figures just referred to, prolapsus of the funis occurred 695 times, giving a proportion of one 1:264, showing that this anomaly is one of the most frequent disturbances of labor.

Another table will show the relative mortality of children born under these circumstances:

	PROLAPSUS OF FUNIS.	CHILDREN STILLBORN.
Mauriceau,	39	15
De La Motte,	14	5
Clarke,	66	49
Collins,	97	24
Churchill,	322	220
Hardy and McClintock,	37	25
La Chapelle,	41	8
Michaelis,	27	20
Boivin,	38	18
Arneth,	33	11
Skanzoni,	29	13
	<hr/> 743	<hr/> 408

Thus, 743 cases of prolapsus funis gave 408 stillborn children, a proportion of 1:1.82, which shows clearly enough that accoucheurs have not been very successful in treating this kind of labor.

The rationale of the posture method being obvious to every skilful practitioner, we shall, in conclusion, try to give the indications for it.

First. The operation is only admissible as long as circulation exists in the funis; even if the circulation is feeble, it may soon be restored after the impediment is removed.

Second. The os uteri must be sufficiently dilated or dilatable.

Third. The liquor amnii must be partly retained; otherwise, if it should all have escaped, and the uterus be firmly contracted over the child's body, every effort for the reduction of the prolapsed funis would be in vain.—*Louisville Medical Journal*.

A CASE OF ARGYRIA, WITH DEPOSIT OF SILVER IN THE INTES- TINES, LIVER, KIDNEYS, AND SPLEEN.

BY DR. C. FROMMANN.

THE subject of this paper, W. Jordan, aged 60, was attacked in March, 1856, with epilepsy, the fits occurring three to four times daily during the first month, when they lasted an hour at a time; they subsequently became less frequent, and at the end of the year they occurred once a fortnight, and only lasted about a quarter of an hour. Almost from the commencement of the disease, nitrate of silver was exhibited, and for nine months he took a daily pill containing six grains, so that altogether he swallowed about 3½ ounces. Towards the end of July, the skin began to be discolored, gastric symptoms supervened, but still the remedy was persevered with. In the beginning of 1857, there was hæ-

matemesis and other undoubted symptoms of gastric ulceration, and scarce any food could be borne. He recovered so far as to undertake a voyage to England, but the fatigue proved too much for him, and on his arrival he was compelled to seek aid at the German Hospital. On his discharge he was able to take food well, but his circumstances being very bad, he had a relapse, and was again admitted into the German Hospital on the 6th November, 1858, in a wretched condition, severe cough and hæmoptysis having supervened. The whole surface exhibited a steel-grey color, which was particularly marked in the face. There was, in addition to the gastritis, advanced tuberculosis, bronchitis, and pneumonia. The patient died two days after admission. The following is an abridged account of the autopsy:—The parts in the face which had exhibited a great intensity of discoloration, owing to their containing more blood, now presented a tint uniform with the rest. In the brain, the choroid plexuses presented an uniform greyish-blue tint. The state of the lungs corresponded with what had been observed during life; the left ventricle of the heart was much hypertrophied. The stomach contained a large quantity of acid brown liquid, streaked with blood; the mucous membrane was covered with a considerable layer of dirty red, viscid mucus, inclosing streaks of black coagulated blood. The vessels were much injected, and there were numerous small extravasations. At the upper part of the posterior wall, half way between the pylorus and cardiac orifice, was a large ulcer, seven centimetres by five (2.75×1.96 inches), at the base of which there was an orifice of the size of a crown-piece, which was blocked up by the pancreas, to which adhesions had formed. The pylorus formed an annular stricture, only large enough to permit the passage of a common lead pencil. The mucous membrane of the duodenum and jejunum was dotted over with many small black granules, most closely aggregated along the folds. In the ileum these spots became more and more scanty; examined by the microscope, the villi in these black spots presented, especially in their globular end, groups of black aggregated particles, varying much in form and size, and without a crystalline character; cyanide of potassium rapidly dissolved these deposits, here as well as in the other organs in which they were found. The spleen was small; its veins had an ashen hue, which was due to a fine granular precipitate upon their coats. The liver was small, congested, and fatty; the small branches of the vena portæ and of the hepatic veins presented the same precipitate of silver throughout, but the capillaries were free from it. Fine sections of the hepatic tissue showed numerous black dots, each of which occupied the centre of an acinus, corresponding to the point of exit of a central vein, and the color was produced by a black margin surrounding the calibre of the artery. The dark color of the branches of the vena portæ was also very characteristic throughout. The largest argentean deposit was in

the kidneys, where the bundles of vessels, in the Malpighian corpuscles and the intertubular capillaries, seemed to be its primary seat. The pyramids all exhibited a dark grey color, which was deepest and all but black near the papillæ. The tubules in these parts were entirely invested with a dense precipitate; so that on a transverse section each tubule appeared surrounded by a black ring. Parts of the skin taken from the temporal, axillary and digital regions were examined. Transverse sections showed a pale, purplish streak immediately underneath the rete Malpighii, following the undulations of the cutis. At the roots of the hairs it accompanied the external sheath towards the bulb, but nowhere except in the sudoriparous glands was a granular deposit to be found; in them it presented an appearance similar to that seen in the renal tubules. The glandular epithelium uniformly presented fatty degeneration.

We may mention that concentrated sulphuric acid, as well as cyanide of potassium, dissolved the argentean deposit; though the latter did so with the greatest rapidity. Portions of the liver and kidneys analysed by Dr. Versmann afforded the following result: 217 grains of dried liver yielded 0.009 grammes of chloride of silver, or 0.0068 grammes of metallic silver, or 0.047 per cent. of metallic silver; 133 grains of dried kidney yielded 0.007 grammes of chloride of silver, or 0.0053 grammes of silver, or 0.061 per cent. of the latter.—*Archiv. für Patholog. Anat.*

Bibliographical Notices.

A Treatise on Medical Electricity, Theoretical and Practical, and its use in the Treatment of Paralysis, Neuralgia, and other Diseases. By J. ALTHAUS, M.D. Philadelphia: 1860.

THE first application of electricity to medical purposes was made over a century ago, and, about 1780, it had a wide celebrity, from which, owing to the imperfect apparatus then known and the non-fulfilment of the marvellous results expected from it, it fell into utter neglect; which was not so undeserved as some people have thought. Its use could not become general before the effects it produces in the living body had been investigated. Its application was mere experimentation; unlooked-for results followed the empirical use of it; while some physicians failed to give relief in paralysis, others found it efficacious in impetigo, and others in chronic ophthalmia and chilblains.

While ignorance of the subject prevented conscientious physicians from using this agent, there has been, from the time prior to the introduction of the Perkins tractors to the employment of the electro-chemical baths, an uninterrupted succession of more or less enterprising individuals who have lived on the public as electric therapeuticians, and perhaps the greatest harm these people have done has been the discredit they have thrown on their own specialty.

The different medical journals of the last sixty years contain a num-