length. This discharge was unaccompanied by any fecal matter ; there was no blood, and no larger quantity of mucus than usual, but the stool was attended with a greater amount of tenesmus than common. The patient immediately expressed himself greatly relieved of the feeling of weight in the bowels, as of " something that ought to come away."

From this time there was no return of that peculiar feeling, and very little pain or tenesmus ; small portions of faeces began to appear, but in form " very like shavings or ribbon, appearing as if the mass had been forced through a very small place," as the nurse described it. The faeces retained this form, in some degree, nearly two weeks ; but at this date (November 6) they are nearly normal. The bowels have become regular, the dejections are not painful, and do not require much effort. The general health of the patient has rapidly improved, his appetite and digestion are very good, and at this time, forty-six days from the time of attack, he considers himself quite well.

A CASE OF PROLONGED GESTATION.

BY FRANK WELLS, M. D.,

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Mrs. M., a lady of great intelligence, had sexual intercourse with her husband on August 27, 1874, two days after the completion of her monthly period. On the following day her husband was called away by business, which detained him from home until the existence of pregnancy had declared itself to his wife by the cessation of the catamenia. She quickened in the early part of January, 1875, and naturally expected to be confined about the 3d of June, for which period she engaged her nurse. Labor did not come on, however, until June 26th, nor was it completed until the following day, exactly three hundred and four days from the date of sexual congress.

The birth, which was a tedious one, necessitating the application of the forceps, was chiefly characterized by the almost entire absence of liquor amnii, only sufficient being discharged to make upon the sheet a stain of the size of a silver dollar. The child, which weighed eight and one half pounds, looked as though it had been in a measure macerated in the amniotic fluid, its skin being loose and wrinkled, and the epidermis peeling off in strips. At this date (November, 1875), the child (a boy) is healthy and vigorous, and weighs eighteen and one half pounds.

The case is remarkable, not only for the long continuance of the gestation, but also for the undoubted evidences of the absorption of some, at least, of the liquor amnii through the cutaneous surface of the fœtus. That this must have been the case is indicated by the fact that as late

as the eighth month the child was quite freely movable in the uterine cavity, which shows that at this time there must have been some fluid in which it could float; and still further by the absence, during gestation, of all painful motions of the child, which would undoubtedly have been felt, had the solid contents of the womb come in direct apposition to the uterine walls, without the medium of a protecting fluid.

RECENT PROGRESS IN DERMATOLOGY.

BY JAMES C. WHITE, M. D.

The Relation of the Urine to Diseases of the Skin. — Dr. L. D. Bulkley,¹ of New York, in a paper upon this subject read before the New York Academy of Medicine, gives his conclusions drawn from the examination of the urine in a large number of cases (five hundred and twenty-three) of skin disease, including eczema, acne, psoriasis, urticaria, ichthyosis, and purpura. In eczema he divides the changes in the urine into two classes: those indicating acid dyspepsia with varying specific gravity, or with persistent abnormal acidity and high specific gravity; and those in which the urine is not only acid but deposits uric acid or urates. In acne the urine was usually acid, its average specific gravity 1023 $\frac{1}{4}$, and its changes those of dyspepsia, including urates, uric acid, and an increase of phosphates. From these observations he regards the urine as a most important element in the study of dermatology, giving not only indications of great therapeutical value, but also conclusive evidence of the falsity of the doctrine that diseases of the skin are generally of a local origin. He goes so far, even, as to state that not in one of the cases of skin disease examined was the urine found normal.

There can be no question as to the intimacy of the physiological relations between the kidneys and the skin in health, or of infrequent changes in the tissues of the latter when its circulation is surcharged with products which the kidneys have failed to eliminate, or of common disturbances in both in certain constitutional affections. That the skin may exceptionally be examined as a means of diagnosis in renal disease or in certain changes in the urine is a fair conclusion from these facts, but they do not warrant the conclusion that diseases of the skin are capable of producing such disturbances of the excretion of the kidneys as to be recognized by analysis, or that they are but the expression of certain central or constitutional disorders, simultaneously exhibited by tissue changes in the integument and chemical modifications of the urine. The relations of the urine to diseases of the skin must be most carefully studied and all possible chances of error excluded, before any

¹ The Medical Record, May 1, 1875.