

MIDWIFERY.

FŒNICULUM AS AN AGENT FOR PROMOTING LACTATION.

Dr. A. K. Gardner, in his valuable paper on Lactatics, gives the following interesting particulars respecting the medical properties of fennel. Hippocrates, as well as Galen, speaks of fennel as a means of increasing the lacteal secretion. Dioscorides ascribes the same power to it. According to Mitscherlich, also, it increases besides other secretions, certainly that of milk. In Germany, especially it has been tried extensively and lauded correspondingly. It is given either alone as infusion *ad libitum*, or combined with various other articles still to enhance its power. Among the most celebrated and valuable formulæ is that of Hufeland:—

"R. Sem. Fœniculi.....	3 i.
Cort. Aurant. Flav.....	3 ss.
Subcarb. Magnes.....	3 iij.
Sacch. Alb.....	3 ij.

"M. ft. pulv. Dose, a teaspoonful three times a day.

"I have obtained surprising results from Hufeland's formula, which I have employed in several cases; in one where the secretion had been suppressed for three weeks."—*Chemist*.

CASE OF PROLAPSUS UTERI, ACCOMPANIED BY INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

CURE BY OPERATION.

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(Reported by Mr. DAVID DALY.)

Mary Ryan, aged 48, was admitted into Jervis-street Hospital, under the care of Dr. Stapleton, on the 9th of May, 1861. About six years ago she was delivered of her seventh child. For three months subsequently she suffered from uneasiness about the lower part of her abdomen, accompanied with bearing-down pains, and also pains in her loins. At the end of this period, as she was in the act of passing water, a tumour came down between her thighs, which increased so rapidly from day to day that she became, after a short period, unable to walk or even to stand upright. She continued in this state for nine months before seeking medical relief, since which she has been the inmate of more than one hospital, and various means had been tried which only relieved her imperfectly for a time, being subsequently followed by much irritation and annoyance.

On examination, a tumour formed by the womb, and nearly equal to the size of a child's head, was seen protruding from the vulva, the os being directed backwards. This tumour appeared to be covered by a dry smooth skin, with the exception of its anterior surface, which was excoriated by the constant dribbling of her urine, which she was unable to retain.

After some days confinement to bed in the recumbent position, and during which period menstruation took place, the tumour became reduced in size and was returned. An operation now having been believed necessary, purgative medicine was ordered on the evening of the 28th inst., which acted well, in addition to which an enema was administered early on the morning of the 29th inst. The bowels having thus been freely emptied, the operation was performed after the following method:—The patient being put under the influence of chloroform, was placed on the table on her back, her thighs being flexed and widely separated. The mucous membrane was then dissected from the lower and back parts of the vagina, and also from the labiæ majores, the wound result-