foot, left hand, and umbilical cord, all presenting at once. The right parietal bone of the head was applied against the pubes of the mother; the left was turned backwards, with the sole of the right foot resting on it; this latter being covered by the left hand, the back of which lay against the hollow of the sacrum. When arrived at the vulva, the left hand was protruded before the head; the body of the fœtus, after its birth, preserved the same position as it had in the womb.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, May 14th, 1842.

76. *Abstraction of the Uterus after delivery.*—In our No. for August 1839, will be found an account of two cases in which the uterus was dragged away by ignorant midwives, and two other examples of the same horrid transaction are there alluded to, and we have now to add to this catalogue of atrocities, a fifth example, related by Dr. PERACCHI in the *Annali Univ. di Medicina*. The subject of this last case, Rosa Gazzola, 38 years old, was attended in her fifth confinement, in 1837, by a *soi-disant* sage femme. She was well delivered, but after the expulsion of the placenta, she suffered from intense uterine pains, and a feeling of weight in the vagina. The midwife examined her, and stated that these pains were caused by the presence of another child in the uterus. In pursuance of this opinion, she introduced her hand into the vagina, said she felt the child, seized it, and made great and forcible traction. The patient felt that she was being lacerated; four strong men were holding her, while the midwife continued her efforts at traction. At last, after unheard-of efforts, the pretended child was dragged out of the vagina, and the midwife remarked that the nates were born, the rest of the body was behind. In order to aid her efforts, she wrapped up the protruded portion tightly in a handkerchief, and continuing to pull, she finally tore away the entire uterus from the body of the unfortunate mother.

Dr. Peracchi, who was sent for, found tremendous hemorrhage, and the patient constantly fainting. She appeared like a corpse, the pulse could not be felt, a large quantity of the bowel protruded through the vulva, and the vagina was full of coagula of blood. The doctor was much alarmed at the state in which he found the unhappy sufferer, and still more so when he ascertained the womb had been torn away. He returned the bowels, raised the pelvis, &c., and had recourse to cordials; the patient gradually revived; fever set in, requiring bleeding, &c.; and the poor woman finally recovered.

At the period when the catamenia should be present, Gazzola suffers from general prostration, oppression, vomitings, headaches, and abdominal pains. Her hair has fallen, the face is pale, the muscles thin and, as it were, atrophied; the voice is harsh and disagreeable; speech difficult. The vulva is natural, the vagina about three inches long, and terminating by a thin yielding cul-de-sac. At the antero-superior part of the canal is an irregular, hard, and painful cicatrix, about an inch and a half long. The urine and feces pass with difficulty and pain. The examination of the organ showed it was completely torn away, together with the Fallopian tubes and broad ligaments.

The midwife was proceeded against criminally, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a small pecuniary fine.

77. *Polypus of the Uterus expelled by the action of Secale Cornutum.*—M. P. MOYLE was requested to attend without delay a Mrs. W., who had suddenly lost a large quantity of blood from the womb, and had just recovered from a long state of syncope. The blood was lost in about two or three minutes. She had frequently had small hemorrhages previously, and was becoming weaker in consequence. Her legs and thighs were swollen almost to bursting, her countenance pallid, respiration difficult, and general health decaying. After she had recovered greatly from her fainting, and after Mr. Moyle had satisfied himself that the flooding was owing to polypus of the uterus, he proceeded as follows:

"A fresh appearance of hemorrhage induced me to give her at once two drachms of the tincture of secale cornutum, the valuable effects of which I had often before experienced. I also applied a bandage firmly round the abdomen, and applied cloths, wetted with cold vinegar and water, to the pudendum. The

discharge proved to be little, and no faintness followed. In twenty minutes after the first dose, the tincture was repeated, and in a few minutes she complained of being griped. Suspecting this griping to be a slight contraction of the uterus, I ventured an examination by the vagina. The vagina was full of coagula; the os uteri was flabby and dilated to the size of half-a-crown piece, immediately within which I found a substance of somewhat firmer texture than the coagula, and around which my finger passed freely. During the examination there was a pain of sufficient force of the os uteri to embrace the finger firmly, and I now felt confident of being able to subdue the hemorrhage for the present, and was not without hopes that I might, by a perseverance of the remedy, enable the uterus to throw off the extraneous substance within it. A third dose was now administered, which kept up the pains at short intervals, but they were weak and feeble. Finding this the case, the supposition was, that she was too much reduced from the disease and the recent loss of blood for the medicine to have its full effect. A cup of gruel, with a small quantity of brandy in it, was given her, and in a half an hour after, another similar potion, which had the effect of reviving her to a great degree. I now took my leave about eight o'clock P. M., giving directions for a repetition of the food, together with some beef-tea, at intervals of an hour or every second hour, leaving with her four doses of the *secale*, to be taken at intervals of half an hour; in case there should be the slightest appearance of flooding, I was to be sent for immediately.

"Early on the following morning, I found her labouring under sharp contractile pains of the uterus, from having taken, two hours previously, two doses of the *secale*. Examination discovered the mass of polypus filling the vagina. The patient was very cheerful, and expressed herself convinced that the mass was coming away. The pains were by this time not so severe as they had been, and consequently, I now gave her three drachms of the tincture in a little brandy. This had the effect, in about twenty minutes, of producing a severe pain, which brought the mass to the os externum. It was now grasped with the hand, and, on the recurrence of the pain, the whole was discharged. Slight hemorrhage only followed the expulsion of the polypus, which equalled in size two large placentæ. From this moment she recovered with great rapidity. There was a slight appearance of the menses at the end of six weeks, succeeded by a more abundant appearance at the termination of another similar period. She daily improved in health, the œdema gradually subsided, and although she was for many months unable to put the whole weight of her body on her right leg, yet from bandaging, the use of tonics, &c., she is now, in all respects, a perfectly healthy robust woman."

[The successful result of this case induced Mr. Moyle to try the use of the ergot in another patient who had previously been under his care. He visited her on the 7th Sept. 1839, and gave her four doses of the tincture of *secale cornutum*, ʒij. in each dose. Two or three slight pains were now experienced, nausea and vomiting followed. Shortly afterwards she had a severe labour pain. She then took ʒij. more of the tincture, and the pains increasing, the polypus mass was felt at the os uteri. By the further use of the medicine, the substance was completely expelled. It was about the size of an average placenta.

The following case related by Dr. Somerville will corroborate the statements of Mr. Moyle.]

"Mrs. G., aged 26, had been subject to femoral hernia of both sides for several years, and for some time previous to her marriage, up to the period of her first confinement, had suffered much from leucorrhœa. At the time of her delivery, she had an attack of uterine hemorrhage, which subsequently returned at intervals, and continued with considerable violence, till she called on me for advice, about fifteen months after her delivery. I did not, at that time, propose an examination, but prescribed a few doses of ergot in powder. The next day she complained of being severely pained, since she had taken the powder; and the discharge still continuing, I examined the state of the uterus, and found a

mass slightly protruding through the os uteri, which I believed to be a polypus. The ergot was given in increased quantity, and at shorter intervals, which produced severe bearing-down pains, and in a short time, a polypus about the size of a large orange, having a thick pedicle, and attached to the anterior surface of the cavity of the uterus, was propelled into the vagina. After an interval of a few days to permit the irritability of the uterus to subside, a ligature of silver wire was applied by means of a double canula, but it broke on being tightened. Another and stronger wire was applied, and after it had been firmly tightened, great pain and tenderness of the tumour, and also of the abdomen supervened. The abdominal tenderness was speedily relieved by antiphlogistic means, but the pain and uneasiness of the tumour still continued, in such a degree, as to require great gentleness and caution in tightening the ligature. The wire, however, gradually ulcerated through the portion to which it was applied. On its separation, the lower half of the pedicle of the tumour was found divided, while the upper half, which probably had been first separated, had become reunited, and a distinct sulcus was felt on its upper surface, where the reunion had taken place. The circumstance of the time required for tightening the ligature being considerably longer than usual, on account of the tendency to abdominal inflammation and the tenderness of the mass itself, will probably account for this unusual occurrence. The polypus became gradually smaller, and the pain in it having abated, another ligature was applied in the same site, which, in a very few days, effected a complete separation of the tumour, and it was removed by the fingers. On inspecting the polypus, the sulcus, where the second ligature had been applied, and reunion had taken place, was perceived extending all round the upper half of the pedicle. The uterus was examined by the speculum shortly after;—the os uteri was still open, and its lips swollen and tender, but these symptoms were speedily removed, and the woman is now in the enjoyment of excellent health.

Dr. M'Farlane, in his Essay on Polypus of the Uterus, in the Glasgow Medical Journal for 1828, mentions the following case, where the effect of the secale cornutum was equally decided, and the separation of the tumour was effected without the use of any other means, as in those of Mr. Moyle.

A lady, who had been subjected to profuse hemorrhage for a period of ten months, had for several years been affected with habitual leucorrhœa. After various remedies had been employed without effect, an examination was made, and the uterus felt enlarged. Considering that the continued hemorrhage might be owing to the presence of a polypus, or some other tumour within the uterine cavity, Dr. McFarlane resolved to try the effect of the ergot of rye, as, from the character of the lady, and the history of the case, he had no reason to suspect pregnancy. After the administration of some doses of this medicine in infusion, severe pains were produced, which continued for several hours, when, on examination, a polypus was found in the vagina, having a slight pedicle, which in a few days ulcerated, and was easily extracted.—*Braithwaite's Retrospect*, No. IV, from *Lond. and Edin. Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, June and August, 1841.

78. *Pregnancy unattended with the usual signs, and in which parturition occurred without labour-pains: rupture of the funis which remained untied forty-five minutes.* By THOMAS LEWIS, Esq., Liverpool.—A lady, aged 31, had noticed an enlargement in the abdomen for six or seven months. She felt certain she was not pregnant, because she had not experienced symptoms similar to those of her first pregnancy. Catamenia appeared last eight or nine months ago. External examination not proving satisfactory, examination *per vaginam* was made, which disclosed the nature of the case. The os uteri was dilated to the size of a shilling, the neck entirely expanded, and the membranes and child's head could be felt. Though informed she was pregnant she was sceptical, and made no preparation for the event. On the 5th of January the author was sent for, and found the child born before his arrival. The funis was ruptured about four inches from the umbilicus. It appears the lady had suffered from diarrhœa for two days previous. At one o'clock in the morning she awoke with,