

on the administration of nutriment or stimulants, that more would take place. After an examination and estimation of the expulsive effort made by the uterus (for it had not entirely subsided), I judged that the most effective plan of procedure would be to rupture the membranes, which I accordingly did, after a quarter of an hour's trial of the pains. The os uteri, although as hard as usual, when not larger than half a crown, was dilatable, and I was anxious to superinduce some reaction necessary to the furtherance of our object. We, therefore, gave her a mixture of good ale, brandy, and egg beat up together, a little at a time and frequently, as the stomach would allow; she had also a dose of the tincture of scale after the membranes were ruptured. Soon after this treatment the desired reaction came on, the os uteri became more sensible, accompanied with more effort in the uterus and abdominal muscles. These good symptoms enabled us to assist the dilatation of the os uteri as the pains recurred. Whilst thus favorably proceeding, Mr. Smith (who had also been sent for by Mr. Evans) came in. He inquired the state of the case, and, on hearing it, suggested the plan which I had already pursued, viz., to rupture the membranes. Before leaving, Mr. Smith carefully examined, and pronounced that all was proceeding favorably, that the head would now fall into the brim of the pelvis, the uterus favorably contract, and hæmorrhage would altogether cease. He also expressed his opinion that the hæmorrhage had arisen from a partial separation of the placenta, but of course it was impossible to know that the complication of the case arose from a short cord, although such proved the fact. The placenta could not be discovered in the neighbourhood of the os uteri, although carefully searched for both by Mr. Smith and myself.

I waited with Mr. Evans some time, but seeing that the pains were established, I left him until three, p.m., when, at his request, I called again; the patient was still very low, and had been very sick, the stomach having become irritable; still the pains recurred periodically, but weak and short; the os uteri was more dilated, and the head much further advanced. At half past six I visited her again, but everything was quiet, although, on making an examination, I found there was a periodical effort making, which needed only rousing to action. Her strength had much improved, she was quite warm, and, as she expressed it, she was much more comfortable and in better spirits, which I rallied by expressions of assurance of well-doing, and that speedily.

The os uteri was now quite expanded, and the head had made much progress, but, from her weak state, it did not make that impression upon the back of the pelvis and perineum as in healthful labor. The excito-motory system only wanted bringing into careful play, in order to do all that was required, and by the usual tact in this way we had all the business done by seven o'clock, much to the surprise of the attendants.

By inserting this plain statement, you will greatly oblige,

Gentlemen,

Yours very respectfully

S. STANILAND, Ch., &c.

Leeds, 32, East Parade, 1844.

P.S.—Will "Obstetricus" be so good as to read my remarks on the "Practice of the Reflex Function in Midwifery, in your No. 26, Vol. I., March 26, 1842; and I hope he will not be so snappish in future, and will endeavour to make his remarks more in the spirit of a generous inquiring philosopher.

WATER-DRESSING.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. Humpage, of Bristol, has, at page 356 of your last Number, proposed a treatment for the cure of bunion. I may remark, that it is applicable to the cure of corns, and of many other diseases that are either dependant on or attended by inflammation. Mr. Humpage might have pointed out to your readers that their minds would receive no injury by an attentive study of the "Treatise on Inflammation" by the late celebrated Professor Macartney, who was the first to point out the many advantages of Mr. Humpage's water-dressing, and to establish the correct theory upon which the simple practice was founded. Mr. Humpage is not singular in believing himself to be the original proposer of water-dressing. Mr. Syme, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Liston, now of London, both think themselves entitled to the credit of discovery in this matter; but I can bear witness that while these three original minds were yet philosophising as incipient students, Dr. Macartney had laid the foundation of his views, and had taught his doctrines and his practice in his lectures.

Whether the water-dressing be applied to the treatment of bunions, or for *preventing* inflammation during the healing process consequent upon amputation, the philosophical mind that first proposed the idea, brought out its principles in a manner that cannot be imitated by those not endued with the same ingenious power of inductive observation, nor gifted with the intellect which enabled it to lay up its rich stores of well-arranged facts. It is idle in smaller minds to claim originality for details dependant on principles they can hardly appreciate; but I trust you will not think it unbecoming in me to vindicate the rights of the illustrious dead to that series of principles upon which the simple treatment of water-dressing is founded.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ASHBURNER.

55, Wimpole-street, Feb. 5, 1844.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * *It is requested that letters and communications may be addressed to Dr. Hennis Green, 58, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square. Letters connected with the Provincial Association, to Dr. Streeten, Worcester.*

ERRATUM.

In Dr. Chambers's paper, page 366, col. 2, line 13 from the bottom, for "signs," read *rigors*; page 367, col. 1, line 5, for "correct," read *connect*.