

up through the vagina. The thoracic and abdominal parietes were turned downwards, so as to disturb, as little as possible, the relative positions of the viscera. On arriving, however, at the umbilicus it was found that the walls of the abdomen were firmly united to the viscera at that point, and on further examination several small abscesses were discovered in the false membranes; the uterus itself was closely adherent to the anterior wall of the abdomen, and was removed with it. Those parts were, therefore, examined by means of incisions made along their posterior surfaces. The original incision of the uterus had extended from the apex to the cervix, but in no part had the wound united; its edges were separately cicatrised along their whole line. However, the loss of substance, occasioned by the slight separation of its edges, was filled up by a fold of intestine, by the anterior wall of the abdomen, and by the posterior wall of the bladder. Thus the opening which had been made into the uterus was completely closed up, except at the lower third, as already noticed. The other viscera of the abdomen were free from alteration.

The spinal marrow was examined with the greatest care, but nothing discovered except a very slight and doubtful softening at one point. The vessels of the brain were much injected. M. Dubois was inclined to attribute this appearance rather to the narcotics which had been administered, than to the tetanic affection.—*French Lancet*, Feb. 13, 1840.

AMPUTATION OF THE NECK OF THE UTERUS.—  
TORSION OF THE ARTERIES.  
BY M. AMUSSAT.

M. AMUSSAT has recently shown, that torsion of the arteries is applicable to operations performed on the uterus.

Madame P., 32 years of age, married at the age of 29; had two children, and aborted once, five months before the commencement of her present illness. Since her accident, she was attacked with metropéritonitis, and continued to lose blood from the vagina, from time to time. A month back she was examined by a medical man, who discovered the existence of some serious malady, and brought the patient to M. Amussat. The latter, also, having examined the patient, found, that the posterior lip of the uterus was greatly enlarged, and occupied by a fungous ulcer. It was, therefore, determined to extirpate the disease; and, on the 21st of January last, M. Amussat amputated the neck of the uterus in the following manner:—The patient was sustained by assistants, in the position commonly chosen for lithotomy; two hooks were then fixed in the tumour, being conducted along the index finger, and slight

traction was employed, but the parts gave way, and it became necessary to fix them again on the anterior lip of the os tincæ. The neck of the uterus was now brought into view, and almost completely separated by a straight bistoury. An artery, which bled freely, was now twisted, and the section was completed with a curved pair of scissors. Cold injections were thrown up the vagina, but the hæmorrhage was very insignificant. Since the time of the operation the patient continued to do very well, and on the 28th, every prospect of a speedy recovery was entertained.

MEDICAL TALENT, NOT SCIENCE,  
ADVANCING.

ALTHOUGH the cultivators of medicine are so numerous, it is still a question whether the art be now in a progressive state. The more general opinion is, that medicine is advancing with a steady progress to perfection, but a few men, not undistinguished in science, maintain that there is no real progress, but only progression in a circle, that is, a constant return to the former position. But what is the fact? Is medicine truly progressive, or is it stationary? As regards medical hypotheses, we may readily adopt the latter opinion. We observe now the same restless search after first principles, which characterised the more ancient physicians, and started by their zealous inventors as irrefragably certain; while, with regard to new diseases, do we not find hints of almost every one in the older authors? If we turn our attention to remedies, we find much to discourage our boastings. If there be any diminution in the rate of mortality, it is attributable not to the increased power of medicine, but to those happy arrangements of modern society which have prevented the frequent occurrence of famine and pestilence, and have provided more perfect clothing and greater cleanliness. Chemistry has, indeed, analysed and combined various medicinal agents, and every now and then some bright idea has been elicited from the laboratory, but the *currus triumphalis* has been brief. If we inquire as to the actual power which medicine now possesses in controlling disease as compared with that of other times, we are hurried into nearly complete scepticism. And yet our knowledge of the animal structure and functions has received large accessions from morbid anatomy. We possess all the remedies of the ancients, and many new ones, and hence we must necessarily have more power in the cure of disease. But it appears to me that the principal improvement is, that a greater number of practitioners are now masters of the existing knowledge, and are (though not discoverers) intelligent and industrious ap-