

tation than at any other time? It appears to me that the labour should be accomplished in that position, which under existing circumstances would afford the greatest degree of ease and comfort. During the summer of 1852, a case of ununited fracture came under the treatment of Dr. Campbell, in the Montreal General Hospital. The fracture occurred during the advanced months of pregnancy, and the want of union was traced to that fact, the influence of pregnancy being such as to arrest in this particular case, that plastic exudation which is absolutely necessary for perfect ossific consolidation. It is a well attested fact, that pregnancy is a frequent source of ununited fracture; reasoning conversely we might infer that at this particular period, the osseous, as well as the vascular and nervous systems, participates more or less in those peculiar changes which are observed during the stages of uterine development, and by a species of constitutional deterioration, that exceptional cases might arise in which fracture was most readily produced, whether from direct or indirect violence, having an independent connection with the process of utero-gestation.

Ottawa, 26th Dec., 1861.

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ART. II.—*Poisoning by Strychnine.* By W. MARSDEN, M. D., Gov. Col. Physicians and Surgeons, L. C.; Hon. Member Berkshire Med. Ins. and Lyceum of Nat. Hist.; Fellow Medico-Bot. Soc., London; Corresponding Fellow, London Med. Soc.; Fellow Mont. Pathological Soc.; Fellow Medico-Chirurgical Soc., New York, &c., &c., &c.

The following unfortunate case of poisoning occurred through the mistake of one of the principals of the oldest and most respectable drug establishments in this city, Strychnine having been mistaken for Santonine in the dusk of the evening; both articles having been kept in bottles of the same description and near to each other.

An inquest was held upon the body on the 25th instant, and after a long and patient investigation of the facts, both the jury and the parents of the deceased entirely absolved the gentleman, who was the unwitting and unhappy cause of the misfortune, from all blame in the matter. I will therefore confine my observations to the pathological aspect of the case.

The death of Cook, the victim of the atrocities of William Palmer, must be fresh in the memory of most medical readers, and, although at the time, doubts, as well as censure from interested mercenaries and others, were cast upon the experiments and testimony of persons, as justly eminent as chemists and jurists, as Christison and Taylor, who were among the experts for the prosecution in this celebrated trial, yet time and experience have done them justice. Not only were they severely handled in the witness box, where they passed through the searching ordeal triumphantly, but they were violently assailed in regard to their testimony by a portion of the medical press.

In this case of subtle and scientific poisoning, physiology and pathology did what chemistry was unable to effect, and set at defiance the plausible doctrine of a portion of the press, that, "no man can die of poison except poison be found in his body, and that unless the material instrument of death be *always*