

lately brought to England by Dr. Stevens, was deposited by him in the museum of the College of Surgeons, and there examined by Mr. Owen. The artery was found to be entirely obliterated for the space of an inch where the ligature had been applied, but to retain its natural diameter for half an inch above its division. The obturatrix artery, which arose from the upper part of this pervious portion, was, as well as the ischiatic, entirely obliterated; but—

“The sacro-lateral artery was pervious, of the size of a crow-quill, and passed inwards to the second sacral foramen, whilst the gluteal artery of its natural size, received close to its origin, two vessels as large as the preceding, given off from the sacro-lateral artery near the third and fourth sacral foramina of the left side; the anastomoses of the sacro-lateral arteries with each other, and the sacra-media, were large and tortuous.”

The remains of the aneurismal tumour, about three inches and a half in length and two and a third in breadth,—

“Consisted of layers of condensed cellular membrane, and the peculiar fibrous arterial coat; it contained a quantity of dark-coloured granular, not lamellated coagulum, which, when removed, showed the internal surface of the sac to be somewhat irregular and raised in small patches by the deposition of soft matter,” &c.

To this statement Mr. Owen has added some account of two of the other four cases in which the internal iliac has been tied, but as these have been already published we need not notice them here.

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#### ON THE USE OF THE STETHOSCOPE

FOR THE DETECTION OF

TWINS IN UTERO, THE PRESENTATION, &c. &c.,

By DAVID C. NAGLE, A.M. M.B., *Trinity College, Dublin.*

*Est quodam prodire tenuis, si non datur ultra.*

THE perfection to which the stethoscope, so invaluable in the hands of the observant and discriminating physician, as a means of discovering the diseases of the chest, may be brought in the practice of midwifery also, will, I trust, be conceded with less reluctance than heretofore, after a perusal of the two following cases.

That auscultation has been used with decided advantage for the discovery of pregnancy, when all other means were found insufficient, is a fact that will not be denied, except by those who, from the imperfect nature of their education, or from physical impediments, have felt it an absolute impossibility to use it with even the slightest beneficial result. The following case will prove, that by it we are supplied with the most satisfactory means of discovering the existence even of twins; that we can, in most cases, determine the progress of the labour, and even the kind of presentation, without having recourse so often to the disagreeable, and frequently objectionable, mode of examination per vaginam.

On the 15th instant, a female, aged about 30, and in her first pregnancy, was admitted into the Lying-in Hospital, Dublin. The abdomen was, in this case, so enlarged as to lead to the suspicion of twins; and on the next morning my attention was directed to the patient by one of the nurses. Having applied the stethoscope, with a sheet interposed between its sternal extremity and the abdomen, I found a foetal heart to pulsate strongly, rapidly, and rather irregularly, midway between the umbilicus and the superior anterior spinous process of the left ilium. By a minute examination I satisfied myself that the cylinder was applied immediately over the foetal heart, with the rhythm of which I took particular care to make myself familiar. I next directed my attention to the other parts of the abdomen, still hearing the pulsations of a foetal heart, until I came on a point where they were most distinctly audible. This greater distinctness of resonance I found to be nearly under the linea semilunaris, between the umbilicus and the anterior inferior spinous process of the right ilium. The pulsations here I immediately recognised to be weaker, less rapid, and less regular in rhythm, varying from 125 to 133 in a minute, whilst those on the left side varied from 160 to 170. The patient, labouring under a smart bronchitis, was occasionally attacked with a severe fit of coughing, during which, the abdomen receiving a strong concussion, the pulsations of the foetal heart, on the right side, were remarkably accelerated, whilst those on the left were scarcely at all affected.

In order to draw a diagnosis, I compared, with as much accuracy as I was capable, the pulsations on both sides with each other, and then each separately with the impulse at the chest, and the pulsations at the wrist, of the mother. The diagnosis was, that there were twins; and I may add, that auscultation induced me to predict, that the head of the second child would present.

The announcement of this discovery was

received with considerable interest by some whom I took to examine the case; and Dr. Collins, the highly respectable master of the Hospital, was so satisfied of the accuracy of the diagnosis, that he declared "he could no longer repose confidence in the stethoscope in the practice of midwifery if the case did not prove to be twins." The patient, owing to a want of action in the uterus, continued to suffer a tedious, and at times a distressing, labour, until the night of the 20th, when, after the use of 45 grains of the ergot of rye, in divided doses, which at first quickened, then lowered the pulse, and evidently soon produced some slight action in the uterus, she was delivered of twins, the *heads* of both presenting, the delivery of the second being assisted with the forceps. From the nature and length of the woman's labour both children were dead; the second exhibiting the appearance of having been alive a short time previous to birth. The placenta in this case was single, and had to be removed by art.

Whether the following case will be considered interesting or not by the readers of THE LANCET, I will not venture an opinion, but I am induced to give it from a feeling, which I trust will ever direct me in my professional career, that by communicating to the profession whatever I find unusual, or likely to tend towards the advancement of science, I shall, *pro virili*, be discharging a duty which I think the members of a liberal profession owe to each other.

I was accidentally informed, on the 20th inst., that there was in the Lying-in Hospital, since the 16th, a patient who was not then delivered. Anxious to make some observations on the "placental murmur," as it is usually designated, I called to see the woman. She had then some smart labour pains; was 27 years old; married for three years, but had borne no child previous to her present pregnancy. Whilst preparing for the examination I proposed, I was informed by the patient, that "she was certain her child was dead, as she did not for some time feel it to stir." On the first application of the cylinder, I was enabled to assure her that her child was still alive. The phenomena first observed excited my curiosity, and pursuing my examination, I collected the following groups of symptoms, which, before delivery, I carefully committed to my note-book. Size and form of the abdomen not remarkable, as in the former case; stethoscopic symptoms peculiar and rather obscure; near the left hypochondrium a fetal heart pulsates strongly, very irregularly, but very distinctly, is occasionally exceedingly intermittent, not easily distinguishable from the pulsations at the mother's wrist, which are very quick, but dis-

tinguished with facility on comparison with the rhythm of the parent's heart. I found it to become, on a sudden, remarkably slow for a short time, much more so, indeed, than the ordinary action of an adult's heart, but soon to recover, quite unexpectedly, its natural rapidity. Immediately above the anterior inferior spinous process of the right ilium, the fetal heart is found to pulsate with rather more clearness than over any other part of the abdomen, except for a few inches in the region between the umbilicus and left hypochondrium. The rhythm in both places very nearly corresponded, except when the heart on the left side assumed that singularly slow action. The heart's action in the right ileum was a little weaker and often more rapid, more regular than that on the left side, and assuming no intermission of any consequence.

So much was I enabled to ascertain on my first examination at four o'clock. I had to leave the Hospital, requesting one of the midwives "to watch the case for me, as I was interested in the result for reasons I should afterwards explain."

Examination was resumed at half-past seven o'clock on the same day. Heart's action heard at the same relative distance, but not exactly in the same parts as at four o'clock, that on the right side having approached nearer to the pubes; that on the left nearer to the umbilicus. The heart on the left side not now irregular, nor in the slightest degree intermittent—stronger, but a little slower than that in the right ileum, where it is rapid, a little irregular in its rhythm, lower in the pelvis, and rather weaker than when last examined. Diagnosis:—"I have not the slightest doubt that it is a *twin case*, and, from the phenomena obtained by auscultation, I would be strongly inclined to think that the feet or breech of the second child will present." Previously to any examination per vaginam, auscultation enabled me to conclude, that the head of the first child was in the pelvis. Delivery of twins at eleven o'clock that night; the first dead, but with the appearance of having been recently alive; *breech and feet* of the second presenting; this a healthy-looking child, and much larger than the other two placentæ in this case; a smart hæmorrhage.

Circumstances which occurred after the discovery in the first case prevented me, until the patient should be free from danger, from making known what I had ascertained in this, but I recommended some of the pupils to wait for the result of the case; and immediately on the expulsion of the first child, I read for them my notes and the diagnosis I drew.

In order to arrive at the conclusions I came to, I paid particular attention to the

points and the relative distances at which the fetal hearts were, in each case, most distinctly audible; and whenever I detected the slightest variation in the pulsations at one point, I instantly removed the cylinder to the other, in order to ascertain if the same change was observable there also. This must be done with the least possible loss of time, and with great accuracy of auscultation. When there is only a single fœtus, the auscultator must have observed that, whilst counting the pulsations of the fœtal heart, he is frequently obliged to desist, in consequence of the fœtus suddenly changing its position in the uterus, except when the head has descended into the pelvis. This change of position I have not observed to take place in case of twins; hence the utility of observing the relative distances. The fœtal circulation, in cases where there is but one fœtus, is not, I find, so liable to alteration in rapidity as when there are twins; and to the physiologist it may appear a curious fact, that when the pulsations of one fœtus in the latter of the two cases I have given were accelerated, those of the other would appear to have lost something of their wonted rapidity.

October 23, 1830.

#### ON THE "PYRAMID," AND "PERE LA CHAISE."

*By* THOMAS WILLSON, Esq., *Architect.*

THE General Cemetery question having now permanently engaged the public attention, it is desirable to consider it deliberately, and without prejudice; it is therefore requisite to trace its origin, and minutely examine the merits of the plans.

One of them is the design of an architect, the other is a proposition originating with a gentleman at the bar. The first of these plans was submitted to government in the year 1827, and was duly laid before the late King as well as his present Majesty. The novelty of a Mausoleum, upon a scale that contemplated interment of the millions, at once attracted the attention of the public journals, and as is usual with first impressions, met with sarcasm and wit, rather than examination. The notice of the press obtained for it the attention of men of science, and it was pronounced "one of the noblest conceptions of the age." The encouragement given to it by this class induced the architect to examine his project more attentively, and with a view to its practicability, to consider how far it could be simplified, and reduced, without prejudicing its grand feature, to a principle of economy, so that in every point of view it might be desirable for the adoption of the

public. The result of these inquiries, from the minutest calculations, exhibits upon the whole an extraordinary saving, in the course of one century, of several millions sterling! Hence the busy speculators of the day were induced to make inquiry for the Star of the West, which was to direct them to reap a rich harvest of interest upon invested capital. Under this influence, the barrister alluded to made his first visit at the Pyramid Office in May, 1829; his proffered friendship and alliance to the project were received with the utmost cordiality, and the most perfect union of interests was entered into, cemented by professions of honour and implied mutuality of good faith, insomuch that reciprocity of interests, as well as the assurance of devotedness, opened the heart to the most perfect friendship and unreserved communication. Profiting by this, the learned gentleman, glowing in the ardour of unbounded ambition, and having recourse to the portfolio of his friend, possessed himself of the Pyramid, in detail, and liked it so well, that he borrowed the original before it was signed, and without permission, or further ado, took the said plans home with him, and exhibited them to his personal acquaintance as "a project of his own invention;" kept these plans for several months in spite of all remonstrance and expostulation, notwithstanding he had pledged his word to return them the following day; and finally, to crown all, this most honourable gentleman endeavoured to concoct the celebrated Pyramid Society at Paris, the plagiary of which the real projector was under the necessity of exposing in the English newspapers; he, however, could form no conception that this bold and foul attempt was the work of his confidential friend; and still confiding in the worthy gentleman's integrity and honour, they laughed over the Parisian levity with the utmost good humour and surprise! The projector, however, felt it his duty to publish "The Pyramid Prospectus," and this furnished the public with the real name of the architect, which proved no joke to his honourable friend, who now began to entertain a very different view of it, and Père la Chaise became his hobby, and his hobby he is determined to ride, "come what come may," and thus determined, resolved he would sink the Pyramid at a blow; and such a blow as is rarely, it is to be hoped, to be found in the history of such friendships! He proposed, as the last act of kindness to his unsuspecting friend, that he should transfer the whole force of his support to his (the honourable gentleman's) chambers, that he might advocate the cause, and teach the assembled party the value of The Pyramid which now began to be talked of to his confusion. So that with one pesti-