

the child, but to no purpose. The patient enjoyed a good night's rest by the help of an anodyne, and recovered in about eight days.

It is obvious, that the cause of the labour in the above case, being tedious, was the preternatural strength of the membranes, and that labour might have been hastened by rupturing them.

Cases of this kind are rarely met with in practice, particularly at the full period of utero gestation.

ART. XVIII.—*Case of Fracture of the Skull, with loss of portions of the Brain, followed by complete recovery.* By F. S. VERITY, M. D., Hemmingford.

To the Editors of the Canada Medical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,—In your number for April, there is reported an interesting case of "*Fracture of the skull with loss of a portion of the substance of the brain,*" accompanied by some observations thereon by Dr. Butler. The Doctor, in his observations on the case, after mentioning the Vermont case, says: "he has not succeeded in finding the report of but one other case (that of Dr. Snyder, of Va.) of injury to the brain, with a loss of a portion of its substance, followed by recovery." From this I infer, that the Doctor believes recovery to be very rare under such circumstances. I myself, within the last four years, have had one case of *fracture of the skull and loss of a portion of the brain.* The patient's name was David Cummings, aged 14 years. While teasing a horse, he was kicked on the side of the head and sent to the ground senseless. I arrived at the scene of the accident within one hour from the time of its occurrence. On examination, I found, as in Dr. Fitch's case, "a fracture of the skull between the right parietal and temporal bones." On the external surface of the wound, which had bled very freely before my arrival, there were small portions of bone and brain mixed together in a clot of blood; upon removing these, I saw a portion of bone completely detached from the skull and imbedded in the brain; with a forceps I cautiously took it away; a little blood flowed, which brought away several portions of brain, the largest of which was about the size of a hazel nut; this piece of bone was about an inch long. With a probe I carefully felt for any spiculæ of bone which might be remaining, and, after a minute search, I discovered an irregular, jagged piece, about half an inch long, nearly buried in the substance of the brain, which was removed together with every spicula of bone I could find. The patient, during this time, was perfectly comatose, pulse 60, countenance pale, and the breathing heavy; he manifested no sensitive-