

organ, imparting to it an extremely high degree of sensibility, reacts, when from the obliteration of the neck the uterine contents are brought into apposition with it, thus rendering the os uteri in the language of Dr. Powers, a valve as it were. And in the language of the last mentioned writer, "the beautiful simplicity of the contrivance, as well as the undeviating and admirable manner in which nature gradually resumes it before labour comes on, is a fine illustration of the providence of the Divine Creator, to prevent the generative actions from being rendered abortive, and secure at the due time their propitious consummation." This is the doctrine which we have taught ourselves, as presenting far less difficulties than any other. It has, however, some objections which might be urged against it, but in our opinion it is freer from objections than any other hypothesis that we have seen yet advanced.

However, the peculiarity of the views entertained by our author on a purely abstract question, is a matter of little moment, compared with the general excellent practical observations of the work, which is in reality what practising accoucheurs look for. In this respect the volume before us is a truly valuable exposition of the principles and practice of midwifery at the present day, and there is one circumstance which will commend the volume to every true physician, every enlightened friend of humanity, and it consists in the author's stern, uncompromising disapprobation of *instrumental* delivery, except under the most imperious circumstances, and his equally strong denunciation of what has been so appropriately called "meddlesome midwifery," a treatment of a parturient woman, which by no means necessarily extends to artificial assistance.

In conclusion, as we feel that our space is very limited, we have only to remark that from the strict practical value of the work, it will, as it deserves, meet with a large sale, thus amply rewarding the author for his labour of love.

The work is well got up in every respect. In fact the well recognised names of Samuel S. & S. Wood are in themselves a guarantee of the perfection of the publications which emanate under their auspices.

ART. VI.—*Medical Jurisprudence*. By ALFRED SWAINE TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. Fifth American from the seventh and revised London edition. Edited with additions by Edward Hartshorne, M.D., one of the Surgeons to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: Dawson & Son. 8vo. pp. 714. 1861.

Taylor's *Medical Jurisprudence* has been the text book in our Colleges for years, and the present edition, with the valuable additions made by the American editor, render it the most standard work of the day, on the peculiar province of medicine on which it treats.

A work which through so many years and editions, has never received but the encomia of the press, requires little to be said in that respect now. The simple fact of its having gone through so many progressively improved editions, speaks of itself more than we could write in its favour. This extract from the seventh London edition, of which this is a copy, announces the peculiarity of the present