Aphorisms on the application and use of the forceps, and vectis; on preternatural labours, on labours attended with hemorrhage, and with convulsions / [Thomas Denman].

#### **Contributors**

Denman, Thomas, 1733-1815

#### **Publication/Creation**

London: J. Johnson, 1793.

#### **Persistent URL**

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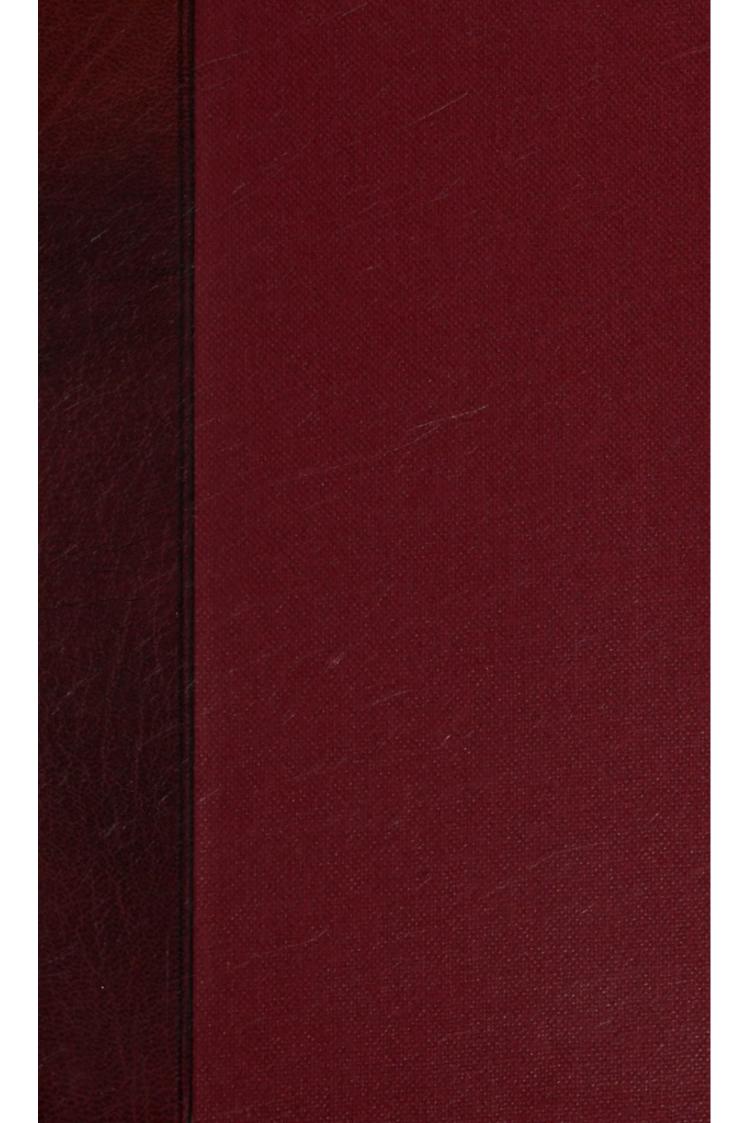
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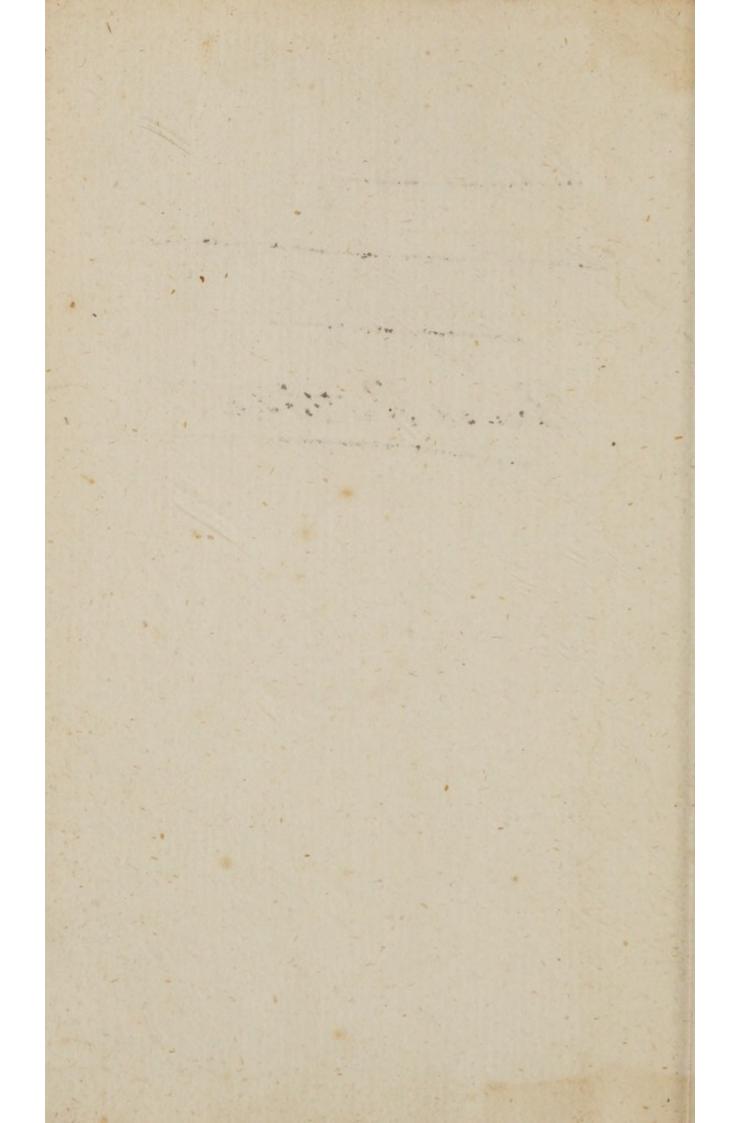
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# APHORISMS

ON THE

APPLICATION AND USE

OF THE

## FORCEPS AND VECTIS;

ON PRETERNATURAL LABOURS,
ON LABOURS ATTENDED WITH HEMORRHAGE,
AND WITH CONVULSIONS.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

## BY THOMAS DENMAN, M. D.

SICIANS, LONDON; AND HONORARY MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY AT EDINBURGH.

### LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD.



HISTORICAL MEDICAL

# DR. THOMAS SAVAGE,

DEAR SIR,

These Aphorisms, designed for the use of students, I request you will permit me to dedicate to you. I wish also to take this opportunity of conveying those sentiments of respect I have ever entertained for the integrity and benevolence which so eminently distinguish your character; and to express my gratitude for that kindness and partiality you have always shewn to,

DEAR SIR,

Your obliged, and affectionate humble fervant,

Dec. 7, 1792, THOMAS DENMAN.

This may with prefuely to

# ARRANGEMENT

OF

## LABOURS.

## FOUR CLASSES.

I. NATURAL.

II. DIFFICULT.

III. PRETERNATURAL.

IV. Anomalous, or Complex.

## CLASS I. NATURAL LABOURS.

CHARACTER. Every labour in which the process is completed within twenty-four hours, the head of the child presenting, and no adventitious affistance being required.

## VARIETIES.

- 1. The face inclined towards the facrum.
- 2. The face inclined towards the offa pubis.

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3. The

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- 3. The head presenting with one or both arms.
- 4. The face presenting.

That part of a child which descends lowest into the pelvis, is to be esteemed the presenting part.

# Circumstances attending Labours.

- I. Anxiety.
- 2. Rigours.
- 3. Strangury.
- 4. Diarrhœa.
- 5. Mucous discharge, with or without a mixture of blood.
- 6. Pain.

# Causes of pain.

- 1. Expulsatory action of the uterus.
- 2. Resistance made to the effect of that action.

# Distinctions of pain.

- 1. True.
- 2. False.

Causes and signs of false pain. Means of removing them.

Means by which true pains are supposed to be regulated, and their effect promoted.

Note. The pains attending labour are fubsequent to the action of the uterus, though in common language the word pain, and the action of the uterus, are used synonymously.

# Progress of natural labours.

Three periods or stages.

Ist period.

Dilatation of the os uteri.

Rupture of the membranes.

Discharge of the waters.

2d period.

Descent of the child.

Dilatation of the external parts.

Expulsion of the child.

3d period.

Separation of the placenta.

Expulsion or extraction of the placenta.

Note. It very often happens that the membranes do not break till the head of the child is on the point of being expelled. This

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North. It very often happens that the membranes do not break till the head of their children on the print of bring expelled. This

is the natural and most desirable progress of a labour, and it is a negative proof that the labour has been well conducted; that is, not interrupted. But the description given above, will answer the purpose of impressing a clear idea of labours in general.

The two circumstances which principally require attention in natural labours are, to guard the perinæum and to extract the placenta with discretion.

## CLASS II. DIFFICULT LABOURS.

CHARACTER. Every labour in which the process is prolonged beyond twenty-four hours, the head of the child presenting.

Note. Some objections may be made to this definition taken from time, but it will be found to apply to practical uses better than if it was taken from circumstances.

It would often be extremely difficult to fay with precision when a labour actually begins, because

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because of the number of concurrent changes. But in general some progress must be made before we can allow a labour to be commenced.

## FOUR ORDERS.

#### ORDER I.

Labours rendered difficult from the inert or irregular action of the uterus.

#### CAUSES.

- 1. Too great distention of the uterus.
- 2. Partial action of the uterus.
- 3. Rigidity of the membranes.
- 4. Imperfect discharge or dribbling of the waters.
- 5. Shortness of the funis umbilicatis.
- 6. Weakness of the constitution.
- 7. Fever.
- 8. Want of a due degree of irritability.
- 9. Passions of the mind.
- 10. General deformity.

because of the quarter of concurrent charges.

But in general fone progests much be made before we can allow a labour to be com-

# FOUR ORDERS!

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Labours remiered difficult from the issue or irre-

## CAUSAS.

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#### ORDER II.

Labours rendered difficult by the rigidity of the parts to be dilated.

- 1. First child.
- 2. Advancement in age.
- 3. Too early rupture of the membranes.
- 4. Oblique position of the os uteri.
- 5. Fever or local inflammation.
- 6. Extreme rigidity of the os uteri.
- 7. Uncommon rigidity of the external parts.

### ORDER III.

Labours rendered difficult from disproportion between the dimensions of the cavity of the pelvis and the head of the child.

- 1. Original smallness of the pelvis.
- 2. Distortion of the pelvis.
- 3. Head of the child unusually large, or too much offified.
- 4. Head of the child enlarged by disease.
- 5. Face inclined towards the offa pubis.
  - 6. Presentation

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3. Hard of the child number large, or

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6. Predentation

- 6. Presentation of the face.
- 7. Head presenting with one or both arms.

#### ORDER IV.

# Labours rendered difficult by diseases of the foft parts.

- 1. Suppression of urine.
- 2. Stone in the bladder.
- 3. Excrescences of the os uteri.
- 4. Cicatrices in the vagina.
- 5. Adhesion of the vagina.
- 6. Steatomatofe tumours.
- 7. Enlargement of the ovaria.
- 8. Rupture of the uterus.

Note. The disturbance of the natural progress of labours, more especially the premature rupture of the membranes, is the most general cause of dissiculties in parturition.

# Women are to be relieved in difficult labours,

- 1. By time and patience.
- 2. By encouragement to hope for a happy event.

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- 3. By regulating their general conduct.
- 4. By lessening the obstacles to the effects which should be produced by the pains.
- 5. By the assistance of instruments.

# Intentions in the use of instruments.

- 1. To preserve the lives both of the mo-
- 2. To preserve the life of the mother.
- 3. To preserve the life of the child.

# Instruments contrived to answer the first intention.

1. Fillets. 2. Forceps. 3. Vectis.

Three things are to be considered with respect to the Forceps or Vettis, and to the use of instruments in general.

- 1. To make an accurate distinction of those cases which require their use.
- 2. Of those cases which allow their use.
- 3. Of the manner in which they ought to be used.

We are in the first place to speak of the application and use of the forceps.

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Directions for, and admonitions in, the application and use of the Forceps.

#### SECTION I.

- rule, that no instruments are to be used in the practice of midwifery; the cases in which they are used are therefore to be considered merely as exceptions to this rule.
- 2. But such cases can very seldom occur in the practice of any one person; and when they do happen, neither the forceps or any other instrument is ever to be used in a clandestine manner.
- 3. The first stage of a labour must be completed, that is, the os uteri must be dilated and the membranes broken before we think of applying the forceps.
- 4. The intention in the use of the forceps is, to preserve the lives both of the mother and child, but the necessity for using them must be decided by the circumstances of the mother only.

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- 5. It is meant, when the forceps are used, to supply with them the insufficiency or want of labour pains; but so long as the pains continue, we have reason to hope they will produce their effect, and shall be justified in waiting.
- 6. Nor doth the cessation of the pains always prove the necessity of using the forceps, as there may be a total or a temporary cessation of the pains.
- 7. In the former, the pulse, the countenance, and the general appearances of the patient indicate extreme debility, and resemble those of a person worn out with disease or fatigue.
- 8. But in the latter there are no alarming fymptoms, and the patient often enjoys short intervals of refreshing sleep.
- 9. A rule for the time of applying the forceps has been formed from this circumstance; that, after the cessation of the pains, the head of the child should have rested for six hours in such a situation as to allow the use of the forceps before they are used.

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- to prevent the rash and unnecessary use of the forceps, must be subject to the judgment of the person who may have the management of any individual case.
- 11. Care is also to be taken that we do not, through an aversion to the use of inftruments, too long delay that affistance we have the power of affording with them.
- 12. The difficulties which attend the application and use of the forceps are far less than those of deciding upon the proper time when, and the cases in which, they ought to be applied.
- 13. The lower the head of the child has descended, and the longer the use of the forceps is deferred, the easier will in general their application be, the success of the operation more certain, and the hazard of doing mischief less.
- 14. The forceps should always be applied over the ears of the child; it must therefore be improper to apply them when we cannot feel an ear.

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mon examination, the case is always manageable with the forceps, if the circumstances of the mother require their use.

16. The ear of the child which can be felt, will be found toward the offa pubis, or under one of the rami of the ischia.

17. The ears are not turned to the sides of the pelvis till part of the hind head has emerged under the arch of the ossa pubis, when the use of the forceps can very seldom be required.

18. When we have determined on using the forceps, and explained the necessity of using them to the patient and her friends, she is to be placed in the usual position on her left side, near to the edge of the bed; and the instruments, warmed in water and smeared with some unchaous application, are to be laid conveniently by you.

Note. Women, impelled by their fears and their sufferings in difficult labours, will very generally implore you to deliver them with instruments long before you will be convinced of the necessity of using them. In

many cases I have found it expedient and encouraging to them to fix upon some distant time when they should be delivered, if the child were not before born; six or eight, or twelve hours, for instance. In some cases of great apprehension I have also shewn them, upon one of my knees, all that I intended to do with the forceps.

The following rules are given on the prefumption that the head of the child presents with the face inclined or verging towards the hollow of the facrum, and that the common short forceps are intended to be used; but if any other kind of forceps should be preserved, the rules must be adapted to the instrument.

### SECTION II.

- 1. Carry the fore finger of the right hand to the ear of the child.
- 2. Then take the blade of the forceps to be first introduced by the handle in the left hand, and conduct it between the head of the child and

and the finger already introduced, till the point reaches the ear.

- 3. The farther introduction must be made with a motion resembling a slight degree of semi-rotation, and the point of the blade must be kept close to the head of the child, by gently raising the handle as the instrument is advanced.
- 4. The blade of the forceps must be carried up till the lock reaches the external parts, near the inferior edge of the ossa pubis.
- 5. Should any difficulty occur in the introduction of either of the blades, we must withdraw them a little, to discover the obstacle, and never strive to overcome it with violence.
- 6. When the first blade is introduced, it must be held steadily in its situation, as it will be a guide in the introduction and application of the second blade.
- 7. The second blade of the forceps must be conducted upon the fore singer of the lest hand, passed between the head of the child and the perinæum, in the same cautious man-

ner as the first, till the lock reaches the perinæum, or even presses it a little backward.

- 8. When the fecond blade is properly introduced, its fituation will be opposite to the first.
- 9. In order to lock the forceps, the handles of which are at a confiderable distance from each other, the blade first introduced must be brought down and carried so far back that it will lock with the second blade, held in its first position.
- to. Care should be taken that nothing be entangled in the lock of the forceps by carrying the finger round it.
- 11. It is convenient to tie the handles of the forceps together, when locked, with force sufficient to keep them from sliding or shifting their position.
- 12. If the blades of the forceps were introduced so as not to be opposite to each other, they could not be locked.
- 13. Should the handles of the forceps when applied come close together, probably the bulk of the head is not included between them,

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and therefore when we acted with them they would slip.

- 14. If the handles when locked are at a great distance from each other, they are not well applied, and will probably slip.
- 15. But in these estimations allowance is to be made for the different dimensions of the heads of children.
- 16. The forceps will never slip if judiciously applied, if the case be proper for their use, and we act circumspectly with them.

Note. The difficulties in the application of the forceps arise, from attempting to apply them too soon; from passing them in a hurry, or in a wrong direction; or from entangling the soft parts of the mother between the instrument and the head of the child. Of course, we are always to be guarded against these circumstances.

### SECTION III.

- 1. There is no occasion, and it would be hurtful to attempt to change the position of the head, when the forceps are applied, before we began to extract.
- 2. For if the action with the forceps be flow, the head of the child will turn in the same manner, and for the same reasons, as in a natural labour.
- 3. Therefore the forceps being fixed upon the head must also change their position according to its descent, and the handles be gradually turned from the offa pubis and facrum, where they were first placed, to the sides of the pelvis.
- 4. The handles of the forceps likewise, though originally placed far back towards the facrum, that is, in the direction of the cavity of the pelvis, are to be gradually turned, as the child advances, more and more towards the pubes, that is, in the direction of the vagina.

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- 5. The first action with the forceps must be to bring the handles, firmly grasped in one or both hands, slowly towards the pubes till they come to a full rest.
- 6. After waiting till the pains return, or an imaginary interval if there should be a total want of pain, the handles are to be carried back in the same slow and cautious manner to the perinæum, using at the same time a certain degree of extracting force.
- 7. The subsequent actions must be from handle to handle, or occasionally by simple traction; but the action of that blade which was towards the pubes, must be stronger and more extensive throughout the operation, than the action with the other blade which has no fulcrum to support it.
- 8. By a repetition of these actions, always directed according to the position of the handles, with their force increased, diminished, or continued, according to the exigence of the ease, we shall in a short time perceive the head of the child descending.

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- 9. When the head begins to descend, the force of the action with the forceps must be abated, and as that advances, the direction of the handles must change by degrees more and more to each side, and towards the pubes.
- 10. The lower the head of the child deficends, the more gently we must proceed, in order to prevent any injury or laceration of the perinæum or external parts, which are likewise to be supported in the same manner as in a natural labour.
- casioned by the application of the forceps, or the very expectation of their being applied, will bring on a return or an increase of the pains sufficient to expel the child without their assistance.
- 12. In other cases we are obliged to exert very considerable force, and to continue it for a long time; so that one operation may be safely and easily finished in twenty minutes, or even a less time, and another may require more than an hour for its completion, and

( 10) or When the kind begins to defical, the the same and the same and the same to restrict the meaning of the forest, or ad value noithean one value of partie seeks estely and cathy finished via sweary minutes, the repeated exertions of very confiderable force.

- 13. In some cases it happens also, that the obstacle to the delivery exists at one particular part of the pelvis, and when that is surmounted, the remainder of the operation is easy; but in other cases there is some difficulty through the whole course of the pelvis.
- 14. Before the exertion of much force we are always to be convinced that a small or a moderate degree of force is not equal to our purpose.
- 15. In every case in which the forceps have been applied, they are not to be removed before the head is extracted, even though we might have little or no occasion for them.
- 16. When the head of the child is born the forceps are to be removed, and the remaining circumstances are to be managed as if the labour had been natural.

Note. The general arguments against the use of instruments have been drawn from their abuse: it appears, however, that necessity

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13. In foure cases it happens also, that the observed or observed to the delivery exists at one particular part of the principant when that is formount.

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More the use of inflat reneral arguments realing the use of inflat reners have been drawn from their door about it spreats, however, that necessary

will justify the use of the forceps; that when such necessity exists, their use is not only justifiable, but often highly advantageous; that delay to apply them, and slowness in their application and use, will secure, as far as is possible, both the mother and child from untoward accidents; but that mischief cannot be prevented if they are applied too soon, or the operation with them be performed in a hurry.

It would be a very desirable thing that every student should have an opportunity of seeing the operation with the forceps performed before he goes into practice; but that is not always possible. Yet if he has been properly instructed in the principles of the application and use of the forceps, reslects seriously before he determines on performing the operation, and proceeds slowly but not timidly in it, he can hardly sail to succeed. Hurry, in any operation, is a very common sign both of want of information and of sear; and attention is to be paid to the order of the rule in Celsus, 1. tuto, 2. cito, 3. jucunde.

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### SECT. IV.

# On the application and use of the Vectis.

- I. We shall have a just idea of the vestis by considering it as one blade of the forceps a little lengthened and enlarged, with the handle placed in a direct line with the blade.
- 2. The general condition and circumstances of labours before stated, as requiring and allowing the use of the forceps, will hold equally good when the vestis is intended to be used.
- 3. In the application of the vectis two fingers, or the fore finger of the right hand is to be passed to the ear of the child.
- 4. Then taking the vettis by the handle, or with the blade shortened in the left hand, conduct it slowly till the point of the vettis reaches the ear, however that may be situated.
- 5. The instrument is then to be advanced, as was advised with the forceps, till according to your judgment the extremity of the blade reaches

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reaches as far, or a little beyond the chin of the child.

- 6. Then grasping the handle of the instrument firmly in the right hand, wait for the accession of a pain.
- 7. During the continuance of the pain raise the handle of the instrument gently but firmly towards the pubes, drawing at the same time with some degree of extracting force.
- 8. When the pain ceases let the instrument rest, and on its return repeat the same kind of action, alternately resting and acting in imitation of the manner of the pains.
- 9. By a repetition of this kind and manner of action the head of the child is usually advanced, and the face turning gradually towards the hollow of the facrum, the position of the handle of the vectis will be altered, and the direction of the action with it of course be changed.
- we must proceed more slowly and carefully, according to the degree of descent, in order to prevent any injury to the external parts, which

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- rate force before recommended, the head should not descend, it must be gradually and cautiously increased till it becomes sufficient to bring down the head.
- 12. In the action with the vectis the back part of the instrument must rest upon the symphysis of the ossa pubis, or upon the ramus of the ischium according to its position, as upon a fulcrum, for its support.
- 13. By passing the flat part of the hand to the back of the blade of the instrument when in action, we shall be occasionally able to lessen or take off this pressure which must otherways be made upon the parts of the mother.
- 14. Some have recommended the vectis to be used when the head of the child was higher up in the pelvis than is before stated, as justifying the use either of this instrument or the forceps.
- 15. They have also recommended the vectis when the head of the child was firmly locked

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in the pelvis, and have afferted that by its use there is often obtained a very good chance of preserving the life of a child, which must otherwise be inevitably lost.

- 16. Others have by frequent use acquired such dexterity as to be able to extract the head of a child in the situation first stated, with a single sweep of the instrument.
- 17. Some have also advised the introduction of the vectis between the facrum, or sacrosciatic ligaments, and the head of the child, from a belief that it could be equally or more advantageously used in this position than in that first stated.
- 18. But having ever considered the use of all instruments as a thing to be lamented, and when I did use them, esteemed the safety of using them as my principal object, I cannot deviate from these principles, or enter upon a discussion of points of practice, of which, as far as I am competent to judge, I cannot approve.

Note. Before, and immediately after the publication of my second Essay on Difficult E Labours,

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Labours, several Gentlemen, with whom I converse, and to whom I ought to pay great respect, reprehended in very decided terms what I have advanced with regard to the forceps and vectis. Some maintained that the forceps is an instrument far superior to the vectis, of which I was accused of speaking too favourably. Others, of equal respectability, accused me of speaking with timidity, or restraint, of those advantages which, they afferted, the vectis had over the forceps. This very strong evidence could only be invalidated by its contradiction, but the very respect which I bear to the witnesses, compelled me to pass over their evidence, and to rely upon my own experience and judgment.

I did not speak of the mechanism of the instruments, or of the operation performed when we had applied, and acted with them, as these have hitherto been very imperfectly and often erroneously explained. The subject came under consideration in the ordinary course of the work, and having frequently used both the instruments, I stated

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the matter equitably, according to the best of my abilities, and in such a way that, I thought, students, who were principally concerned in the discussion, being left with the choice of either instrument, according to the doctrines of the particular professors whom they might attend, could not be missed. It is not to be expected that men versed in practice should change their opinions or alter their practice, or, in short, pay much regard to disputes about instruments, if any were disposed to raise them.

It then was, and yet remains my opinion, founded, as I before observed, on my experience with both instruments, that the superior excellence which has been attributed to each of these instruments, ought chiefly to be ascribed to the dexterity which may be acquired by the habit of using either of them. It is also my opinion that we may, in general, either with the forceps or vestis, essectually and conveniently give that assistance which is required in cases of difficult parturition, allowing and justifying their use. In particular cases

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cases it may perhaps be proved that one infirument is more commodious than another.

But if the vectis be depreciated by those who have never used it, and are not expert in its use, because they prefer the forceps, or if the known properties of the forceps be not allowed by those who do not use them, because they prefer the vectis, the proper inference would not be, that either of the instruments ought to be condemned; but that we are in possession of two instruments well adapted to answer the same purpose, if they are prudently used.

CLASS III. PRETERNATURAL LABOURS.

CHARACTER.—Labours in which any part of the child presents, except the head.

## TWO ORDERS.

ORDER I.

Presentations of the Breech, or inferior Extremities.

#### ORDER II.

Presentations of the Shoulder, or superior Extremities.

### SECTION I.

- of birth may be of three kinds. 1. With the head. 2. With the breech, or inferior extremities. 3. With the shoulder, or superior extremities.
- 2. Presentations of the first kind are called natural, those of the second and third kind, preternatural.
- 3. Preternatural presentations have been subdivided into a much a greater variety, but without any practical advantage.
- 4. The presumptive signs of the preternatural presentation of children are very uncertain, nor can it ever be determined what the presentation

period by the control of the control

presentation is, till we are able to feel the prefenting part.

5. When any part of a child can be felt, we may form our judgment of the presenting part by the following marks.

6. The head may be distinguished by its

roundness, its firmness, and its bulk.

7. The breech may be known by the cleft between the buttocks, by the parts of generation, and by the discharge of meconium.

8. The foot may be distinguished by its length, by the heel, by the shortness of the toes, and the want of a thumb; and the hand by its slatness, by the thumb, and the length of the singers.

### SECTION II.

On the first Order of Preternatural Presentations.

1. In this kind of presentation the breech, one hip, the knees, and one or both legs, are to be included.

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- 2. In these presentations it was formerly supposed necessary, as soon as they were discovered, to introduce the hand to bring down the feet, and to extract the child with expedition.
- 3. But, according to the present practice, such labours are not to be interrupted, but allowed to proceed as if the presentation was natural; unless the necessity of giving assistance should arise from some circumstance independent of the presentation.
- 4. By acting on this principle, when the breech of the child is expelled by the pains, the parts are sufficiently distended to allow the body and head to sollow without any danger from delay.
- 5. But if the feet of the child were to be brought down in the beginning of labour, the difficulty with which it would be expelled or could be extracted, increasing as it advanced, the child would probably die before the woman was delivered, and she would be in danger of suffering mischief.

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- 6. In cases of this kind there is also equal reason, when the breech is on the point of being excluded, for our guarding the perinæum from the hazard of laceration as in presentations of the head.
- 7. In first labours, the child, unless it be very small, will not unfrequently be born dead when the breech, or inferior extremities, present; but in subsequent labours they will usually be born living, if there be no other impediment than that which is occasioned by the presentation.
- 8. The injuries which the presenting part of the child, especially the penis and scrotum, may sustain will often be alarming, and appear dangerous, but by soothing and gentle treatment, they are soon recovered.
- 9. Should there be reason to think the child dead, or the powers of the mother insufficient to expel it, we must then give such assistance as may be required.
- to. This affistance must be given with the hand, or with a blunt hook or crotchet, hitched in the groin of the child; or, which I

prefer,

0 == 1 A. In calca of city kind there is ally again. of sidelit bledt. the call, and it be The Composition some life and work to department, but for facilities and generally or when the required. prefer, by passing a ligature round the bent part of the child at the groin, with which we can hardly fail to extract it.

be given with discretion, and we must first be convinced of the necessity before we interfere.

#### SECTION III.

# Of the second Order of Preternatural Presentations.

- 1. In this kind of presentation are included the shoulders, the elbows, and one, or both arms.
- 2. In all these presentations we shall be under the necessity of turning the child, but as they may be attended with circumstances widely different, it is necessary to make the following distinctions.
- 3.—1. When the os uteri is fully dilated, the membranes unbroken, or the waters lately discharged,

discharged, a superior extremity being perceived to present, before the uterus is contracted.

- 4.—2. When the membranes break in the beginning of labour, the os uteri being little dilated.
- 5.—3. When the os uteri has been fully dilated, the membranes broken, and the waters long discharged, the uterus being at the same time strongly contracted, and the body of the child jammed at the superior aperture of the pelvis.
- 6.—4. When, together with any of these circumstances, there is a great disproportion between the size of the head of the child, and the dimensions of the cavity of the pelvis.

## SECTION IV.

On the Cases which come under the first Distinction.

I. Whenever there is a necessity of turning a child, the patient is to be placed upon

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her left fide, near the edge of the bed; or sometimes, when we expect or find much difficulty, in a prone position, resting upon her elbows and knees.

- 2. All the advantage to be gained from any particular position of the patient is, to allow us the free and dexterous use of our hands; the situation of the child not being altered by the position of the patient.
- 3. The os externum is then to be dilated with the fingers reduced into a conical form, acting with a femi-rotatory motion of the hand.
- 4. The artificial dilatation of all parts must be made slowly, in imitation of the manner of natural dilatation.
- 5. The os externum should be amply distended before the hand is carried farther, or its contraction round the wrist will be an impediment in the subsequent part of the operation.
- 6. When the hand is passed through the os externum, it must be slowly conducted to the os uteri, which being wholly or sufficiently dilated,

dilated, we must break the membranes by perforating them with a finger, or by grasping them firmly in the hand.

- 7. The hand must then be passed along the sides, thighs, and legs of the child, till we come to the feet.
- 8. If both the feet lie together we must grasp them firmly in our hand; but if they are distant from each other, and we cannot conveniently lay hold of both feet, we may deliver by one foot without much additional disticulty.
- 9. Before we begin to extract we must be assured that we do not mistake a hand for a foot.
- a flow waving motion, into the pelvis; when we are to rest and wait till the uterus begins to contract, still retaining them in our hand.
- on, the feet are to be brought lower at each return of pain, till they are extracted through the external orifice, and the labour may then be finished, partly by the efforts of the mother, and partly by art.

12. If

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- pubes, the back of the child is towards the back of the mother, which is an unfavourable position.
- 13. But if the toes are towards the facrum, the back of the child is towards the abdomen of the mother, which is proper; and all other positions of the child must be gradually turned to this as the body is extracting.
- 14. Yet this position of the child is only advantageous when the head comes to be extracted.
- 15. Wrap the feet of the child in a cloth, and wait till there is a contraction of the uterus, or a pain, during the continuance of which gently draw down the feet.
- 16. When the pain ceases we must rest, and proceed in this manner through the delivery, assisting the efforts of the patient, but not making the delivery wholly artificial.
- 17. When the breech comes to the os externum, the child must be extracted very slowly through it, and in the proper direction, or there

there will be danger of lacerating the pe-

- 18. When the child is brought so low that the funis reaches the os externum, a small portion of it is to be drawn out, to slacken it to lessen the chance of compression, or to prevent the separation of it from the body of the child, or of the placenta from the uterus; and from this time the operation should be finished as speedily as it can with safety.
- 19. But if the circulation in the funis be undisturbed there is no occasion for haste, as the child, we are then assured, is in safety.
- 20. The child may be extracted without much difficulty if we act alternately from fide to fide, by making a lever of its body, and sometimes by pressing it from the offa pubis with the singers.
- ders, the arms must be successively brought
- the opposite way, and by bending them at the elbow very slowly, lest they should be broken, and

- 60 ---- and the hand must be cleared toward the

pubes.

23. When both the arms are brought down, the body of the child must be supported upon our left hand placed under the breast, and the singers on each side of the neck.

- 124. Then placing the right hand over the shoulders, and pressing with our singers the head towards the sacrum, we must ease the head along, gradually turning the body of the child as it advances toward the abdomen of the mother.
  - 25. If the head should not come easily away, we must introduce the fore singer of the lest hand into the mouth of the child, by which the position of the head will be rendered more convenient.
  - 26. When the head begins to enter the os externum, we must proceed very slowly, and support the perinæum, by spreading the singers of the left hand over it.
  - 27. In some cases there may be a necessity of speedily extracting the child in order to preserve its life, but we must also recollect, that

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that the child is often lost by endeavouring to extract it too hastily.

28. When a child has been extracted by the feet, the placenta usually separates very soon and very easily; but in the management of this we are to be guided by the general rules.

## SECTION V.

On the Cases which come under the second Distinction.

- part, and if, together with the arm, the head is perceived by a common examination, there may be no occasion to turn the child, such case only constituting the third variety of natural labour.
- 2. But if the case should be such as to require the child to be turned, it might be doubted whether it were proper to dilate the os uteri by art, or to wait for its spontaneous dilatation.

3. Perhaps

3. Perhaps neither of the methods can be constantly followed, but we may generally say, that there is under these circumstances neither danger or increase of difficulty, from waiting for the spontaneous dilatation, which is therefore in general to be preferred.

4. But if more speedy dilatation should be required, whatever is done by art should be done slowly, and in imitation of nature.

- 5. The os uteri is always to be considered as completely dilated when we judge it will allow of the easy introduction of the hand.
- 6. When we have fixed upon the proper time and begin the operation, the os externum must be dilated in the manner before advised.
- 7. The hand must always be introduced into the uterus, or that side of the pelvis where it will pass most conveniently; and there is usually most room at that part which will lead to the feet.
- 8. It is generally most convenient to pass the hand between the body of the child and

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the offa pubis, the feet being most commonly found lying toward the belly of the mother.

- 9. In cases which come under this distinction the uterus is seldom contracted very strongly upon the body of the child, but always in some degree.
- 10. But the difficulties which occur in the operation of turning the child, in these cases, will be fully explained under the following distinction.

## SECTION VI.

On the Cases which come under the third Distinction.

- 1. The difficulty in the management of these cases depends upon the degree of contraction of the uterus, and upon the distance or awkward position of the feet of the child, but chiefly upon the former circumstance.
- 2. The uterus is in some cases contracted in a globular, and in others in a longitudinal form.

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- 3. It is always easier with an equal degree of contraction to turn the child when the uterus is contracted in a globular, than in a longitudinal form.
- 4. When we are called to a case of this kind it is better not to form, or to give a hasty opinion, nor to attempt to deliver the patient immediately, but to deliberate upon it, and then to make a second examination.
- 5. If the second examination should confirm our first opinion, we may prepare for the operation.
- 6. We shall be able to judge in what part of the uterus the feet of the child lie, if we confider whether it be the right or left hand which presents, which may be known by the direction of the thumb and of the palm of the hand.
- 7. But the contraction of the uterus is the principal difficulty to be surmounted, and the danger in turning the child is in proportion to the difficulty.
  - 8. The danger in turning a child when there

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there is a strong contraction of the uterus, is a single danger, that of rupturing the uterus.

9. The contraction of the uterus is of two kinds; first, the permanent contraction, in consequence of the waters having been long drained off, which may occur when there has been little or no pain.

10. Second, the extraordinary contraction arising from the action of the uterus, returning at intervals, and always attended with pain.

degree of force sufficient gradually to overcome the permanent contraction of the uterus, or the operation could never be performed.

12. But if we were to attempt to overcome the extraordinary contraction, it must follow, that we can, or cannot overcome it.

13. In the first instance we should be in danger of rupturing the uterus, and in the second the hand would be cramped, and we should be unable to proceed with the operation.

14. The deduction is therefore clear, that

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we ought not to proceed in our attempts to turn the child while the uterus is acting with violence.

- 15. The action of the uterus is rendered more frequent and strong by the generally increased irritability of the patient.
- 16. Before we attempt to deliver it will be prudent to endeavour to lessen this irritability, in many cases by bleeding, by clysters, and by an opiate, which, to answer this purpose, should be given in two or three times the usual quantity.
- 17. When the opiate takes effect, and the patient becomes disposed to sleep, we must consider this state as extremely favourable, and proceed without loss of time to the delivery.
- 18. There never can be occasion to separate the arm which presents from the body of the child, and when this has been done, instead of facilitating, it has impeded the operation.
- or left hand, as may be most convenient to ourselves,

and these the equate taken and the equ with the state of ourselves, must be introduced in the manner before directed, and conducted slowly into the uterus if there be sufficient room.

- 20. But if the child be jammed at the fuperior aperture of the pelvis, the hand cannot be introduced.
- 21. We must then fix our foresinger and thumb in the form of a crutch in the armpit of the child, and pushing the shoulders to-wards the head, and towards the fundus of the uterus, we must by degrees raise the body of the child till there be room for the introduction of the hand.
- 22. If while we are introducing our hand we perceive the action of the uterus come on, we must not proceed till that ceases or is abated.
- 23. The hand is also to be laid flat during the continuance of the action of the uterus, lest the uterus be injured by its own action on the knuckles.
- 24. When the action ceases or is abated, we must renew our attempts to carry up our hand to the feet of the child.

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25. In this manner we are to proceed, alternately resting and exerting ourselves, till we can lay hold of one or both seet.

26. There is sometimes much difficulty in getting to the seet, and sometimes in extracting them, especially when the uterus is contracted in a longitudinal form.

27. In such cases it is often convenient, when we can reach the knees, to bend them cautiously, and to bring down the legs and feet together.

28. But before we begin to extract we should examine the parts we hold, and be assured they are the feet; and we must extract slowly and steadily.

29. If we hurry to bring down the feet they may slip from us, and return to the place from which they were brought.

30. We must then carry up the hand again, and grasping the foot or feet more firmly, bring them down in the cautious manner before advised.

31. When the feet are brought down, if there be difficulty in extracting them, we must

The first have been supported to the state of the second the second second second CONDUCTION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY. must endeavour to slide a noose, first formed upon our wrist, over the hand to secure the seet, by which the hazard of their return will be prevented, and the succeeding part of the operation much facilitated.

32. When the noose is fixed over the ancles, we must pull by both ends of it with one hand, and grasp the feet with the other.

33. When there is afterward much difficulty in extracting the child, it is probably owing to the body of the child being jammed across the superior aperture of the pelvis.

34. It will then be proper to pass the singer and thumb as directed at 21, to raise the shoulders and body of the child toward the fundus of the uterus, with one hand, and with the other extract at the same time with the noose.

35. When the breech of the child has entered the pelvis, we must proceed with deliberation, but there will be little farther dissiputed the culty, except from the smallness of the pelvis, of which we shall speak in the next section.

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#### SECTION VII.

## On those Cases which come under the fourth Distinction.

- 1. The disproportion between the head of the child and the dimensions of the pelvis, may be added to any of the circumstances mentioned under the preceding distinctions.
- 2. But as the management of these has been already directed, there is now occasion to speak only of the peculiar difficulties arising from that cause.
  - 3. The degree of difficulty in these cases is greater or less according to the degree of disproportion; but the difficulty of extracting any part of the body of the child is little, compared with that which attends the extraction of the head.
  - 4. We will therefore suppose the body of the child to be brought down, but that the head cannot be extracted by any of the methods before recommended.
    - 5. The force with which we endeavour to extract

extract must then be increased, till it is sufficient to overcome the difficulty or resistance.

- 6. But as the necessity of using great force can only be known by the failure of a less degree to produce the desired effect, we must begin our attempts with moderation, and gradually increase our efforts according to the exigence of the case.
- 7. The force exerted should also be uniform, controuled or commanded, and exerted by intervals, in the manner of the natural pains.
- 8. If the head should not descend with the force which we judge can be safely exerted, we must rest, and give it time to collapse.
- 9. We may then renew our attempts, extracting from fide to fide, or backwards and forwards, as may best conduce to ease the head through the distorted pelvis, alternately resting and endeavouring to extract.
- 10. But if the head should descend in ever so small a degree, the force is not to be increased with the view of finishing the delivery

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expeditiously, but we must be satisfied with our success, and proceed circumspectly.

- 11. When the head once begins to descend there is seldom much subsequent difficulty in finishing the delivery, as the cause of the disficulty usually exists at one particular part of the pelvis.
- 12. But should the head rest in this situation for several hours, no additional inconvenience would thence arise to the mother, and the longer it rested the greater advantage we should probably gain when we renewed our attempts to extract it.
- 13. It may be presumed when the head of the child has been wedged for a long time in the position we are supposing, and great force has been used to extract it, that there is little reason to expect the child should be born alive; yet instances of this are said to have occurred in practice.
- 14. When we can hook a finger on the lower jaw of the child, the direction of the head may be changed to one more favourable, and the delivery thereby facilitated.

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- 15. But we must not extract with so much force as to incur the hazard of breaking or tearing away the jaw.
- 16. Pressing the head of the child from the ossa pubis to the sacrum, with the singers carried up as high as we can reach, will often be of great use in these cases.
- 17. If the difficulty of extracting the head arises from its enormous size, occasioned by some disease, as the hydrocephalus, &c. these methods steadily pursued will answer our intention, as by a prudent use of the force in our power, the integuments will burst, or even the bones be broken.
- 18. I have never seen a case of this kind, in which it seemed expedient to use either one, or both blades of the forceps, or to lessen the head.
- 19. But if such cases should occur, the utmost care must be taken that we do no injury to the mother.
- 20. Under these circumstances should it be absolutely necessary to lessen the head of the child, the perforation may be conveniently made

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made behind either of the ears, and the general rules of the operation must be followed.

21. By the force used should the neck of the child give way, we are not to separate the body from the head, but we must rest longer

and act moderately.

22. Should the body be separated from the head by the force we have used, or should we be called to a case of this kind, there will be no occasion for this reason alone to act hastily or rashly, as the head may even then be expelled by the pains.

23. But if this should be impossible, or if it be absolutely necessary to extract the head speedily, on account of the state of the mo-

ther;

24. Then the general rules for lessening the head must be accommodated to the exigencies of this particular case, and the head may be confined to a proper situation by compressing the abdomen.

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#### SECTION VIII.

## Miscellaneous Observations.

- r. It fometimes happens that no part of the child can be perceived before the membranes break, though the os uteri be fully dilated.
- 2. In such cases we should not be absent when the membranes break, lest it should prove a preternatural presentation, requiring the child to be turned.
- 3. In some cases even when the os uteri is dilated, the membranes broken, and the waters discharged, no part of the child can be felt.
- 4. It will then be prudent to introduce the hand into the uterus in the cautious manner before directed, to discover the part which does present.

5. If the head be found to present we should withdraw our hand, and suffer the labour to proceed in a natural way.

6. If the inferior extremities should pre-

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fent, we may bring down the feet, and then fuffer the labour to go on uninterruptedly.

7. But if the shoulder or superior extremities should present, we may proceed to the feet, and turn the child as was before directed.

8. By this conduct we shall guard against the danger of turning a child in a contracted uterus.

9. If we should be called to a case in which the arm presented and much force had been used to extract the child in that position, the arm having perhaps been mistaken for a leg, and the pains being at the same time violent, it may be impossible to turn the child, or even to introduce the hand into the uterus, the shoulder of the child being pushed low down into the pelvis.

per to attempt to introduce the hand into the uterus, or to turn the child, as it will be ex-

pelled by the efforts of the mother.

11. Yet in these cases the body of the child does not come doubled, but the breech

is the first part delivered, and the head the last, the body turning, as it were, on its own axis.

- gard to a small child coming prematurely, as it will apply to a child of a common size, and when a woman is at her full time, provided the pelvis be well formed.
- 13. This fact, of the possibility of a child being expelled in this position, though originally contradicted with great considence, is now confirmed in the most satisfactory manner by many cases which have been recorded, in some of which the children have even been born living.
- 14. From these it might be inferred that a woman in a state of nature, or in perfect health, would not die undelivered, though the arm of the child might present, supposing that she was not assisted by art.
- 15. Yet it is always requisite and proper to turn children when the superior extremities pre'ent, if the operation can be performed without the hazard of injuring the mother,

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THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY the later and are later to be a remainded and we have generally a better chance of preferving the child.

- 16. But when there is no chance of preferving the child, and yet it cannot be turned without the greatest danger to the mother, knowing the possibility of its being expelled in this position, it is necessary to consider the propriety of the operation before we perform it.
- 17. It remains, however, to be proved by future experience, how far, and in what cases the preceding observation ought to be a guide in practice.
- 18. In cases of presentation of the superior extremities, in which the difficulty of turning the child would be very dangerous, and great or insurmountable, another method has been recommended.
- 19. But of this method, which has been practifed by one gentleman to whose knowledge and experience I pay great respect, I am not a competent judge, having never tried it.
  - 20. I therefore refer to the annexed note for

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for an explanation and history of the method to which I allude.

Note. Hoorneus, sæpe laudatus, adhuc peculiarem, novum eumque breviorem modum, sætum mortuum cum brachio arctissimè in vagina uteri hærente extrahendi, invenit atque descripsit, qui in eo consistit, ut quando ad pedes pervenire nequit, collum, utpote quod in sætibus valde adhuc tenerum est, vel scalpello a reliquo trunco resecet, vel unco idoneo quam cautissimè auserat. Hoc enim sacto, vel sponte mox prorumpit ex utero sætus, vel tamen, dum brachium propendens attrahitur, quod medico loco habenæ inservit, quam sacillimè excutitur. Caput vero deinde seorsim mox vel manu, vel aliis propositis artissciis, si manus parum esset, ejiciendum.

HEISTER. cap. cliii. fect. ix.

The latter part of this description is further explained in the seventh section. I AM induced to reprint the following, as they were the very cases which first gave me an opportunity of observing the spontaneous evolution.

#### CASE I.

In the year 1772, I was called to a poor woman in Oxford Street, who had been in labour all the preceding night, under the care of a midwife. Mr. Kingston now living in Charlotte Street, and Mr. Goodwin, surgeon, at Wirksworth, in Derbyshire, who were at that time students in midwifery, had been sent for some hours before I was called. The arm of the child presenting, they attempted to turn and extract it by the seet, but the pains were so strong as to prevent the introduction of the hand into the uterus. I found the arm much swelled and pushed through the external parts in such a manner,

State State States adjust view but again was State of the state The woman struggled vehemently with her pains, and during their continuance, I perceived the shoulder of the child to descend. Concluding that the child was small and would pass, doubled, through the pelvis, I desired one of the gentlemen to sit down to receive it, but the friends of the woman would not permit me to move. I remained by the bed-side till the child was expelled, and I was very much surprised to find, that the breech and inferior extremities were expelled before the head, as if the case had originally been a presentation of the inferior extremities.

The child was dead, but the mother recovered as foon and as well as she could have done after the most natural labour.

#### CASE II.

In the year 1773, I was called to a woman in Castle Street, Oxford Market, who was attended

bee their saw the early mad goldense would go by dentities, the cangle the versely I de-The state of the s attended by a midwife. Many hours after, it was discovered that the arm of the child presented. Mr. Burosse, surgeon, in Poland Street, was fent for, and I was called into consultation. When I examined, I found the shoulder of the child pressed into the superior aperture of the pelvis. The pains were strong, and returned at short intervals. Having agreed upon the necessity of turning the child, and extracting it by the feet, I fat down and made repeated attempts to raife the shoulder, with all the force which I thought could be fafely used; but the action of the uterus was so powerful that I was obliged to defift. I then called to mind the circumstances of the case before related, mentioned them to Mr. Burosse, and proposed that we should wait for the effect, which a continuance of the pains might produce, or tilk they were abated, when the child might be turned with less difficulty. No further attempts were made to turn the child. Then every pain propelled it lower into the pelvis, and in a little more than one hour the child ( 13

was born, the breech being expelled, as in the first case.

This child was also dead, but the mother recovered in the most favourable manner.

Having been prepared for observing the progress of this labour, I understood it more-clearly, and attempted to explain both in my lecture on the subject, and in the aphorisms-which were printed for the use of the students, my opinion of the manner in which the body of the child turned as it were, upon its own axis. I also pointed out the circumstances, in which, I supposed, the knowledge of the sact might be rendered useful in practice; but with great circumspection.

#### CASE III.

January the 2d, 1774, I was called to Mrs. Davis, who keeps a Toy-shop, in Crown Court, Windmill Street. She had been a long

long time in labour, and the arm of the child

presented.

The late Mr. Eustace had been called on the preceding evening, and had made attempts to turn the child, which he had continued for feveral hours without fuccess. I was sent for about one o'clock in the morning, and on examination found the arm pushed through the external parts, the shoulder pressing firmly upon the perinæum. The exertions of the mother were wonderfully strong. I sat down while she had two pains, by the latter of which, the child was doubled and the breech expelled. I extracted the shoulders and head, and left the child in the bed. Mr. Eustace expressed great astonishment at the sudden change, but I affured him that I could claim no other merit on account of this delivery, except that I had not impeded an effect which was wholly produced by the pains.

This child was also dead, but the mother recovered in the most favourable manner.

In all these cases, the women were at the full

( 10 ) long time in labelly and the num of the ciril elegated in whem but have a managed notificating but stored and has believed and but and one breech off to all their course will prive deals He all

full period of utero-gestation, and the children were of the usual size.

Many other cases of the same kind have occurred to me, and with the histories of several, varying in the time or manner in which the evolution of the child was made, I have lately been favoured by gentlemen of eminence in the profession, and many others have been published, in different countries. But these are sufficient to prove the fact, that in cases in which children present with the arm, women would not necessarily die undelivered, though they were not assisted by art.

With respect to the benefit we can, in practice, derive from the knowledge of this sact, I may be permitted to repeat, that the custom of turning and delivering by the seet in presentations of the arm, will remain necessary and proper, in all cases, in which the operation can be performed with safety to the mother, or give a chance of preserving the life of the child. But when the child is dead, and when we have no other view but merely to extract the child, to remove the danger

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danger thence arising to the mother, it is of great importance to know the child may be turned spotaneously, by the action of the uterus. If we avail ourselves of that knowledge, the pain and danger which sometimes attend the operation of turning a child may be avoided. Nor would any person, fixing upon a case of preternatural presentation, in which he might expect the child to be turned fpontaneously, be involved in difficulty, if, from a defect of the pains, or any other cause, he should be disappointed in his expectations. Nor would the fuffering, or chance of danger to the patient be increased by such proceeding, as the usual methods of extracting the child could, under any fuch circumstances, be safely and successfully practifed.

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# CLASS IV. Anomalous or Complex Labours.

### FOUR ORDERS.

ORDER I.

Labours attended with Hemorrhage.]

ORDER II.

Labours attended with Convulsions.

ORDER III.

Labours with two or more Children.

ORDER IV.

Labours in which the Funis Umbilicalis prefents before the Child.

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# On Labours attended with Hemorrhage.

HEMORRHAGE. A discharge of blood from the uterus, inordinate with respect to time or quantity.

## VARIETIES.

- 1. In abortions.
- 2. At the full period of utero-gestation.
- 3. After the birth of the child.
- 4. After the expulsion of the placenta.

Note. No general description or character can be given to Anomalous Labours as a class, because the different orders bear no refemblance to each other. They are brought together merely to prevent the multiplication of classes.

## ON ABORTIONS.

#### SECTION I.

- 1. With respect to the time of pregnancy, all expulsions of the fætus may be reduced under two distinctions.
- In the first will be included all those which occur before the uterus is sufficiently distended to allow of any manual operation, and these may be properly called abortions.
- 3. In the second may be classed all those which allow of manual assistance, if required, and which are therefore to be esteemed as labours, premature or at the full time.
- 4. But no precise period of pregnancy can be fixed as a line for these distinctions.
- 25. We may, however, in general fay that all expulsions of the fætus, before the end of the fixth month, are to be considered as abortions.

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PECTION J.

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6. But all expulsions of the fætus, after the expiration of the fixth month, are to be esteemed as labours, and, if attended with the same circumstances, should be managed upon the same principles.

7. Yet expulsions of the fætus sometimes happen so critically, as to make it doubtful to which distinction they should be ascribed.

8. When manual affistance is thought needful, the longer the time wanting to complete the full period of pregnancy, the more difficult must be any operation.

## SECTION II.

## On the Causes of Abortions ..

1. The predifposing causes of abortion are, 1st, general indisposition of the constitution; 2d, infirmity of the uterus.

2. The general state of women who are disposed to abortion is very different, some being weak and reduced, and others plethoric.

3. Weakly

1 60 7 State all expectations of the factors of the settle . Along the public of a local and the control of th

- 3. Weakly women become more liable to abortion, because they are susceptible of violent impressions from slight external causes.
- 4. Plethoric women are more liable to abortion, from the disposition which the vessels of the uterus have, from structure and habit, to discharge their contents.
- 5. Every action in common life has been affigned as a cause of abortion.
- 6. But it is to the excess of these actions that we are to attribute their effects, for women in health seldom abort, unless from violent external causes.

## SECTION III.

## On the Prevention of Abortion.

I. As every disease to which women are liable may dispose to abortion, the method instituted to prevent it, must be accommodated to the disease, or to the state of the constitution.

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2. In some constitutions abortions may be prevented by repeated bleeding in small quantities, by antiphlogistic medicines, and sometimes by warm bathing.

3. In others, abortion may be prevented by nourishing and invigorating diet and medicines, by bark, by wine, especially claret,

and often by cold bathing.

4. But it will be proper, in every case, to avoid all violent exercise, to keep the mind composed, and to rest frequently in an horizontal position.

5. Women feldom abort while they have the vomiting which usually attends early

-pregnancy.

6. In women who have no spontaneous vomiting, this may be excited with safety and advantage by frequently giving small doses of

.Ipecacuanha.

7. Pregnant women are usually costive, and abortions have been often occasioned by too great assiduity to remove this costiveness, which is a natural and proper state, in the early part of pregnancy.

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#### SECTION IV.

## On the Signs of Abortion.

- The signs of abortion are, frequent micturition, tenesmus, pain in the back, abdomen, and groins, with a sense of weight in the region of the uterus.
- 2. But the most certain sign is, a discharge of blood, which proves that some part of the ovum is separated from the uterus.
- 3. It has been supposed when this last sign appears, that there is scarcely a possibility of the patient proceeding in her pregnancy.
- 4. But I have met with an infinite number of cases in practice, in which, notwithstanding this appearance, once or oftener, to a considerable degree, the discharge has ceased, and no ill consequences have followed.
- 5. We are therefore to persevere in the use of those means which are thought reasonable and proper, till the abortion has actually happened.

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6. It is not always prudent to give a decided opinion of the probable event of those cases which may be attended with the symptoms of abortion, as their termination is very often different from what might have been expected from the symptoms.

### SECTION V.

On the Treatment of Women at the Time of Abortion.

- 1. The treatment must vary according to the nature and degree of the symptoms.
- 2. There is an endless variety in the manner in which abortion takes place. Some women abort with sharp and long continued pains, others with little or no pain; some with a profuse and alarming hemorrhage, others with very little discharge. In some the ovum has been soon and perfectly expelled, in others after a long time, in small portions,

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fymptom is the hemorrhage.

- 3. The hemorrhage in abortions is not always in proportion to the period of pregnancy, this being in some advanced cases very small; and in others, though very early, abundant.
- 4. The hemorrhage usually depends upon the difficulty with which the ovum may be expelled, and upon the state of the constitution of the patient naturally prone to hemorrhage.
- 5. The general principles which should guide us in the treatment of hemorrhages, from any other part of the body, are applicable to those of the uterus, regard being had to the structure of the uterus.
- 6. If the patient be plethoric, some blood should be taken from the arm at the commencement of the hemorrhage, and the saline draughts with nitre, or acids of any kind, may be given in as large a quantity, and as often as the stomach will bear.

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- 7. These may also be given during its continuance, and cloths wet with cold vinegar may be applied to the abdomen and loins, and renewed as they become warm. The patient should be exposed to, and suffered to breathe, the cold air.
- 8. Every application or medicine, actually or potentially cold, may be used. A large draught of cold water or ice may be given with great propriety, and it is the custom in Italy to sprinkle ice over the body of the patient if the danger of the case be imminent.
- 9. Every medicine or application which has the power of flackening the circulation of the blood, eventually becomes an aftringent, but aftringents, properly so called, can have no power in stopping hemorrhages from the uterus.
- tion of coagula, plugging up the orifices of the open blood vessels, or by the contraction of the coats of the blood vessels.
- vourably during a state of faintness, which, though

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though occasioned by the loss of blood, becomes a remedy in stopping hemorrhages.

- 12. Cordials are not therefore to be hastily given to those who are faint from loss of blood; unless the faintness should continue so long as to make us apprehensive for the immediate safety of the patient.
- 13. The introduction of lint or any foft substance into the vagina, has been recommended, and sometimes used with advantage, by favouring the formation of coagula.
- 14. Cold or aftringent injections into the vagina have also been recommended.
- attended with profuse discharges, and they may sometimes be proper to ease pain, or to quiet the patient, especially when there is a chance of preventing the abortion, or after the accident has happened.
- 16. But when there is no hope of preventing the abortion, the degree of pain proving the degree of action of the uterus, and the action of the uterus producing and favouring the contractile power of the blood vessels, if by

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opiates the action of the uterus should be prevented or checked, they may contribute to the continuance of the hemorrhage.

- 17. Hemorrhages in abortions, independent of other complaints, though very alarming, are not dangerous.
- 18. But if women abort in consequence of acute diseases, there will be very great danger.
- in great danger, and the danger is increased and accelerated by the abortion.
- 20. The ovum has been fometimes retained in the uterus for many months after the fymptoms of abortion had appeared, and when it had lost the principle of increasing.
- or proper in abortions, to use any means for bringing away the ovum, or any portion of it which may be retained.

#### SECTION VI.

# On Hemorrhages at the full Period of Utero-

those hemorrhages which may happen in the three last months of pregnancy.

2. These are occasioned first by the attachment of the placenta over the os uteri; secondly, by the separation of a part, or of the whole placenta, which had been attached to some other part of the uterus.

3. Hemorrhages arising from the first cause are more dangerous than from the second; but those from the second have sometimes proved fatal.

4. The danger attending hemorrhages is to be estimated from a consideration of the general state of the patient, of their cause, of the quantity of blood discharged, and of the effect of the loss of blood, which will vary in different constitutions.

5. Hemorrhages

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5. Hemorrhages are infinitely more dangerous with sudden than with flow discharges of blood, even though the quantity loft may

be equal.

6. The danger arising from hemorrhages is indicated by the weakness or quickness of the pulse, or by its becoming imperceptible, by the paleness of the lips, and a ghastly countenance, by inquietude, by continued fainting, by a high and laborious respiration, and by convulfions.

7. The two last symptoms are usually mortal, though when women are extremely reduced, they are liable to hysteric affections of

a fimilar kind, that are not dangerous.

8. The vomiting which generally follows violent hemorrhages indicates the injury which the constitution has sustained by the loss of blood, but by the action of vomiting the patient is always relieved, and it contributes to the suppression of hemorrhages.

9. Near the full period of utero-gestation, women are always in greater danger in those hemorrhages



hemorrhages which are not accompanied with pain.

of the uterus, and this proving that the Arength of the constitution is not exhausted, the danger in hemorrhages may often be estimated by the absence or degree of pain.

#### SECTION VII.

On those Hemorrhages which are occasioned by the Attachment of the Placenta over the Os Uteri.

- be distinguished from the membranes as soon as the os uteri is a little opened, be attached over the os uteri, the woman usually goes through the early part of pregnancy without any inconvenience, or symptom which denotes the circumstance.
- 2. But when the changes previous to labour come on, there must be an hemorrhage,

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because a separation of a part of the placenta is thereby occasioned, and as the disposition to labour advanceth, the hemorrhage is generally, though not universally, increased.

- 3. With this circumstance very slight external causes are also apt to occasion hemorrhage.
- 4. When a hemorrhage from this cause has once come on, the patient is never free from danger till she is delivered.
- 5. The powers of the constitution are undermined by hemorrhages profuse or often returning, so that no efforts, or only very seeble and insufficient ones, are commonly made for the expulsion of the child.
- 6. We are therefore often obliged to free the patient from the imminent danger she is in by artificial delivery.
- 7. Of the propriety of this delivery, in cases of dangerous hemorrhage, there is no doubt, or can be any dispute, except as to the precise time when the patient ought to be delivered.
  - 8. On the first appearance of the hemorr-

hage, unless it be prodigious in quantity or unusually terrifying in its effect, it is seldom either requisite or proper to attempt to deliver by art.

- 9. Nor does it often happen that a second or a third return of the discharge compel us to the delivery by art.
- cannot be secure till she is delivered, and as the delivery is seldom completed by the natural efforts, and as the artificial delivery, though performed before it be absolutely necessary, is not dangerous, if performed with care, we must be on our guard not to delay the delivery too long.
- II. In some cases in which it might be thought eligible to deliver on account of the hemorrhage, the parts are so unyielding as not to allow of the operation itself without some hazard.
- 12. Yet when the parts requiring dilatation make no refisfance to the passage of the hand, the event of the operation is always more pre-

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carious, the operation having been deferred too long.

- 13. But though it may be proper in some cases to determine on immediate delivery, the operation must always be performed with the utmost deliberation.
- 14. The first part of the operation has been described under preternatural presentations.
- 15. When the hand is carried to the placenta attached over the os uteri, it is of little confequence whether we perforate the placenta with our fingers, or separate it on one side till we come to the edge, though the latter is generally preferable.
- 16. If the hand be passed through the placenta, we shall come directly to the part of the child which presents.
- 17. But if we separate the placenta to the edge, the hand will be on the outside of the membranes, which must be ruptured before we lay hold of the feet of the child.
  - 18. No regard is to be paid to the part of

been deferred under preterment preferre standing of the perfect of plants of spanning the child which may present, as it must always be delivered by the feet.

- 19. The feet of the child being brought flowly into the pelvis, we must wait till the uterus is contracted to the body of the child, which will be indicated by pain, and known by the application of our hand to the abdomen.
- 20. The delivery must then be finished very slowly, to give the uterus time to contract as the child is withdrawn from its cavity; but this part of the operation has likewise been described under preternatural prefentations.
- 21. An affiftant should make a moderate pressure upon the abdomen during the operation, to aid the contraction of the uterus, and to prevent ill consequences from the sudden emptying of the abdomen.
- 22. When the child is born, the hemorrhage will be generally stayed, if the operation has been performed slowly.

23. But if the hemorrhage should continue

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or return, the placenta is to be managed as will be afterwards directed.

- 24. Should no uncommon difficulty attend the delivery, children will be often born living in cases of hemorrhage which are attended with the utmost danger to the mother; or, as it has sometimes happened, after the death of the mother.
- 25. Before, during, or after delivery in cases of hemorrhage, the means and applications before recommended, may be occafionally used with advantage.

## SECTION VII.

On those Hemorrhages which are occasioned by the Separation of a Part, or of the whole Placenta, before or in the Time of Labour.

- 1. Hemorrhages arising from this cause are seldom so alarming or dangerous as the preceding.
  - 2. But if the separation of the placenta be sudden

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fudden and extensive, the danger may be equal, and the same mode of proceeding required.

- 3. Our conduct must be guided by a consideration of the degree and effect of the hemorrhage, and of the state of the labour when it occurs.
- 4. Should the hemorrhage from this cause occur in the first period of labour, the action of the uterus will be weakened, but it may be sufficient to dilate the os uteri.
- 5. If the quantity of blood lost in these cases be very considerable when the os uteri is sufficiently dilated, the greater the degree the better, the membranes containing the waters may be ruptured.
- 6. By the discharge of the waters the distention of the uterus will be lessened, and by the consequent contraction, the size of the vessels being diminished, the hemorrhage will of course be abated or removed.
- 7. After the abatement or suppression of the hemorrhage, the action of the uterus will become stronger, so that the delivery will, in general,

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general, be then completed without further affiftance.

- 8. But if the hemorrhage should continue after the discharge of the waters in such a degree as to threaten danger; or if it should commence in the second period of the labour, the interposition on our part must vary according to the circumstances, and chiefly according to the situation of the child.
- 9. It may in some cases be necessary to deliver by art as in the preceding section, and in others to deliver with the forceps or vectis, if the hemorrhage be profuse, and we despair of the child being expelled by the natural efforts.
- cases may be collected from what will be generally said on the subject, being always on our guard to distinguish between fear and real danger.

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#### SECTION VIII.

On those Hemorrhages which occur when the Placenta is retained after the Birth of the Child.

- The placenta is generally expelled by the spontaneous action of the uterus in a short time after the birth of the child.
- 2. But sometimes the placenta is retained, 1st, from the inaction or insufficient action of the uterus; 2d, by the irregular action of the uterus; 3d, by the scirrhous adhesion of the placenta to the uterus.
- 3. Sometimes there is a profuse discharge of blood, when no action is exerted by the uterus to expel the placenta.
- 4. Whenever there is a hemorrhage, the whole or a portion of the placenta must have been previously separated, and the hemorrhage usually continues, or returns till the placenta is expelled or extracted out of the cavity of the cuterus.

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## SECTION IX.

On the Retention of the Placenta from the Inaction or insufficient Action of the Uterus.

- 1. Though the placenta be retained after the birth of the child, if there be no hemorrhage, we are to wait, without any interpofition on our part, in expectation of the action of the uterus.
- 2. The time which it may be proper and expedient to wait will depend upon the state of the patient, and the state of the patient generally depends upon the previous circumstances of the labour.
- 3. But no patient ought to be left before the placenta is brought away, because a dangerous hemorrhage may at any time come on.
- 4. When the patient complains of pain, the expulsion of the placenta may be safely forwarded, by aiding the contraction of the uterus by moderate pressure with the hand

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upon the abdomen, and by pulling gently by the funis.

- 5. But if the first pain, with the aid we think it prudent to give, should not bring down the placenta, we are to wait for a return of the pains, proceeding in the same cautious manner.
- 6. When that part of the placenta into which the funis is inserted can be felt, little danger or difficulty is to be apprehended, and we are to extract it slowly.
- 7. But if a hemorrhage was to come on, the placenta being retained, it would be equally necessary to extract the placenta as it would be to extract the child, provided the degree of hemorrhage was equally profuse or sudden.
- 8. After the birth of the child, the extraction of the placenta is therefore to be confidered as the only method by which an apprehended or present hemorrhage is to be prevented or avoided.
- 9. Yet all discharges of blood do not require a speedy extraction of the placenta, but

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fuch only as by their violence or continuance, or frequent returns, threaten danger.

10. If much force be used in pulling by the funis, there will be danger; 1st, of tearing it from the placenta; 2d, of inverting the uterus; 3d, of injuring the uterus by the violence; 4th, of increasing the hemorrhage.

II. The danger of these consequences is greater when force is used to extract the placenta by the funis, than by the prudent introduction of the hand into the uterus for that purpose.

- will sometimes be able to bring down the placenta in cases in which the uterus acts insufficiently, just using so much force as will prevent the retrocession of it in the act of inspiration.
- 13. But in whatever manner the placenta may be brought into the pelvis, it should be suffered to remain there till the action of the uterus comes on, or so long as there is reason to fear a return of the hemorrhage, and it must then be carefully withdrawn.

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#### SECTION X.

On the Retention of the Placenta from the irregular Action of the Uterus.

- I. When all the parts of the uterus act with equivalent force, and at the same time, the combined power will contribute to the expulsion of whatever is contained in its cavity.
- 2. But if the uterus should act irregularly, the contrary effect might be produced.
- 3. If the fundus uteri should not act when the other parts are in action, the longitudinal contraction of the uterus would be produced; but if the central parts should only act, the uterus would then be contracted in the form of an hour glass.
- 4. As the placenta cannot be excluded when the uterus acts in this irregular manner, it must be extracted by introducing the hand into the uterus, provided the state of the hemorrhage should require it, or when it can-

the new as the stant of the new act an principles of present a to make one not be extracted by using the means before mentioned.

- 5. The hand ought never to be introduced into the uterus except in cases of real necessity, and then with the utmost care; and the hand when introduced should not be withdrawn until the placenta is detached and brought into the pelvis.
- 6. If the whole placenta be loofened this is easily effected, but if a portion of it should be found adhering, this must be separated by bending it back from the uterus, or by passing gently the singers between it and the uterus.
- 7. When the uterus is found contracted in the form of an hour-glass, the contracted part must be dilated in the manner recommended for the dilatation of the os uteri, and the contracted part must be amply dilated, or it will immediately contract again round the wrist.
- 8. We must then proceed as is before advised.

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#### SECTION XI.

On the Retention of the Placenta from the scirrhous Adhesion of it to the Uterus.

- 1. Should there be a degree of hemorrhage sufficient to make it necessary to introduce the hand to extract the placenta, a part of it must be separated, though there may be a scirrhous adhesion of the remainder to the uterus.
- 2. Then the method advised in the last section must be put in practice, and the firmer the adhesion the slower the separation ought to be made.
- 3. But if there should be no hemorrhage of importance, and merely a retention of the placenta beyond its due time, we may say, for example, more than four hours, and the means before recommended are insufficient to bring down the placenta;
- 4. It may then be necessary to introduce the hand carefully to separate and extract the placenta,

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placenta, and the difficulty will not be increafed by the delay.

- 5. Following the navel string as our guide, we must then pass the hand to the placenta; and if it should be found wholly adhering, we must begin with great caution to separate at the edge, and gradually proceed as before directed until the separation is completed.
- 6. Then grasping the placenta, we must slowly withdraw our hand, that the uterus may contract accordingly, and the chance of a subsequent hemorrhage be prevented.
- 7. The irritation made by the introduction of the hand, will generally occasion a return of the action of the uterus, before dormant, that will greatly facilitate the separation.
- 8. Yet it is possible that a portion of the placenta may adhere so firmly as to make it unsafe to separate it with our fingers.
- 9. Should this circumstance occur notwithstanding the most deliberate and firm proceeding, it may sometimes be more justifiable to leave the adhering part remaining than to use violence in separating it.

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when the greater portion of placenta is brought away, it is always a desirable thing to bring away the placenta and membranes in a perfect state.

### SECTION XII.

On those Hemorrhages which follow the Expulsion or Extraction of the Placenta.

- I. The hemorrhage in these cases may be either a continuation of that which existed before the exclusion of the placenta, or it may only follow the exclusion of the placenta.
- 2. When it is of the former kind, we may presume that it was not within our power to prevent it, but the latter kind may often be attributed to the violence or hurry with which the placenta has been extracted.
- 3. This is not fo dangerous as either of the varieties of hemorrhage of which we have last spoken, though with imprudent manage-

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ment, or under particular circumstances, it has sometimes proved fatal.

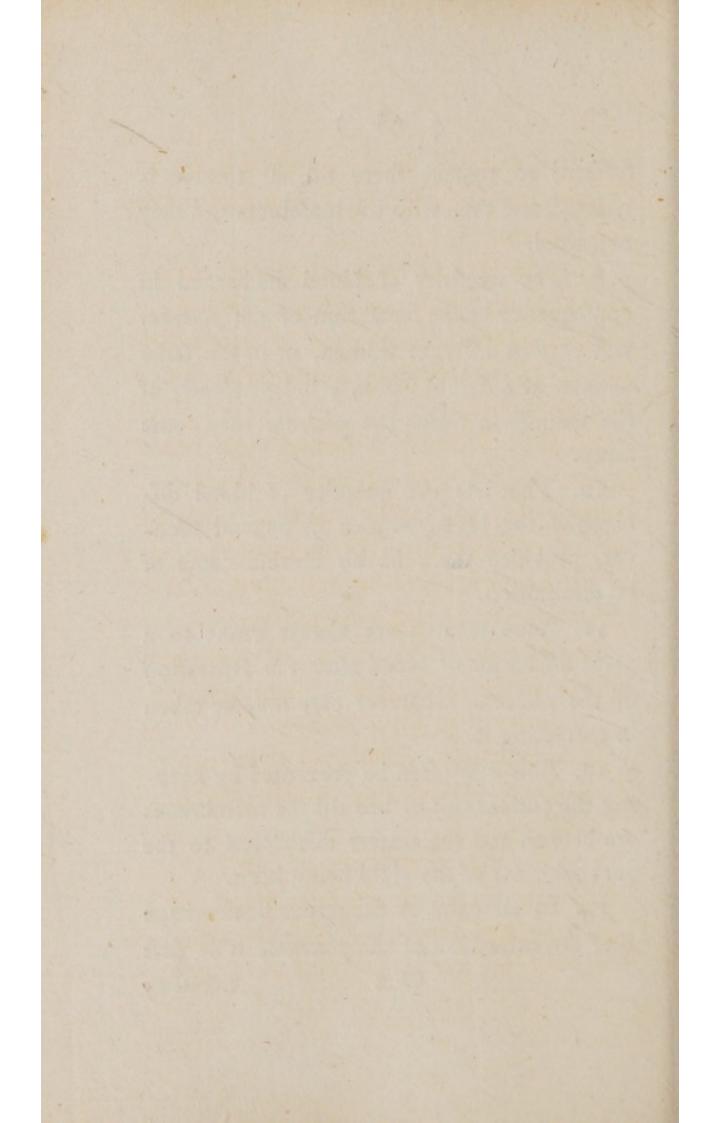
- 4. All the cautions given with respect to the management of the placenta, relate to the prevention of this kind of hemorrhage.
- 5. When the strength of women is much reduced by any cause which existed previous to labour, or when they have gone through much fatigue in the course of it, there is usually great heat and a rapid circulation of the blood at the time of delivery.
- 6. While they are in this fituation, if the placenta were to be brought away hastily, an extraordinary quantity of blood must of necessity be discharged.
- 7. The interval of time which passeth between the birth of the child and the expulsion of the placenta, should therefore be employed in cooling the patient and recovering her from her fatigue.
- 8. Even when the placenta is excluded out of the cavity of the uterus, it should be suffered



fuffered to remain there till all tumult is quieted, and then with the membranes, flowly extracted.

- 9. The quantity of blood discharged in consequence of the separation of the placenta will vary in different women, or in the same women at different labours, independently of the manner in which the placenta may come away.
- 10. The less the quantity of blood discharged the better women in general recover, provided there be no morbid cause of its diminution.
- great discharge of blood after the separation of the placenta, whatever care may be taken in extracting it.
- 12. This may often be prevented by keeping the patient out of bed till the membranes are broken and the waters discharged to the very moment of the child being born.
- after the extraction of the placenta, it is first

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necessary that we should be assured, by an examination per vaginam, that the uterus is not inverted.

- 14. Should there be an alarming hemorrhage after the separation and exclusion of the placenta, notwithstanding all the care which can be taken according to the methods before mentioned,
- 15. The doctrine of hemorrhages before given, and the general treatment already recommended, will enable you to fix upon the line of conduct it will be expedient to purfue, and to restrain or suppress them as far as they are under the influence of art.
- 16. In cases of hemorrhage so very profuse as to occasion frightful faintings, continuing so long as to raise great solicitude for the immediate safety of the patient, it was generally said, that cordials ought not to be given.
- 17. But this requires explanation. When the patient has continued faint so long as to give time, according to our judgment, for the wessels of the uterus to contract, then cor-

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dials and nourishment in small quantities, very often repeated, are really needful.

- 18. Other means are also to be used for the purpose of recovering women from this long continued fainting; and one of the most effectual is, sprinkling the face freely with cold water.
- 19. After a profuse hemorrhage the patient will frequently have a disposition to sleep, which has generally been considered as dangerous.
- 20. But short sleeps are very refreshing, though long ones in a very weak state are, under every circumstance, found to be injurious.
- 21. When there has been a dangerous hemorrhage, the patient should remain for many
  hours undisturbed, and in an horizontal position; and our attention must be continued as
  long as any danger is to be apprehended.

# On Labours attended with Convulsions.

- nancy very much resemble the epilepsy, but to the symptoms, which these have in common, may be added, the peculiar hisping noise which women make with their lips during the convulsions.
- 2. When convulsions happen to women with child, they are generally, but not universally, accompanied or followed with symptoms of labour.
- 3. These convulsions are indicated by a piercing pain in the head, by giddiness and other vertiginous complaints, by blindness, by vacillation of the mind or a slight delirium, by violent cramp or pain at the stomach, by a fulness or apparent strangulation of the neck and fauces, and other affections of the vascular and nervous system.
  - 4. The means to be used for the preven-

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or existing, must be regulated according to the constitution of the patient and the violence of the symptoms.

- 5. In general it will be necessary to take away some blood, or sometimes to repeat the blooding, and it has been sound particularly serviceable to open the jugular vein. Emetics, when they could be given, have been useful, as has also the warm bath. Clysters may be frequently exhibited. Opiates, joined with nervous medicines, may be given; and the patient is, by all the means in our power, to be soothed and restrained from violent exertions.
- 6. During the convulsions the means by which contrary irritations may be excited are to be used; and of these the most powerful is, the dashing of cold water in the face, which has been known to prevent, or even to cure, convulsions.
- 7. Some writers have recommended the speedy delivery of the patient, as the most eligible,

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eligible, and only effectual method of removing puerperal convulsions; but others have infifted that the labour should be uninterrupted.

- 8. From the histories of all the cases of puerperal convulsions which have been recorded, it appears, that a greater number have died of those who were delivered by art, than when the labours were resigned to nature.
  - 9. As far as my experience enables me to judge, we ought not to attempt to deliver women with convulsions before some progress is made in the labour.
- fufficiently, or to a certain degree, the patient safely may, and ought to be delivered by art, if from the urgency of the convulsions, and the general danger of the case, delivery should appear necessary.
- these cases, whether the operation be performed with the forceps or vectis, or by turn-

\* · Proceedings Named Conference of the Australia

ing and extracting the child by the feet, has already been fully explained.

12. The event of the operation, both to the mother and child, will also very much depend upon the skill and circumspection with which it may be performed.

THE END.

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