and stronger and heat increasing. I gave castor and laudanum. At sunset another physician was called in consultation: an examination was made per vaginam; every thing regular, except the urinary bladder, which was distended with urine; the catheter was used and urine drawn off without any relief to the patient. Flannels, wet with diluted laudanum, had been applied to the abdomen. It was, at ten o'clock, agreed to give forty drops of laudanum every half hour. At twelve at night she began to be more quiet; had short naps, lessened the laudanum to ten drops. At eight in the morning, commenced with five grains of the following mixture every five hours:—Ipecac. and sal. nitre. āā. 10 gr.; opium and calomel, āā 5 gr., which soon relaxed the bowels; notwithstanding it was necessary to give laudanum often, to moderate uterine spasms. The alvine discharges were copious and offensive in the highest degree; in frequency from half an hour to an hour.

It was not uncommon to find pieces of apple-skins with the discharges. The discharges did not reduce her strength, but improved it.

On the 14th there commenced a moderate lochial discharge, without much colour. On the 17th relax began to moderate, with symptoms generally fluttering, but still necessary to continue laudanum for reasons above stated; absorbents have been used for two days. 19th. Relax abated to four or five discharges per day. August 21st. Convalescent. I ought to have stated that the milk came regularly. Oct. 15. She was in perfect health.

Lanesborough, Nov. 14th, 1824.

Case in which a Child was retained in the mother a number of months after the usual period of gestation. By Dr THEOPHILUS DOE, in a Letter to a friend of one of the Editors.

[Communicated for the New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.]

MR S A. H. aged 29, of small stature, thin of flesh, but healthy, a tailorress by trade, became pregnant about the first of April 1822, ten months after being married. She continued well until the last of May, when she was attacked with violent spasms of the stomach, with vomiting. The usual remedies were employed, and in a few hours the spasms were removed. After this she suffered much from soreness in the epigastrium, and much of the abdomen for many days. Four weeks after she had a similar attack of spasm. She was now sooner relieved than before, but the same soreness of the abdomen fol-

lowed. Through the whole of pregnancy, she was liable to spasm, and suffered much from its attacks. It was, however, less severe as pregnancy advanced. Nausea, vomiting, costiveness, dysuria, were among other diseases she suffered. It was observed that in the treatment for costiveness, the mildest cathartics only could be borne, and even these produced much griping pain.

At the end of the fourth month, the motion of the fœtus was perceived, and the symptoms above named became then less urgent. New ones occurred. Among these was severe pain in the back and hips, and this continued for many months; from the first of November to the middle of January 1823. In other respects her health was not impaired.

About two weeks from the expected time of labour, I was called to her, and found her at 6 P. M. with the usual symptoms of travail. These continued for ten hours, and then subsided. Pain in the back and hips however continued, and from this time she felt no more the motion of the child.

From the 20th January, 1823, to the last of February, she remained in a miserable situation, suffering greatly from soreness in the abdomen, costiveness, loss of appetite, night sweats, great debility, and excessive pain in the back.

March 1st. She was attacked with *phlegmatia alba dolens*, in one limb. The disease having left this, soon after seized the other. During the first and second week of this attack, she had a discharge from the vagina resembling the catamenia. At times this was fœtid. Examination by the vagina discovered the os uteri closed; no portion of the child to be felt. The abdomen was found very tense.

After the twentieth of March, she began gradually to recover. In ten days after, she could walk some distance without fatigue. From the 1st of April convalescence was rapid. The tumefaction of the abdomen began to subside, and she was only incommoded by its bulk. First of May was able to walk two miles; go to church, walk back, and, in short, to manage the affairs of her family. She seemed as large as at the seventh month of pregnancy.

June 10th. Catamenia; health good; further subsidence of abdomen.

Nov. 3d. Nothing remarkable has occurred to this time. The abdomen has gradually diminished to nearly its usual size. A small tumour remains, of size and shape of a child's head. One circumstance has been omitted. Two weeks after the supposed death of the child, the breasts swelled, and milk was discharged from them. This continued till October. The quantity was not great.

From September until March, 1824, she had a copious discharge from the vagina of a thickish, yellow appearance, and not offensive. This discharge occurred in the intervals of the catamenial periods. These last were regular through the whole time.

April 10th, 1824. The discharge has disappeared, and my patient was seized with violent pain in the stomach, bowels and back, and with cough.

16th. Cough has subsided, but pain continues with irritable stomach and difficult respiration.

17th. Vomiting incessant, pain in stomach, &c. very severe.

18th. Vomiting and pain diminished.

19th. Is attacked with severe diarrhœa; great pain; quick pulse.

20th. All symptoms, especially vomiting, greatly aggravated. From this time to the 24th of May, when she died, no other change occurred than a regular increase in their violence, together with the constitutional affections which such symptoms ordinarily produce.

Dissection.—Upon opening the abdomen, the uterus was discovered to be very much thickened, and presented the appearance of having been inflamed, and to have suppurated. It adhered closely to all the surrounding parts and organs. Anteriorly, it was intimately united with the peritoneum, and in this way with the abdominal parietes. An incision was next made through the anterior face of the uterus, and a full grown fœtus discovered. The bones of such portion of the fœtus as presented to the anterior portion of the uterus, and were in contact with it, were denuded. In all other parts the child was entire, even the skin in these remained perfectly fair, and unchanged as in life. Some slight marks of disease were noticed in other parts of the abdomen and thorax.

In conclusion, I beg leave to ask, why was not this woman delivered by the efforts of nature? What was the cause of the child's death? What produced disease and adhesion of the uterus to the peritoneum, and in what manner did the same produce death? How is the occurrence and continuance of menstruation in this case to be explained?

Lubec, Maine, 1824.