

The patient being in a very critical condition, I decided upon rupturing the membranes at once, with the hope of relieving the urgent and distressing dyspnoea. This I did by means of a gum-elastic catheter, with stilette, and was surprised at the quantity of water which escaped, amounting, I feel certain, without exaggeration, to between 30 and 40 pints. The relief to the patient was very marked, and she expressed herself as feeling more comfortable. Labour pains of an uncertain character now set in, and for a time all seemed to be progressing well, the head being well down in the pelvis; but soon I found that the presenting part had become arrested. The vagina was capacious; there was no impaction of the head. I passed my hand up as far as the shoulders, and found all right; and it was not until I had reached up to the umbilicus that I ascertained what the trouble was. Here I found the funis only about two inches in length, and quite tense from having been put upon the stretch. I at once snapped the cord, and had no further trouble in effecting the delivery of the child. The placenta was adherent to the extent of fully three parts; I also found that the portion adherent had undergone fibroid degeneration. The foetus was oedematous throughout the entire body, and presented the appearance of a patient in a highly dropsical condition. I was disappointed at not being able to get the foetus for examination.

This case I bring to notice with the view of possibly aiding some of the junior members of the profession like myself. Shortening of the funis was certainly the cause of the delay in the birth of the child; and I do not doubt but that had I delivered with forceps, possibly matters would have been more complicated. Most assuredly I should have been at a loss, for the moment, to account for the absence of the funis, and in all probability have had hæmorrhage to contend against besides.

CASE OF OBSTRUCTION IN THE BOWELS.

BY OLIVER C. EDWARDS, M.D., MONTREAL.

(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, October 15th, 1890.)

I was called on 4th July to see Mrs. C., æt. 74, a fairly nourished woman. From the attendants I gained the following history: She had returned to Canada from Scotland 4 years ago,