

not decrease, and the fluctuation only of an immense quantity of fluid could be detected.

She remained nearly in the same condition until the following month of November, when I endeavoured, by tapping the abdomen, to alleviate her sufferings, and about thirty-six pints of liquid, of the color and consistence of pale ink, were drawn off. The child could now, for the first time, be distinctly felt, under the integuments, and the position of its body and limbs easily traced. She experienced no inconvenience or bad consequences from the operation, although she had very imprudently ventured to walk a few hundred yards to the village Church on the following day. Diuretics, and occasionally a purgative, were for some time administered, and I had the satisfaction to find that she afterwards remained free from the slightest symptom of dropsy. She, nevertheless, continued to suffer daily from fever and debility until the month of June following, when putrid matter, mixed with quantities of hair from the child's head, began to ooze from her navel. The skin was inflamed a few inches round an opening that would admit the point of the finger, and nature was, in this way, evidently making a most interesting effort to expel the child, and save the life of the mother; but she had become so feeble and emaciated as scarcely to leave a chance of her surviving a few days, and I thought I was, under the circumstances, warranted in proposing the Cæsarean operation as her only hope. At the same time, her alarm was much increased by observing two worms escaping from the navel, and she, without hesitation, agreed to submit to whatever I thought would afford her a chance of recovery. Being then six miles distant from the nearest professional friend, I did not, under the circumstances, consider myself warranted in waiting for assistance, I therefore had her at once placed on a table, and made an incision in the linea alba extending five or six inches downwards from the navel, and in the third year of her pregnancy, removed a putrid child of the ordinary size at birth. She did not lose an ounce of blood, and bore the operation with great courage. No vestige of a placenta remained, and the child was found in a sac that had formed adhesions all round to the walls of the abdomen, and appeared to be the fallopian tube enormously distended and thickened. It contained, besides the child, a quantity of very offensive matter. Nearly all the bones of the toes and fingers were found detached, and some of them adhering to the sides of the cavity were carefully removed; a small tent was then placed at the bottom of the incision to favor the escape of matter, and its edges were kept in contact with adhesive plaster, supported with a bandage. She afterwards continued to improve daily, although the ther-

mometer, at the time of the operation and for several days after, was upwards of 90° in the shade. Her progress, notwithstanding, from a state of extreme prostration to perfect health was so rapid, that she was able, without inconvenience, to be taken six miles to Church a month after the operation.

She has since enjoyed excellent health, and, without regret, remains childless.

Montreal, October 1, 1845.

EXPERIMENTS ON A FEW OF THE MINERAL WATERS OF CANADA.

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MINERAL SPRING AT VARENNES.

On the southern shore of the St. Lawrence, about 15 miles from this city, easily reached by a steamer which plies regularly between the two places, the above village lies most picturesquely situated. About a mile to the north of the village, and about 600 or 800 yards from the shore, which is here barren and stony, and exhibits numerous boulders, the springs bubble forth, of which two have been recognised; one of them, not yet examined, is said to be highly charged with light carburetted hydrogen gas. The water which I obtained comes from the Saline Spring, and was sent to me for examination in carefully sealed bottles, in the Autumn of 1842, but was not submitted to investigation until the Spring of 1843, in consequence of severe occupation during the winter months, which precluded every thing of the kind. I can hardly doubt but that its gaseous constituents must, to a certain extent, have escaped, but that they had not done so to any great amount, is, I think, sufficiently demonstrated by the fact, that no precipitation of carbonate had taken place in the bottles, which would certainly have occurred, had the carbonic acid, which confers solubility on the carbonate of lime, of which this water contains a great deal, been materially diminished in the quantity held in solution.

I. Qualitative Analysis.

1. The specific gravity of the water was found to be 1.0091.
2. No effect was produced on blue litmus paper.
3. Red litmus paper was turned blue, and turmeric paper brown, thus indicating the presence of an alkaline or earthy carbonate.
4. Barytic water produced a copious white precipitate, soluble in nitric acid,—indicative of carbonic acid.
5. By boiling, a precipitate ensued soluble with effervescence in hydro-chloric acid,—indicative of the presence of an earthy carbonate.
6. After boiling and filtration, the addition of oxalate of ammonia induced a further precipitate, giving