

consideration of the Society the propriety of inducing premature labour, in certain cases, before the seventh month of pregnancy, to prevent the necessity of resorting to other and dangerous operations. With respect to the production of premature labour after that period, full discussion had taken place. With regard to the question put by the President, he might remark that it was most difficult to determine the exact measurement during life, but that he had never seen a pelvis with a less diameter than in the present case; and after this, he felt confident that if premature labour was induced before the seventh month, no case could occur in which delivery could be effected. In this case, also, it might be remarked that the diameter of the pelvis had been increased by the pressure of the head of the child, in consequence of the bones being affected by mollities this might reasonably be expected to occur in cases of a similar kind. He wished to know if any one objected to the course of the proceeding which he had recommended previous to the seventh month, to prevent the necessity of craniotomy, or of the Cæsarian section. He might here remark that he had the best reason to believe that one fatal case of Cæsarian section had occurred since the discussions on that subject before the Society: and this, too, in an instance in which it would not have been so difficult to effect delivery as in the case before the Society. That operation, however—he meant the Cæsarian section—had not been recorded.—*Lancet, Feb. 19, 1853, p. 186.*

ON THE PHRENIC NERVE.

By Professor Lushka.

In a monograph by Luschka, on the phrenic nerve, the author arrives at the following conclusions:

1. The phrenic is not merely a motor nerve, but a mixed nerve, containing sensory filaments distributed to the pleura, pericardium, and the peritoneum, covering the diaphragm, and on the anterior wall of the belly. It is also distributed to the coronary and suspensory ligaments of the liver.

2. It brings about a double interchange of fibres between the sympathetic and spinal nerves, since organic nerve-fibres go to it from the inferior and occasionally the middle cervical ganglion, and it gives, by its abdominal portion, fibres to the solar plexus.

3. In the majority of cases the phrenic arises but from one cervical nerve—the fourth.

4. The diaphragmatic branches he traces to the tendinous centre, the inferior vena cava, the right auricle, and the liver.

5. In its course over the pericardium it appears to be endangered in diseases of the pleura and lungs, especially tubercular. Hence, probably, some of the disturbances of respiration in these complaints.—*Schmidt's Jahrbuch. (Med. Chir. Rev.)*