

ART. XV.—*Case of Preternatural Labour.* By CHAS. ROLLS, M.D.,
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I AM happy to find a journal devoted to medical science published in Canada West, at so comparatively early a day: and as you have invited the members of the profession to transmit you any interesting cases, which may, in the course of practice, come under their observation, I have amongst numerous others, selected the following one. Not expecting, at the period of its occurrence, ever to publish it, I took no written notes; but if the outlines furnished, of a case of not very frequent occurrence in this country, are esteemed sufficiently interesting, they are at your service.

Some time since, I was called on to attend a woman in labour (Mrs. McK.) living in the adjoining township of Zone, a distance of twelve miles. She is a stout, healthy person, aged about thirty: has borne several children, and hitherto nothing unusual had occurred in her accouchments. For the last forty-eight hours she had been in severe labour; two women (midwives) had been in attendance, and, by her own account, she had suffered so severely, by their rough handling, that she preferred dying rather than be put to any further torture.

At the time of my arrival I found her in a very low condition. The action of the uterus had ceased some time previously; the pulse very weak, indeed almost imperceptible; and the whole vital system completely prostrated from long-continued *ineffectual* intense action.

On examination, I found the arm, as far as the elbow, and about eight inches of the funis umbilicalis were down and projecting beyond the external orifice.

I immediately informed her husband (who was present) of the necessary steps which would be required to effect the delivery of the child; at the same time holding out to him but little hope, of a favourable issue, on account of her feeble condition; and I urged upon the woman that she should, at once, submit to the necessary steps, as the nature of the case was such, no time ought to be lost. It was, however, full a quarter of an hour before my own and her husband's persuasion overcame her reluctance; she repeatedly declaring, as I have before mentioned, that she would far rather die than submit to any further suffering than she had already undergone. At last, however, she consented, and in a short time we had her placed in the proper position, and every thing arranged for turning and delivery by the feet.

Giving the woman previously a little of the spirit of camphor, in water, I first introduced the funis umbilicalis, pushing it gently upwards, a little at a time, until it was all returned within the uterus. Having effected this, I took hold of the hand and