

The blighted foetus usually presents a wizened or squashed appearance. He remembered a case which occurred in the Maternity Hospital, where the blighted foetus was not discovered for a day or two after the delivery of the other child. On examining the placenta, a small clotted mass was observed attached, and, on raising the membranes, the blighted twin was found. Most of the so-called cases of superfœtation were of this nature. In true superfœtation, both children are at the full time, and the one is expelled a long time before the other. Such cases are very rare, but they may occur. Dr. Matthews Duncan, in his paper on the subject, shows that the spermatozoa may reach the ovule for three months after impregnation has taken place. The decidua does not obstruct the passage of spermatozoa in the early months. The old notion was that the mucous plug prevented their passage. Another explanation of superfœtation is the existence of a double uterus. The chief difficulty in the matter, however, is that during pregnancy there are no ovules to impregnate. Scanzoni at one time held that ovulation went on after impregnation had taken place, but he has now changed his opinion.

Dr. CUTHBERT had met with a case similar to that related by Dr. Atchison, in which one of the children had died and the other was born healthy. The dead foetus was withered and shrivelled.

45. *Triplets*.—Mr. TURTON reports (*Brit. Med. Journ.*, May 2, 1868) a curious case of this. The subject of it was thirty-six years of age. She had had a child fourteen years ago, and had not subsequently been pregnant until the present time. February 18, 1868, at 2 A. M., was delivered of a living male child, after having been ten hours in labour. The placenta came away in due course, and the mother was comfortable. When her husband came home to his dinner, about twelve hours after the birth of the child, he found that, during the temporary absence of her attendants, she had just given birth to two lively girls. Mr. T. was sent for, and on his arrival, found that the placenta had been expelled; one five or ten minutes after the other. Although the first after-birth followed soon after the first born child, and there was the long interval between that and the birth of the others, the patient had comparatively little hemorrhage, and has made an excellent recovery.

46. *Placenta Retained One Hundred and Twenty-Three Days after Miscarriage*.—Dr. F. W. P. JAGO records (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, April 18, 1868) a case of this in a woman aged 40, who miscarried Dec. 3, 1867, of a three months' foetus. There was no flooding at the time, and no medical man was called. Up to April 3, 1868, she suffered from more or less bleeding, sometimes pale and thin, at others very red, and occasionally she passed small dark clots. No after-birth had passed, and she says that during the whole time the discharge was not very offensive. April 2, Dr. J., who had been called, examined her and found a globular mass presenting at the os uteri, which was dilated to the size of a florin. There was a thin discharge with small coagula, but no fetor. I could not grasp the substance presenting, but managed to rotate it in the uterus with my forefinger. Ordered powder of ergot in fifteen-grain doses every four hours. Called on the following day, and on examination found no advance of the retained mass. She then had pains and bearing down, but no discharge. Desired her to continue the ergot, and after taking it in the above doses for twenty-eight hours, she expelled a placenta of about three ounces in weight. The fetal surface was folded on itself. The maternal surface was of a pale straw colour, two-thirds of it looking like a bit of fat; the remainder of the maternal surface was dark red, but there was no trace of anything to indicate organic adhesion. The foetal surface was covered with the membranes, which ceased at its edge, and the insertion of the cord could be seen. Except that it was more dense in its structure when cut, the placenta seemed just the same as any other, and there were no signs whatever of putrefaction about it.