

was no return of hemorrhage; and after waiting some hours, delivery was effected by version. The mother did well.—*Lancet*, March 14th, 1846.

62. *Intra-Uterine Perforation of Placenta*. By THOMAS TAYLOR, Esq.—I was called yesterday morning, at four o'clock, to attend a young married woman in labour of her first child. The membranes had ruptured at four o'clock of the previous morning, but she suffered no pain until two hours before I saw her. On entering the room, I found her pains strong and effective; and on making an examination, I found a footling case with the breech in the pelvis. The pains becoming strong and expulsive, without a corresponding advance of the child, I brought down the presenting right foot, but was unable at that time to reach the other, the leg being in a position parallel with the body of the infant. The breech having been protruded, I again attempted to deliver the left leg, but on passing up my finger for that purpose, I found apparently a strong ligament, very tense, attached immediately below the knee, and which kept the limb in the position it was in, and incapable of being delivered; the arms, however, were easily brought down, and in a few minutes delivery took place, and with it the placenta: the child was still-born. On examination the placenta, which was lying on the chest of the infant, was discovered to be pierced by the right arm and left leg, the part round the leg being so firmly bound round it as to have destroyed the skin and cellular membrane by absorption; the calf of the leg was much swollen by the pressure during labour. There was no hemorrhage; on the contrary, the discharge was less than usual. The child was small, and about three weeks before its time. The mother is doing well.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Jan. 7th, 1846.

63. *Retained Placenta*.—In a highly useful series of papers (published in the *Med. Times*;) upon the mechanism of uterine action, Dr. Clay, of Manchester, calls the attention of the reader to certain peculiarities in the manner in which the opposite portions of the uterus contract, in order to point out the best method of inducing expulsion of the placenta when that event does not readily take place. He shows that the two classes of uterine fibres, the longitudinal and the transverse, are essentially different in their action, and are excited by different causes, the longitudinal only being expulsive, the transverse having a dilating action. The exciting cause of the former class of muscular fibres he states to be irritation by pressure of the upper part of the vagina, and he therefore advises that, in retained placenta, the closed fist should be introduced, and pressure be made in imitation of that caused by the child's head. He gives an instance in which hour-glass contraction, a condition which is produced by inordinate action of the transverse fibres was thus overcome and the placenta liberated. The occasional retention of the placenta from its partial implantation in the Fallopian tube is commented upon by Dr. Payan.—*Ranking's Abstract*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

64. *The Plague and Quarantine Question*.—Some time since the French Academy of Medicine appointed a committee for the purpose of investigating the question of the plague, and the advantages of quarantine. M. Prus, in March last, made an interesting report on behalf of that committee, to the Academy. The following are the practical conclusions:—

The sanitary measures necessary to the security of France might be classed under five heads:—1. Indications of the countries from which the plague may be imported; 2. Precautions to be taken by ships leaving such countries; 3. Rules to be observed during their passage home; 4. Precautions to be taken on their arrival in French ports; 5. Measures to be adopted in case of the outbreak of the plague in France.

Sec. 1.—The countries from which the plague may be imported are Egypt, Syria, and Turkey in Europe and in Asia. The regencies of Tripoli and Tunis, and the empire of Morocco, must also be attentively watched. It is not necessary that the sanitary precautions should be equally rigorous at all times of the year.