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ART. XLVI.—*Lingering Labour; Cystocle and Puncture of the Bladder; Delivery by Craniotomy; Cure of the Vesical Fistula through remedial measures alone.* By HORACE NELSON, M.D., late Editor of Nelson's American Lancet, etc.

Through the blunders of some luckless practitioners, at times unintentional, though most generally the direct result of ignorance, many a valuable fact has been gathered in the vast store-house of practical science, and from them very important lessons have been deduced. It will be, I believe, readily granted that no department of the Art of Medicine offers so prolific, at the same time, so obscure a field, for the exercise either of science and prudence, or of ignorance and rashness as that of Obstetrics. Many a poor creature has, for years, been a silent and patient sufferer under the weight of injuries or infirmities entailed upon her by one to whom, in the most trying period of her woman's existence, she had with confidence, courage, and resignation confided her future welfare and happiness, and indirectly that of her family circle.

Of several cases which it has been my fortune—good or bad—to be present at, as counsel, at various periods or stages of the accouchement, when at the eleventh hour, every thing was given over directly to my care, leaving me to undo what had been done, and to do what had not been done, the following one is, I conceive, well worthy of publication. In it are embodied several very important considerations, and in no case with which I am acquainted were to be found so many of the fundamental rules of Practical Midwifery so distinctly pointed out, the very plain course of treatment to be adopted, and the dangers from its non-due observance so dreadfully and strongly manifested.

In the latter part of the month of December, 1856, I was requested to meet two medical gentlemen, in consultation on the wife of one of them who had been in labour three days and two nights, and was commencing on the third night, it now being after ten o'clock. It may be proper to remark, at the onset, that some little estrangement had existed between the husband of the lady and myself, and that I held no communication with the other, being fully satisfied that he had mistaken his vocation, and would have been far better as Exhorter