

respect. He also suggested other possible sources of contagion, as, for example through the medium of parasitic animals. And on this head he related cases; and one of a young physician, a specialist, a pupil of M. Ricord, who caught the itch through impure connexion with a woman, and, three months afterwards, was attacked with syphilis. In this case, which was a carefully observed one, there was no primitive chancre. The other case was similar in details. M. Diday compared these cases with those of congenital syphilis, supposing that the acarus might have here played the part of the semen which affects the ovule. The moral of both M. Diday's and of M. Rollet's remarks were in one sense alike.—*Br. Med. Jour.*

ON THE MOTOR NERVES OF THE UTERUS. By FROKENHAUSER.

The author has experimented on female rabbits, and after a great number of experiments, has arrived at the conclusion, that the motor centre of the uterus lies in the cerebellum and medulla oblongata; that is to say, the centre which when excited brings on constantly contraction of the uterus. From that region we can produce uterine contractions by causing the stimulus to act on any point of the spinal cord, either on its external surface or its internal parts, the excitation is transmitted by the fibres which connect the spinal marrow to the sympathetic or the nerves of the uterus.

The proof of it is that the excitation applied below the third and fourth lumbar vertebrae produces no effect, except when the anastomotic fibres of the sympathetic remain intact; after the extirpation of the mesenteric ganglion of the aortic plexus, we can no longer produce contraction of the uterus.

The inferior mesenteric ganglion is the intermediate organ which transmits the motor influence from the spinal cord to the uterus. The excitation applied on the aortic plexus produces contractions of the whole uterine organ; but if the stimulus acts only on half of the aortic plexus, the corresponding half of the uterus is alone brought into action.

Fronkenhauser could never bring on uterine contractions by exciting the nerves emerging from the sacrum, he even perceived that this excitation stops the movements of the organ, so much so that the sacral nerves may be considered as the agents of suspensive innervation of the uterus.

G. S. D. BONALD, M.D.

Montreal, 1st Dec., 1864.

INTERESTING CASE OF TRIPLETS.—By J. W. Davison, M.D. Florence, C.W.—Mrs. — on the morning of 29th September, observed a slight discharge of blood per vaginam, which continued to increase in quantity until about 10 a. m., when labor pains, of sufficient intensity to indicate their nature, set in.— These continued gradually augmenting until 3. p. m., when she was delivered of a living female foetus— apparently about six months old—which was almost immediately followed by a placenta of moderate size. Contractions still continuing, her size not being much diminished, she was soon after delivered, of what appeared to be a second foetus enclosed within the membranes. Upon opening these I discovered, somewhat to my surprise, two fetuses, male and female, which were also living, with but one set of membranes, one amnion, one chorion, and one placenta.

There were two umbilical cords inserted in the placenta near its centre, separated from each other at the point of insertion, about one inch.

There was no cohesion, which some authors suppose is the inevitable consequence of but one amnion. They were not so large, or fully developed, as the former foetus, being, to all appearance, at least one month younger. Hence arises the question, was this an instance of superfetation, or were the three fetuses, so different in size and development, conceived at the same time?

The smaller size of the twins, if I may so term them, might be accounted for, as twins are usually smaller than single children, from a division of the space and nourishment afforded by the uterine; but whether the more tardy development, which was very evident, could be explained on this principle or not I shall leave with the reader to determine. Not having attained an age sufficient to maintain a separate existence, they expired soon after birth.— The mother is doing well.

DR. FULLER'S WORK ON RHEUMATISM.—Our readers will doubtless be glad to learn that a new edition of this well known author has lately been issued by the enterprising publishers, Lindsay and Blackiston, of Philadelphia. We note with pleasure its excellent type and superior paper, which by their striking contrast give so cheerful a view of the inward workings of the master mind, which as it were, stands reflected on its pages by the concentrated light of a life's experience; bright images ever teaching us our power over disease, our duty to our fellow man; and like hosts of others ever putting us in remembrance of the advantages of living in an age when so little is required to put us in possession, in such beautiful form, of the accumulated thoughts and observations of the stars of our profession, both the living and the dead. Like its predecessors, in this edition, nothing seems to have been omitted, bearing on rheumatism in all its phases, and on the value of the different remedies and modes of treatment hitherto employed. Like an old friend then, we find it still invaluable to us, and much improved by the additions that have been made to it. We wish it every success.

NEW MEDICAL DICTIONARY.—A comprehensive Medical Dictionary, containing the pronunciation, etymology and signification of the terms made use of in medicine and the kindred sciences. With an appendix comprising a complete list of all the more important articles of the *Materia Medica*, arranged according to their medicinal properties. Also an explanation of the Latin terms and phrases occurring in anatomy, pharmacy, &c., together with the necessary directions for writing Latin prescriptions, &c., &c. By J. Thomas, M.D.

The above is the rather large title to a rather small dictionary, recently published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia. Notwithstanding which we consider it decidedly the best medical dictionary we now possess in the English language. It is just the book for a medical student—just the book indeed for us all, and we thank the liberal publishers for their present. We have but one objection to make to it—the list of *Materia Medica* is both useless and out of place in such a work. Had the same care been employed in compiling an appendix a short biographical dictionary of the most celebrated medical men, both of the past and present, the value of the work would, in our opinion, have been greatly enhanced.

THE OPHTHALMIC REVIEW.—We have acknowledged elsewhere the reception of the first few numbers