached two cords; that of the first child had evidently been divided with scissors from the appearance of the cut surface. Information was given at the police-office, that a new born child had been concealed, for the woman denied that any previous birth had taken place. On searching the bed-room which she had occupied at her master's house, the bed bore evident marks of a delivery having taken place, and on searching her trunk, the body of a male child was found, underneath the clothes, which had been very carefully smoothed over it. Care was taken not to disturb the position of the limbs, and the body was removed to the Police Station House.

An inquest was held on the following day, when Dr. McCulloch and I were directed to perform the autopsy, of which the following is the result:—The body was fifteen inches long, and weighed two pounds fifteen ozs. avoirdupoise. The body was not exsanguined; there was no fracture of the skull; the conjunctiva was intensely injected; the cornea hazy, and pupil open.

The body was found on its right side in the box, and was deposited on the same side in the station house; in consequence, livid patches were observed on that side from the gravitation of the blood.

External Examination.—Several marks of injury were found as follows:—One from the right nipple to the point of the shoulder, half an inch broad; one from the right side of hyoid bone to mastoid process of right temporal bone; one a little lower, and to the outside, which terminated at the back of the neck; the fourth commencing to the outside again, went to the middle of the superior costa of the scapula, the hands were turned up to the head, the right one to the right ear. The nails