

rity and agility with which he climbs and leaps, his organization is perfect and beautifully adapted to his economy. Let this, however, not detract from his position in relation to man. Were it possible to rear the animal up from infancy, and subject him to a judicious system of physical and moral training, it would become a question of much interest, whether he were capable of modification—that is to say, of improvement. Could he be made to assume the erect posture as a general rule? Could he be brought to perform those acts or services appertaining to domestic economy, as man? Could his intelligence be susceptible of culture? and could he be learned to understand language and convey his impressions by sounds or by acts? This I leave the Society to judge.

Montreal, 1854.

ART. XXV.—*Case illustrative of the difficulties to be encountered by the Practitioner of Midwifery in a rural practice.* By F. S. VERITY, M.D., Hemmingford.

The following case serves to illustrate the difficulties the Country Practitioner sometimes encounters, as well as the cruel treatment to which women are subject, in the hands of rash and ignorant Midwives.

About 14 years since, on my first settlement in this Township, I was summoned to attend a Mrs. H., in labour with her eighth child; being my first midwifery case in Canada.

The husband, who came for me, told me, that his wife had been in labour for 2 days and nights, and although “part of the child had come into the world, the women could make no hand of it, as there was a hitch somewhere.” On my arrival at the house I was informed by the *midwife*, that an arm had been in the world for more than 12 hours, but the labour had made no further progress, “spite of all she had done.” On seeing my patient, who was very weak and desponding in mind, I found she had very strong and continuous bearing down pains. She told me, “that after having been in strong labour for many hours, the arm came into the world, and that the nurse had been constantly pulling at it with a view to delivery; that after severe labour of some hours, the pains altogether ceased, and she had had some hours of refreshing sleep; that when she awoke, the nurse becoming uneasy at the cessation of the pains, and unwilling to have the services of a Surgeon,