

EXPULSION OF THE PLACENTA BEFORE
THE FÆTUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having seen in the last number of THE LANCET “a rare case of parturition,” given by Mr. Gower of High-Wycombe, as related to him by a highly-esteemed friend, I beg to trouble you with the following, if you should think it worth your notice. It bears analogy to the one which he has stated.

Many years since, I received an urgent message to go to a patient in my neighbourhood, upon whom I had attended in many labours. She was at the feeble period of gestation. Being at home at the time, I went immediately. On my arrival, I found that much hemorrhage had taken place. She was upon her bed. On examination, I met with the placenta in the vagina; the next pain expelled it. The head of the fœtus (the vertex presenting) was, by a succeeding pain or two, forced into the cavity of the pelvis, and, ultimately, rapidly through the os externum. The child in a short time respired, and I had nothing to do but to make the necessary separation. The lady recovered as easily as usual. I have attended her several times since, nothing particular occurring at the labours. She was about 32 years of age, of spare habit, fair, and of florid complexion. She is now living, and grown comparatively stout, enjoying excellent health. This, Sir, is the only case of the kind with which I have met (at the full period of pregnancy) in a tolerably extensive practice of more than thirty years’ duration.

I am, Sir, your very obedient.

T. MILLINGTON.

Great Titchfield-street, London,
October 25th.

PRIZES AT ST. THOMAS’S.—On Monday Oct. 17, at the commencement of demonstrations at St. Thomas’s Hospital, the senior anatomical prize was presented to Mr. Richard W. Martin of Chatham, and the junior to Mr. Richard Lleman of Tavistock, by the senior demonstrator; which prizes had been respectively adjudged to them for their practical knowledge of anatomy at the close of last session.

CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

Commander Evance does not appear to recollect that the cholera is a plague of fourteen years’ duration, and therefore in no way connected with the peculiarities of last summer’s temperature, &c. His other suggestions are too crude for publication. He will not be offended at the expression.

Dr. Forster’s Paper on Cholera.—“You have done me the honour to insert my observations on cholera, but in the note appended you seem to accuse me of having hinted at an opinion that comets are exciting cause of such disorders. Observe, I only hint, at most, to a remarkable coincidence, not a cause; and the notion was Kepler’s and not mine, and is very ancient. All that I contend for is, the atmospheric origin, and the absurdity of the opinion

that the disorders are not contagious.”—Note from Dr. Forster, Nov. 1.

“Mr. R. J. Culverwell, Surgeon, of Lothbury,” requests us to say that he is not the Mr. Culverwell who lately obtained the office of cupper at the Middlesex Hospital.

The account of an inquest held by an attorney-corer at Bridstow in Rosshire, Mr. Patteshall, was not complete. It did not state whether evidence relative to the conduct of the son-in-law was offered to the coroner. Upon that fact censure or exculpation of any party must entirely depend. There may have been ground for suspicions against some one, but we have no proof that the coroner was aware of them, and we should not be justified, therefore, in publishing the letter we have received.

The directions and cautions of Mr. Silas Blandford, have all of them already appeared in this Journal.

We are compelled to postpone Dr. Elliotson’s last lecture, the letter mentioned in our last from one of our reporters, and many other articles, until next week.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Lectures on Anatomy, interspersed with practical remarks. Vols. I. II. and III. By Bransby B. Cooper, F.R.S. Surgeon of Guy’s Hospital, Lecturer on Anatomy, &c. London: S. Highley, and Longman and Co., 1831. Royal 8vo. Plates. pp. 310, 308, 300.

ERRATA.—Some important errors of the press occur in our two last numbers, (in the editorial remarks on the cholera:—In No. 425, p. 175, line 5 from the bottom, the word “contagious” should have been *non-contagious*. At p. 178, the concluding member of a sentence which closes at line 9, was accidentally removed by the compositor. It should have run thus,—“We must either receive this,” &c.—or admit that under particular circumstances the malady is communicable from man to man.

In No. 426, p. 156, col. 2, line 16 from the bottom, for “shunning” read *thinning*; and at p. 157, line 2, instead of “the seclusion of the sick should be insisted on,” &c., read, *should seclusion of the sick be insisted on, every means must be devised for mitigating the necessary annoyances to those whose liberties are sacrificed to the public will*. Same page, col. 2, line 23 from bottom, for “Omoplaw,” read *Opatow, Palatinate of Saudomer*.

In our present Number, in the heading to Professor Jacob’s Lecture, p. 201, the second line should have been “to a course of comparative anatomy.”

ERRATUM.—To the Editor of THE LANCET. Sir,—Before I address another line to you, allow me to offer you my best thanks for the exercise of your more mature judgment in withholding the publication of that portion of my last letter to which you alluded. I see the full weight of your objection. A most egregious blunder, Sir, has been committed either by your compositor or myself, which I much fear will prove fatal to the appeal which I have made to Mr. Mantell. I need not, I am sure, Sir, tell you that next to not recollecting the name of the object of a lover’s adoration, nothing hurts his feelings more than to have that name improperly spelled, with every letter of which he has a corresponding chord in his heart, with which it vibrates in delightful accordance. So it is with those objects which, though they do not excite in us such tender emotions, we are nevertheless strongly attached to. It is this consideration which makes me dread Mr. Mantell’s vengeance when he sees his favourite antediluvian steed *Iguanodon*, miscalled “Iquinadon.” Your early insertion of the above in your highly-useful Journal, will much oblige, Sir, your very obedient servant,

J. W. K. PARKINSON.

Hoxton Square, Oct. 21st.