

EXPERIMENTS UPON FIBRIN.

In these experiments 5 grammes of finely-minced fibrin (lean of rump-steak) were mixed with 50 cubic centimetres of distilled water containing 1 per cent. by volume of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and the quantities of pepsin stated in the following table. Temp. 38° centigrade (100 4° Fahr.); duration of experiment, four hours. Two comparative experiments invariably set going at the same time. When, in consequence of the presence of starch, the progress of digestion could not be satisfactorily watched, the mixture was strained through fine muslin for the purpose previously named when describing the mode of experimenting with albumen.

Table showing results of experiments upon Fibrin.

Weight of Pepsin employed in Grammes.	MAKE OF PEPSIN.					
	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
0.45	Digested.	Not digested.	Not digested.	Not digested.	Not digested.	Not digested.
1.00	...	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
1.50	...	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
2.00	...	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
3.00	...	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
4.00	...	Digested.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
5.00	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.

We are now enabled to see—
1st. That the relative digestive powers of A and B on fibrin are very nearly the same as those upon albumen, the ratios being
10 A to 1 B on albumen ;
8.88 (in round numbers 9) A to 1 B on fibrin.
2nd. That inasmuch as five grammes of fibrin were undigested by equal weights of pepsins C, D, E, and F, these preparations are practically destitute of medicinal value.*
Having shown, from the results of nearly three hundred experiments upon albumen and fibrin, that the pepsin distinguished by the letter A is far superior in quality to that of any other make, it appears to me simply an act of duty to the medical profession, and of justice to the under-mentioned firm, to state that it is prepared by Messrs. Bullock and Reynolds, of Hanover-street, Hanover-square.† In conclusion, I beg to thank my very able assistant, Mr. E. Lapper, for the aid he has rendered me during the prosecution of this inquiry.
August, 1870.

position for delivery in order to give the heart free play. She presented an extremely blanched aspect, and her pulse was thready and intermittent. I was shown a trayful of napkins, thoroughly soaked in blood, and the hæmorrhage was still occurring in gushes. I moved the patient gently on to the left side; and, after clearing the vagina of clots, detected the nature of the presentation, which was entirely placental.
Considering this to be a case in which prompt action was essential, I determined at once to turn and deliver. I therefore carried my hand steadily on, detached the placenta, and after some little trouble gained the foot, and brought the child into the world alive, subsequently clearing away the placenta, sweeping out a few clots, ensuring contraction of the uterus, and firmly bandaging the abdomen. The patient bore the operation well—indeed far better than I could possibly have expected considering her exhausted condition; and after a judicious yet liberal administration of stimulants and opium I had the satisfaction of leaving her in better plight than I had dared to anticipate I should do when I first entered the room.
Remarks.—Placental presentations are not so rare in midwifery practice, or at all events have not been so in mine, that I should have ventured to intrude this one on the notice of the profession had it not possessed the peculiarity of being complicated with extensive disease of the heart, and also produced in my mind some, I hope pardonable, professional gratification at finding that prompt action saved two lives, for had I delayed or temporised in order to obtain a second opinion (which I confess I coveted) valuable time would have been lost, and probably mother and child also; and I preferred (as many country practitioners do daily) to accept an undivided and grave responsibility rather than risk a patient's life, and in the issue was amply rewarded.
Amphill, Bedfordshire, July, 1870.

A Mirror

OF THE PRACTICE OF

MEDICINE AND SURGERY

IN THE

HOSPITALS OF LONDON.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum, tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

RESTORATION OF THE DIMENSIONS OF A MOUTH AFTER A GUNSHOT WOUND.

(Under the care of Sir WILLIAM FERGUSSON.)

A REPORT of this patient's injury, and an engraving of the consequent deformity, have already appeared in THE LANCET. Ever since the accident, in which the lower jaw from the mesial line to the neck of the condyle on the right side was shot away by the discharge of a musket, the patient has suffered a constant and distressing dribbling of saliva from an extension of the oval opening as far back as the angle of the jaw, of which the edges were closely adherent to the subjacent tissues.
On the 6th of August, Sir Wm. Fergusson raised the adherent tissues of the cheek with the scalpel, and, as he had anticipated, found no difficulty in bringing together their edges, which he united by means of three harelip-pins with the usual suture, and freely painted with collodion, thus reducing the mouth to a natural size. There was no scarcity of tissue, but rather a redundancy; which, however, Sir William did not remove, but spared in anticipation of a further ornamental operation.
EXCISION OF THE HIP-JOINT; CLINICAL REMARKS.
(Under the care of Mr. Wood.)
The patient was an emaciated child, six years of age, with long-standing hip disease and pelvic abscess. In the groin was a fistulous opening, which admitted a probe down to

ON A CASE OF
PLACENTA PRÆVIA, COMPLICATED WITH
EXTENSIVE DISEASE OF THE HEART.
By HENRY GRAMSHAW, M.R.C.S.
Mrs. S. K—, aged twenty-nine; has had seven children. I first made acquaintance with this patient about a month back, when I visited her with the gentleman who had previously had the case under his charge, and found her to be suffering from disease of the mitral valves of long standing, and seven months advanced in pregnancy. She complained of much pain in the precordial region; but remarked that she had run the gauntlet of all ordinary remedies, and now only occasionally had recourse to a few ether drops when experiencing severe paroxysms of pain, in order to alleviate present suffering, looking upon her disease as hopelessly incurable.
On the morning of July 6th, at 10 A.M., a nurse who had charge of the case called at the surgery to ask me to visit Mrs. K—, as she was suffering from hæmorrhage of an alarming character, which commenced about 6 P.M. the day previously, and had been recurring at intervals during the night. I drove immediately to the house, arming myself simply with the usual midwifery case, a phial of perchloride of iron, and an injectinal apparatus. I found the patient propped up in bed, lying on the right side, having reversed the ordinary
* The fibrin remained undigested even at the end of twenty-four hours from the commencement of these experiments.
† Dr. Pavy also showed in 1863 that the pepsin of Messrs. Bullock and Reynolds was much more active than that of any other maker.