

**Observations on Mr. Simmons's Detection, &c.; &c.; : with a defence of the Cesarean operation, derived from authorities, &c.; &c.;, a description of the female pelvis, an examination of Dr. Osborn's opinions, relative to embryulcia, and an account of the method of delivery by embryotomy / by John Hull.**

### **Contributors**

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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OBSERVATIONS  
on  
MR. SIMMONS'S DETECTION, &c. &c.  
with  
A DEFENCE  
of the  
CESAREAN OPERATION,  
*derived from Authorities, &c. &c.*

A DESCRIPTION OF THE FEMALE PELVIS,  
AN EXAMINATION OF DR. OSBORN'S OPINIONS,  
RELATIVE TO EMBRYULCIA,  
and  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE METHOD OF DELIVERY  
BY EMBRYOTOMY.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

BY JOHN HULL, M. D.

Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, and of the Physical Society  
of London; of the Natural History Society of Edinburgh; and Secretary  
of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester,

"NEC SIC INCIPIES, UT SCRIPTOR CYCLICUS OLIM:  
FORTUNAM PRIAMI CANTABO, & NOBILE BELLUM.  
QUID DIGNUM TANTO FERET HIC PROMISSOR HIATU?  
PARTURIUNT MONTES, NASCETUR RIDICULUS MUS."

Hor. de Arte Poet.



Manchester,

PRINTED AT 9, SPRING-GARDENS, BY R. AND W. DEAN  
(Successors to Mr. G. Nicholson).

And Sold by R. Bickerstaff, Strand, London; W. Mudie, Edinburgh;  
and I. and W. Clarke, Manchester,

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ON THE SYMPTOMS, DETECTION, &c.

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Γυνῶθι σεαυτὸν.

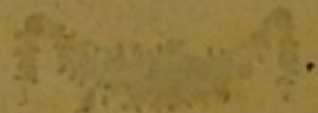
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ΝΩΛΟΣ.

BY JOHN HILL, M.D.

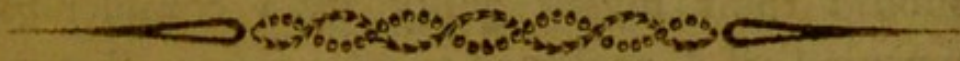
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in the Library and Philosophical Society of Edinburgh.

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A

SECOND LETTER

to

MR. WILLIAM SIMMONS.



PART I.



*Manchester, May 22, 1798.*

SIR,

After repeated attentive perusals of the Pamphlet, which you have been pleased to name "A Detection of the Fallacy of Dr. Hull's Defence of the Cesarean Operation," I feel myself justified in declaring, that I perceive not the least connection between the *Title* and *Contents* of your book. And, whilst I am endeavouring to obviate the mischief, which may accrue from the erroneous notions, disseminated and inculcated by you, upon different important points of practice in Midwifery; and to render your future conduct towards your professional brethren more decent and manly than it has hitherto been; I

B

should think myself guilty of a considerable omission, if I neglected to inform you, that the public, in my opinion, is too respectable to be deceived by false colours, and to advise you to cancel your Titlepage, and substitute for "Detection, &c."

AN

OLLA PODRIDA, \*

&c. &c.

When I had looked over your former work, entitled "*Reflections on the Propriety of performing the Cæsarean-Operation,*" I was enabled to pronounce a just character of it in a few significant words, which I deem it unnecessary to repeat in this place.

But your *Detection* is a work of a much more extraordinary nature. It is a most heterogeneous compound; the constituent parts of which are so numerous, so disjointed, and so strangely huddled together, that the analysis of it, and the due arrangement of its elements under distinct heads, employed me a considerable time.

I succeeded however so completely at last, that I am convinced scarcely any thing has escaped

\* *Olla podrida* est une composé de toutes sortes de viandes. LE SAGE.—i. e. A Dish of all sorts.

me, and that a chemist, as *able* even as yourself, will hardly be able to detect a particle of *residuum*.

This analysis of your book, and arrangement of its contents I now proceed to lay before you, premising only that I am confident I deserve the best thanks of yourself and the public, for composing such a novel and curious table; which, at the same time that it supplies the place of an Index, facilitates the understanding of your pamphlet, and exhibits the excellency of your head, and the probity and best affections of your heart, *veluti in speculo*.

*Constituent parts of your "Detection of the Fallacy of Dr. Hull's Defence of the Cæsarean Operation," arranged under ten heads.*

1. Ribaldry, libel; extravagant compliments; anecdotes and witticisms in prose and verse.  
See Pages 2! 3! 4. 5! 8! 12! 13! 21. 28!  
35! 36. 41. 47. 48! 52! 53! 54! 59. 63.  
65! 76! 78! 84! 86. 91! 92. 93. 94. 95.  
96. 100!

*Obs.* Wherever a note of exclamation is added, something excellent of its kind may be expected.

2. Unsubstantiated charges of boorish vulgarity, invective, violence and effrontery, ribaldry, ignorance, professional jealousy, misrepresentation, *logical suicide*, literary tyranny, &c. P. 1! 2! 4! 15! 16! 17! 23! 28! 44. 45! 51! 54! 58! 65! 75! 87! 96. 103.
3. Unblushing acknowledgments of prejudice, and obstinacy, love of error, false comments, and *a bad memory*. P. 21! 45! 65! 100!
4. Finished specimens of hypocrisy, vainglory, Quixotism, extreme incredulity, and a strong propensity to censure. P. 4! 5! 22! 34! 41! 43. 51! 66. 102!
5. Ineffectual attempts to justify your own conduct; to establish the propriety of your compound operation; to reconcile your inconsistencies, contradictions, and misrepresentations; to palliate your deviations from truth; and to defend your mutilated quotations, and abusive language. P. 14! 21! 23! 41. 42! 47! 54! 55! 57! 58. 59! 61! 62! 65! 68. 69. 73. 74! 75. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 101!
6. A history of a successful case of the Cesarean Operation under very unfavourable circum-

stances from M. Le Dran; a singular expectation that every candid reader will disregard what you have said in your *Reflections*, and understand what you meant; a curious wish; and a hope that "your project" (the compound operation of Synchronotomia, and Embryulcia) will never be necessary. P. 30. 31. 32. 33! 41! 57! 77!

7. Dogmatical, strange, and unsupported assertions; certificates of approbation "in very flattering terms" from Drs. Osborn and Clarke; and singular, silly, and impertinent questions. P. 20! 21! 23! 24! 34! 43! 44! 48. 49! 51! 56. 58! 59! 60! 61. 63! 65! 66! 67. 68! 70. 72! 74! 75! 76! 78! 81. 82! 83! 84! 86! 87! 88! 89! 90! 99. 100! 102.

8. Imperfect and unfair statements, misrepresentations, and perversions of my facts, arguments, and conclusions. P. 3! 6! 8! 10! 11! 16. 17. 18. 23! 28! 34. 40! 44! 52! 58. 60. 63. 99.

9. Irrelevant matters, sophisms, and nonsense. P. 6. 7. 8. 29. 37! 40. 41. 47. 48. 55. 58. 60. 61. 69. 73. 82. 87! 89! 90. 91—97! 98. 100! 101. 103.



10. Quotations in prose and verse. P. 3. 5. 6.  
 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 17. 18. 19. 20.  
 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31.  
 32. 33. 36. 37. 38. 39. 41. 42. 43. 44. 46.  
 48. 49. 50. 52. 54. 57. 58. 59. 60. 62.  
 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73.  
 74. 75. 76. 77. 79. 80. 81. 82. 85. 86. 87.  
 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98.  
 102. 103.

*Obs.* In some instances the same sentence has been referred to different heads.

If I were disposed to examine your book in a methodical manner, I might first notice the ribaldry, libellous matter, &c. contained in it; and, in the next place, proceed to the discussion of your unfounded charges, &c. &c. But the botanical publications, in which I am at present engaged, confining me absolutely to systematic arrangement, I shall, for the sake of a little variety, examine your *Detection* in nearly as desultory a manner as you have adopted in writing it; and shall, with your permission, first consider what you have given in the last page but one.—Should I not notice every line of your very excellent work, in a special manner, I hope you will not attribute the omission either to indolence, or inability on my part to answer you,

but to my being better employed. And, if you should lay particular stress upon any fact, argument, or opinion, which I have happened to overlook, or to treat as of little consequence, you will, perhaps, have the goodness to point it out to me, and I will promise to consider it more fully hereafter.

At page 102 of your *Detection*, you make this declaration, “*I used as much delicacy towards Dr. Hull as was practicable, for I cautiously abstained from mentioning his name; and so little appearance did my pamphlet convey of a personal attack, that people in general who read it here, did not suppose that it was aimed at any individual.*”

Upon this passage I have to offer a few remarks: 1st. You would have shewn greater delicacy, if you had been less clamorous upon the subject, immediately after the operation, and had deferred advertising your intended publication, till it was ready for the press. The Operation, to which you have alluded as “*a late occurrence,*” was performed on the 24th of September, 1798; your advertisement appeared in WHEELER’S MANCHESTER CHRONICLE, on the sixth of October, and your book was not in the press till after the 5th of November. Still more delicacy would have been mani-

fested, if you had withholden your advertisement, till your work was ready to be laid before the public. And as you had nothing, either material, or new, except *some old cases new-modelled*, to offer upon the subject, why could you not have deferred your publication for a year or two, till you could have made yourself tolerably acquainted with the operation, and could have produced something really worth communication? The reason is too obvious. You would, by this means, have lost the opportunity of making a concealed invidious blow at the gentlemen, to whom the management of the case was intrusted. If your motives were honourable, as you state them to be, why did you not step forward, and oppose the practice of the Cesarean Operation, when I first saved a life by it in the year 1794? Or, when Dr, James Hamilton, Teacher of Midwifery in Edinburgh, and Son to the Professor, performed it unsuccessfully in the year 1795?— Or, when Dr. Denman, and Mr. Benjamin Bell published their sentiments in favour of this Operation? The reason to me, and many with whom I have conversed upon the subject, is perfectly clear. You had never *before* had an opportunity “to gratify your spleen” (as you express it) by an attempt to throw an odium upon your rival practitioners.

2dly. Because *you profess* to feel so much interest, and sympathy in the sufferings, peculiarly incident to the female sex; and to manifest so much zeal and promptitude to defend the ladies *against professional cruelty*, and private insult\*; do you expect that *every one must admit*, that you are a man of fine feelings, high honour, and undoubted courage? In my opinion, if you really feel so much for the other sex, you would have remained silent upon this painful subject, lest by the agitation of it, an alarm should be excited amongst them, which all your eloquence, and Quixotic professions of service, might be unable to remove or appease.

3dly. If you understand by *people in general* your own family, or two or three of your most intimate friends, I cannot pretend to contradict the position: But if you mean the phrase to be taken in the usual acceptation, I am disposed to maintain, that you have not taken the steps necessary to ascertain this matter; and I cannot avoid informing you, in justice to myself, that all the medical men, and every other person, whom I have heard give a decided opinion upon the subject, have considered your attack as highly improper, and ungenerous; many have

\* Detection, p. 4 and 5.

declared it to be base ; some have even deemed it wicked. When an operation of so uncommon a kind takes place, it necessarily gives rise to a great deal of conversation, in the vicinity of the place where it has happened, and to all those who had been thus made acquainted with the case, your designation of the occasion (" a late occurrence"), which led you to publish your pretended sentiments upon the subject, would be a sufficient identification of the operator, whom you accuse of inexcusable ignorance, or cruel inattention. And those readers, who had not been previously made acquainted with the unsuccessful event of this operation, would be naturally led to enquire, to what late occurrence you alluded. To persons at a distance from Manchester, especially those who are unacquainted with your disposition, your insinuations and unmanly mode of proceeding may convey an appearance of delicacy ; but to myself and those, who are acquainted with your strong propensity to accuse your professional brethren, these are aggravating circumstances. Hence I have been led to treat your conduct with considerable freedom in my Defence of the Cesarean Operation.

This freedom, although by no means equal to your deserts, you are pleased to name *boorish vulgarity*, and to complain loudly of it. Per-

haps, you may suppose, I do not possess an equal degree of urbanity with yourself. It is not, impossible that you may conceive few can boast such complete possession of *les manières, les agrémens, les graces, la tournure, & les usages du beau monde* as yourself. I acknowledge, without hesitation, that I cannot pretend to such an amazing extent of *versatility* (a quality greatly extolled by Lord Chesterfield) as yourself. When I witness your extraordinary complimentary powers, as displayed in the Dedication of your *Reflections*, and in pages 65, 86, and 102, of your *Detection*, I say in the language of Juvenal,

Quid Romæ faciam? *mentiri nescio* ———

SAT. III.

“What shall I do at Rome? I want the art  
To speak a language foreign to my heart.”

OWEN.

When I observe you pouring forth a torrent of ribaldry in prose and verse,\* that would do honour to the lips of the *Poissarde en chef* at Billingsgate, I am astonished that you have refrained from exclaiming with Ovid,

“*Jamque opus exegi: quod nec Jovis ira nec ignes,  
Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vetustas.*”

\* See page 35, &c.—The Epigram will be noticed more particularly afterwards.

Cum volet illa dies, quæ nil nisi corporis hujus  
 Jus habet, incerti spatium mihi finiat ævi:  
 Parte tamen meliore mei super alta perennis  
 Astra ferar: *nomenque erit indelebile nostrum.*  
 Quaque patet domitis. Romana potentia terris,  
 Ore legar populi: *perque omnia secula famâ*  
 (*Si quid habent veri vatum præsentia*) *vivam.*"

METAMORPH. Lib. 15.

" And now the worke is ended, which Jove's rage,  
 Nor fire, nor sword shall raze, nor eating Age.  
 Come when it will my death's uncertaine houre;  
 Which of this body only hath a power:  
 Yet shall my better part transcend the skie;  
 And my immortall name shall never die.  
 For where-so-ere the Roman Eagles spread  
 Their conquering wings, *I shall of all be read:*  
 And, if WE POETS true presages give,  
 I in my Fame eternally shall live."

SANDYS.

And when I find you coolly proposing (p. 53 & 54.) to have my abdomen laid open with a horn, I deem it highly necessary to get out of your way, and warn the public of the danger by the cry of,

"Fœnum habet in cornu, longe fuge ———"

HORATII Sat. L. 1.

At page 28, you very unjustly represent me, as using improper language to Dr. Haighton, in the following ironical observation, " he ap-

plies his *courtly* phrases through me to his ingenious friend Dr. Haighton, and I have no objection against standing on the foreground on such an occasion." Permit me, Sir, to tell you; 1st. that you are rather too apt to place yourself in the foreground; and 2dly, that I have, *never in my life* applied improper language to Dr. Haighton, or *any other gentleman*. I have accused *you* of aspersing the characters of Rousset and Villanova, without foundation, and have questioned your knowledge of Latin in consequence of your making this assertion in your Reflections. "A fondness for the marvellous is prominent in many of his histories, and in none more than in the case communicated by his friend Villanova, who writes that he never knew a patient recover on whom the operation had been performed by an incision in the side (the usual way) but, in the case he relates, he accomplished the delivery by applying the actual cautery, so as to penetrate through the abdominal muscles and uterus."

Pag. 9 & 10. Pray, Sir, has Dr. Haighton made any observation in his paper, that resembles this? Why would you then be *so kind* as to make him participate in the censure, which you have drawn upon yourself, by an observation *peculiarly* and *exclusively* your own. I have proved, in my former letter, that the subject of the case in question is expressly stated, by both Villa-



nova and Rousset, *to have been not pregnant* at the time of the application of the actual cautery; that it was merely a collection of *pus*, which was evacuated by the cautery; and that she *afterwards* conceived, and bore a child. We shall now see how coolly, and ingeniously, you get over this by the following explanation: "I had been guilty of an error *in referring from memory*, but had certainly *no design of misrepresenting* Villanova's account of this case; I, therefore, make this atonement to him, although the matter, on which the Dr. has been so lavish of paper and invective, *be not of the smallest moment in relation to the point at issue.*" Detection, p. 100. Indeed, Sir? When you have accused me of having performed *an unjustifiable operation* (a); when you have stated roundly, that "it would be difficult to determine whether the operator deserved most reprehension, for his inexcusable ignorance, or cruel inattention (b)" if on the testimony of the mother the Cesarean Section be performed, and a putrid child extracted, as in the case of Ann Lee, where I was the operator; *Is it not of the smallest moment* to me to be able to prove, that you stand convicted of calumniating, without any other foundation than your own avowed mistaken notion, so respectable an author as Rousset? You urge, in

(a) Reflections, p. 68. (b) Ibid. p. 62.

justification of your conduct upon this occasion, that you “had been guilty of an error in referring from memory, but had certainly no design of misrepresenting Villanova’s account of this case.” Is it possible you can have the weakness to imagine, that this excuse will be admitted either by myself, or the public? If you had not Rousset’s work before you, at the time you were writing, how could you quote the *history, section, and part*, to which you have referred, when speaking of this mistaken case? How could you, *in the same page* of your *Reflections*, give the annexed quotation in the very words of Bauhin’s Translation—*Quare maritus implorato primum divino auxilio, & janua diligenter clausa uxorem mensæ imponit, abdomini vulnus (non secus quam porco) infligit. Verum primo ictu ita feliciter abdomen aperuit, ut subito infans absque ulla læsione extractus fuerit,*” and refer to the *Appendix, hist. 1. pag. 480*? When a man, at the first stroke (*primo ictu*), has deviated from the line of truth, is it honourable, for him to attempt to extenuate his crime by a second deviation from the same line? Confess the truth, and, since you declare that it was not done designedly, acknowledge, that it was from your ignorance of the latin language, that you made this gross misrepresentation, and published the calumnious observation founded upon it. I will next point

out to you what I believe to have been the true source of this error, (the rock, on which you have split,) and answer me *with truth*; whether my conjecture be not well founded. In the former part of the case it is most certainly mentioned, that the actual cautery was applied to the abdomen of the patient, and, at the end of the history, is this sentence, “*ab illo tempore filiam enixa, quæ adhuc superstes est,*” which, when translated, stands thus: “*after that time she brought forth a daughter, who is still living.*” Now supposing that you could neither read the former part of the chapter, nor the intermediate part of the case in question, and that you mistook *ab illo tempore* to signify *at that time*, instead of *after that time*, the solution of this knotty point becomes easy, and you stand recorded *something more* than an excellent latinist.

In the same page, where you have made this unsuccessful attempt to vindicate your conduct towards Rousset and Villanova, you have this curious observation, “*Or a project, somewhat in his “(the Drs.)” way suggests itself to me, namely, to run an actual cautery into the bottom of the womb, and to dress the wound so as to render it fistulous; and, should a poor deformed creature become pregnant, to extract the embryon, immediately on its lapsing into the*

womb from the Fallopian tube, by means of a siphon" (or a *cannula*!) "applied to the external opening?" As I wish to avoid all unnecessary severity towards you, I shall suppress a question, that I intended to put here, and shall content myself with informing you, that the project, for dividing the bones of the pubes, at a distance from their symphysis, originated with a very ingenious *pelvitomist*, and advocate for the Sigaultian Operation, the late Dr. John Aitken of Edinburgh, and is published in his Principles of Midwifery. Ed. 3. p. 83. Hence it seems you are unacquainted with the *serious* writers, even of our own Island, upon your favourite section. His words are, "may not this (Hysterotomy) and embryotomy be superseded by a *pelvitomia nova*? viz. two incisions, one on each side, reaching to the ossa pubis, as near the crural vessels as safely may be, so that one may be distant from the other about four inches; and two corresponding to, and touching, the joinings of the rami pubis, and ischiorum. The bones are then divided by the flexible saw, &c." You see how correct you are in stating, "nor would any other person have offered them" (two projects for dividing, or removing the bones, composing the anterior part of the pelvis) "even in a vulgar jest." Detection, p. 78.

You get over the charge of misconstruing the phrase *quo matri parcerent*, "to shew his superior dexterity," with the same easy carelessness, by saying, "With all the Drs. display of learned quotation, it would appear, that he is so poor a latin scholar, as to mistake *a comment of my own*, for a literal translation." *Detection*, p. 21. Delightful justification! Having just shewn how you figure as *a translator*, I now have it in my power to hold you up, to the astonishment of the *Orbis Eruditus*, as *a most excellent commentator*, and might compare you with SCALIGER, if I thought you would consider it a compliment to have a comparison instituted betwixt yourself, and a *Leyden Professor*. Pray, Sir, do you think it more honourable to be the avowed author of *a false comment*, than of *a mistaken translation*?

You also introduce, in the same page, this very curious question; "But can Dr. Hull think such violent abuse justified *by a harmless incidental remark*, that the operator meant to flourish, or to shew his superior dexterity, in making his circular incision, as Dr. Trusler directs, in his learned instructions on the art of carving hams?" Do not mistake me, Sir. It is for *your method of carving characters*, not *hams*, that I have been induced to blame you.

You undertake to justify yourself against the charge of bringing a mutilated quotation from *Mauriceau*, by this assertion, "If the Dr. will look into the *seventh* edition of Mauriceau's works, translated by Dr. Hugh Chamberlen, page 235, very near the top of that page, he will find that there is no such passage as he alludes to, and my long extract was made from that edition of Mauriceau's works." *Detection*, p. 42. As I have not seen the translation referred to, I cannot pretend to determine, whether the passage be there or not; but it is rather an unfortunate circumstance for your affirmation, that Chamberlen's translation was made from the *first* edition of Mauriceau's work, and, for your satisfaction, I will give you Mauriceau's own authority. In the preface to the fifth edition, he says, "je crois qu' il ne me sera pas difficile de vous persuader que celuy-cy que je fis imprimer la premiere fois en l' année 1668. la seconde fois en l' année 1675, & la troisiéme en l' année 1681. a été assez bien reçu du Public; puisque le grand nombre des exemplaires que j' en avois fait tirer dans ces trois précédentes Editions, a été entierement distribué il y a déjà du temps, & que Monsieur *Chamberlen*, Medecin du Roy d' Angleterre, le plus renommé qu' il y ait en la ville de Londres dans l' Art des Accouchemens, l' a jugé digne de la peine qu' il a

prise luy-même de le traduire en Anglois, & de le faire imprimer des l'année 1672, &c." The passage that I have blamed you for omitting, is to be found in the fifth Edition of Mauriceau's *Traité*, &c. published in 1712, and also in the sixth edition, a copy of which you have the liberty of consulting, in the Public Library of this Town, founded by H. Chetham, Esq.— And I do not entertain the least doubt, but the same passage has been inserted in every subsequent edition of this work. You have therefore furnished me with an opportunity of bringing an additional accusation against you, viz. that of using a translated copy of a bad edition, when you had access to a better edition of the original.

I shall next bring forward an observation, introduced in page 41 of your *Detection*. "The Dr. next comes to my long extract from Mauriceau, for the length of which I had to plead its importance to the subject under discussion, and he seems to be very angry that I should have gained seven pages to my book, and yet afford him only one single circumstance to gratify his spleen." To convince you, that the extract affords me another opportunity "to gratify my spleen," I shall favour you with this very just conclusion from it, that the anecdote of la Mere

*Bouquet*, and the pregnant woman in the Hotel-Dieu de Paris, leaves me no room to doubt that a *woman*, as well as a *surgeon*, have deviated from the truth, when speaking of the Cesarean Operation. The degree of dependence, that ought to be placed in the testimony of Mauriceau, will be appreciated hereafter. And before I quit this subject, you will permit me to remind you, that, in your *Reflections*, you have taken the translation of this *important* extract from Mauriceau upon yourself, by not giving the name of the author, from whom you took it.

The defence you have made against the charge of bringing mutilated extracts from *Dionis* is too singular to pass unnoticed. Your words are, "Leaving the Dr. in full possession of his rimbaldry, I come next to his comment on my quotations from *Dionis*, and here with his usual inversion of intellect, he accuses me (p. 50.) of having brought forward *facts* instead of *reasons*. Men of sense, like *Dionis*, govern their reasoning by their facts; but a Cæsarean operator would be deprived of a colourable pretext for his conduct, if his facts were not made subservient to his theory. It is worthy of the Dr. to accuse others of acting upon theoretical grounds, whilst he has none other for the support of his conduct, for his own experience is against the



operation." You will, I hope, allow me to make two observations upon this quotation; the 1st is, that I have never accused you of bringing forward *facts* from Dionis; indeed I never knew that he had any to offer upon the subject; and the 2d is, that not only my reading, but my own experience, are in favour of the operation in question, since I have preserved one life by it, which neither you, nor any other accoucheur could have done without it. It is evident from your own writings, that you hold the testimony of this author in very little estimation, since you have rejected, without even noticing it, his statement, relative to the birth of Edward the 6th; \* and have not given credit to his assertion, respecting the sensibility of the uterus. †

When I replied to your former pamphlet, although I did not entertain the least doubt, but your publication originated in an illaudable spirit of professional jealousy, I might have treated you with more respect, had I not previously heard your veracity impeached; had I not been satisfied, that your conduct to your professional brethren was extremely improper; and

\* Reflections, p. 4. † Detection, p. 89. See Defence, &c. p. 50.

had I not been in possession of a written document, which convinced me that you had not published *your real sentiments*, in your Reflections on the propriety of performing the Cesarean Operation.

Of your unfortunate propensity to deviate from the truth, the examples, already given, are sufficiently numerous, in my opinion, to convince the most sceptical mind; and more will be given hereafter.

I shall, therefore, hasten to bring forward an instance of your improper conduct to a colleague at the Infirmary, which occurred in October, 1797. This, with your unprovoked attack upon me, and the other gentlemen, who were consulted in the case of Ann Lee, will be sufficient to justify me in accusing you of aiming to be Censor General, even if it were not in my power to bring additional proofs of such a disposition on your part.

Mr. Hamilton, JUNIOR SURGEON of the Manchester Infirmary, *accidentally* met with Mr. White, and, the conversation turning upon Mr. Baynton's improved mode of treating ulcers of the lower extremities, took him into the Infirmary, to shew him some of the cases, which

were under this method of treatment; and at the same time, shewed him a patient afflicted with the stone in the bladder. This circumstance, by some means, arriving at your ears, you lodged an information against Mr. Hamilton, in consequence of which, he was brought before the Weekly Board, on a charge of introducing Mr. White into the Infirmary, to visit an In-Patient, for the purpose of submitting to his opinion the decision of a full consultation. I need not inform you, that the *board*\* highly disapproved of your conduct upon this occasion.

You observe (at p. 75.) that "There is indeed no occasion for any one to assume the office of Censor upon the *amiable*† Dr.; for

\* I am informed that you generally appear at the *Weekly Board* of the Infirmary, to make an oration, and that, upon one of these occasions, you produced my *Defence of the Cesarean Operation*, and read the passage from it, which proves "that you either have not the *ability*, or the *honesty*, to translate very easy and perspicuous latin," and gives you your choice. Had I not been previously made acquainted, that you had failed, in every attempt, to convert this *Board* into a *Court of Inquisition*, I might have been very apprehensive, lest my book should be deemed *heretical*.

† As a strong proof of the AMIABLENESS of your disposition, I judge it proper to state, that you are not even upon speaking terms (except at a consultation, or during an

if, after this warning, he should persist in performing his Cæsarean experiments, the regular officer of the Crown, the Coroner, may, probably, think himself bound to exercise over him the Censorship, with which he is legally invested." I presume, Sir, you speak very feelingly upon this occasion, for it is not very long since the Coroner *actually* found it necessary to *make you acquainted* with the extent of his power.

We will now read, if you please, a copy of one of your own letters, which, in all probability, *as your memory is extremely treacherous*, you may have totally forgotten. It was addressed (operation) with any of the Physicians, or Surgeons in ordinary, of the Infirmary, except Dr. Ferriar.

The PHYSICIANS are

DR. FERRIAR, *an Edinburgh Graduate.*

DR. BARDSLEY, } *Leyden Graduates.*  
DR. HOLME, }

The SURGEONS are

MR. SIMMONS.      MR. KILLER.

MR. BILL.          MR. WARD.

DR. TAYLOR.      MR. HAMILTON.

I *believe* you do speak to Dr. PERCIVAL, who is Physician Extraordinary to the Infirmary, and has had also the *honour* to receive his Diploma at Leyden.

But are there any Medical Practitioners in Manchester, except Dr. Ferriar, with whom you are upon friendly terms?

to Mr. Barlow, when you corresponded with him upon his successful case of the Cesarean Operation, and he sent it to me to be published in my former letter ; but I chose rather to keep it as a *corps de reserve*, that I might bring it forward, if my publication should succeed so far as to make you throw off your mask.

*A Copy of YOUR Letter to MR. BARLOW.*

Dear Sir,

I most sincerely thank you for your early and friendly communication. The circumstances of the case are equally singular and fortunate. As you seem desirous of giving publicity to it, should you have any objection to the publication of it in some periodical work ?

If you will either draw up the case very fully so as to meet your own approbation, or, if your vacations will not allow you to do it, I will with pleasure arrange them, and transmit them to the Editor of any of the above publications, you may approve for insertion.

It is not for me to inform you that it is the only instance of recovery after such an operation that has happened in this Country. The Cases of recovery, reported on the Conti-

ment, have generally been credited *cum grano salis*: but granting the whole of their statement, it will be matter of curious enquiry to endeavour to ascertain why the cases in this kingdom have been unsuccessful compared with yours, and those above alluded to.

I am, Dr. Sir,

Your obliged and faithful servant,

WM. SIMMONS.

*Princess-street, Dec. 31, 1793.*

I will next state your sentiments, as given in the year 1798, in the 68th p. of your *Reflections*. "And, I hope that in future all trace of the Cæsarean operation will be banished from professional books; for *it can never be justifiable during the parent's life, and stands recorded only to disgrace the art.*"

Your sentiments appear to have changed again with the present year, for, in your last pamphlet, I find this passage, "And from the time of his (Dr. Osborn's)" delivery of Elizabeth Sherwood, by the Crotchet, the Cesarean section has been rendered *unnecessary, simply on account of the narrowness of the pelvis.*"

It will require the exertion of the whole of

your sophistry to reconcile these jarring opinions. In the last quotation, there is most undoubtedly a tacit acknowledgment, that the operation in question is sometimes necessary; in the preceding one it is declared to be unjustifiable; and little doubt will be entertained, in my opinion at least, but, if you had been allowed to publish Mr. Barlow's case, the Cesarean Section would have been sanctioned by your *high* Authority, and would have been accompanied by *Reflections*, diametrically opposite to those, which I have had the honour to comment upon, and yet you had, at this time, received *the full benefit* of Dr. Osborn's instructions. Does it not appear, from what has just been adduced, that you are determined to make a bustle in the world, and that if you cannot come forward fairly and honourably, you will come forward unfairly and dishonourably? Does not almost every action of your life shew, that your delight is in troubled water?

It appears from your *Reflections*, (p. 4.) that you had come to no determination, and even were not engaged in the consideration of the subject, at the time of my latter operation, for you say, "Impressed with these sentiments, I have been induced *by a late occurrence*, to reexamine the subject, and to lay the result of my

enquiry before the public, to prevent, *as far as my influence shall extend*, the revival of an operation that has proved so fatal to my countrywomen."

Permit me to ask you, 1st. Whether you did not enter upon your reexamination with a prejudiced mind\*? And 2dly, how far you think *your influence* ought to extend upon this subject?—

There are strong marks, exhibited in the above quotations, of a singular faculty, which I have before intimated, that you seem to possess, namely, the power of believing, or disbelieving, whatever you please. †

We will now suppose that you had, betwixt the years 1793, and 1798, in consequence of your *extensive reading*, and *profound thinking*, even been induced to change your sentiments upon the Cesarean Operation, should you not have been more charitable to those, who were envelopped in the same obscurity, from which you had so lately emerged in more than meridian splendour?

Having fully demonstrated *que vous êtes sujet à caution*, I shall next shew that you *confessedly almost glory* in your errors, and, afterwards, that you *tacitly acknowledge* yourself obstinate, and prejudiced.

\* See Page 10th of this letter. † Defence, p. 118.



For you say, "With an infelicity peculiar to himself, he couples my name, in his petty attacks, with the names of men so truly eminent in their profession, that, to be ranked with them, even in their errors, would be almost an exaltation." *Detection*, p. 45. If you be so extremely ambitious of adopting errors, from men of eminence in their profession, I can recommend *Deventer* to you, an author, whom, I think, you have not quoted; and, after you have made yourself familiar with his errors, I will, upon your application, furnish you with a few more, for there is scarcely any practice, however absurd, which is not sanctioned by some eminent name.

The prejudiced state of your mind will appear from this strange assertion. "It so happens that I have enjoyed the benefit of Dr. Osborn's instructions; and embracing his opinions, and regulating my own by his successful practice, *I have followed, and I shall continue to follow*, the doctrines which he has inculcated, in such cases of difficulty, arising from distortion of the pelvis, as shall occur to me."—*Detection*, p. 65. You are, it appears,

OSBORNI "*addictus jurare in verba magistri.*"

I rejoice at this honest declaration, since it enables me to prove, that you must give up every intention of performing your compound operation.

When I combated the impropriety of it before, I had recourse to the *facts*, and *reasons*, urged against it, with so much effect, by the illustrious Baudelocque, because I hold these in much higher estimation than those adduced by Dr. Osborn: But, since you have thus manifested your predilection for the doctrines of the latter, and *are determined to follow them*, I shall here attack you by a new species of argument, the *Argumentum ad hominem*. As I strongly suspect, that you are unacquainted with every system of logic except that of Hudibras,\* (which, I must confess, you manage with great dexterity,) and that you do not understand even the terms of that science, I will first explain to you what is meant by an *argumentum ad hominem*, and will then shew you the application of it, in your own case. It is, Sir, *an argument drawn from the prejudices of an opponent*. Now for the application."

"But," says Dr. Osborn, "when we advert to the maimed and weakened state of the pelvis, and its consequent inability, after the division of the symphysis, to sustain the violence, and repeated exertions unavoidable in the use of the crotchet; and at the same time, when we reflect upon the mischief that the soft parts must inevitably suffer from the division, particularly those

\* See Detection, p. 52.

which lie immediately behind, and in contact with the ossa pubis ; first, by being torn from the bones to which they are naturally connected ; afterwards, by being exposed, for a considerable time, to the external air ; and last of all, by being pressed against the divided edges of the bones, in the passage of the child's head ; when, I say, all these circumstances are considered, we must conclude, that the operation in the case supposed by Dr. Hunter, instead of *giving the mother a good chance for life, and tolerable health, will be as certainly fatal to her as the crotchet must have already proved to the child.* The difficulty and extreme danger of this particular situation, though most reasonably to be expected, do not however rest upon assertion, conjecture, or opinion ; Professor Guerard's case (to be related presently) is exactly in point, and confirms by experiments, what was to be expected *a priori.* The child's head, in that case, was opened after the division of the symphysis had been performed ; but the Professor was, notwithstanding, foiled in every attempt to deliver both by the forceps and crotchet, and the event, in the end, proved fatal to the mother." *ES-SAYS, &c. P. 323.\**

\* I rather suspect that Dr. Osborn has *admonished* you not to persist in your recommendation of this compound operation, as there is something like a recantation in your *De-*

It is also in my power to bring forward a similar testimony from the *Observations Medico-Chirurgicales par J. F. SACOMBE, Officier de santé pour la pratique des Accouchemens, & pour le traitement des maladies des femmes enceintes, et en couche. A Paris. L' An 2<sup>me</sup>. de la République.* Several points of resemblance occur betwixt yourself, and this redoubted opponent of the Cesarean Operation; for, in the 1st place, he is no bad versifier, being the author of a poem, entitled *La Luciniade, ou L' Art des Accouchemens, Poème didactique, in 8<sup>vo</sup>. 2dly.* His professions, and his manners, do not at all coincide, since you inform us that "He has challenged the advocates for this practice" (the Cesarean Operation) "to public disputations. Several very turbulent scenes of dispute have passed between him and his adversaries. He triumphs as victorious and invincible, they, after contending in vain, to hiss, and cough, and laugh, and talk him to silence, complain, that he will suffer none but himself to utter a word as  
*testion.*" But from some communications received since publishing my reflections, which will be mentioned hereafter, *I hope my project will never become necessary, and that the delivery may be accomplished by the crotchet in EVERY dimension of the pelvis, however contracted.*" Page 56.

long as he is able to speak, and that when his animal spirits are exhausted, he then escapes refutation only by retiring, under the pretence of excessive fatigue, from the scene of dispute.”\* And I will lay before you the *motto*, prefixed to his work, which, if I understand it, promises great coolness, and moderation.” *Vitam impendere vero & sequi probabiliora, nec ultraquam id, quod verisimile occurrit progredi possumus; & refellere sine pertinacia, & refelli sine iracundia parati sumus.*” CICER. TUSCUL. II. 3dly. What he cannot effect by argument, he endeavours to accomplish by noise, or by dashing his ink about him, like the Cuttlefish, when closely pursued by an enemy, and makes his escape under the confusion, and obscurity, which he has spread around himself. 4thly. He is a man of *great experience* as an Accoucheur. He informs us, that he has delivered 658 women! And he declares, that neither the forceps, nor any kind of instrument, is ever necessary. When speaking of the Forceps, and Crotchets, he says they are “*enfants de l’imperitie, dont je démontrerai les dangers & l’inutilité.*” †And he also exclaims, “*LE TEMPS & LA NATURE, VOILA, VOILA LES GRANDS MAITRES DE L’ART!*”\*\*

\* Detection, p. 46. † Discours Prél. p. 25.

\*\* Ibid, p. 20.

Deeming it unnecessary to urge the parallel any further, I shall now produce the opinion, he has given, concerning the Sigaultian Operation, or Section of the symphysis pubis, which you have so strongly recommended in conjunction with embryulcia. “Ce que j’ ai dit de l’ opération césarienne, je le dirai de l’ opération sigaultienne, que je regarde comme aussi inutile, and comme *plus meurtriere.*” Disc. Préliminaire. P. 30. “What I have said of the cesarean operation, I will also say of the sigaultian operation, that I consider it as equally unnecessary, and *more destructive.*” Despairing of being able to please you, (since you have blamed me for translating my own, and your quotations; \* and have also reflected upon me for not translating them,†) I have been induced to please myself *in giving the translation* of this *morceau*; by which means you, and even a less learned reader, will be enabled to comprehend it.

Lest the evidence, already adduced against your compound operation, should not be sufficient to eradicate from your mind every propensity to employ it, I will favour you with a strong expression of disapprobation, from the celebrated *Brambilla*, “Quin etiam, quod ma-

\* Detection, p. 43. 48. 91. † Detection, p. 22.

gis mireris, surrexerunt IMPOSTORES, qui instrumentis a se inventis miseras parientes divexant, aut *novas operationes proponunt*: exemplo sit *sectio symphysis ossium pubis*. Conservo in schola chirurgica militari pelvim mulieris, qui post novam istiusmodi operationem *ex terribili suppuratione quinto decimo die miserrime decessit.*"

INSTRUM. CHIRURG. Introduct. p. 20.—

Although I have now demonstrated from the published doctrines of Dr. Osborn, which you declare you *have followed, and shall continue to follow in such cases of difficulty, arising from distortion of the pelvis as shall occur to you\**, that your compound operation ought not to be performed in any case whatever, I cannot leave this interesting subject, without adducing your *ingenious* attempt to justify your project as given in your *Detection.*" "The Dr." you assert, "next furnishes me (p. 139.) with a case in point, for sanctioning the performance of my compound operation, in his abstract of Mr. Welchman's account of the division of the symphysis pubis; which was performed by him upon a woman, "from an opinion *that she had not the least chance of living without THE operation.*" From a belief of the impracticability of delivering in any other way, (unless indeed by the Cæsarean operation, *which this extract proves he deemed certainly fatal to the mother.*)" Page 81.

“ Stating the question very generally, I omitted to specify this case, or *to swell my pages by its recital*, but it is the one I alluded to in my essay.” Ibid. P. 82.

Of the remarks, which I judge it necessary to offer upon these *select* passages; the 1st is, that if you *really* were acquainted with *the particulars* of this interesting case, before you saw my abstract from it, I am astonished you did not bring it forward, for it is of more value than all the extracts, with which you have chosen *to swell* your former pamphlet: And the 2d is, that you have been playing one of your old tricks again, in this place, i. e. making a most egregious misrepresentation. Probably you could not avoid it, for as Horace justly observes, who was certainly well acquainted with the human heart,

*Naturam expellas furcâ, tamen usque recurret.*

EPIST. 10. LIB. 1.

“ For Nature, driven out with proud disdain,  
All-powerful goddess, will return again.”

FRANCIS.

The passage in Mr. Welshman's paper stands thus, “ During this day and night,” (Sept. 3. 1782) “ my son frequently visited her with me, and, from every circumstance, we were both



fully convinced *that she had not the least chance of living without AN operation*' Lond. Med. Journ. V. XI. p. 48. And in my abstract (*Defence, &c.* p. 139) I have stated, that "Mr. Welchman, and his son, frequently visited her during this day and night, and were both of opinion, that she had not the least chance of living without AN operation." Nor is there, in the whole of the case, or abstract, any sentence that corresponds with the *pretended* quotation, given in your book, or that will justify you in your conclusion, that *Mr. Welchman deemed the cesarean operation certainly fatal to the mother.* Another striking instance of the fertility of your imagination!

When, in my *Defence, &c. &c.* I considered the evidence for and against the delivery of Queen Jane Seymour, by the Cesarean Operation, I cautiously avoided stating my own opinion upon the subject, because positive assertions may be adduced on both sides of the question, and I do not see sufficient grounds to form a decided opinion upon. I chose, however, to enter into it at some length, since I could support my cause by a *Dilemma*. For supposing the prince (Edward the 6th.) to have been brought into the world by this operation, I could adduce your own concession, that the Queen was "*safely de-*

livered, although she lived only TWELVE days after her delivery." *Reflections*, p. 4; And supposing that she was not delivered in this manner, I should thence be enabled to prove, that the testimony of *Mauriceau*, and *Dionis*, your two grand authorities against the Cesarean Operation, is exceptionable, since they both declare, that this operation was performed upon her. Being desirous of avoiding, as much as possible, a repetition of what I have before advanced, respecting the birth of Edward the 6th, I shall only remind you, that you have forgotten to mention the evidence, adduced from *Aikin's Biogr. Memoirs*, in favour of the operation being performed in this case, and that, besides an imperfect statement of the arguments, you have been guilty of drawing an erroneous conclusion, as you will find on turning once more to my *Defence*. P. 12—16.

With respect to the points at issue, betwixt us, concerning the doctrines, and practice of *Hippocrates*, I must deny that I have misrepresented you in any way, and must maintain the truth of every thing I have stated, till you are enabled to demonstrate, that ARE and WERE are of the same signification; that JUDICIOUS DIRECTIONS are such as ought NOT to be practiced; and that the passages, adduced by me, do not exist in the writings, attributed to *Hippocrates*. You

tell us (P. 17.) that in the quotation, which I have given from the book de superfætatione, "the direction given is *not to extract* by the feet, but in a footling or breech-case, after the whole body is delivered, (*by the powers of Nature*) and the head only remains in the passage "to introduce both hands previously moistened with water, between the os uteri and the head, and in that way to extract it." Pray, Sir, where did you meet with any thing like the expression, "by the powers of Nature"? It does not exist in the original passage, and I should be glad to know, whether you would wish it to be considered as *a comment of your own*, or *a literal translation of one of your own Detections* ;\* since you do not like to be accused of an *interpolation*. In the next page you say, my third extract "absolutely proves, that it was not Hippocrates's practice to give manual assistance, as the Dr. pretends ; because breech and footling cases could not have proved so fatal, *if he had known how to manage them.*" Permit me to inform you, Sir, that I never said Hippocrates knew how to manage them. I have proved that he has given directions, by producing them ; but I never said that his di-

\* Your *Detections* may generally, perhaps always, be referred to one of these heads, 1st. Detections of circumstances or matters, which do not exist. 2dly. Detections of circumstances or matters, which were not concealed.

rections were *judicious*: You have given directions for the performance of the Cesarean Operation, but when I read them, I by no means supposed that you knew how to perform it properly.\* And a footling case, you ought to allow, is certainly a very dangerous one to the child, in hands no better acquainted with the management of it than Hippocrates was. In the preceding extract from your book is a quotation, from this author, containing directions for the extraction of the head of the child, when it comes with the feet foremost, and (in page 16) you have asserted, that “if the pelvis be well formed, little difficulty would occur till the head came to be delivered,” it is no wonder, therefore, that Hippocrates was not more particular in giving directions for bringing down the lower extremities and trunk. You add (p. 20), it is “*fully proved*” by the Dr’s. own quotations from Hippocrates, that there is no mention made by him

\* As you have never either performed the Cesarean Operation yourself, or seen it performed, it will appear a little extraordinary to those, who are unacquainted with you, that you should undertake to give directions concerning it; more especially, as you have declared the operation to be *unjustifiable*. Do you really believe, that your plan would succeed as well as those, adopted by J. Nuser, ὀρχολομος, and the other operators, mentioned by Rousset, whom you affect to ridicule?

of *manual delivery* by the feet." It belongs, I believe, exclusively to yourself to invent, and use such phrases as this, and *logical suicide*, and *erysipelalous fluid*.

In discussing your assertions relative to the precepts, given by *Celsus*, it seems, according to your account, that I have done you injustice, by taking the following *general* expression, "when it was necessary to turn,\*" in a *general sense*.— Pray, Sir, have not you found it necessary to *turn*† here? However this may be, being always disposed to accomodate you, I will, for the present, admit, that you did not mean by the above phrase, *whenever it was necessary to turn*, and will take your corrected statement, by which it appears, that you meant a third case described by *Celsus*, "and, that is, when the body *in transversum jacet*," in order to see what your ingenuity will

\* As nothing occurs in the writings of *Celsus*, which at all corresponds with the expression, "When it was necessary to turn," I have very properly called it "an interpolation of your own" *Defence*, &c. p. 24. Perhaps you would rather have had it styled a *Comment* of your own; or a *literal translation* of "in transversum jacet," or of "si forte aliter compositus est."

† Strong symptoms of this propensity to *turn* also occur at p. 62 of your *Detection*, where you consider what you had before asserted, relative to the management of the external wound, after the *Cesarean Operation*.

effect. You chuse to proceed in the interrogative form, by first asking, "When the body of the child lies across (*in transversum jacet,*) and neither the upper, nor lower extremities present, if the hand be introduced, and the FEET be brought down, what is that but a *turning* case?" Permit me to ask you a question, a good deal like your own: When the body of the child lies across (*in transversum jacet,*) and neither the upper, nor the lower extremities present, if the hand be introduced, and the HEAD be brought down, what is that but a turning case? And I will now shew you, *from the words of Celsus*, that the latter was his favourite practice, "Medici vero propositum est, ut infantem manu dirigat *vel in caput, vel ETIAM in pedes*, si forte aliter compositus est." "It is the object of the physician, when the child is differently situated, to *direct* it with the hand, in such a manner, as to bring either the head, or EVEN the feet to present." That it was the leading object with *Celsus*, to change the transverse into a head-presentation, is evident from *vel in caput* being placed first, and from the particle *etiam* being placed before *in pedes*. It seems, however, that you did not approve of the particle *ETIAM*, and therefore, *with your usual candour*, you have omitted it altogether, both in the original, and translation, given at page 23d of your *Detection*, "Medici vero pro-

positum est, ut infantem manu dirigat, vel in caput, vel in pedes, si forte aliter compositus est.”

“It is the object of the physician, should any other presentation occur, to bring down the head or feet.” You afterwards say, that I have assumed to myself the privilege of gross misrepresentation, and ask this question, “for, from my own words, as above transcribed, who could have supposed it possible that I should have been accused of saying, that Celsus directed the child to be turned, and brought by the feet, *when a hand presented?*” This is certainly implied in what you have said, and I have no doubt, but, if I had asserted what you have, you would have accused me of gross misrepresentation, and I should have deserved it. I must further intimate to you, that this accusation, and *gross misrepresentation*, which you talk so loudly of, prove to be only the following *interrogatory*, “Is it not necessary to turn the child, when a hand presents?” See Defence, &c. p. 24. In the same page of your Detection this strange question occurs. “Has Dr. Hull, in the course of his twenty years practice, in a very populous neighbourhood, never met with a case, in which, although the arm of the child presented, the feet were found near to the os internum, *on returning back the former to bring down the feet?*” My answer is, that I never did any thing so bad, *as to return back the arm to*

*bring down the feet*; and, as you appear to stand in need of information upon this important point, I will make you generally acquainted with my practice in arm-presentations. I do not attempt to return the arm for fear of breaking it, or injuring the mother, and because I know that it is neither necessary nor proper; for I find, that by introducing my hand along the child's arm, and bringing down its feet, the arm, in general, easily recedes, as the child is turned; and in those cases, where the arm does not recede, and the delivery cannot be easily accomplished, *after having brought down one or both feet* (either without the *os externum*, or so far that I can secure them by a ligature), whilst I pull at the feet with one hand, I elevate the thorax, or head of the child with the other; and when this practice, in consequence of monstrosity, or some other cause, proves ineffectual, I have recourse to *Embryotomia*, an operation which I shall describe in the latter part of this letter. Before I take my leave of your *choice Reflections* upon the writings of Hippocrates and Celsus, allow me to inform you, that you have erred even with respect to quantity, in saying of the former author, "His directions are *few*, but *judicious*, on the management of labours;" and of the latter, that "he is *more full* on the subject than his predecessor." See Pages 5 & 6.



This very extraordinary passage occurs at p. 34 of your *Detection*. "His conclusion is worthy of such premises, namely, that gastrotomy, or the section of the parites of the abdomen, is attended with less danger to the woman, than when hysterotomy, or the section of the womb is superadded to it. The Dr's. *legitimate* inference then, in this case, is, that the danger of the wound of the abdomen is lessened, by making another of equal size through the body of the womb!"— You have not referred to any part of my *Defence*, where they may be found, when you speak of this pretended *conclusion*, and *legitimate* inference. Nor can you find any thing in my book, which will justify you in making this *charitable* observation. I presume, you know that the separation of the placenta from the uterus, after a perfectly natural labour, is sometimes attended with very great danger; and it is from the danger attending the detachment of the placenta, in extrauterine cases, from parts, which do not possess the contractile power of the uterus, and are very susceptible of inflammation, or from leaving it, adhering within the cavity of the abdomen, that I have been induced to consider true cases of gastrotomy, where such attachment of the secundines exists, as likely to be more frequently disastrous than cases of hysterotomy: But I have no where intimated, that the wound, made into

the uterus, in the latter species of Cesarean Operation is not dangerous ; much less that the danger of the wound of the abdominal parietes is lessened by it. Fortunately for myself, I can support this opinion, not only by good reasons, but also by an *Argumentum ad hominem*, furnished by your friend Dr. Clarke, who has given the annexed case, and observations, in the third Vol. of the Memoirs of the Med. Soc. “ Some years ago my father was sent for to attend a woman, who, after the usual time of nine months, was seized with the pains of labour. She had passed through her pregnancy without any remarkable symptoms, which might lead to a knowledge of her situation, and was of the usual bulk of a woman at the full time. Upon examination, he found the os uteri very high up, and not in the smallest degree dilated, although there were alternate attacks, and remissions of pain ; he therefore considered they must be owing to some irritation, and, having ordered for her what he thought proper, left her. At this time the child could be felt through the parietes of the abdomen. He was not called to her again until after the space of eight days, during which time she had constantly been in pain ; the os uteri still continued in the same rigid state. This led him to make a more particular examination of the case than he had done before, when he could dis-

tinctly feel that the cervix was of the same length as in an unimpregnated uterus, and thought that he could distinguish the uterus not enlarged. Laying all these things together, he was persuaded that the child must be extrauterine. He was induced, from the importance of the case, to have a consultation, and accordingly sent for a Mr. Mansfield, a very eminent surgeon and man-midwife, at Thrapston, in Northamptonshire.—The woman being considerably exhausted by the long continuance of the pains, and the child being probably alive, it was determined to cut into the belly, as the only means of delivering the child, or preserving the mother. An incision was accordingly made into the abdomen, on the side where the child lay, just enough to extract it. Unfortunately the child was found dead. The child being taken away, the *placenta* was found *adhering generally to the kidneys, intestines, &c.* it was agreed, that *it* should be brought away, which was done. The woman, who had already lost much blood during the operation, *lost more on the delivery of the placenta, and, weakened by the discharge, she died in about four hours after the operation.*”

“ Indeed, it seems hardly possible, that, under these circumstances, a woman can recover, because, *if the placenta be brought away, she must*

*almost inevitably fall a sacrifice to the consequent flooding; and, if the placenta be left behind, we are warranted by experience to expect that such a mass of dead matter remaining in the cavity of the abdomen can hardly fail to produce the worst effects."*  
P. 197 & 198.

I shall also beg leave to lay before you Mr. Turnbull's sentiments upon the most proper management of the placenta, when the Cesarean Operation is performed in extrauterine cases; who is decidedly of opinion, that it ought not to be removed at the time of the operation. He observes, that "The dread of a profuse hæmorrhagy following the separation of the placenta, from parts not capable of contracting, has intimidated those, who have met with extrauterine cases, from performing the operation."  
MEM. of the Med. Soc. p. 210.

"It may be argued against (for) extracting the after-birth, that the danger is by no means equal to the risk, which the women must be exposed to, if it is permitted to remain, and to detach itself, &c." "On the contrary, my firm opinion is, that the separation and expulsion of the placenta should always be left to Nature, for the extraction will be generally fatal from the hæmorrhagy

*following it, besides the firm and extensive adhesion which it frequently forms with a part, or the whole of the visceral contents (as happened in the case of Mrs. Calvert, where it adhered universally to the abdomen, and almost every contained viscus,\*) would render its removal totally impracticable to the operator, and highly dangerous to the patient."* Ibid. P. 211.

"After having made a sufficient aperture, the child should be removed by slow and cautious means, afterwards dividing and tying the umbilical cord as in a natural labour, and leaving the maternal part of it hanging out of the wound, which may be daily pulled at, in a gentle manner, until the placenta shall be gradually separated, by

\* "The placenta was so extremely delicate, and possessed so little of its natural characteristics, that, at first view, I conceived it to be a thin membranous substance, formed by an exudation from the surface of the bowels in consequence of inflammation, an effect that not uncommonly happens from that cause. This membrane, in which the vessels were exceedingly small (so as to render the tracing of them with the knife impracticable), did not exceed in thickness one tenth of an inch, was ruptured at that part where the child's head appeared, and sent off filaments, from its reflected portions, to the peritoneum, stomach, liver, intestines, mesentery, meso-colon, and to the abdominal parietes." TURNBULL. Mem. of the Med. Soc. p. 192.—The case of Mrs. Calvert, is illustrated by several Engravings from Drawings, made by Mr. Pole.

which means the external wound will be prevented<sup>53</sup>  
from healing, until the time that the placenta, or  
every detached portion of it can be removed,  
and which also will afford an opportunity of  
using emollient and other injections, as relaxants,  
and to keep the cavity free from putrid, and other  
extraneous matter." Ibid. p. 212 & 213.

In my former letter to you, I merely stated my  
opinion, that it was the more eligible practice, to  
leave the placenta behind, when the Cesarean  
Operation is performed in extrauterine cases, I shall  
therefore, in this place, enter a little further into  
the consideration of this subject. The number  
of authentic cases, wherein Gastrotomy has been  
performed for the purpose of extracting a full  
grown and perfect fœtus, which had never been  
lodged in the uterus, is extremely small. One  
has occurred in this kindom which terminated  
unfortunately. It has been already mentioned,  
that in this case the child was dead, and that the  
placenta was extracted, and occasioned a he-  
morrhage,\* which, to me at least, appears to have  
contributed materially to the fatality of the event.  
I know of no other case, which I dare bring for-  
ward as a genuine extrauterine case, wherein the  
Cesarean Operation has been performed: But  
from the two cases given by Mr. Clarke, and  
Mr. Turnbull, and mentioned above, little doubt,

\* See above, p. 50.

~~which means the external wound will be prevented~~  
 I think, can remain, that the placenta ought not to be detached by the operator, from the *viscus*, or *viscera*, to which it is found adhering. Two questions, therefore, only arise. Are we to adopt the method, recommended by Mr. Turnbull? Or, are we to attempt to heal the wound by the first intention? The latter practice appears to me greatly preferable. For, in the first place, we are by no means certain, that a degree of circulation may not be supported in the placenta, sufficient to preserve the life of it, when it is attached to the abdominal contents in an extrauterine case. 2dly. If this should not be the case, and the placenta becoming a dead mass, should be detached by a natural process, it might either be absorbed, without exciting inflammation or ulceration of the cavity of the abdomen; or it might excite inflammation and abscess, or ulceration, by means of which an outlet would be formed, and its discharge effected, provided the patient were not destroyed by the previous inflammation. You have affected to ridicule the notion of the removal even of coagulated blood by absorption, in the following elegant observation, "for the Dr's. absorbents grow *so ravenous* after the Cæsarean section, as to eat up a pretty large clot of blood before any mischief can arise from its acting as an extraneous body." *Detection*, p.

8. And indeed it is very common for a man, who is fond of making a noise, when he can not bring forward an argument, to endeavour to overpower his adversary by ridicule. Ridicule, however, will not baffle the adversary, with whom you are now contending, you will find every stroke of this kind rebound upon yourself. You either do, *or ought to know*, that not only coagulated blood, but muscle, and even *bone* may and are removed by the absorbents; otherwise how does exfoliation take place? Or, how are all the soft parts of a foetus removed, and nothing more than its bones discharged through openings, made by the ulcerative process into the Rectum, or through the abdominal parietes? And if, which you cannot deny, (I beg your pardon, Sir, you can, but you ought not to do it,) the soft parts of a foetus can be thus removed by the absorbents, why may not a coagulum of blood, or the tender substance of the placenta, be taken up by the same vascular system.

You have expressed a very singular wish, at page 41st of your *Detection*, viz. "*My wish is to prevent the Accoucheurs of Manchester from being cruel.*"

Lest you should not know the true meaning of the word *cruel*, previously to my entering



upon the consideration of your wish, I must take the liberty to inform you, that it signifies *wanting compassion, or being pleased with giving unnecessary pain to others.* Your wish seems to *imply*, that the Accoucheurs in Manchester are of a cruel disposition, or, at least, that you are apprehensive, lest they should become cruel. It would have astonished me if any body, but yourself, had intimated any such injurious suspicion, respecting them.— Can you point out one, Sir, whose sympathy, and commiseration, are not excited, in a degree equal to your own, by the sufferings of a female, under the tormenting pains of labour?— Do you know *one*, who is not invariably induced, by the complaints of a parturient patient, to use his best efforts for the relief of the sufferer?— Finally, is there one *Accoucheur* in Manchester, either *less willing, or less able* than yourself, to afford the necessary assistance to a patient of this description?

With your usual degree of consistency you abuse me, in page 10th of your *Detection*, for bringing forward *circumstantial evidence* from Hume, to prove the cruelty &c. of King Henry the 8th; and, in page 68, you propose this striking question. “ Has he never heard that in cases of MURDER, for example, circumstantial evidence

is often all the evidence that can be obtained, and that a verdict of guilty, against the criminal, is founded on a *chain of circumstances*, none of which taken *singly*, would amount to *moral proof*?" I wish to observe upon this question, 1st, that the word MURDER,\* would have been more *emphatical*, if written thus **Murder**; and 2dly, that I consider myself *nearly* as well qualified, as yourself, to judge of the value of circumstantial evidence. If the circumstances, in themselves, be of *some value*, a *chain* of them may amount to proof, and of course lead to conviction; but, *if they be not of any value* when taken singly, they are of *no value*, when taken collectively. (See Defence, p. 121.) Ten thousand cyphers do not amount to an unit. Nor will a *chain* of circumstances, of the latter description, ever amount to any thing like a proof, or ever produce conviction.

You give this piece of information in p. 66 of your *Detection*," I have the satisfaction to possess his (Dr. Osborn's) favourable opinion of my late publication†; which my reader will probably deem a sufficient answer to Dr. H's. charge of misrepresentation." And, in the preceding

\* See also *Detection*, p. 96 & 97.

† Reflections, &c.

page, you say, "I presume Dr. Osborn *can tell* whether I have misrepresented him or not; certain it is, that Dr. H. has either grossly misrepresented, or egregiously mistaken me." That Dr. Osborn has spoken favourably of your Reflections, I have not the least doubt; since you have merited this from him, by your attempt to support his sentiments; neither do I entertain any doubt that *he can tell* whether you have misrepresented him: But as you do not say *he has told* you so, permit me to *repeat*, that *you have most egregiously misrepresented him,\** and to *tell* you, that *I have neither mistaken nor misrepresented your words.* If I have done any injustice to your expressions, why should you require every candid reader to understand you as meaning the space "from pubis to sacrum,"\* when you have unequivocally mentioned "the widest part of the pelvis;" the latter expression, is certainly not more concise than the former.

The *general reader* ought to be obliged to you for your information, that HEISTER "was the author of the first complete system of surgery; and that, as a whole, it still remains the best system of surgery extant." *Detection*, p. 45.—I should wish to propose two questions to you upon this matter. Have you read the *Institutiones*

\* See Defence of the Cesarean Operation, &c. 112.

*Chirurgicæ* of this author? Have you read the *Institutiones Chirurgicæ* of Platner, and the more recent Systems of Surgery, published in Great-Britain, France, and Germany? And, whatever your answer may be, I must take the liberty of observing to you, that I think you just as well qualified to speak upon the comparative value of Systems of Surgery, as you are to decide upon the estimation of *Leyden Degrees*, and *Æras in Midwifery*, which I shall consider by and by.

At the time, Heister published his *Institutiones*, it *was* the most valuable work extant upon Surgery. It is still entitled to a very respectable, though not the first place in a *Bibliotheca Chirurgica*, and on this account, as well as because you extol his system of surgery so much, it is that I shall bring forward his decisive testimony in favour of performing the Cesarean Operation to preserve the life of the mother, *even when the child is known to be dead.* “*Quando vero mater gravida adhuc viveret, & fœtus mortuus esset, nulla vero spes reliqua ipsum per vias naturales nasci aut educi posse, sicut verbi gratia fieri solet, quando indicia adessent fœtum vel in tuba Fallopiana, vel in ovario, vel in ipsius abdominis cavo hæerere, quemadmodum hujus generis exempla a variis observata sunt, vel forte in hernia quadam*

extra ventrem; quale exemplum SENNERTUS & HILDANUS descripserunt, vel si *callus*, vel *scirrhus*, vel tumor, vel exostosis circa *os uteri*, vel *in vagina* adesset, qui exitum sive extractionem foetus impossibilem redderet; vel *si nimia partium naturalium* sive ob coalitum vaginæ non emendandum, sive ob callum, sive ob ossium pubis malam conformationem, ut in nanis præsertim mulieribus interdum contigit, *occurreret angustia*, ut foetus propterea ex utero ejici non posset, prægnans vero ob dolores vehementissimos, qui sæpe adsunt, vel ob convulsiones, vel ob sanguinis vehemens profluvium, aliasue graves ob causas viribus exhauriretur, atque periculum mortis inde immineret, tunc sectionem hanc, licet veteres in vivis eam haud instituerint, & multi recentiores eam damnent, *omnino necessariam esse judico, ne et mater inde una cum foetu pereat.* Nam profecto tunc extractio per vias naturales, quam MAURICEAU præ sectione cæsarea in quovis partu præter naturam commendat, hic non succedit. Igitur in omnibus ejusmodi casibus; *ubi foetum per vias ordinarias educere impossibile est*, (utpote de quibus hic potissimum sermo & quæstio est) durum quidem & anceps, sed unicum tamen remedium est, ventris gravidæ incisio, si matrem a foetu hoc & morte mox imminente liberare volumus; quemadmodum apud varios scriptores fide dignos fausta peractæ hujus sectionis

exempla leguntur : ita ut hoc sit sensibus & experientiae obloqui, quando MAURICEAU scribit hanc sectionem *semper* matri esse lethiferam, quamque etiam ob causam ab ipso LA MOTTE, reprehenditur, licet huic operationi non adeo fa-veat, aliisque in rebus peccet, atque in optimis quibusdam occasionibus eam rejiciat." Inst. Chir. P. II. Sect. V. Cap. CXIII. § 4.

"Verum quia casus haud raro occurrunt, quorum supra jam multos indicavi, ubi foetum per consuetas vias extrahere impossibile est, & matri saepe ob foetum ventre contentum, gravissimum mortis periculum imminet, tunc sane barbarum & impium esse credo miseram mulierem, quae nostrum auxilium anxie implorat, aut saltem eo maxime indiget, deserere; sed potius *extremis malis extrema esse judico opponenda remedia.* Nam profecto melius tunc est ex sententia quoque summorum Medicinæ parentum, HIPPOCRATIS scilicet & CELSI, *anceps experiri remedium quam nullum,* aut ægras in deploratissimo illo statu, sub maximis cruciatibus relinquere ac certæ morti devovere, ubi adhuc spes ægras servandi, ut exempla fausta docent, superest."—IBID, § 6. The importance of these extracts must be the apology for their length; and, in order to keep you in good humour, I will not translate them. Indeed I do not think it neces-

sary, as I apprehend, that you are in possession of an English translation.\*

I have had occasion to consider the very singular *Assertions*, of Dr. Osborn, relative to the sensibility of the *fœtus in utero*, in my *Defence*, (P. 154—157.) and shall now adduce proofs of his inconsistencies and contradictions, when speaking of the Cesarean Operation and Embryulcia. He tells us, in the Preface to his *Essays*, when speaking of that degree of distortion, which is incompatible with the safety of both mother and child, “that the life of the child must of necessity be sacrificed to the preservation of the mother, or the mother herself, for the certain safety of her child, must be doomed to *inevitable destruction by the Cæsarean Opeartion, &c.*” P. 12.

\* Since the 21st and 22d pages of this letter were printed, I have had an opportunity of *ascertaining*, that your assertion, concerning the *translation* of Mauriceau employed by you, *is not correct*. For, instead of being, as you state, “the *seventh edition of Mauriceau’s works, translated by Dr. Hugh Chamberlen,*” it is the *seventh edition of Chamberlen’s Translation, made from the first edition of Mauriceau’s work*. This is proved by the dates of the *Approbation* and *Privilege du Roy*, of which the former is dated March 15, 1668, and the latter June 10th, 1668, the year in which the 1st edition of the original was published. For, if you will take the trouble to examine the 5th or 6th editions of Mauriceau, you will find, that both the *Approbation* and *Privilege du Roy*, given in these, bear a much later date.

At p. 436 of his Essays, He says, "I have all through this Essay mentioned the *Cæsarean Operation* as *certainly fatal*, and the *delivery by the crotchet* as *perfectly safe*." And immediately adds, "I was not however to be informed, that the *first*" (the *Cæsarean Operation*) "had succeeded in one or two recent instances on the Continent, nor that the *latter*" (the *Crotchet*) "had proved fatal in a very few instances in this country." He also informs us, in the *wonderful Case of Elizabeth Sherwood*, whom he delivered with the *Crotchet*, that "Even the *first part of the operation*, which, in general, is sufficiently easy, was attended with considerable difficulty, and *some danger*." P. 245. The Dr. has also this very curious passage in his account of *Sherwood's case*, "After waiting a few minutes" (after the head was born) "a napkin was put round the neck of the child, and given to an assistant. I then introduced the crotchet, and (first opening the thorax) fixed it firmly in the sternum. By our united force, strongly exerted for about a quarter of an hour, first one shoulder was brought down and then the other; and lastly, after opening the abdomen, the whole body, (with the sternum and spine pressed close together), were extracted in the most putrid and almost dissolved state." Page 24. It will, I believe, puzzle most persons to conceive how an almost dissolved body should bear the united



*force of two men strongly exerted upon it for about a quarter of an hour, without giving way.* And can any unprejudiced person, after reading these discordant extracts, regard Dr. Osborn's authority, relative to the Cesarean Operation, and Embryulcia, as entitled to much respect, or attention?

The Dr. ends his Essays with this striking declaration, "I cannot conclude without observing that the opinions contained, and the practice recommended in the preceding Essays, have been constantly and publicly taught by me for twenty years; and I have the satisfaction of knowing, that Dr. Clarke, my present colleague in lectures (who, from the acuteness he possesses, the uncommon pains he has taken, and the experience he has already had, is well qualified to judge), perfectly agrees with me in these opinions, and I am persuaded, therefore, will continue to teach the same doctrine, and recommend the same practice, so long as our school remains, or he continues to read lectures on midwifery." And he is so extremely indignant with his late Colleague, Dr. Denman, for having in consequence of further experience, and much deliberation on the subjects, recommended the use of the *Vectis*, and the employment of the Cesarean Operation, that we do not need to be surprized, if we find Dr. Clarke speaking rather obscurely and equivo-

cally upon the Cesarean Section, lest he should be treated in the same harsh manner by his Colleague, as Dr. Denman and Professor Hamilton have already been.

After these preliminary observations, respecting Dr. Clarke, we will, if you please, proceed to examine the extract from his 2d letter, dated March 9th, which is given in pages 85, and 86, of your Detection. “In my opinion, the Cesarean Operation ought not to be performed, in any case of deformity of the pelvis, on account of the deformity alone, *especially when it has arisen from rickets, in any dimensions of the pelvis, which admit of extracting the head by the crotchet, &c.*” There is no intimation, in any part of this extract, that the Cesarean Operation is either inevitably *fatal*, or *unjustifiable*; there is, if I understand it, even a *tacit acknowledgment*; 1st, that the dimensions of the pelvis are, by other causes (if not by Rickets), sometimes so much diminished, as not to allow the head to be extracted by the crotchet; 2dly, that the operation is thence rendered necessary in these cases; and, 3dly, that it is also necessary in other cases, but not simply on account of the deformity of the pelvis.

I have *never* asserted, that the Cesarean Ope-

ration ought to be preferred to the Crotchet, where the latter can be used with safety to the mother; although you seem to intimate, that I have, by this curious observation: "When I read his extracts intended to prove, that the Cæsarean operation should be performed without delay, and even in cases where *instruments*, to a moral certainty, may be used with success, &c." *Detection*, p. 3. If *by instruments* you mean the Crotchet and Perforator, I call upon you to point out the passage, which you have neglected to produce.

In page 59 of your *Detection*, you say, "In a cause, in which humanity is so deeply interested, it will be a sufficient consolation to me to have *an unit* against me." This, I can easily believe, for it appears to be a sufficient consolation to you, to have *an unit for you*. Since I do not know any *Author*, or *Practitioner*, in this Kingdom, who entertains the same notions, relative to the Cæsarean Operation as yourself, except Dr. Osborn.

When I wrote my *Defence of the Cæsarean Operation*, I was induced, on account of the importance of the subject, to enter into an ample discussion of the propriety of it, and to demonstrate, 1st, that cases *do occur*, in which it is im-

possible to effect the delivery of the patient, without having recourse to the operation; and, 2dly, that the operation has been very frequently successfully performed in France, and other nations on the European Continent, and that in England *one parent, and several children*, have been preserved by it.

One very interesting case, in which the Cesa-rean Operation was performed successfully in France, under very deplorable circumstances, is related by you (*Detection*, P. 30—33.), from some translation, I suppose, of the *Observations de Chirurgie*, par H. F. Le Dran. The subject of it was attacked with a *flooding*, according to your account,\* on the 22d of April, 1726; and

\* But, in the original, it is stated, that *the waters burst* on the 22d of April, and that on the 23d a violent flooding came on. “Catherine Trou femme de Michel Lamy Vigneron, âgée de 43 ans, & de petite stature, avoit eu plusieurs couches fâcheuses. Etant grosse de son treizième enfant, & se croyant prête d’accoucher le 22 Avril, elle sentit que les eaux perçoient, & le 23 il lui prit une perte de sang très violente. &c.” Tome 2. P. 247. Hence you see the danger of either translating for yourself, or using such translations as happen to be within your reach (even though they be made from the *seventh* edition of the original). The surest way to avoid errors, of this kind, in future, will be to have nothing at all to do with either the original writings, or translations, of *Greek, Latin, Italian, German, or French*,

had an excessive loss of blood on the day following: Pains, like those of labour, came on, continued four or five days, and ended by a very fetid and copious diarrhæa, "*all things appearing at the same time disposed for the birth of the child.*" The fever, which supervened, was very considerable, and weakened the patient very much. On the 13th of May, "the husband, changing the linen, *found the placenta hard, dried,† and very fetid,*" according to your account. On the 16th of May, M. Metivier, who communicated the case to Le Dran, "found a tumour situated upon the *linea alba*, a fingers breadth below the navel: it was black, and the *gangrene* extended three fingers breadth circularly, and had discharged abundance of serosity;" he cut off all that was gangrened with his scissars, and extracted a putrid child at the wound. The discharge was very acrimonious, and passed through the aperture in the abdomen, and by the vagina. The woman recovered, and enjoyed a good state of

Authors. It seems as if they had *actually* entered into a conspiracy against you, and were determined to mislead you, make you appear ridiculous, and humble you. You may, however, safely set them all at defiance, as far as *humiliation* is concerned.

† I have another error to notice here; *in the original* it is said that the placenta was half-dried." Le 13 May au matin le mari changeant les linges, trouva le Placenta ou Arrierefaix sorti, à moitié desseché & fort-puant." Ibid. p. 249.

health afterwards. M. Metivier adds, "Whether it was formed and nourished in the *Tuba Fallopiana*, or whether it had made a passage through the uterus is what I do not pretend to explain."

Upon this case, which you, I presume, consider as both genuine and authentic, I shall offer a few remarks. 1st. The Discharge of the Waters, the Menorrhagia, the Labour-pains, and the expulsion of the placenta, before there was any aperture in the Abdominal parietes, taken collectively, furnish the most satisfactory evidence, that the fœtus, in the beginning of the labour, was contained in the Uterus. 2dly. No doubt can, I think, be entertained by any unprejudiced person, who will read the case with attention, that the fœtus afterwards passed into the cavity of the abdomen, in consequence of a rupture of the uterus. 3dly. This poor woman suffered successively under a *flooding*, a *rupture of the uterus*, a *diarrhœa*, a *fever*, and a *mortification of the belly*; and, when labouring under this last mentioned dreadful malady, the Cesarean Operation was performed upon her successfully, and she perfectly recovered her health. 4thly. You have brought forward this case, "to shew that Nature is competent to the making of extraordinary efforts." *Detection*, p. 30. Pray, Sir, do you call the *flooding*, the *rupture of the uterus*,

the *fever*, and the *gangrene*, which occurred here, *efforts of Nature*? If these be, according to your notions, *efforts of Nature*, I am afraid, you are unable to distinguish betwixt the *efforts*, and the *sufferings* of Nature. “*Quid natura faciat,*” and “*Quid natura ferat,*” appear to be of the same signification in your eyes. 4thly. With very great reason may the following complaint be applied to you, and all those *great masters* of Surgery, who hold forth the same sentiments upon the *Cesarean Operation*; “*Il semble donc vrai, que nature ait grandement à se plaindre de sa servante Chirurgie, & des grands maitres, qui la tiennent en tutelle, veu que leur monstrant à l’œil, & au doigt tant d’exemples en cet endroit pour secourir le genre humain (dont ils font profession), & les poussant par force comme par l’espaule à ce faire surement, & avec si heureux succès, ils n’en veulent toutefois, ou n’en osent approcher.*”—  
 ROUSSET. *Traité nouveau de l’HISTEROTOMOTOKIE.*

The case, which occurred to Mr. Barlow, has been adduced by me as a proof, that the *Cesarean Operation* has been performed once with success, in England, as far as relates to the preservation of the mother; and, in my *Synoptical Tables*, you will find that eight children have been

preserved by it in Great-Britain, none of which could otherwise have been born alive. Whether the child, in the case of Jane Foster, was extracted through a wound of the Uterus, or thro' a wound of the Abdominal parietes only, the mother was, upon either supposition, delivered by the Cesarean Operation; as I shall shew hereafter, when I come to defend the Operation *on the ground of authorities*. I have given my reasons, in my *Defence*, P. 72—74, for considering the case of Jane Foster, as a case of *Gastrotomy*: But Mr. Barlow, who was the operator, persists in affirming, that it was a true case of *Hysterotomy*, as related by himself, in the *Medical Records and Researches*, P. 154—162. And I shall now lay before you a further account of the case, in an extract from a letter, which I have just received from him, premising, in justice to him, that he lived with me nearly five years, and that I never had any reason to doubt his fidelity, during the whole of that period.

“ After making an incision, about five inches and a half in length, in a *longitudinal* direction, and a little to the left side of the *Linea Alba*, the *Peritonæum* and *Uterus* were divided with the knife, and the *foetus* extracted *through the incision*, made into that *viscus*. The *Uterus* was very thin, but possessed its contractile power so com-



pletely, that the edges of the wound, made therein, receded from the knife very quickly. As an incontrovertible proof of the case being *truly uterine*, the *Liquor Amnii* was discharged through the *vagina*, and the *Lochia* passed the same way, immediately after the operation.— Had the Uterus been ruptured, it is most probable, that a discharge of blood would have taken place *per vias naturales*, previously to the operation, or an effusion of blood would have been made into the abdominal cavity, and that the affection of the system would have presented more alarming symptoms than were observable. Were we to give credit to every little vague report, which women are too apt to believe, during the progress of labour, (particularly if it favour the marvellous), we might often be misled. And, if either of the Messrs. Hawarden supposed the uterus to have been ruptured, why did they not mention their suspicion of this accident, before the operation? If the patient had expressed herself to that effect (which, I believe, she never did), I think we should have been led to make a very particular examination of the Abdominal Parietes, which, to my knowledge, none of us ever attempted. I affirm, that Mr. Hawarden was too much agitated to be capable of attending perfectly to the steps of the operation, and that, when I mentioned to him (before we

left the patient's room) that I was surprized at the *thinness of the uterus, and its complete contractility* after such a protracted labour, Mr. H. made no reply but afterwards misrepresented the case, and, amongst other circumstances, erroneously stated to you, and others, that the external incision was made in a transverse direction.\*"

" I should suppose, you will scarcely think it necessary, in order to substantiate the fact, relative to the thinness of the uterus, that I should produce a case, where the uterine parietes were exactly the same as in the case of Jane Foster. And I can refer you to various authors, who have found, upon opening that viscus, a material difference in its thickness. I see, therefore, no reason to call in question the genuineness of this case, upon so slight grounds, as the difference of a line or two in the thickness of the parietes of the uterus. In the *Select Cases in Midwifery*, published by Dr. Jas. Hamilton, of Edinburgh, we find the following particulars, stated to have occurred, in the Twin case of Mrs. Tweedale :  
 " When she lay on her left side, the head of a child was felt so distinctly a little to aside, and

\* Mr. Hawarden informed me, in one of his letters, that " he (Mr. Barlow) made a *transverse* incision in the left side, beginning a little below the navel, and tending obliquely towards the back part of the Os Ilium, about six inches in length."

above the umbilicus, that the sutures could be clearly traced." P. 125. "From the prodigious distension of the uterus its parietes, in some places, were probably as thin as a sheet of paper." P. 133.—CHAPMAN relates the case of a woman, who died in labour, and where, having obtained leave to examine the uterus, he found that *viscus*, contrary to the opinion of some Accoucheurs, very thin. See Page 147—152.—Two more cases are mentioned, in his work, illustrative of the same fact. See P. 146—170. MAURICEAU in his *Diseases of Women in Child-bed*, translated by Chamberlen, Chap. 4th, mentions the same circumstance from his own knowledge, and brings forwards other testimony, in favour of what he has advanced, for example, Galen, Car. Stephanus, Vesalius, &c. &c. The same author (p. 240) in treating of the Cesarean Section, cautions the operator to be "careful not to thrust his instrument at once too far in, thinking to find the womb a finger or two thick, as all authors affirm, contrary to truth; in which he would be deceived as those are, who never well consider'd it: for it is very certain, that, at the time of labour, whilst it contains the child and waters in it, it is not above a single line thick, or the thickness of a Half-Crown; although they have all sang to us, that by Divine Providence, and a miracle, the more 'tis extended

with the child, the thicker it grows, which is absolutely false." The late DR. ROSS, Physician at Hamburgh, speaking of a case (See Duncan's Annals of Medicine for the year 1798, P. 306), which occurred to him, says, " I now opened the Uterus, which was not thicker than the eighth part of an inch, and tore as easily as a sheet of writing paper, &c." Lest you should be inclined to doubt the testimony of some of the above authors, I will introduce what is said of the Anatomical knowledge of VESALIUS in Hutchinson's Biographia Medica. " He (Vesalius) has ever, been considered, as the restorer of Anatomy in which he was indeed profoundly skilled.— THUANUS relates a singular proof he gave of his exact knowledge of the human body, whilst he was at Paris; where, with his eyes bound, he undertook to mention any the least bone, that should be put into his hands, defying them to impose upon him, and he did actually perform what he undertook. Page 475."

" The above quotations will, I think, appear to those, who view the subject with impartiality, to be equally well founded with any *opinions*, which have been brought forwards, in opposition to the statement, I have given of Jane Foster's case; I

shall, therefore, be glad to see them appear in your Letter."

Signed, JAS. BARLOW.

Had it been my intention merely to refute what you have advanced, upon the impropriety of having recourse to the Cesarean Operation, in any case whatever, I could have done this in a few pages: But, anxious to investigate a truth, of great importance, and to establish the necessity of this operation against every objection, that has been, or may be, adduced by persons, much better informed upon the subject than yourself, I was induced to bring forward some facts and opinions, that by you are considered, as militating against the operation. This very fair manner of meeting the question you are pleased to name *logical suicide*; a crime that you will not, I believe, be guilty of *intentionally*.

Finding you very fond of adducing *strong expressions* against the Cesarean Operation, and that, whilst I was indulging you with a delicious *morçeau*, I could prove Marchant guilty of a deviation from truth, with respect to the character of Rousset, I was led to favour you with his Epigram (See my *Defence*, p. 43); and I must beg leave to repeat it here, with *your adumbration* affixed to it.

“ PRO REGIO PARISIENSIVM CHIRVRGORVM  
COLLEGIO.”

“ Ordinis es cuius, rogo dic Rossete, vel artis  
Si medicorum (inquis) te suus ordo rogat;  
*Nec tu donatus lauro, tituloque medentum,  
Et furtim exerces, quod titulo ipse nequis:*  
Sed tu dum scindis miseris per frustra parentes,  
Artis eris cuius, dic rogo, *carnificis.*”

MARCHANT.

“ Say, are you surgeon, quack, or doctor bred?  
For sure one trade's enough for such a head—  
Nor Scotch, nor English schools gave your degree,  
Cheaply dubb'd doctor by Dutch courtesy.  
But while you slaughter many a pregnant dame,  
You quit the doctor's for the butcher's name.”

W. SIMMONS.

You are pleased to say, (*Detection*, p. 35) that the above is not meant “for a literal translation, but merely as an *easy compliment*, resembling the original, or (to shew the Dr. that I am acquainted with a learned word, an *adumbration* of it,) which may be applied to any Cæsarean operator, who not having the means of procuring a *really honourable degree*, from Edinburgh, or the English Universities, has been obliged to have recourse to Leyden for a Passport.” As I was never present at the examination of a Candidate for a Medical Degree, at Edinburgh, it is not in my power to state, from my own observation, whether the examinations are more or less strict there

than at Leyden: But, from conversation with several Edinburgh Graduates, I am led to believe, that there is little or no difference in this respect. And I am disposed to consider every degree, conferred after such fair and full examinations, conducted *in the latin language*, as are made at Leyden, Edinburgh, or Glasgow, as *really honourable degrees* (however much they may be reflected upon by those, who are not qualified to judge of them). It is not uncommon for persons, of a similar disposition with yourself, *to affect to despise what they are unable to attain*, and your attack upon a Leyden Degree reminds me forcibly of *the Cur barking at the Moon*. I suppose you meant your *easy compliment* for Drs. PERCIVAL, BARDSLEY, and HOLME,\* as well as myself, since we have all had the honour to receive our Diplomas at Leyden.

I have frequently heard it asserted, that Mickle's Translation of the *Lusiad* of CAMOENS is superior, even in spirit, to the Original, but have always suspected, that this opinion has arisen either from partiality for one of our own poets,

\* I cannot avoid observing in this place, that, since you have, without provocation, cast unfounded reflections, and in the most public manner, upon the medical degrees of these gentlemen, you ought to make an equally public apology to *them* for your conduct.

or from an insufficient knowledge of the Portuguese language. However this may be, I think little doubt can be entertained, that your *admiration* of Marchant's Epigram is greatly superior to the original, and I will therefore consider it more particularly.

“ Say, are you *surgeon, quack, or doctor bred?*”

That I am a Doctor of Physic, you have acknowledged; consequently it will not be necessary to enter much further into the consideration of this part of the question. I think it, however, material to state, that you and I were fellow-students,\* and that we attended, at the same time, Dr. Fordyce's Lectures on the Practice of Physic, &c. &c.; and also to adduce the following Testimonial, in proof of my having been a Pupil of the Physicians to St. Thomas's Hospital. It is inserted in the 77th Vol. of the Philosophical Transactions, along with a Case of numerous Births, which occurred to me several years ago.

“ Copy of a Letter from DR. BLANE, Physician to his Majesty's Navy, and to St. Thomas's Hospital, F. R. S. to Dr. Garthshore, Physician to the British Lying-in-Hospital.

\* See Detection, p. 4.



*Sackville-Street, June 22, 1786.*

DEAR SIR,

A few days ago, I received from the country, an account of a woman, who was delivered of five children at a birth in April last. As your extensive experience and reading in this line of practice enable you to judge, how far the fact is rare or interesting, I submit it to you, whether it deserves to be communicated to the Royal Society. MR. HULL, the gentleman who sent me the case, is a very sensible and ingenious practitioner of physic at Blackburn, in Lancashire. He attended the labour himself from beginning to end, and his character for fidelity and accuracy is well known to me, as he was formerly a pupil at the hospital to which I am physician, so that no fact can be better authenticated. He mentions also, that he has preserved all those five children in spirits; and, if desired, he will send them for the inspection of the Society.\*

I am, with great regard, &c.

GILBERT BLANE.

\*They were accordingly sent; and having been exhibited to the Society when the paper was read, are now deposited in the Museum of Mr. JOHN HUNTER."

As a Surgeon, I am, *at least*, equally as regularly bred as yourself, and I have the best Diploma, which is granted in England, namely, the grand Diploma of the Corporation of Surgeons of London.

A *Quack*, according to Dr. Johnson, is “*a vain boastful pretender to Physic; one who proclaims his own medical abilities in public places.*” DICTIONARY. If you find this character more applicable to me than yourself, you are at perfect liberty to declare it.

“For sure one trade’s enough for such a head—”

I shall dismiss this line with a single observation—One *tongue* appears to be enough for your head—the vulgar one!

“Nor Scotch, nor English schools gave your degree,  
Cheaply dubb’d doctor by Dutch courtesy.”

The greatest part of what I have to remark, upon these lines, has been anticipated at p. 77. & 78. I shall, therefore, in this place, content myself with desiring you to furnish the world with the *expence*, attending a graduation at Leyden.

“But while you *slaughter* many a pregnant dame,  
You quit the doctor’s for the *butcher’s* name.”

In these, which are the concluding lines, there is not the slightest appearance of *invective*, or

*boorish vulgarity.* Your *adumbration* is more easy and elegant, more polite and complimentary, even than the original. "You slaughter" is far preferable to "*per frustra scindis*," you cut in pieces. And the term "*carnifex*" which signifies a *Hangman*, or an *Executioner*, you have rendered much less harsh, and more harmonious, by translating it "butcher," a term, it would seem, singularly applicable, in your opinion, to a regular surgeon, or an accoucheur.

I was a good deal surprized to find, that, notwithstanding all the noise you have made, relative to the degree of sensibility, possessed by a *fœtus in utero*, you have not ventured to support Dr. Osborn's *assertions*.

Nor was I less surprized to discover, that you had not a single new observation, of any kind, to offer, respecting the signs of a dead or living child, whilst it remains *in utero*. I was pleased, however, with reading the extracts upon this subject, from Dr. Denman's Introduction to Midwifery, given in your pamphlet; and shall take this opportunity of remarking, in general terms, that if you will adopt the precepts of your old master Dr. Denman (whom you do not seem disposed to acknowledge), in preference to those

of Dr. Osborn, you will not be a worse accoucheur.

The principal merit of YOUR\* *Detection* consists in misrepresenting my arguments, or stating only a part of them, and then attempting to refute your own statement. I shall only examine here one example of this kind, in addition to those given above, and must refer you to my *curious* table, for many others, which it is not my intention to consider more particularly.

The 60th page furnishes the following passage. "As the Dr. grounds the propriety of his practice on exceptions to the general course of experience, there must be something uncommon in

\* I have every where named it YOUR *Detection*; but I find that many of my friends, who have read it, are of opinion that it is not *authentic*, i. e. that *your Detection* is not the production of the man, whose name it bears. Some of them even go so far as to say, that they consider the quotations from *Sterne*, and even the *Adumbration* of Marchant's Epigram, as furnished by *another hand*. Surely you would not attempt to immortalize your own name, by arrogating to yourself the *inimitable* performance of another person. However this may be, I thought it right to intimate it to you, in order to give you an opportunity of asserting your claim to the *whole* of the work, or of acknowledging the contrary by remaining silent.

all his cases; but, in the present instance, *he outdoes his usual outdoings*, for, without troubling himself to learn the particular circumstances, or the result of Professor Sandiforth's case, *he introduces it to strengthen his opinion* in favour of the operation. There are men in this country, to say the least of them, as eminent in their profession, as Professor Sandiforth, or any other Professor upon earth; *yet it has ever been unanimously agreed* that the Cæsarean Operation should never be performed, when the delivery can be accomplished by other means. The patient being alive next day, only proves that she did not die immediately, (if the case terminated unsuccessfully;) for as well might it be said, that the late Mr. Mellish did not die of the pistol shot in his forehead, because he lived many days after the perpetration of the crime. But I hope the Dr. will receive some papers from Leyden, as well as from Germany, and give their contents in his future elaborate performance."

Upon this extract I have to remark; 1st. that I do not ground the propriety of my practice on exceptions to the general rule; 2d. that the case of Cæsarean Operation, which occurred to Professor Sandiforth, is adduced *for the particular purpose* of proving, that this operation is not dis-

continued in Holland\*, in consequence of the following observation, given in the 33d. page of your former pamphlet, "And in Holland, it" (the Cesarean Operation) "was performed by the celebrated Campert†, but one fatal case was sufficient to satisfy him;" hence, all your admirable reasoning upon the above case, and your illustration of it by a select anecdote, are totally irrelevant; 3dly, that, notwithstanding your decisive tone, I cannot admit your capability of determining upon the degree of eminence, which foreign Professors have attained; and with respect to Prof. Sandifort, in particular, I much doubt whether you are acquainted with the *Titles* even of one half of his works; and, 4thly, I shall prove, hereafter, that men of great eminence, upon the Continent of Europe, have maintained, and do still maintain, *that the Cesarean Section ought to be preferred to the Crotchet*, whenever the child is known to be alive.

Before I conclude this part of my letter, I think it necessary to state, that I have neither practised, nor recommended, the Cesarean Operation, in any case, where the delivery can be

\* See my Defence p. 97—99.

† Amongst many other things, which you have neglected to attend to, you have forgotten to inform me, where this opinion of Camper is to be found, and to answer some important queries, proposed in p. 125 of my *Defence*.

accomplished by other means, with more safety to the mother, or equal safety to the infant.— When the two deplorable cases, in which I have performed it, occurred, I was perfectly acquainted with the published opinions of Dr. Osborn, relative to the Cesarean Section, and Embryulcia, &c. : but I never thought *them* entitled to much attention; and I knew no other British Author, or Practitioner, who entertained the same notions, relative to the former operation. In a case of extreme difficulty, and danger, it is not, I apprehend, a *single voice*, however loudly exerted, but the *majority* of respectable British Authors, which is to be the guide of a British Practitioner.\* And the practice, adopted by my-

\* The following account of a recent decision of the Medical Society of Paris, on the propriety of performing the Cesarean Operation, is given in the Medical and Physical Journal for June 1799.

“ The Medical Society of Paris, after having heard the Memoir of Citizen *Baudelocque*, on the Cæsarean Section, read twice, together with the interesting discussion it has produced; and considering

1st. That it is proved by experience, that there are cases, in which delivery is impossible by natural means;

2. That, in a number of cases, the Cæsarean Operation is the only means, which affords any hope of saving the life of the child; and

3. That this operation, serious as it is, has been *often* practised with complete success—

self, and the gentlemen who were concerned with me, is sanctioned by the concurrent testimony of all our latest and best systematic writers on Surgery, and Midwifery; by SMELLIE, JOHNSON, HAMILTON, DENMAN, BELL, &c. &c.

“Are unanimously of opinion, that it is the *duty* of the practitioner to have recourse to the Cæsarean Operation, in those cases, where his professional skill deems it proper: and, in order to enable men of science, as well as the public, to judge of an operation, so interesting to humanity, social order, and the progress of the heart, the society decrees, that Citizen Baudelocque’s memoir, containing his inquiries, and reflections relative to this subject, shall be printed, and distributed among the different Administrative and Judicial Bodies”—  
Page 391.

END OF THE FIRST PART.



19  
 and the gentleman who were concerned with  
 and is sanctioned by the concurrent testimony of  
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 gery, and Midwifery; by Smellie, Johnson,  
 Hamilton, Denman, Barr, &c. &c.

"The authority of opinion, that is the duty of the  
 practitioner to have recourse to the *Caesarian Operation*, in  
 those cases where it is necessary, is well as the  
 to order to enable them to do so, as well as the  
 to order to enable them to do so, as well as the

CORRECTIONS.

- | Page. | Line. |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| 14    | — 5.  | <i>For domitis. Romana read domitis Romana.</i>                    |
| 42    | — 16. | <i>For inter polation read interpolation.</i>                      |
| 44    | — 8.  | <i>For aserted read asserted.</i>                                  |
| 53    | — 1.  | <i>Insert the 1st. line of page 54.</i>                            |
| 62    | — 5.  | <i>For sensibiility read sensibility.</i>                          |
|       | — 16. | <i>For Opeartion read Operation.</i>                               |
| 68    | — 27. | <i>For here in the original; read here; in the ori-<br/>ginal.</i> |

N. B. In the first letter P. 227. L. 5. *for years  
read hours.*

END OF THE FIRST PART