

NOTES.

Abortion or Miscarriage. p. 19.

I cannot concur in the propriety of recommending any other measure to a female apprehensive of miscarriage, than sending, *without delay*, for her medical adviser. In no situation in life is the loss of a few moments, or the adoption of an inefficient, or erroneous plan of treatment more likely to be attended with consequences the most disastrous—consequences, involving not merely the loss of the embryo, but the permanent misery, perhaps the death of the mother. The most common symptom of abortion is hemorrhage from the womb, an occurrence which can never be regarded with indifference, and which calls for the prompt and efficient exertion of the most ample resources of the physician. Early and judicious means will frequently check this discharge, and altogether prevent miscarriage; and where they fail to effect this object they will in most cases save the life of the suffering woman. There is one circumstance of great importance to which it is proper to advert in this place, and it forms an additional argument in favour of a speedy application to a physician. The danger of abortion's taking place, is never to be estimated by the pertinacity and extent of the flooding, as it is a fact well known to accoucheurs, that a very copious hemorrhage is sometimes not followed by the loss of the fœtus, while one much less in quantity and without any threatening aspect will eventuate in it. Pain is a far more certain guide in making up an opinion. Where difficulties thus surround the subject, rendering it one of great nicety even to the most expert practitioner, and not without danger to his reputation and success, will any husband or father consent to risk the life of a female through an illusory hope of procuring relief without the aid of medical advice? Nor should the advice of one physician alone be always relied on. Dr. Bard has properly observed that "the real danger and circumstances of alarm and terror which frequently accompany these cases, are such as to call for all our experience; for calm reflection, and steady resolution; and they, above all others, are the cases in which the most experienced practitioner will always wish, and the young and inexperienced, always should require, the aid and consolation to be derived from consultation."

One word with respect to the employment of midwives. It may not perhaps be generally known that the bills of mortality in London and Dublin establish the important fact, that one in seventy of those women perish in childbirth who trust themselves to female practitioners, while not half that number suffer of those who are attended by males. And how can it well be otherwise? Without a knowledge of anatomy, or of the very principles of the art she professes to practice, devoided, too, by nature of that moral strength and resolution, the utmost exertion of which will scarcely suffice to meet the dangers which press on every side, how can an uneducated female hope to conduct a difficult labour with safety and success?

Apoplexy. p. 18.

General blood-letting should be always preferred in the first instance to local, and it should be continued until decided effects are perceptible on the system.

Bleeding from the Nose. p. 23.

In a very interesting case of this affection, communicated by the late Dr. James Kent Platt, to his friend Professor J. B. Beck, of this city, and which threatened to terminate fatally, the affusion of cold water, by pailsful over the head and shoulders, proved almost immediately successful.