

little further progress had been made in the second stage I applied the long forceps and slowly removed a large, healthy, and living child, on Monday morning. The mother made a rapid recovery, after one of the most tedious labours on record, having lasted about 150 hours!

I think it will be admitted that in this case artificial dilatation of the os uteri was not only justifiable, but was the only alternative under the circumstances. This instructive case proves how little mere tediousness constitutes an element of danger in labour. Probably the bleeding and the other antiphlogistic means prevented any febrile or inflammatory action. This case also exemplifies the great powers of endurance of nature, when there are no special mechanical impediments. The pains never diminished in force from the beginning; the pulse retained its fulness, and the system its general powers to the last, except during the action of the antimony. She was more cheerful and hopeful, and enjoyed a better appetite on the last day than on the first.

I have met with some few cases where the os uteri, only partially dilated, has been carried down even through the os externum; in such instances there can be no doubt of the propriety of artificial dilatation.—*Lancet*, July 23, 1853, p. 86.

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#### ALUMINUM.

A scientific discovery of vast practical interest is reported in the last *Comte Rendu* of the Academy of Sciences at Paris. It is no less than the extraction of a metal aluminium from common clay. Sir Humphrey Davy long since suggested that the clays might be made to yield metals, and now M. Wokler has shewn the feasibility of his suggestion. He states that by treating clay with the chloruret of sodium, heating the compound to a red heat in a porcelain crucible, the chloruret of aluminium is disengaged and there remains a mass of pure metal or aluminium. This metal is as white as silver, is malleable and ductile, may be hardened by hammering, like iron, does not change in damp or dry air, does not oxydize when cast, is not affected by either hot or cold water, and does not dissolve in ordinary acids. As it is widely dispersed throughout nature, is fusible and ductile, while it is lighter than glass, a pure white metal not blackening in the air, it must suggest sooner or later the most important applications in the arts. The discoverer is about to institute a series of experiments on all the argillaceous or clayey substances, with a hope of obtaining similar results.

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