

found her under the charge of an ignorant woman, who claimed to act as a midwife. She was about 40 years old, had had six children previously, was of short stature, and very muscular. The membranes had ruptured, and the waters had dribbled away several hours previous to my visit; the head rested upon the brim of the pelvis; os uteri dilated to the size of a crown, hot and irritable, and feeling like a ligature applied over the presenting parts; the vagina hot and tender, and the labia considerably swollen. Found that the midwife had examined her very frequently, and had caused some pain during her manipulations. These effects might have been ascribed as much therefore to improper interference, as to the pressure of the head on the bony pelvis, compressing the cervix. Inflammation was here clearly setting in, and I abstracted about  $\frac{3}{4}$ xxx of blood; she bore it well; but in the course of about 20 minutes, upon examination, finding not the least impression upon the os uteri, I gave her the tartar emetic, in preference to further abstraction of blood. After three grains had been taken, the rigidity yielded, and although the perineum, at a subsequent period, offered an obstacle, yet patience overcame the difficulty, and the child was born, although dead.

*Case 4.* (Nov. 5, 1850.) Mrs. M.P., (Cheneville Street,) had been under the care of one of the most experienced midwives in the city. Her labour up to seven o'clock, p. m., had lasted for nearly forty-eight hours, and was, in all other respects, perfectly natural. I was sent for at that hour; it was her first child. The mother was healthy, stout, and well formed, and aged about twenty-five. On examination, every thing was normal, with the exception of a rigid band of the os uteri, dilated to about

the size of a dollar, encircling the presenting vertex. The membranes had ruptured several hours previously, and by stethoscope, the fetal pulsations were clearly audible. In this case, one grain of tartar emetic produced such immediate and complete relaxation, that the child was born in about thirty-five minutes afterwards. In no case which has come under my observation have I witnessed such marked beneficial results following its employment.

It must be admitted, however, that cases may be met with in which its exhibition would be decidedly improper. These exceptions to the rule will be found to occur in women of delicate habit and leucophlegmatic temperament. They are cases in which the action of the remedy, if exhibited, may proceed too far; which, unable to resist the prostrating effects of the medicine, might be followed by a collapse, to which the vital powers of the system might succumb. This is a contingency which should be sedulously kept in view; and prudence demands, therefore, some care in the selection of proper cases for its exhibition.

I have selected the above cases, and have given them as abstracts from my note book, for the purpose of illustrating the effects of the medicine, and of drawing more general attention to it. I place them before the profession with that object alone in view.

Montreal, Nov. 15, 1850.

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ART. XL.—*Hæmorrhage occurring a fortnight after Extraction of a Molar Tooth.* By EDW. Q. SEWELL, M.D., *Edinburgh, Extraordinary Member of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh, &c.*

M—B— was on a visit to her friends. A fortnight before, she had a molar tooth of the lower maxilla extracted at the place where she was then