absence of any known liability, I have been led to surmise that it was due to some injury in one of her former pregnancies, this being the third. Of this her friends have no knowledge.

The true etiology of the accident admits of some difference of opinion. Some suppose violent contractions of the organ itself set up by the disorder of the general nervous system from drink as the exciting cause; others attribute the injury to the violent contractions of the abdominal muscles pressing upon the uterus during spasm; others think it due to the violent straining to vomit, while I suspect a fall upon her abdomen some time during the afternoon, after I left, to have been the immediate source of the disaster.

Intra-Uterine Hydrocephalus, and delivery accomplished by Craniotomy.—Dr. CORSE also narrated the following:—

Mrs. H., pregnant of her fifth child, was taken in labour a little after midnight; pains being active, the os was soon dilated; examination per vaginam showed some hard body presenting of unusually large size. There being no urgent symptoms, labour was allowed to go on for about two hours; it was then supposed that she would not be able to deliver herself unaided, and I was called. I discovered an unusual size of the fontanelles and a great width of the sutures, but supposed that the shape of the head might be made, by aid of the long forceps, to undergo such change as would admit of its delivery by that means. The forceps were applied, and traction and compression made, as far as prudence would permit, without avail.

The most dependent part of the head at the centre of the pelvis was then perforated, and a large amount of fluid evacuated; the size of the head being thus reduced, it was extracted by means of forceps without much difficulty. The patient soon reacted, and no bad symptom arose from the operation.

The measurements of the head are as follows: From the occipital protuberance to the frontal protuberance, six and a half inches; from the occipital protuberance to the chin, six inches and a quarter; from one parietal protuberance to the other, five inches and three-quarters; from the posterior margin of the foramen magnum occipitis to the top of the head, five inches; from the top of the frontal bone to the chin, four inches and a half; from the chin to the nose, one inch.

April 4. Fungus Hæmatodes involving the Ovaries and Uterus at the age of twelve years.—Dr. CORSE read the following note of a case of cancerous disease of the abdominal and pelvic viscera:—

Miss N., aged twelve years, rather small for her age, and slender, but generally healthy, presenting no signs of puberty, and apparently of rather retarded development, was taken with vague abdominal pains, like the colic of young persons; the pains were referred to one part, then another, of the abdomen. They were at first treated by gentle domestic remedies, such as carminatives, gentle stimulants, and laxatives. These remedies being unavailing, they sent for their family physician, who at once discovered an abdominal tumour, pronounced it extraordinary, and proposed a consultation, upon which I was called. When I first saw her, she had become somewhat thinner, but was yet going to school. Upon a careful examination, we found an irregular tumour in the hypogastrium which descended low down into the pelvis, and a per vaginam and per rectum touch showed the whole mass to be connected together. After summing up all the particulars, we agreed upon an unfavourable prognosis, and I expressed the opinion that the disease was fungus hæmatodes. The patient rapidly grew worse in spite

of tonics and alteratives. The abdomen became enormously distended, and fluctuation indicated the presence of a fluid. At length the diaphragm was so much pressed upon as to threaten immediate death by asphyxia. It was now thought proper to perform paracentesis abdominis, not as a cure, but as offering the only means of prolonging her life. A puncture was made with a trocar, in the median line, about two inches below the umbilicus, and aropy sanguineous fluid slowly poured out, to the amount of about three pints. This fluid, subjected to microscopic examination, presented the peculiar cells said to indicate cancer. A marked amelioration of suffering followed the operation. The improvement, however, was of short duration; the abdomen quickly filled again, and the emaciation became extreme. Now vomiting came on; the matter ejected was black and resembling coffee grounds, and somewhat slimy. Soon after she became moribund, and expired on the night of the twenty-third day after I first saw her, and not more than five or six weeks after the first discovery of the disease.

On post-mortem examination the next day a quantity of sanguineous fluid, like that obtained by the previous operation, was first evacuated; then a soft pultaceous mass occupied the opening in the abdomen; and transverse incisions, laying open the whole abdomen in four flaps, showed the entire space filled with a soft cancer matter, even up between the stomach and diaphragm. The whole uterus and ovaries were in one soft mass, a part only of which would hold together to be removed. The once tolerably hard tumour had, as is usual with these growths, become quite soft with its increase in size. The greater part of the frugous growth was scooped out with a saucer; and we could then see that the walls of the abdomen were the seats of attachment for this matter; numerous tumours of all sizes, from that of a small shot to an inch or more in diameter, were found to be appended to the omentum and to the intestines and mesentery.

The whole substance removed was placed in a common bucket and weighed eleven pounds and a half. The fluid which escaped when the abdomen was opened, was supposed to be about two pounds, and the portion remaining in the abdomen about one pound, making in all *fourteen* pounds and a half.

I could not learn of any case of cancer ever having occurred before in the family.

June 6. Feigned Mutism detected by a Strong and Prolonged Shock of Electricity.—Dr. ADDINELL HEWSON read the following history of a case of this:—

On the 16th day of July last (1859), a boy, apparently 14 years of age, was taken up in the street for begging, and committed to the House of Refuge by one of the aldermen of the city. At the time of his arrest he intimated to the officer that he was unable to speak. He could, however, evidently hear perfectly well. He wrote his name in the alderman's office as John Thompson, born in the State of New York, and gave his age as thirteen years. At the Refuge he also gave them to understand that he could not speak, and that he had lost the ability to articulate sounds in his early infancy. He was found to be able to read with facility anything that was written for him, and to write a quite distinct and well-formed hand himself. My colleague, Dr. Haskell, who was on duty at the time of his admission, examined him carefully, and desired that he should be closely watched, so as to detect, if possible, whether his mutism was feigned or not. But from that date up to the close of February, a period of nearly eight months, during which he was constantly at work or at play with the other boys, no one ever heard him utter a single distinct word save once, shortly