The labours of this woman afford striking examples of the conservatism of nature, in thus performing naturally what, under other circumstances, becomes a difficult and dangerous operation—version, which sometimes succeeds in cases in which the superior strait is narrowed, even after the forceps have been applied in vain. This woman was thus delivered naturally eight out of ten times. Nine children lost out of ten is a terrible sacrifice of life, and I doubt not the result would have been different if premature labour had been induced at the beginning of the seventh month of pregnancy; and the danger to the mother would have been lessened at the same time. The proportion saved might have been greater had the woman been attended by an intelligent physician, instead of by ignorant midwives, who allowed the opportunity for successful interference to pass by without seeking medical assistance.

ARTICLE XX.

IMPACTED CALCULUS IN CHILD SEVEN MONTHS OLD; PHIMOSIS AND ADHERENT PREPUCE. By G. F. BLAWELT, M.D., of Nyack, New York.

ON Jan. 11th, Dr. C. H. Masten asked me to see with him a child seven months old, which had suffered from retention of urine for about twenty-four hours. All attempts at introducing a catheter had failed, on account of an obstruction in the membranous urethra. The child had phimosis, and the prepuce being somewhat swollen, the glans could not be brought to view. The prepuce was slit up to a moderate extent, and then, as the glans was exposed, it was seen that the mucous membrane of the prepuce was adherent to the glans on one side. Attempts were now made to introduce a small flexible catheter, and an obstruction was met, at about the junction of the penis and scrotum. After a little manipulation, the catheter passed on to the perineum, beyond which point it would not go. The finger introduced into the rectum, to aid the entrance of the catheter, caused the child to strain violently, and a considerable quantity of urine was forced out alongside the catheter. There was a feeling as though the catheter was in contact with a gritty substance. A catheter of English make, about No. 8 French scale, was tried, and encountered a complete obstruction at the junction of the penis and scrotum. A probe was then used and a calculus distinctly felt. The stone was brought to within a couple of lines of the meatus by manipulation with the finger on the outside of the urethra. A probe, made into a short blunt hook, was then slipped behind the stone in this position, and it was forced through the meatus. The meatus had to be slightly enlarged by incision. Catheter No. 10 French scale was now passed into the bladder without difficulty. The stone was composed of urates and uric acid, and measured 13 millimetres in circumference. The child had no further trouble.

This case is of great interest, on account of the very early age at which the stone was passed; also from the combination of three of the chief causes of retention of urine in infants; viz., impacted calculus, phimosis, and adherent prepuce.