is still in the uterus. Dr. Blick by no means gave a satisfactory explanation of a fact cognizable to every man's senses; asking whether it was not a "peculiar elasticity in the chord which gave the feel of pulsation?" or whether it might not be a vibration resulting from the sudden separation of the placenta! With respect to the expulsion of the placenta, Dr. Blick said, that in 1700 cases of midwifery which he had attended, he had only met with two or three instances in which it had not come away very shortly after delivery of the child—he always assisted its expulsion, by making extension at the funis.

Mr. LILIFF remarked, that such was the usual practice; Dr. W. Hunter and others, however, seeing the mischief which in some instances resulted from taking away the placenta, determined to wait till nature expelled it: the consequences of this practice were found so alarming, that it was abandoned. This very fact, he thought, militated strongly against Dr. Blick's assumption of the placenta being detached at the birth of the child. He had notes of 400 midwifery cases from a surgeon-accoucheur, now dead: this gentleman was in the habit of waiting for the placenta to be detached by the natural efforts, and the result of his practice was as follows: with *one* case only in 400, it passed at the instant the child did; that in 382, it passed within half an hour; with 16, between this time and an hour, and in one case only required extraction, which was done at the expiration of an hour and half. Only one of these cases proved fatal.

Dr. BLICK thought, that the erroneous views generally entertained with respect to the placenta not being detached at the time of the birth of the child, gave rise to a line of practice; namely, waiting for its expulsion by the simple efforts of the uterus, which in his estimation was the source of the numerous cases of morbid adhesions of the placenta, reported by authors. And therefore it was a practical point worthy of deep consideration. The possibility of applying the forceps, in Dr. Blick's case, having been denied, (in reference to our report) by a public lecturer, Dr. B. produced Smellie's 35th folio Plate, which is a representation of the forceps applied to the head in a footling presentation: the head even remaining above the pubes.

And here we sincerely hope this discussion has ended; for although we agree with one of the speakers that practical points should be "thoroughly sifted;" it can scarcely be thought to be one of those efforts, of which we can say, "*decies repetita placebit.*"

ENGLISH AND SCOTCH PHYSICIANS IN FRANCE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Boulogne sur Mer, Nov. 20, 1827.

SIR,—The annexed letter was addressed to the Editor of *The Morning Herald* by Dr. Robertson on Saturday last; and as it is the only way he will condescend to notice Dr. Allatt's publication, the insertion of the letter, with this, in the next Number of THE LANCET will much oblige Dr. Robertson. As the advertisement alluded to closes with a short Latin sentence, Dr. Robertson cannot omit this opportunity of following so polite an example, and accordingly subjoins two characteristic sentences:—

"*Ille flagellis*

cæsus:—

iniquæ mentis asellus."

To the Editor of THE MORNING HERALD.

SIR,—By an advertisement in your Paper of the 15th instant, I am charged by Dr. Allatt of having suppressed a letter in the publication of my correspondence with him. In noticing the circumstance, I can only refer your readers for a contradiction of his gross (and shameless) assertion to the letters in *The Gazette of Health*, Nov. 1, and in THE LANCET, Nov. 3, which also afford sufficient grounds for me to decline any discussion with that person. In justice to me, I cannot doubt you will give an early place to this in your columns, and oblige

Your obedient humble servant,

Boulogne sur Mer, H. ROBERTSON.

Nov. 15, 1827.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM.

"YESTERDAY the Committee of Magistrates, appointed at the recent general meeting of the magistracy of the county, to superintend the erection of an Asylum for the reception of pauper lunatics, held their first meeting at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell. Mr. Const, the chairman of the sessions, presided on the occasion. The meeting being a private one, we are only enabled to state that the committee resolved to advertise forthwith for a suitable piece of ground whereon to erect the building, of not less than 25 acres in extent, and in a healthy situation, near the metropolis, and where there is a plentiful supply of good water. They also will, by the same means, apply for plans, elevations, and an estimate of expenses of buildings, for the laudable purpose. We are sure our readers will rejoice, that active measures have commenced for the purpose of relieving, as far as may be, the sufferings of our fellow-creatures who may be afflicted with the worst of all human maladies."—*From The Times of Thursday last,*