the fœtus; the tube, in traversing the uterus, was connected with the wall of the cyst, and presented in one point an opening, which was indeed taken for a rupture made in detaching the placenta, but whose existence more probably preceded the passage of the fœtus into the substance of the uterus. This circumstance of the case conducts us by insensible gradations from the tubo-utero-interstitial pregnancy to the simple interstitial, whose locality is more distant from the tube, and very much diminishes the mystery with which some have invested this state of parts.

Primitive abdominal pregnancy is interesting only as shewing upon what parts the fœtus is ingrafted, and how it supplies itself with the necessary quantity of blood. Secondary abdominal pregnancy involves the discussion, whether, as M. Guillemot states, some cases of normal gestation may not thus terminate, in consequence of rupture of the walls of the uterus: in either case, if the immediate danger be surmounted, the mother may sustain her unborn offspring for an unlimited period in this new condition.

Pathological Anatomy of the Extra-uterine Fœtation. In these cases the embryo generally retains its proper membranes, viz: the chorion and amnios, and also the placenta, if it has survived the first days of its existence: the placenta is larger than natural, thin, furnished with very small vessels; circumstances induced by the difficulty of obtaining an adequate supply of blood from the neighbouring organs. In the primitive abdominal pregnancy, there is rarely an enveloping cyst that can be considered analogous to the caducus; owing, no doubt, to the trifling inflammation produced in the first instance by the presence, in the cavity, of the peritoneum, of so small a body. In the secondary form this cyst is always found, being indeed as necessary a consequence in this case as its absence was to be anticipated in the last: for, whether the fœtus be disengaged into the abdominal cavity, by rupture of its envelope, as a tubal, ovarian, or other gestation, or by rupture of the uterine walls, the presence of so large a foreign body could not but excite inflammation, the glueing together of the neighbouring organs, and thus at last a perfect cyst. As to the fœtus itself, 1, a remarkable development of the osseous system has been observed in some instances, as well as the presence of several teeth; 2, a putrid state of the fœtus, the bones of which made their exit from the body by different routes; 3, a dessicated or mummified condition; and, 4, its transformation into a chalky mass, into amaze, or into bone. Examples of monsters in these situations are rare.

Of the Mother. The normal change in the size and vascularity of the uterus, its gradual diminution and return to the condition of vacuity, as well as the formation of the membrana decidua, are attested by cases. The secretion of milk and the menstruation obey the usual laws of natural gestation: most uneasiness to the mother is occasioned by tubal and utero-interstitial fœtation: this condition offers no material obstacle to natural gestation and delivery. At the expiration of the ordinary period, childbed pains supervene, and last some days, and are often renewed at pretty regular intervals as long as the pregnancy continues. *B. and F. Med. Rev. from Journal des Connaiss. Med. Chir., Jan. 1837.*

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

48. *Unconscious Delivery.* By M. LEONHARD.—The following case is related chiefly as of importance in a medico-legal point of view, in its bearings on the following questions: 1. Whether a female may entirely mistake the nearness of delivery? 2. Whether she places herself unintentionally in a place unfitted for delivery? 3. Whether, whilst the pregnant woman is fully possessed of consciousness, a delivery, of which she is unconscious, may take place?

Mrs. K—, aged thirty-seven, the mother of six living children, and having thrice miscarried, became prepaant for the tenth time, and calculated the term of her pregnancy during the first fortnight of May. Early in March she was exposed to the contagion of small-pox, and acquired the disease in a very violent form. A laxative clyster had been ordered on account of constipation of three days' continuance; but it was not administered, as, during the afternoon, the patient complained of a disposition to evacuate the bowels. She was raised upon the night-

stool, and became suddenly and at once freed from this constipation. She remained, however, for a quarter of an hour in the same situation, because she continued to feel some desire to evacuate fæces, of which but a small quantity was passed. As she began to feel very faint, she was returning to bed, when, greatly to her astonishment, she found herself connected by a band with the night-stool, which she could not separate. This was discovered by an attendant to be connected with a child, which began to cry on being withdrawn from the bloody water. The female, who had given birth previously to six children, could scarcely trust her eyes. *She had been entirely unconscious of what had preceded delivery, and had throughout perceived no indications of it.* The child was separated from the navel string, and the woman returned to bed. She died suddenly in about half an hour afterwards. The uterus had contracted; the secundines were loose in the vagina; that portion of umbilical cord which remained attached to it about an ell long. The child was a female, and appeared fully formed. From these observations, made in the case of a sensible and honest woman, and in the presence of several witnesses, the questions given in the first part of this paper may be answered thus: that a pregnant female, even though she has frequently borne children previously, may entirely mistake the approach of delivery,—may be unintentionally surprised in a situation and in circumstances the most inappropriate for it,—and may, even though quite conscious, be unconscious of the birth of her offspring. The importance of this case in some questions respecting illegitimate pregnancy, is evident to all.—*Ibid.* from *Medicinische Zeitung*, No. 24. 1837.

49. *Relative altitudes of the insertion of the Umbilical Cord as furnishing data for determining the age of the Fœtus.*—Prof. MOREAU, of Paris, has carefully measured the bodies of five hundred children born at Maternité, and found of this number only four in which the umbilical cord was inserted exactly in the middle of the body; in the remainder the point of insertion was on an average from eight to nine lines below the middle,—in a few children, born about the sixth and eighth months, the cord was inserted into the middle point.

These results, it will be perceived, are at variance with those obtained by Prof. Chaussier, who examined the subject some years since with considerable care, and which have hitherto been received as authority.—*Lancette Francaise*, No. 160. 1837.

CHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY.

50. *Adulteration of Iodide of Potassium with Carbonate of Potassium.*—A faint contamination of this nature is exceedingly common, because it can with difficulty be avoided in the manufacture of the salt; but Dr. CHRISTISON says he has examined specimens, where the carbonate with its accompanying water amounted to ninety parts in the hundred. This distinguished writer may well ask, “can we wonder, then, that practitioners should complain of the iodide of potassium, that they have given it for months, nay, even for years, without observing any effect either on the constitution, or on the disease for which it was administered?”—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, April, 1838.

51. *Adulteration of Scammony.*—Pure scammony, which possesses a pretty clear resinous fracture, is composed, according to the analyses of Prof. CHRISTISON, of resin, gum, a few grains of sandy matter, and a little moisture. The gum amounts to 8 per cent., and the resin, its active principle, varies from 77 to 83 per cent., according to the age and consequent dryness of the specimen. Such scammony has for some years cost in the Edinburgh wholesale market, Dr. CHRISTISON states, about thirty-two shillings a pound; but it is rarely to be met with. The principal part of the scammony in the shops costs only from fourteen to eighteen shillings a pound; which is alone evidence enough that it is a spurious article. Three adulterations have come under my notice,—with chalk, with some amylaceous matter, and with both conjoined. The first variety has very much the appearance of our grey limestones. I may mention the composition of one merely out of a great number I have analyzed. It contained 31.5 per cent. of carbonate