

A NEW METHOD OF DELIVERING THE AFTER-COMING HEAD IN CONTRACTED PELVES.

In arrest of the head at the brim in original breech cases, or after version has been resorted to, Dr. William Goodell (*American Journal of Obstetrics*, November, 1870) advises the following method, which he has repeatedly found successful. After grasping the neck and ankles of the child, the first movement of traction is to be made in the direction of the axis of the *outlet*, in order that the sacral side of the head may descend and be nipped by the promontory at the highest point possible. This manoeuvre lengthens the lever-arm, represented by a line drawn from the base of the skull to the point nipped by the promontory. Without for a moment relaxing the traction-force, its direction must now be changed to that of the axis of the superior strait, by firmly pushing the child's body backward upon the coccyx. Thus, the gain in the leverage will cause the pubic side of the head not only to glide more readily over the smooth under surface of the pubic symphysis, but also to describe a shorter arc of a circle around the promontory as a centre of motion. After the extrication of the head from the brim, the line of traction must be accommodated to the curve of Carus. Great advantage will be gained if an assistant makes firm pressure upon the vault of the child's head through the abdominal walls of the mother.

HOLT'S OPERATION FOR STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

In a communication to the Medical Society of London, November 14, 1870, Mr. J. D. Hill (*Lancet*, December 10, 1870) gave his experience in the treatment of urethral stricture by rupture. He had submitted one hundred and twenty patients to the operation, of whom two, the subjects of organic disease, died. His conclusions in reference to the procedure are as follows: that the operation is the most satisfactory method of treating any form of organic urethral stricture which is amenable to dilatation, and, with careful attention to preliminaries, there is no more risk in its employment than in ordinary catheterism; that when the latter is followed by bad symptoms, then Holt's operation is contra-indicated.

TREATMENT OF ENLARGED TONSILS IN CHILDREN.

Dr. James Martin states (*British Medical Journal*) that an eminent Dublin practitioner finds the sulphate of potassa, administered daily for a month or six weeks, almost a specific for enlarged tonsils in children. From five to fifteen grains are given every morning, with a small quantity of rhubarb and aromatics. The dose should produce mere laxity of the bowels, and must be diminished if it causes purging.