

end of that period the retroversion was reduced, and the uterus ascended to the superior strait.

I saw nothing more of my patient until two o'clock on the morning of the 13th March. She was then in labour; the *liquor amnii* had escaped the day before. The pains were severe, and at short intervals. On examination, the breech of the child was found to be presenting. During a remission of pain, the feet were brought down, and the body soon followed, but the chin, by a violent pain, was forced against and rested upon the symphysis, and any attempt at altering its position immediately induced violent pains. Having succeeded, eventually, in placing the head in a more favorable position, every attempt at extraction was made for upwards of two hours, but without avail. At length I resolved upon diminishing the bulk of the child's head—a resolution which cost me but little pain, as the pulsation in the funis had ceased upwards of an hour and a half before. At this stage of the proceedings, I was joined by the professor of midwifery, McGill University, Dr. Hall, who fully coincided with me in the opinion that craniotomy, afforded the best possible chance of safety, to the mother.

The patient, therefore, having been placed upon her left side, the body of the child was drawn towards the back of the mother by Dr. Hall, (who had already very dexterously placed the head in the "1st position," of Naegele, and who, with myself, had fruitlessly endeavored, by depressing the chin, to accomplish delivery in that way,) forming an obtuse angle at the neck. Introducing my left index finger, I passed it upwards as far as the obstructed nature of the passage would admit, and, guided by it, introduced the perforator, entering the neck at a point corresponding with the sixth cervical vertebra. Partly by a cutting, partly by a sawing motion, the instrument soon reached the cranial cavity, when, on opening it, a gush of fluid escaped from between the handles; the bones of the skull then collapsed, and the whole slipped easily away. The patient, although in a highly excited state from the consciousness of having such a formidable instrument within her, admitted, during the operation, and afterwards, that she experienced no pain whatever.

On observing the child, we were struck with the enormous size of its head, which, on measurement, was found to be as follows:*

From occipital protuberance over vertex to nasal spine, . . .	22½ inches.
Greatest circumference of head	29½ "
Altitude	6 "

* It must be borne in mind that these measurements are proximately, not absolutely, correct. The bones of the skull were, as nearly as possible, filled out to their previous