

Duncan to state the extent to which they used chloroform in their public and private surgical practice.—*Proceedings of Medico-Chirurgical Soc. of Edinburgh*, in *Month. Journ.*, July, 1848.

80. *Case of Retention of a Fetus in the Uterus for Eleven Years.* By Dr. VONDERFER.—This woman was forty-nine years of age, and had already borne two children. She was busily threshing corn, when she was seized with violent pains in the back, resembling those of labour. After they had continued for two hours the waters broke, and were discharged. For fourteen days she lay almost entirely upon her knees and elbows. At the end of this time the pains had almost ceased, but still in lying on her back she kept her knees well drawn up. Three weeks afterwards she was seized with a flooding, which was easily stopped. After this, there was a constant fetid discharge from the vagina, which continued more or less for eleven years, and occasionally some foetal bones were discharged with great pain. During most of this time the woman was able for her work, and in good health. At the end of eleven years she was again forced to betake herself to bed, and she died, after some time, with the symptoms of purulent infection. On dissection, the uterus was found adhering to the anterior wall of the abdomen, and it contained the remains of the putrefied foetus, along with its numerous bones. *Month. Retrospect*, Dec., 1848, from *Schmidt's Jahrbucher*, Nov. 9, 1848.

81. *Case of Spontaneous Amputation of the Forearm, and Subsequent Rudimentary Regeneration of the Hand of the Fetus.* (*Proceedings of Edinburgh Obstetric Soc.*)

—Dr. SIMPSON showed the society a girl, aged eleven, who had been born wanting the left upper extremity from a short way below the elbow-joint. The arm of this side was of the natural size and form; but the forearm consisted merely of a stump about two inches long. It had all the appearance of having been amputated about the union of its upper and middle third, the surface having subsequently healed over in a very perfect manner. No appearance of cicatrization was visible except over the ends of the two bones, where the skin was puckered and drawn in in an umbilical form. Midway between, and a little in front of these two points, was a raised cutaneous tubercle, divided on the surface into five minute nodules, on two of which small points of nail could be detected. This projection Dr. Simpson stated various reasons for believing to indicate an effort of nature to replace the lost portion of the limb,—he considered it to be in fact a rudimentary hand, and a curious illustration of the power of regeneration of even compound parts in the embryo and foetus in utero.

Dr. Simpson showed a great number of casts and drawings of other similar cases. The general resemblance of the cases to each other was very remarkable. In all, the amputation seemed to have happened at precisely the same situation; in all, the cicatrices over the ends of the two bones were well marked; and in all, there was a more or less marked indication of an attempt of reproduction of the lost portion of the member.

Dr. Simpson also showed, as an illustration of the mechanism or production of spontaneous amputations, a child born in the Maternity Hospital recently, whose fingers and toes were in several parts semi-amputated by bands of coagulable lymph or false membrane—the result of inflammation of the cutaneous surface of the foetus. The bands still existed at some points. There were the following deformities:—

In the *right* hand, the second, third, and fourth fingers were joined together laterally, in a somewhat conical mass. The index finger, the longest, ended in a transversely furrowed tuberculated mass. To the index was joined the fourth or ring finger at its apex, and, filling up the triangular interval between them, lay the third finger, having only the remains of one phalanx. The fifth or little finger ended abruptly at about the middle of its length, and had an osseous nodule representing the second phalanx. On its apex is a small crack, and a long dry filament is attached. All the fingers of the *left* hand presented circular constrictions of inconsiderable depth over their first phalanges. In addition, the fourth or ring finger seemed merely to possess a remnant of the second phalanx, and then abruptly terminated in a constricted tubercle. The *right* foot was normally formed.