

begun early. Dr. Coleman alluded to some difficulties in the use of the turning-fork, and also to Hinton's method of cleansing and treating the middle ear.

MARCH 14, 1873.

Dr. Oldright introduced the "Treatment of Placenta Prævia," and referred to the ordinary methods of treating Placenta Prævia—

1. Simpson's method of separating the placenta from the walls of the uterus.
2. The more usual method of detaching one side, and turning.

He had also seen a few days ago in Churchill, reference made to a method of passing the hand through the placenta and turning, of which Churchill disapproved. The speaker then described the treatment he had adopted in a case a year or so ago. The usual pathiative treatment (the hemorrhage subsiding) until labor really set in. As soon as it was apparent that this was the case, a full dose of fluid extract of ergot was given, and the *finger passed through the placenta*, allowing the waters to escape on its withdrawal. The advantages claimed for this plan were, (1) that the head (or presenting part) of the fetus is speedily brought down upon the placenta and upon the enlarged vessels at its attachment, acting as a sort of tourniquet upon their bleeding mouths. (2) The area of the uterine walls are speedily lessened, and the portion occupied by the placenta shares in this lessening, and the walls of the vessels are brought into apposition.

A discussion ensued, in the course of which Dr. Riddell alluded to the method of plugging the vagina with cotton, dipped in a strong solution of alum, and giving ʒss. doses of Plumbi Acetas. It was objected to this plan, that the confined blood would dissect backward, separating the placenta and dilating the uterus. Dr. Coleman alluded to the theory of Dr. Barnes, who does not think that the cervix enters into the formation of the uterine chamber during gestation, and that it is the enlarging of the placenta without a corresponding enlargement of the cervix which causes the hemorrhage. Barnes' plan is, therefore, after puncturing with a stilette or quill to allow the liquor amni to escape, to detach the placenta from around the edge of the cervix only, and allow the labor to proceed. The foetal circulation is thus not arrested, and he had effected the delivery of the child alive in twenty-nine successive cases. Several members testified to their personal observation that the cervix does flatten out to form part of the general cavity.