PROLAPSUS VAGINA DURING LABOR.

BY C. S. MAGOUN, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A FEW months since I was called, in consultation with another physician of this place, to examine a singular, and what appeared to be an anomalous case of labor. The patient was taken with labor-pains at two or three o'clock, A. M., and a midwife sent for, who attended her till three o'clock, P. M., in hopes the labor would be terminated. But about this time a hard, red, oval and very sensitive tumor presented itself at the os externum, completely filling that orifice. She became alarmed for the safety of the patient, and I was sent for. Not being at home, another physician was called, who upon examination could not make out any clear or probable diagnosis, and came for me himself, greatly alarmed for the safety of the patient.

He informed me of the situation as well as he could, but could not reduce the tumor, nor tell of what it was composed. When handled it caused extreme suffering, in consequence of inflammation of the parts. The labor-pains still continued with force and regularity, and in this situation I found the patient at 7 o'clock, P. M.

On examination of the case, we found a small orifice posterior to the oval tumor, which led into the vagina. We now endeavored to reduce the tumor, and by perseverance during the absence of pains succeeded, and found the os uteri in nearly its natural position, which at once developed the whole case. It was with difficulty it could be retained in situ, during the uterine pains, as they exerted great force upon it, but still it was evident that such must be the case, or labor could not be terminated with safety. To accomplish this, a roll of linen, well oiled, was introduced into the vagina and retained there by an assistant. The os uteri was firm and unyielding, and only dilated three fourths of an inch. We deemed it expedient under the circumstances, if possible, to allay the pains and procure some rest for the patient, who now seemed much exhausted. Camphor, gr. x. and tinc. opii, gr. j. was now administered. The pulse being full and hard, some blood was taken from the arm. Three hours after, another examination was made, as the pains still continued, but with less severity, and labor had not advanced. The camphor and opium were repeated, the roll of linen was re-introduced into the vagina and supported by a T bandage and an assistant.

In this situation I left her, having been suffering strong uterine pains for upwards of eighteen hours. From this time the pains gradually ceased. The patient soon fell into a profound sleep, and rested well the remainder of the night. Next morning the roll of linen was removed from the vagina, and no more prolapsus took place. In two weeks from this time the patient was again taken with labor-pains, and after a few hours of suffering was safely delivered of a healthy child, without any unusual symptoms occurring.

I have reported the above case, because we find no one of the kind mentioned in any author, as occurring under similar circumstances, and that the young, timid, or inexperienced physician may be able to over-

come the difficulties and rightly understand such a simple, though interesting case.

Woodville, Miss., June 20th, 1841.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 14, 1841.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORTS.

WE are gratified at the prospect of continuing to receive regular weekly reports of the surgical practice in this celebrated Hospital. Dr. Townsend, who is at present the practising surgeon, is an expert and successful operator, whose name is favorably known to those who have been medically educated in Boston. The reports show what cases are considered of importance by the surgeon; and the instruction gained by a critical examination of them, can nowhere else be obtained. As many medical gentlemen as have it in their power, should avail themselves of the opportunity of following Dr. Townsend on Tuesdays and Fridays, the public visiting days, through the wards of the institution. Medical students from the country would find it for their advantage to be in regular attendance two or three months before the commencement of the lecture term.

Animal Magnetism in Boston.—Frequent inquiry is made if we do not believe? Believe what? Presuming that the fever is nearly at the turning point, those who know most about it, after carefully reflecting upon the momentous subject, which is represented to be perfectly astonishing; cannot do less than to present the scientific world with the results of their observations. How would a minute history of this magnetic mania appear in print, some twelve months hence, with the names of those gentlemen appended who are particularly identified in the present march of mysticism? This is an age of profound investigation; but in Dr. Franklin's day the philosophers of the school to which he belonged were so hasty in their conclusions, even while Mesmer himself was living, as to declare that the pretended discovery of animal magnetism was a gross imposition, unworthy of notice.

*Observations on the Cure of Strabismus.**—When Dr. Dix, some months since, presented the medical community with an admirable guide in the performance of the new operation for overcoming muscular distortions of the eye, it did not occur to us that any ground was left for the cultivation of another in the same branch of surgery. In that, however, we were certainly mistaken, since Dr. Post, of New York, has published something on the same subject, particularly worthy of attention. It is a small book of only sixty-seven pages, but its essential character depends upon the fact that it contains several colored plates, so distinctly and truly

* *Observations on the Cure of Strabismus.* By Alfred C. Post, M.D. With an appendix on the new operation for the cure of Stammering. New York: C. S. Francis. Pp. 67. 1841.