

The child, in other respects, was well developed externally. It weighed six and three-fourths pounds. No examination was made of the internal organs.

The movements of the foetus *in utero* had been vigorous during the night, and up to the time I saw the patient. On making gentle traction on the presenting foot, motion was felt three or four times; and the mother, although assured to the contrary, believed the birth would be a living one.

I would say, in addition, as a historical point, that the mother is thirty-eight years old, and has always possessed good health. She has had five previous labours within the last eight years, giving birth to three living boys and two girls. One labour was instrumental. During the last six months, she has experienced much anxiety and depression of mind, from family connections, &c. She also states that on the second of February, when about two months pregnant, she saw two boys in the street exercising their pugilistic powers. One of the combatants had a bloody face, and some blood was observed on the sidewalk. She separated the parties, and accompanied one of them to his home, where she saw another boy sick in bed with a bandage around his head. Otherwise, there has been nothing remarkable during these period of gestation.

As somewhat similar to the preceding case, I take the opportunity of communicating the following singular instance of malformation which occurred in my own practice during the month of March last :

On the 4th March last I was requested to visit a Mrs. W., residing in Wellington Street, whom I found laboring under a sharp attack of bronchitis. At this time she was about eight months gone in the state of pregnancy. She was under my attendance for this complaint until Sunday the 24th of the same month, when about 1 p.m., I was summoned hurriedly from my house by her husband to visit her. I found that she had been in labour since the preceding midnight, and on examination discovered the os uteri well dilated, the membranes ruptured, an event which had induced her about an hour previously to send for me, but as to the nature of the presenting part I could form no definite idea. Having been suddenly called away from home, and not suspecting it to be a case of accouchement, I left unprovided with chloroform, ergot or the usual adjuvants in such cases. Finding the labour pains strong, urgent, and bearing down, and unable to determine the presenting part, I made up my mind to turn the child, and for that purpose despatched the husband for some chloroform to the nearest apothecary. While he was gone the pains became more violent, and in less than five minutes the child was born. It breathed for about three minutes, although it did not cry. But it presented the following peculiarities, which I noticed at the time, and which made those immediately connected with it thankful that its life was not longer prolonged.

The head was anencephalic and proved the presenting part. Where the orbits of the eyes should have been, were two *extremely prominent* and *turgid* eyelids as it were, or separating which nothing was found beneath but two slits. The eyelids, if such, were adherent together, and the depth within the orbits at which the slits, (if I may call them such) were found, was such as to preclude the idea that they were in advance of eyeballs, or covered any such organs. There were neither eyelashes, nor eyebrows. At the inner part of each ostensible intended eye, and occupying the place of the base of the nose, an organ entirely wanting, was a round opening about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter containing no vestige of eye whatever, and leading from this opening