

twenty, as Acosta the Jew's. They keep the bark after its being dried, sometimes three or nine years, sometimes more, which may be the reason, together with the wetting of it, that it obtains not its end in so small a quantity as formerly.

ON DETACHING THE PLACENTA IN SOME CASES OF PLACENTA PRÆVIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

In the last number of your Journal Mr. Crowfoot made some very valuable observations, on the practice recommended by me, of first detaching the placenta in cases of Placenta Prævia. He says, after referring to the established fact, that the hæmorrhage is suppressed by this operation, "that, valuable as such a procedure may be under circumstances, it may be questioned how far it is advisable, or even justifiable, to substitute it, as a general rule of practice, for the mode of treatment which has been so long established."

Now, Sir, I will go further than express a doubt upon the expediency of this plan as applicable to all cases of this description, and state most positively that it is not justifiable to adopt it universally in these cases, nor indeed did I ever recommend it to be universally applied; on the contrary it was brought forward by me as a conditional operation. (*Vide*, former numbers of *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.) Fearing that this mode of practice was likely to be abused, I have in your Journal, and elsewhere, several times mentioned that my views were not fully comprehended. If rashly applied in all cases of unavoidable hæmorrhage, it would lead to an unnecessary sacrifice of life.

My opinion of the comparative value of the lives of the mother and child in utero, in cases of distortions of the pelvis, &c., is already known by the profession to essentially differ from that generally entertained. But in reference to this question, in cases of placenta prævia, it ought to be differently settled, because the cause giving rise to the difficulty or danger is of a temporary character, not likely to impede or render dangerous succeeding labours. This question I have considered in a paper now in the hands of the Editor of the *London Medical Gazette*, which, when published, shall, with two others contained in that journal, be forwarded to you for reprint or analysis, as you think best.

The rate of maternal mortality, after the ordinary practice of delivery by turning, as stated by a late writer, is far too great according to the result of my practice. In the paper above referred to, I have protested against the deductions drawn from obstetric statistics as now brought forward. Turning the child in utero is a most important obstetric operation, and the child's life is either saved or destroyed by the mode of its performance. (*Vide* Essays on various subjects connected with Midwifery.) Mr. Crowfoot's remarks on this subject are very just. He is entitled to the thanks of the profession for his statement of the result of his practice in fourteen cases, and that of his son in two cases.

I am, yours most respectfully,

THOMAS RADFORD.

Manchester, November 13, 1845.

CÆSARIAN OPERATION: EXTRACTION OF A LIVING CHILD.

On Thursday morning, November 20th, Dr. Radford, of Manchester, and Mr. Goodman, of Salford, had the satisfaction of extracting a living child by the Cæsarian section. It was premature, (seven months and a half,) and is likely to do well. The case was a favourable one for the operation, and as far as can be anticipated, we hope will prove successful. The obstacle to delivery was distortion of the pelvis from Mollities Ossium.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted licentiates Thursday, November 14th:—J. Eddison, Workshop; G. Foote, London; C. H. Collins, Chew Magna; J. Smellie, London.

OBITUARY.

Died at Copenhagen, aged 61, Charles Frederick Reinhardt, Professor of Zoology at the Royal University.

We regret also to announce the decease of Dr. Charles Wake, of Warwick.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

An Act (8th and 9th Vict., c. 100) for the Regulation of the Care and Treatment of Lunatics. With Explanatory Notes and Comments, &c. &c. Edited by Forbes Winslow, M.D., Author of "The Plea of Insanity in Criminal Cases," "The Anatomy of Suicide," &c. London: Benning and Co.; Renshaw. 1845. 8vo. pp. 173.

On the Treatment of Fractures by Splints of a New Construction. By William Kerr, Surgeon, Glasgow. (From the *Northern Journal of Medicine*.) 8vo. pp. 13. Plates.

A System of Surgery, by J. M. Chelius, Doctor in Medicine and Surgery, &c. Translated from the German, and accompanied with additional Notes and Observations. By John F. South, Professor of Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital. Parts VII. and VIII. London: Renshaw. 1845.

Illustrations of Modern Mesmerism from Personal Investigation. By John Forbes, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to Her Majesty's Household. London: Churchill. 1845. 12mo. pp. 101.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. I. Harrison; the Birmingham Pathological Society; Mr. W. Weaver Jones; the Sheffield Medical Society; Dr. Barclay; and Mr. Daniell.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princess Street, Soho.