

In analysing confectionery for the purposes of a prosecution the methods of procedure must be very accurate. One may, however, readily determine the presence of impurities in the following manner:—Dissolve a little of the article in water; if vermilion be present it rapidly sinks to the bottom of the vessel, whilst cochineal remains in solution. Add a few drops of solution of chloride of lime and the red colour instantly vanishes. Chromate of lead forms an opaque colour, whilst saffron is more or less transparent. Rub off the colouring matter, and heat it to redness in any convenient crucible or capsule. A dirty green or yellowish green residue indicates that chromate of lead had been used. To be certain of this point, dissolve the residue in a few drops of pure nitric acid, heat gently to drive off the excess of acid, add a little water, and test for lead. Solution of ammoniac sulphide (hydro-sulphate of ammonia) gives a dark brown precipitate, and solution of potassic iodide a bright yellow precipitate. These operations may be conducted on the most minute scale. The coal-tar colours are so remarkable that the eye can hardly fail to recognize them.

Incinerate in any convenient vessel—an iron spoon over a coke fire, if no better apparatus be available—100 grains of the confection. If pure no residue should be obtained. Terra alba remains as a greyish heavy powder.

In conclusion, I think it would be desirable to limit the colours used by confectioners to three, namely—cochineal (or carmine); saffron; and, for opaque yellows, Madras turmeric.

ART. XV.—*Clinical Report of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, for the year ending 5th November, 1870.* By GEORGE JOHNSTON, M.D.; Fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians; Master of the Hospital, &c., &c.

I CONSIDER that I cannot serve the interests or carry out the great object of this Society (which has always been that of eliciting truth from practical observations) in a more beneficial manner than by giving you a continuation of the clinical reports of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, more particularly as I am convinced that the obstetric statistics of large internal maternities, such as it, are the only ones that can be relied upon, and that it is from them only

that a fair conclusion as to the advantages and value of such institutions, with the comforts they afford, can be arrived at.

I am the more urged to do so, in order to bring forward still further proof of the correctness of the remarks I made on a former occasion, viz.—

1st. That zymotic disease (puerperal fever) does not prevail endemically in large lying-in hospitals.

2nd. That puerperal fever, when it is epidemic, does not necessarily make its appearance in great maternity hospitals in the first instance.

3rd. That, where perfect cleanness in every particular is maintained, and labour not allowed to proceed too far unaided, there is no miasm emanating from the puerperal patient.

4th. And that where there is sufficient cubic space of air for each individual, and thorough ventilation observed, the wards can be kept without an hospital atmosphere.

During the past year—that is, from November 6, 1869, to November 5, 1870, inclusive—1,087 deliveries took place in the hospital (344 of which were primipara, 743 were pluripara):—

Of these 851 were natural deliveries; 30 abortion; 11 were tedious—*i.e.*, lasting above twenty-four hours, but where delivery was effected by the natural efforts; the delay in all being in the first stage.

There were 56 preternatural cases—viz., 9 where the upper extremity was the presenting part; 47 where the lower extremity or breech presented; in 19 cases version had to be performed.

There were 86 cases of difficult labour—viz., 83 where delivery was effected by the forceps; 2 had to be delivered by craniotomy; 1 where evisceration had to be resorted to.

There were 84 instances of complicated labour—18 being twins; 2 were triplets; 11 were cases of accidental hæmorrhage; 7 unavoidable hæmorrhage; 11 *post-partum* hæmorrhage; 5 where the placenta was morbidly adherent; 12 prolapse of funis; 5 cases of convulsions; 1 rupture of the uterus; 2 where the perinæum had to be incised; 9 mania; 1 Cæsarean section.

Chloroform was used in 88 cases.

Thus showing that the usual amount of difficulties and dangers had to be contended against, and therefore must be taken into consideration; at the same time it should be borne in mind, that the greater number of poor creatures who seek the shelter of the Institution are persons steeped in poverty and wretchedness, many

of them labouring under great distress and anxiety of mind, and not a few who, having been maltreated in their own wretched rooms by the unskilfulness of their attendants, are at length brought to the hospital, often in such a hopelessly dying state that they pass off in from a few minutes to a few hours after admission.

In order, therefore, that a fair and just conclusion may be arrived at, I purpose to adopt the same plan that I did in my first report, *i.e.*, that of giving a list of the deaths from all causes in chronological order; then taking from it those that died of zymotic disease, and relate the circumstances of each case as it occurred.

Now, by looking at Table No. 1 (p. 158), it will be perceived that the total number of deaths amounted to seventeen—*viz.*, 2 from gangrene of the uterus; 1 rupture; 1 exhaustion from *post-partum* hæmorrhage; 2 from placenta prævia; 1 from accidental hæmorrhage; 3 from peritonitis; 3 from pyæmia; 1 from sloughing of cervix uteri; 2 from pleuritis and pneumonia; 1 from apoplectic convulsions. 6 of these, as you may perceive, were from metria.

The first was the case of a young woman, aged twenty-five (her first pregnancy), whose husband being abroad, and not having heard from him for some months, caused her to fret greatly; and when the period of her time was approaching, her anxiety was not diminished by being (falsely) told, to use her own words, that "*they were dying like rotten sheep in the hospital.*" However, as her means were not sufficient to enable her to be confined at home, she was reluctantly compelled to come in, when, after an easy labour of six hours—second stage lasting only three-quarters of an hour—she was confined of a girl; placenta expelled in half-an-hour; but the state of nervousness she had been brought to, both by the anxiety about her husband and the dread she had of the hospital, had such an effect that, on the evening of the third day, symptoms of peritonitis set in of a low form; she was fomented with turpentine, and given turpentine and opium and aconite by the mouth. Though supported by beef-tea, chicken broth, and wine, and, by the advice of Dr. H. Kennedy, who kindly came to see her, she was given barm, but all without avail; died on eighth day of attack.

The second was a young creature (a lady sent up from the country, having been seduced), aged twenty-four, her first pregnancy. She was admitted in a state of the greatest nervous excitement; in fact, as we ascertained afterwards, she had to be watched closely, lest she might commit suicide, which she had attempted

TABLE NO. 1.—Deaths from all Causes, from Nov. 6th, 1869, to Nov. 5th, 1870.

No.	Date, 1869	Ward	Bed	Patient		Cause	Observations
				Age	No. of Pregnancy		
1	Nov. 11	3	25	25	1	Peritonitis	Fretting greatly; husband at sea; frightened by being brought to hospital; was told " <i>they were dying in it.</i> "
2	" 22	4	42	29	5	Carcinoma and Gangrene of Uterus	Died 29 hours after delivery.
3	Dec. 11	2	Back Ward	28	3	Rupture Uterus	Cold, anæmic and pulseless on admission; child found in abdomen; delivered by version; died in 15 hours.
4	" 25	7	Back Ward	35	7	Exhaustion	PPH.—Cold and pulseless on admission; died in 17 hours.
5	1870 Jan. 6	2	Back Ward	27	3	Gangrene of Uterus	Delivered by craniotomy; child hydrocephalic and fearfully putrid; discharge for 3 days before most fetid; died 2nd day.
6	" 12	12	116	24	1	Peritonitis	Admitted in feverish state; seduction; remorse; attempted suicide before admission.
7	Mar. 13	4	40	23	1	Pyæmia	Most unhappy; drunken husband; child hydrocephalic; DP. very fetid discharge on admission; pyæmia showed itself immediately.
8	" 16	3	25	33	1	Sloughing of Uterus	Waters evacuated early in first stage; head resting on cervix for 5 hours; delivered with forceps; died on 4th day; P. M. examination; complete separation of body from cervix by sloughing.
9	" 26	5	Couch	35	6	Placenta prævia	Admitted in a state of great exhaustion; delivered by feet; sank in 2 hours after.
10	" 27	3	23	20	1	Pleuritis with Pneumonia	Admitted with intense dyspnœa; easy labour; died fourth day.
11	April 6	3	Back Ward	25	1	Apoplectic convulsions	Died in 13 hours after delivery.
12	May 15	12	110	30	1	Pyæmia	Livid patch of inflammation on posterior part of right labia before delivery, which sloughed; patch appeared on middle finger of left hand and back of right ditto.
13	June 30	4	40	33	4	Placenta prævia	Great exhaustion on admission; died in 2 hours after delivery.
14	July 8	2	Back Ward	30	7	Pleuritic effusion	Moribund on admission; Cæsarean section.
15	Aug. 15	2	17	25	2	Accidental hæmorrhage	Brought in in a state of great exhaustion from accidental hæmorrhage.
16	Sept. 16	5	44	24	4	Peritonitis	Symptoms appeared immediately; had been in great penury and mental anxiety, her husband being in gaol.
17	Oct. 13	8	86	20	1	Pyæmia	A case of seduction; great mental anxiety from time of admission.

previous to leaving home. On admission the report is—her tongue was loaded, white fur; in a state of extreme delicacy; face pallid and anxious; her labour was tedious, being six and a half hours in the second stage, owing to inertia. Two stimulating enemata failing, she was delivered with the forceps of a boy, $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., when a second was found in utero; she was given a dose of ergot, with wine; the membranes ruptured, when the head soon descended, and in twenty minutes a girl, $4\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., was born by the natural efforts; placenta soon followed, after which an opiate was given to allay excitement. Peritoneal symptoms showed themselves almost immediately. She was treated by turpentine fomentations; turpentine and opium by mouth and enemata; strength supported with beef-tea, chicken broth, wine, and brandy. She died on the sixth day of the attack.

The third (a case of pyæmia) aged twenty-three; first pregnancy; a small delicate-looking woman, with hectic flush, ill-nourished, thin, and emaciated; married ten months; since which she never had a happy moment, from the ill-treatment of a dissipated husband, who (in a drunken fit) three weeks before her admission, attempted to throw himself out of a window, when, by the exertion she underwent in restraining him, and the fright consequent upon it, she ceased to feel the child. Her labour was slow in the first stage. Discharge, very foetid. She gave birth to a girl, extremely putrid, after a labour of twenty hours, second stage lasting only one hour. The lochia were very foetid. Ordered vagina to be syringed with solution of condy, strength supported. Abdomen became tympanitic, tender, hectic flush increased, perspiration, and all the symptoms of low hectic, pyæmic patches appearing on elbow, wrist, &c.; put on bark with chlorate of potash. Every means were adopted to support her strength; but she eventually died on the tenth day after confinement

The fourth (a case of pyæmia) aged thirty; her first pregnancy; a worn, delicate-looking woman, feverish, with constant thirst. When examining her, a livid patch was observed, on the posterior part of right labium. Her labour was tedious in the second stage, being six and a half hours, owing to inertia and rigidity of the soft parts. Two stimulating enemata producing no effect, she was put under the influence of chloroform, and delivered, with the forceps, of a boy, living. The livid patch, before observed, soon merged into an extensive slough. Her strength was supported by bark, beef-tea, and wine. Slough poulticed with charcoal. On second day abdomen became tympanitic. Ordered fatus terebinth. and poultice,

and draughts of turpentine, acet. opii and tinct. aconiti. On fifth day a pyæmic patch appeared on the middle finger of left hand, and on the following day another patch appeared on the back of the right hand. She died on the seventh day after delivery.

The fifth (a case of peritonitis), aged twenty-four, her fourth pregnancy; was confined after a natural labour of twelve hours' duration, the second stage lasting three hours, giving birth to a girl, living. On the day after delivery found her fretting and anxious. Abdomen tympanitic and tender; tongue dry, with brown fur; pulse, 125. Ordered, at once, fots terebinth and cataplasma lini, haust terebinth, cum acet. opii, every four hours; full anodyne at night; strength supported with beef-tea, wine, brandy, and champagne, the latter of which had to be stopped in consequence of producing flatulency. At times she showed symptoms of improvement, and we had hopes of her; but she eventually sank on the eleventh day. Ascertained that she had been in the greatest penury and want for the last two months, and fretting greatly, her husband being in gaol.

The sixth (a case of pyæmia), aged twenty, her first pregnancy; admitted in a state of great mental anxiety and excitement. Tongue brown furred; pulse, 110; complaining of pain in the right iliac region; ascertained that she had been *seduced*. Her labour was tedious, owing to her feverish state, &c. Had to be delivered with the forceps, the head having made no advance for nearly four hours—the child, a girl, 6 lb. 7 oz., living. Placenta was morbidly adherent, and had to be removed. Patches of pyæmia appeared on both upper and lower extremities shortly after delivery. Strength was supported in the usual way. Put on bark with chlorat. of potass.; but all to no purpose. She lingered to the tenth day.

I may mention here that in no one instance of the foregoing did the sickness spread to any patient either in the ward or hospital; and while this perfect exemption from epidemic sickness existed within the walls, epidemics from time to time prevailed outside, and that to a very great extent.

The remainder (eleven deaths), which I may include under the category of accidental, were as follows:—Two from gangrene of the uterus, one being a woman 29 years of age, her fifth pregnancy. Her history is as follows:—On admission, she complained of great abdominal pain, which prevented her sleeping for the last three nights; extremely tender on pressure over uterus, particularly in the left hypogastric region; has had difficult labour in her previous confinements, the two first having to be delivered by craniotomy;

her third (a girl, very small,) was delivered by the natural efforts, and alive. On examination the os was found to be the size of a two-shilling piece, hard, cartilaginous, and jagged. Could not satisfactorily examine it, in consequence of giving her extreme pain, attended with hæmorrhage; discharge very offensive. The first stage lasted twelve hours, the head being in the cavity, where it remained without any advance, notwithstanding strong pains for one hour. The bones of the head overlapping, and *caput succedaneum* forming, she was put under chloroform, and delivery effected with the forceps at two a.m. Discharge very foetid; to be syringed with Condyl's solution. Eight and a half hours after complained of sickness of stomach, when she was ordered a draught containing acid hydrocyan., sodæ carb., sol. m. morphia, æth. chl., aq. cinamomi. 6 p.m.—Abdomen tympanitic with great tenderness; pulse 100; ordered fofus terebinth et cataplasm lini, and full anodyne; beef-tea. To be syringed as before.

22nd—At six a.m., found in a state of collapse; died at seven a.m., twenty-nine hours after delivery. Husband would not allow a *post-mortem* examination.

The second was a woman, aged twenty-seven; third pregnancy; admitted into chronic ward four days before confinement, with extremely offensive discharge; abdomen very tender on pressure. Had to be delivered by craniotomy in consequence of the hydrocephalic state of the head, owing to putridity. Being very weak, she was ordered some beef-tea and wine. 6 p.m.—Abdomen large and tender; ordered fofus terebinth, and poultice; extract opii gr. i. every three hours; brandy, ʒii.

5th.—Pulse 132; temperature, 102° 3'88". Repeat pill as before. Beef-tea, wine. 6 p.m.—Pulse, 140; temperature, 103° 1'15"; respiration, 40. Coffee ground vomiting; ordered enema of beef-tea, with spirits ammonia aromat; tinct. opii. To have brandy and ice. 11 p.m.—Repeat enema; brandy and ice.

6th.—1 a.m.—Died. On a *post-mortem* examination, the whole uterus was found in a state of sphacelus.

The third was a case of ruptured uteri; aged twenty-eight; third pregnancy; was brought into hospital cold and pulseless, complaining of great abdominal pain, referred to fundus uteri; on examination found the child in the abdominal cavity; was delivered by version; died in 15 hours. *Post-mortem* showed a very extensive rent at the posterior part of the cervix.

The next was a case of *post-partum* hæmorrhage, having given

birth to her baby at home; was brought in cold and pulseless, in fact, in a dying state; died in 17 hours.

The fifth was a case of complete separation of the body of the uterus from the cervix by sloughing. In this instance the liquor amnii had escaped at the commencement of labour; the first stage was slow in consequence, the cervix becoming thin and expanded on the head, which had descended low down into the pelvis. The warm bath was used, when the os gradually dilated to the size of a six-shilling piece; when, after waiting for five hours without any advance, notwithstanding two stimulating enemata having been administered, the forceps were applied, and a girl 6lbs. weight was delivered. In twelve hours symptoms of inflammation presented themselves; abdomen became tympanitic and tender; the usual treatment, such as turpentine fomentations and poultice, turpentine draughts and anodyne; vagina syringed with solution of condy; wine, beef-tea, &c. On the third day she fell into a state of collapse, and died in a few hours. *Post-mortem* examination discovered complete separation of the cervix from the body of the uterus by sloughing.

There were two deaths from placenta prævia. The first, aged thirty-five; sixth pregnancy. She was admitted greatly exhausted, having had hæmorrhage for the last month; placenta could be distinctly felt over os, which was about four-fifths dilated; patient, being very restless and intractable, was put under chloroform, and delivery effected by footling; the placenta soon followed, but with severe hæmorrhage, which so exhausted her, that notwithstanding all our efforts to give brandy and beef-tea, which was most difficult, in consequence of the resistance she made to prevent it, she died in two hours. In this instance solution of perchloride of iron was injected, but without avail.

The second, aged thirty-three; fourth pregnancy. Admitted at 11 a.m. in a state of great exhaustion from hæmorrhage; os found size of half-a-crown, placenta covering it; she was at once plugged and strength supported, and given an opiate. At 2 p.m., as we found her weaker, the plug was withdrawn, when the os was found considerably relaxed; the hand was at once introduced by the side of the placenta; membranes ruptured; knee seized and brought down into the vagina; child turned and extracted alive (girl, 7 lbs.); placenta was removed immediately; ergot given; but the draining continued, notwithstanding the injection of the solution of perchloride of iron. We had sent for Dr. M'Donnell to assist us in the operation of transfusion, but as the hæmorrhage continued

till the last, there would have been little use in having recourse to it; in fact she passed away as he arrived at the bed.

Eighth, aged twenty; first pregnancy; admitted with intense dyspnœa, owing to an acute attack of pleuritis with pneumonia, from which she has been suffering for the last seven days without any treatment; os found nearly fully dilated; child, a boy (dead), 8 lbs., was born by the natural efforts in three hours after admission. Her labour in every respect was perfectly natural, but notwithstanding all our efforts to control the disease, she sank on the fourth day after delivery.

Ninth was a case of eclampsy; aged twenty-five; first pregnancy; was admitted comatose, having had several fits before coming in, and recurring every twenty minutes to half an hour; os found size of a shilling. She was at once ordered a foetid enema; cold affusions to head, sinapism to calves of legs, and chloroform. In about three hours, os being found sufficiently dilated and relaxed, the head in the cavity, the forceps were applied, and delivered of a girl (still-born); she had twenty-two fits; placenta expelled in two minutes. The fits continued as before, notwithstanding sinapism to nape of neck. Bromide of potass. and belladonna by enema, every three hours. She sank in thirteen hours after delivery, having had fifty-three fits.

Tenth, aged thirty; seventh pregnancy; was admitted in a state of intense dyspnœa; pulse hardly to be felt; got her on the bed; found the os not more than the size of a shilling. While making the examination she died. We at once performed Cæsarean section, in hopes of saving the child, which breathed for two or three inspirations, but could not be resuscitated: it was a boy.

The eleventh case, aged twenty-five; second pregnancy; admitted in a state of great exhaustion from accidental hæmorrhage, caused by over-exertion; about seventh month of pregnancy; os high up; could not reach the membranes; placental bruit heard on left side above crest of ilium; binder applied, and given a full dose of ergot with an opiate. This had the effect of sickening her, when the membranes ruptured, waters escaped, after which there was little or no hæmorrhage externally; went on till the 12th, when pains set in, and after a labour of four hours was delivered of a girl, living, 3 lbs. 6 ozs., when a second was discovered; ergot with wine was given, and in a quarter of an hour a girl, living, 3 lbs., was expelled. Placenta was retained for one hour; found morbidly adherent; had to be removed, and with it a large clot;

great *post-partum* hæmorrhage followed, injected with solution of perchloride of iron. Was ordered brandy, beef-tea, and opiate. On the 14th found in a state of collapse; pulse hardly perceptible; abdomen quite soft; uterus well contracted; no tenderness whatever; given bark with chlorat potass., brandy; vagina syringed with Condy's solution—all without effect. She sank at two o'clock a.m. on the 15th.

Post-mortem examination—Uterus found in a state of slough over three-fourths of the surface of its interior; no peritonitis whatever existed.

Number of Patients delivered in each Ward during the Year ending 5th November, 1870.

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7	No. 8	No. 12	Total
November,	- 7	9	8	10	8	8	9	7	8	74
December,	- 9	8	8	10	13	9	10	8	10	85
January,	- 13	12	8	7	8	11	9	9	13	90
February,	- 8	7	7	7	8	7	9	9	8	70
March,	- 8	12	12	12	13	12	16	13	10	108
April,	- 11	12	10	12	8	7	10	9	12	91
May,	- 8	7	7	10	11	12	11	9	7	82
June,	- 10	10	11	8	6	6	11	11	12	85
July,	- 12	8	7	12	11	11	13	13	12	99
August,	- 11	11	10	10	10	11	12	10	13	98
September,	- 9	12	13	12	11	10	12	7	11	97
October,	- 12	13	10	7	8	8	11	8	14	91
November 5,	- —	—	4	4	4	3	1	1	—	17
	118	121	115	121	119	115	134	114	130	1,087

I may now draw your attention to the total number of deliveries that took place in each separate ward during the year, and the number of deaths from zymotic diseases that occurred amongst them.

In No. 1 ward there were 118 deliveries and no deaths.

In No. 2 ward there were 121 deliveries and no deaths of a zymotic nature.

In No. 3 ward there were 115 deliveries and 1 death from peritonitis.

In No. 4 ward there were 121 deliveries and 1 death from pyæmia.

In No. 5 ward there were 119 deliveries and 1 death from peritonitis.

In No. 6 ward there were 115 deliveries; all recovered.

TABLE No. 2.—Number of Patients Admitted and Delivered in the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital from each Municipal District, the number of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases that occurred amongst them, and the number of Deaths from the same causes occurring in the different Districts in the same period.

	North City Districts						South City Districts																	
	No. 1			No. 2			No. 3			No. 1			No. 2			No. 3			No. 4					
	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 1 District	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 2 District	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 3 District	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 1 District	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 2 District	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 3 District	Admitted into hospital	Died in hospital	Deaths in No. 4 District			
From 6th Nov., '69, to 4th Dec., inclusive, to January 1, - to February 5, - to March 5, - to April 2, - to May 7, - to June 4, - to July 2, - to August 6, - to September 3, - to October 1, - to November 5, -	14 21 20 21 18 26 14 24 24 22 22 31	1 — 1 1 — — — — — — — —	11 7 22 22 7 18 10 32 22 20 19	21 19 30 22 22 36 23 17 32 19 25 30	— 8 6 7 9 13 5 3 5 5 9 10	15 10 14 9 9 13 6 7 2 4 24 26	— — — — — — — — — — — —	9 8 7 6 9 6 5 3 5 5 9 10	— — — — — — — — — — — —	37 11 20 22 10 19 17 6 19 28 27 40	— — — — — — — — — — — —	— 4 4 1 4 2 5 2 4 5 3 —	— — — — — — — — — — — —	29 24 42 28 20 26 17 20 18 34 24 36	6 8 13 13 14 10 7 10 10 9 10 7	— — — — — — — — — — — —	23 9 14 7 15 5 7 10 10 9 16 23 20	11 3 6 7 14 7 10 10 9 12 13 4 17	— — — — — — — — — — — —	18 13 21 15 12 14 10 6 15 19 23 24	10 11 16 7 13 18 10 12 16 13 14 9	— — — — — — 1 — — — — —	3 — — — — — — — — — — —	189
1869-'70, -	259	3	164	296	148	256	82	—	—	318	117	156	113	—	190	149	3	189						

In No. 7 ward there were 134 deliveries and no deaths of a zymotic type.

In No. 8 ward there were 114 deliveries and 1 death from pyæmia.

In No. 12 ward there were 130 deliveries and 1 death from peritonitis and 1 from pyæmia, with an interval of four months and three days between them.

Although we had a comparatively small amount of mortality, still our patients were not completely exempt from sickness; for occasionally instances of puerperal inflammation, such as peritonitis, pyæmia, &c., appeared. I have therefore framed the table, numbered 3, of all the cases of metria which occurred, in chronological order; and as it includes those cases that died, which have been mentioned before, there is no necessity for entering into the details of them again.

I may here say that all the sickness was of an asthenic type, requiring a nutritious diet, such as beef-tea, chicken broth, with the use of stimulants, wine or brandy. The treatment in the peritoneal cases consisted in turpentine fomentations and linseed meal poultices to the abdomen, together with turpentine, from 3 i. to 3 ii., with opiates by mouth, but should we find the patient objected to it in that way, it was administered by enema, and where the pulse ran very high and frequent, the tincture of aconite in small doses was added. In some few instances, hydrar. cumcreta with soda siccata and Dover's powder, was given, but we did not rely on it.

In cases of pyæmia, the strength was supported by a generous diet, with wine or brandy, together with chlorate of potass. in infusion of bark; the pyæmic patches were covered with finely powdered starch, which was placed on cotton wadding and oiled silk.

There were 29 cases of peritonitis, all of which recovered, except the three already recorded.

Fifteen of these were primipara; 14 were pluripara.

Among the recoveries was one which I may mention as a remarkable instance of the wonderful influence the mind has over the body in the event of such cases:—

M. B., aged twenty, first pregnancy; labour being tedious in the second stage, was delivered with the forceps; the following day, on morning visit, found her uneasy with head-ache. Pulse 94; tongue clean; abdomen soft, no tenderness. Ordered a draught

containing Hoffman's æther. In the evening in the same state. Ordered an anodyne, with cathartic draught, in the morning.

On the second morning, is fretful, anxious. Pulse 100; abdomen tender; bowels affected twice. Ordered turpentine fomentation and poultices, turpentine draught with acet. op. every three hours; beef-tea and anodyne at night.

On the third day found she had rested badly, still nervous, with anxious expression. Continue the treatment. At evening visit, feeling weak, ordered wine with an anodyne.

On the fourth, pulse 120; temperature 104° ; tongue dry, with brown ridge in centre; stomach sick; abdomen tympanitic and tender. Repeat fomentation and poultice; enema, with turpentine and opium, and to take a draught with acid hydrocyanic; sol. mur. morphia; soda carb.; æth. chlor. in acq. cinnamon, every three hours; brandy, beef-tea, in small quantities at a time. At noon, pulse 130; same state. Continue the draughts, with tinct. aconite. Ascertained that she was fretting in consequence of her husband having deserted her, and that she was in a most destitute state, having no friends or any where to go. We cheered her up by promising to get her a situation, and that her child should be provided for. At 6 p.m. pulse 120; feels better; no sickness. Continue the beef-tea, wine, and anodyne as last night. On the fifth day, report is, slept well; pulse 76; tongue clean and moist; abdomen soft, no tenderness; complaining only of thirst. Ordered saline mixture with spts. ammonia aromat every fourth hour; beef-tea, wine, as before.

On the sixth, was convalescent, and eventually went out well.

There were five cases of pyæmia, two of which recovered. The first, A. B., aged twenty-six, her second pregnancy, was delivered of a girl, living, which presented by the breech, her labour lasting only five hours.

On the evening of the third day abdomen found tympanitic and tender; pulse 94; tongue white, with red edges. She was ordered the turpentine fomentation and poultice, to take turpentine draught with anodyne. The tympany and tenderness were less on the following day. Repeat the fomentation, poultice, and draughts every fourth hour; to have beef-tea. On visiting her at 6 p.m. of her fifth day, found she was vomiting and purging; abdomen soft, but slight tenderness. She was ordered chalk mixture, with hydrocyanic acid, and an enema of starch, with acetate of lead and opium; wine. At 10 p.m. pulse 120; temperature $101^{\circ}4'$; still vomiting;

sinapism to the epigastrium, after which a poultice sprinkled with opium to be applied; repeat the draughts and enema; to have brandy, ice, &c. At 1 a.m. (sixth day) diarrhœa again; has vomited; pulse 120; very weak; breathing hurried; sighing; breath cold; extremities icy. Ordered hot applications to her feet, legs, and thighs. Repeat the sinapism to the epigastrium; brandy occasionally, by mouth, or enema; chicken broth; arrow-root. 9.30 a.m., seventh day, pulse 120; very weak; no sleep; sighing constantly; complaining of great prostration; no abdominal pain; sickness still continues; temperature $100\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Repeat the draughts, chicken broth, wine, or brandy, ice; and enemata, with arrow-root, beef-tea, and aromatic spirits of ammonia. 5.30 p.m.—Pulse hardly perceptible; tongue moist; vomiting grumous fluid; diarrhœa continues; extremities cold; complaining of a lump in her neck which prevents her swallowing; to be fomented; hot applications to her extremities; repeat the starch enema as before. At 7 p.m., same state; by the suggestion of Dr. Henry Kennedy, who kindly saw her with me, the strong liquor ammonia was applied over the stomach, and she was given bicarb. soda, gr. xx.; solution mur. morphia, gtts., x.; aq. font. $\frac{3}{4}$ i. every three or four hours. At 9.45 p.m.—Had some retching, but no vomiting since; no diarrhœa; pulse somewhat improved; complaining of her throat. A small sinapism to be applied; repeat the draughts and enemata.

8th day—Pulse fuller; quieter; aspect improved; breathes easier; can swallow better; extremities warmer; dozed a little; continue the treatment. 6 p.m.—Bowels opened once; pulse 116, fuller; tongue moist; no sickness; temperature of skin natural; repeat the draughts and enemata, &c., as before.

9th day—Slept at intervals; B. O. 3; dark, thin, and very foetid; pulse 100; no sickness; expression improved; continue the treatment, with chicken broth, brandy, and arrow-root. 6 p.m.—B. O. 1; pulse, 100; no sickness; wine $\frac{3}{4}$ ii.

10th day—Slept well; B. O. 2; bilious, very foetid; pulse 88; tongue cleaning, moist; no sickness; repeat the draughts; chicken broth, &c. 6 p.m.—No sickness; B. O. 3; enema amyli, with tincture of catechu and tincture of opium, and repeat in three hours if necessary; complaining of pain in right carotid region; ordered fofus papaver et cataplasma. 11 p.m.—Pulse 120, thumping; temperature 102; pain in part increased; to have a full anodyne, and tincture opium, sprinkled over poultice.

11th day—Pulse 100; slept badly; parotid gland swollen, extremely painful; continue the poultice, with laudanum; to have porter, as she expressed a desire for it. 6 p.m.—B. O. 1; feels easier; tongue moist; swelling increased; no fluctuation; continue treatment.

13th day—Pulse 92; B. O. 2; a purulent discharge from her ear has taken place; put on bark, with chlorate potass.; continue poultice as before; porter.

14th day—Swelling increased to such an extent as to prevent her opening her mouth, and rendering deglutition very difficult; ordered six leeches to be applied to the tumour and poultice; continue the bark, &c.

On the 16th, abscess opened by Mr. Adams, giving exit to a great quantity of purulent matter, after which she gradually recovered, and went out well.

The second case, M. W., aged forty, first pregnancy; innupta; her labour was tedious, owing to the head being in the second position; was obliged to deliver her with the forceps; child, a girl, living; placenta expelled in fifteen minutes.

Eighteen hours after delivery pulse was 100; great tympany of abdomen; ordered *fotus terebinth et cataplasma lini*, and draught with turpentine and full anodyne.

On the morning of 2nd day pulse found 100; tongue moist; abdomen still tympanitic and tender; continue fomentation and poultice; turpentine draught, with *acetum opii*, beef-tea. 6 p.m.—Pyæmic patch appeared on back of right hand, to be covered with powdered starch and cotton wadding; ordered to be put on bark with chlorat of potass.; beef-tea, wine, anodyne.

3rd day—Pulse 100; tongue moist; slept; continue the treatment.

5th day, 6 p.m.—Pulse 120; abdomen soft, no tenderness; patch appeared on left elbow and over right trochanter, to be dressed as the hand; continue the treatment, with anodyne.

6th day—Pulse 128; tongue dry and brown; temperature $103^{\circ} 1$; effusion into left knee, very painful, to be dredged with the starch, and covered with cotton wadding and oiled silk; continue the bark with chlorat of potass.; beef-tea, wine, and anodyne at night.

8th day—Patch appeared on outer condyle of left humerus; pulse 100; continue the treatment. 6 p.m.—Some diarrhœa; ordered an astringent mixture, with anodyne.

9th day—Slept; pulse 100; tongue clean and moist; abdomen

soft; patches on hand, elbow, and thigh not extending; knee more swollen, to be dressed with mercurial ointment and poultice; continue the treatment.

10th day—Patches better; great effusion into knee, to be painted over with tincture of iodine, and poultice applied.

11th day—Pulse 100; has not found any benefit from the iodine; requested to have the starch and cotton wadding re-applied. She gradually got better, and went out well, with perfect motion in the knee.

I have thought it fair to mention these two cases as strong proofs of the healthy nature of the air of the hospital.

Now by looking at the Table No. 3 it may be seen that of the thirty-four instances where puerperal inflammation took place, 19 were primipara; 15 were in women who had been delivered before—viz., 4 in their second pregnancy, 4 in their third pregnancy, 4 in their fourth pregnancy, 1 in the fifth, and 1 in the sixth pregnancy.

Twenty-two were delivered by the natural efforts, one of which was the second of twins; 11 were delivered with the forceps, one of which was the first of the above twin case; 2 were lower extremity presentations.

Of the 19 primiparous cases, 14 recovered and 5 died; of the 15 pluripara, 14 recovered and 1 died.

Being still convinced that metria does not exist as an endemic disease in the Rotunda Hospital; on the contrary, that whilst epidemics prevail outside, the hospital itself may remain perfectly free from them, I am induced to lay before you the following table, framed as No. 3, of my last report, in accordance with that of the Registrar-General's, which, although it is no doubt defective, as a commentator has remarked, not giving the "relative population of the districts at different ages and of each sex, the sex and age of those whose deaths are given in the table, how many of the deaths were from the zymotic diseases of child-bed, and the number of births in each district," all of which would render it more satisfactory, still I cannot agree with the same commentator that it is "utterly useless," inasmuch as I conceive that it is quite sufficient to show that sickness of a zymotic nature may prevail, and that to a great extent, in these several districts from where patients come to the hospital, and yet the institution itself be perfectly free from any sickness. It matters not what the age, sex, or state (married or single, old or young) of the victims of these diseases

TABLE NO. 3.—*Puerperal Inflammation; Peritonitis; Pyæmia.*

Date	No. of		No. of Preg-nancy		Duration of Labour		Presentation		Mode of Delivery		Time of Attack. Hours after Delivery	Result to Mother		
	Ward	Bed	1st	Subt	1st Stage	2nd Stage	Natural	Pr. Natural	Natural	Instru-mental		Recovered	Died	
1869,					Hrs.	Hrs.								
1 Oct. 28	3	25	1	—	5½	¾	N.	—	N.	—	50	—	1	Cause—fretting at husband being away at sea and fright.
2 Nov. 12	8	85	—	9	5	3	N.	—	N.	—	48	1	—	
3 „ 13	8	87	—	6	38	2	N.	—	N.	—	48	1	—	Very delicate, badly fed, came from Walsall.
4 „ 25	12	114	—	4	2¼	¾	N.	—	N.	—	12	1	—	Weakly constitution.
5 „ 29	3	23	1	—	14	4	N.	—	N.	—	36	1	—	
6 „ 30	4	41	1	—	4½	1½	N.	—	N.	—	20	1	—	
7 Dec. 12	1	4	—	3	7½	¾	N.	—	N.	—	48	1	—	
8 „ 26	8	87	1	—	18	2	N.	—	Forceps	—	24	1	—	Innupta.
1870,														
9 Jan. 2	12	116	1	—	11½	6½	N.	—	N.	F.	Im-mediately	—	1	Twins, excessive mental depression, innupta.
10 „ 3	12	110	—	3	11½	4½	N.	—	—	F.	30	1	—	
11 „ 10	4	42	1	—	19	1	N.	—	N.	—	12	1	—	
12 „ 15	8	87	1	—	13	3	N.	—	—	F.	40	1	—	Great mental depression, husband having deserted her; cheered her up, promising protection; wonderful effect.
13 „ 24	6	69	1	—	4½	1½	N.	—	N.	—	48	1	—	
14 „ 31	2	19	—	4	11½	¾	N.	—	N.	—	54	1	—	
15 Feb. 17	4	39	1	—	20	3	N.	—	—	F.	40	1	—	
16 „ 19	5	46	—	2	4	1	—	Breach	—	—	54	1	—	Pyæmia, choleraic collapse; cyanche parotidæa.
17 Mar. 3	4	40	1	—	19	1	N.	—	N.	—	6	—	1	Pyæmia.
18 „ 30	5	49	1	—	17	1	N.	—	N.	—	20	1	—	Bronchitis on admission.
19 April 4	3	23	1	—	18	5	N.	—	—	F.	9	—	—	Innupta.
20 „ 14	1	4	—	3	17	2	N.	—	N.	—	Before confinement	1	—	Cellulitis, with peritonitis.
21 „ 16	3	25	—	3	1	1	N.	—	N.	—	4	1	—	
22 May 8	12	110	1	—	11½	6½	N.	—	N.	—	Before delivery	—	1	Pyæmia; livid patch on labium on admission,
23 „ 16	7	55	1	—	25	—	N.	—	—	F.	30	1	—	Pyæmia, effusion into left knee, innupta.
24 June 10	6	67	—	2	3	5	—	Foot	—	—	24	1	—	
25 „ „	3	23	1	—	22½	2½	N.	—	N.	—	34	1	—	
26 July 4	7	60	1	—	5½	1½	N.	—	N.	—	45	1	—	
27 „ 11	4	39	1	—	17½	2½	N.	—	N.	—	62	1	—	
28 Aug. 29	6	69	—	4	17¼	5¼	N.	—	—	F.	3	1	—	
29 Sept. 5	5	44	—	4	9	3	N.	—	N.	—	20	—	1	Desponding on admission; husband in prison.
30 „ 14	3	25	1	—	20	4	N.	—	—	F.	7	1	—	
31 „ 20	12	113	—	5	4½	¼	N.	—	N.	—	58	1	—	
32 „ 22	1	3	—	2	3 hrs.	—	N.	—	N.	—	48	1	—	Accidental hemorrhage.
33 Oct. 3	8	86	1	—	31½	4½	N.	—	—	F.	On her	—	1	On admission tongue dry and brown, pulse 100, great mental depression; innupta, pyæmia.
34 „ 18	3	25	—	2	10½	1½	N.	—	—	F.	40	1	—	

may have been. All that is really necessary to show is, that disease of a contagious nature prevails outside, and yet the hospital may be perfectly free from it. I therefore have no hesitation in laying the table before you as one of the great proofs of the correctness of my statement.

Thus, you perceive that from No. 1 North City District 259 patients were admitted and delivered, out of which we had 3 deaths of a zymotic nature, while we find that 164 deaths from zymotic diseases occurred in the district within the year. From No. 2 North City District 296 women were admitted and delivered, without any deaths; while there were 148 deaths from zymotic diseases in the district in the same period. From No. 3 North City District 8 women were admitted and delivered. All recovered; yet there were 256 deaths from zymotic diseases in the district. I think it well to mention here that one woman was admitted and delivered who came from a house in which scarlatina prevailed. She went through her confinement without a bad symptom, was discharged on the 8th day, quite strong, as were all the other patients in the ward.

From No. 1 South City District, 34 patients were admitted and delivered; all recovered; yet we find 318 deaths from zymotic disease in that district recorded in the Registrar-General's reports.

From No. 2 South City District, 117 patients were admitted and delivered; all recovered; we find by the report that 115 deaths took place in the same district.

From No. 3 South City District, 113 patients were admitted and delivered; all recovered; we find, however, 190 deaths from zymotic disease recorded.

From No. 4 South City District, 149 patients were admitted and delivered, out of which there were 3 deaths; we find that 189 deaths from zymotic disease took place in the district.

With regard to miasm, emanating from the patients, or hospital atmosphere existing in the wards, I have the testimony of numerous visitors, both professional and others, who have all expressed their opinion that neither could be detected; and I may say that, with the exception of a very few cases, we were not obliged to use any means to suppress a foetid discharge.

Now, as I stated before, comparing the great amount of mortality which prevails in the various districts outside with the small amount of deaths that have taken place in the hospital, and, as I remarked, more particularly, when we take into consideration all the peculiar circumstances and conditions under which the different fatal cases

were admitted, we have no reason to regret keeping the portals of such an invaluable institution as freely open as it ever was intended they should be.

FORCEPS DELIVERIES.

There were 83 cases where we found it necessary to use the forceps; 58 of which were primipara, and 25 multipara; 77 of the mothers recovered. In the application of the forceps we were always influenced by the length of time the patient was in the second stage, never allowing it, in the generality of instances, to exceed 4 hours. We interfered sooner if the pains were strong, and no advance made by the head, or if the liquor amnii had been evacuated at an early period of the labour. When we found there was no advance, say for 2 hours, we usually administered a stimulating enema, then waited for an hour or two, according to circumstances, and if the pains were not producing any effect, a second enema was given, and if this did not succeed, in another hour we gave a dose of ergot (particularly if it was a multiparous case); and if the patient was irritable, we put her under chloroform, and then after passing the catheter, we proceeded to apply the instruments.

Of the 6 fatal cases in this series, the first was aged twenty-nine, fifth pregnancy, suffering under carcinoma uteri and gangrene; died in 30 hours. The second, aged twenty-four, primipara; great distress of mind; attempted suicide; died of peritonitis. The third, aged thirty-three; primipara; there was complete separation by sloughing of the cervix from the body of the uterus; *vide* Case V. of accidental deaths. The fourth, aged twenty-five; primipara; apoplectic convulsions brought in comatose. The fifth, aged thirty; primipara; died from pyæmia, which showed itself previously to delivery. The sixth, aged twenty; primipara; was a case of seduction; labouring under great mental depression; died of pyæmia.

8 children, viz., 3 male and 5 female, were dead born. Of the male—1 was dead and putrid, in the case of gangrene. 1 was in a case where the membranes had ruptured early; the head was arrested for 3 hours. 1, a face presentation; os not completely dilated. Of the female—1 was in the case of convulsions. 1, the membranes had ruptured early; funis rotten. 1, a case of inertia. 1, a case of accidental hæmorrhage. 1, where the mother had condylomata in a sloughing state; had to send her to the Lock Hospital.

The long forceps were used in seven instances, where the head was at or above the brim; all were delivered of boys, and all, both mothers and children, recovered. The first, aged twenty-three, her first pregnancy, the head was arrested at the brim, in consequence of its being in the fourth position; weight of child, 7lbs. 14 oz. Second, aged twenty-nine, her fourth pregnancy; the head being in the third position was the cause of its arrest; weight of child, 8lbs. 8 oz. Third, aged twenty-two, her first pregnancy; the head was delayed at the brim from disproportion; weight of child, 9lbs. 6 oz. Fourth, aged thirty-two, her second pregnancy; the head never entered in consequence of projection of sacral promontory; there was flattening also of its concavity; weight of child, 6lbs. 10 oz.; a second child was found and turned, but was obliged to deliver the head with the forceps; weight, 6lbs. 10 oz. Fifth, aged twenty-eight, her first pregnancy; funis prolapsed and ceasing to pulsate; head at brim; weight of child, 6lbs. Sixth, aged twenty-eight, her fourth pregnancy; head detained above the brim in consequence of the projection of the sacral promontory; weight of child, 9lbs. Seventh, aged twenty-six, her second pregnancy; delay owing to disproportion; weight of child, 10lbs. 8 oz.; circumference of foetal head, $16\frac{1}{4}$ inches; a fine healthy child. This woman was delivered in the hospital a year and a half previously, by the natural efforts, of a boy; weight 7lbs. 9 oz., after a labour of 12 hours' duration.

CRANIOTOMY.

Craniotomy had to be performed in two instances. The first was aged twenty-three, her third pregnancy. There was distinct projection of the promontory of the sacrum; her two previous deliveries had to be effected by perforator and crotchet. In this labour the membranes had ruptured early in the first stage previous to admission; found it impossible to turn, the uterus being so firmly contracted. Discharged the ninth day. The second, aged twenty-seven, her fourth pregnancy, had malignant disease of the uterus; admitted with intensely foetid discharge; the foetal head was distended to an enormous size by fluid from extreme putridity. Died in 29 hours after delivery. *Post-mortem* examination—the uterus was found in a state of sphecus over its whole extent of surface.

EVISCERATION.

Evisceration had to be resorted to in one case, aged twenty-seven, third pregnancy; admitted with accidental hæmorrhage in

the seventh month; the hæmorrhage had commenced three days previously; complaining of great supra-pubic pain; vaginal discharge extremely foetid; shoulder found presenting; attempted to introduce the hand, in order to turn, but found it impossible owing to the contracted state of the uterus; so was obliged to eviscerate, and even then there was great difficulty in getting down the body, and in order to deliver the head had to apply the forceps; made a good convalescence.

VERSION.

There were nineteen cases in which we were obliged to perform version, viz.:—6 cases of presentation of the upper extremity; 2 cases of pelvic deformity; 1 case of ruptured uterus; 4 cases of placenta prævia; 3 cases of prolapse of funis; 1 case of accidental hæmorrhage with prolapse of funis; 2 cases, each being the second of twins.

Thirteen children, viz., 5 boys and 8 girls, were born alive; 6 children, viz., 2 boys and 4 girls, were dead born, one being putrid.

Two mothers died—one the case of ruptured uterus, which had occurred previous to admission; the second was the case of placenta prævia; admitted in a state of great exhaustion. Died in 2 hours.

PROLAPSE OF FUNIS.

There were 12 instances of prolapse of the funis; in 5 version was performed, 4 girls being alive, 1 dead; it was in the case of accidental hæmorrhage; in 4 the labour was quick, and the children were expelled by the natural efforts, 2 boys alive and 2 boys dead; in 1 the prolapse took place when the os was the size of a shilling; could not be reduced; the second, the funis was prolapsed and pulseless on admission; in 1 (a case of twins) breech presentation; funis pulseless on admission, delivered of a girl, dead; 1 (a footling case) was delivered of a girl, living; in 1 the head was at the brim, delivered with the long forceps, of a boy, living.

Thus, in the 12 cases, there were 5 boys, 3 of which were saved, and 7 girls, 5 of which were delivered alive; and all the mothers recovered.

PLACENTA PRÆVIA.

There were seven cases of unavoidable hæmorrhage.

All were admitted in a state of great exhaustion; in one case the hæmorrhage commenced two months, and in another three weeks, before admission.

There were three deaths, two died within two hours, and one in eight hours, after delivery. One of the cases that recovered was a case of triplets. She was admitted in the lowest possible state of weakness, as much from hæmorrhage, which had been going on for three weeks, as from want of proper sustenance; in fact, on being carried into the ward we had no idea but that she would have succumbed at once. Her history is as follows:—She was aged forty; her ninth pregnancy; husband a labourer; being out of employment; has been in a state of penury for last three months. She was ordered at once an enema of beef-tea and brandy, and as much as we could get her to swallow by the mouth, which was most difficult. On examination the os was found about the size of a shilling; the placenta could be felt immediately within it. She was plugged, and the strength supported. As soon as the os was sufficiently dilated to admit of it, the hand was passed at the side of the placenta. Membranes ruptured, a leg seized, and child delivered. It was a girl, putrid, weighing 4 lbs.; a second was now discovered, presenting a foot which was delivered; it was a boy, also putrid, weight 4 lbs.; a third was then expelled by the uterine efforts; it was a girl, dead, weight, $3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. There were three placentæ, all of which were of the battle-door variety. The first was expelled in twenty minutes after the birth of the second child; the other two in a quarter of an hour after the birth of the third child. The mother made a slow recovery, as might be expected, but eventually went out well.

ACCIDENTAL HÆMORRHAGE.

We had 11 instances of accidental hæmorrhage; all occurred in multipara, viz., 2 in 2nd pregnancy; 1 in 3rd, 2 in 5th, 4 in 6th, 1 in 10th, and 1 in her 11th pregnancy. Eight of the children, three male, and five female, were dead born; ten of the mothers recovered. The one fatal case was admitted in a state of great exhaustion, and died from extreme debility.

CONVULSIONS.

Convulsions occurred in five instances—2 in primipara, 3 in multipara—viz., 1 in her 2nd pregnancy; 1 in her 4th, and 1 in the 5th pregnancy. One died. A primipara admitted comatose, having had some twenty fits before admission, and recurring every twenty or thirty minutes; she was delivered with the forceps, but the fits continued until death, having had fifty-three in all. She was treated in the general way, by cold affusion, external stimulants,

such as sinapism to nape of neck, calves of legs, &c. Turpentine and assafoetida enemata, bromid of potass., with ext. belladonna, by mouth or enema, according to circumstances; strength supported by beef-tea, &c. She died in thirteen hours after delivery.

PERINÆUM INCISED.

In two instances we were obliged to incise the perinæum, in consequence of its great elongation and toughness preventing the expulsion of the fœtus. The first, aged twenty-nine, her second pregnancy; the head descended on the perinæum, distending it to such an extent that it measured 7 inches from the verge of the anus to the fourchette, and rendering it so thin that the nose of the child protruded through it, leaving a portion, anteriorly, fully $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. This was cut with a pair of scissors; when the child was at once expelled; it was a girl, $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. There was no laceration beyond the incision; the mother made a good recovery. The second, aged thirty-five, her fourth pregnancy—the perinæum in this instance was extremely unyielding, in consequence of a cicatrization, the result of an operation for laceration, having been performed two years previously. The head descended to the outlet, but the perinæum being extremely rigid, we were obliged to incise it to the extent of 2 inches, when the child, a boy, 7 lbs. 15 ozs., was at once expelled. No laceration whatever took place beyond the incision, and her convalescence was most favourable.

In conclusion, having now laid before you the foregoing brief report of the great institution over which I have the honour to preside, I have only to add that, in my opinion, it is by plain, unvarnished, well authenticated statements, such as these, embodying the actual results of practical observation, and extending over a large series of cases, that the progress of obstetric science can be best served. I have laid before you our practice (in a summary manner, no doubt) in almost every variety and complication of labour, and having pointed out the results, I think we need not shrink from criticism on it, nor fear that the Dublin Hospital School of Midwifery will be found behind in the advancement of the obstetric science, which it has always been our aim to foster and improve.