

*With the Author's  
Compliments,  
25 B. Chap. St.*

## INIENCEPHALUS.

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sity of Vermont College of Medicine.*

Fetal monstrosities always have been and always will be an interesting subject to the scientist. Although it has been the subject of careful study for at least two centuries (before that, the investigations were too vague and entered too much into the supernatural to be of any real value), the cause is by no means definitely settled. The earlier writers ascribed them to some appalling object which the pregnant woman had seen or to the anger of the gods and the appearance of a monster in the family was supposed to portend all kinds of disaster, as if giving birth to a monster was not punishment enough to inflict upon any unfortunate woman. Maternal impressions have not been entirely dismissed from the list of causes. The writer was told quite seriously a few years ago by a medical man that one of his own children had been born with a deformity of one hand which he put down to the fact that the coachman whom he