

no irritation; and, being translucent, permits a complete surveillance of the part. Atmospheric influence is completely excluded; and the raw surface would seem to be placed in circumstances somewhat analogous to its normal state, as if still invested by the integument. Should inflammation ensue, no harm has been done; on the contrary, action is likely to prove less intense than it otherwise would have been; the gum is loosened and washed away by the perulent secretion; and water-dressing may then be used, as in ordinary circumstances.—*British and Foreign Medico-Chirurg. Review, Jan, 1851.*

MIDWIFERY.

CASE OF DIFFICULT LABOUR IN CONSEQUENCE OF TWINS JOINED BY THE BREAST.

By Dr. Charles Stuart, Chinside, Warwickshire.

[This was a case in which Dr. Stuart found the head presenting in the first cranial position and every other feature of the labour apparently very favourable, though he found that the strength of the pains was remarkably decreased on the patient laying down, although the pains on her moving about in the erect position were very violent.]

The cranium advanced with extreme slowness, considering the strong nature of the pains; and it was only after the most severe training that the head began to press on the perinæum, and after a very tedious passage was born about seven o'clock, p.m. The pains previous to this were of the most frightful description, and they were now, if it were possible, increased. Some apparently insurmountable obstacle seeming at this stage to oppose the further exit of the infant, I tried by every means in my power to discover the cause of delay, but from the extreme tightness of the parts it was impossible to ascertain its nature. I dreaded, from the enormous straining, that the uterus would speedily rupture, unless delivery was immediately effected, so accordingly I applied at the first gentle traction; but, when I found that unavailing, I was forced to increase it to what previously I would have considered a most unwarrantable degree, and succeeded in delivering the shoulders, when for the first time I discovered something unusual. I continued, however, my traction as my only hope of getting the woman delivered; and after using the greatest force, I was in no small degree astonished when another head came down with the face considerably flattened. This second head lay twisted round upon the back of the first delivered infant. After further perseverance, I succeeded in extracting two males, still-born, and intimately joined from the sternum to the umbilicus, into which an umbilical cord, common to both, was inserted. The placenta speedily followed, and was not larger than is usually seen in cases of twins. The umbilical cord was rather thicker than usual. About an hour elapsed from the time the head was born till the delivery was completed. The pains during that period were of the most agonizing and alarming character, and made me regret exceedingly having no chloroform. After a careful examination of the external parts, I was very glad to find no perineal laceration, which I feared very much from the passage of such a mass. The twins were at the full time, and fifteen inches long. The band of connexion extended from the upper part of the sternum to the umbilicus, and was seven inches broad and three long; and the diameter of the twins, when laid