A CASE
OF
UMBILICAL HÆMORRHAGE,
WHICH TERMINATED FATALLY.

By G. POUT, Esq.

COMMUNICATED BY
SIR ASTLEY COOPER, BART.

Read May 22, 1822.

ON the 4th of September last, I was sent for early in the morning, by a lady of the name of White, requesting my immediate attendance, as her child had been bleeding all night from the navel. On my arrival, I found, from the state of the linen, that the hæmorrhage must have been very considerable, and I endeavoured to ascertain the cause by introducing a pair of dressing forceps within the navel, as far as possible, and then opening them to stretch the integuments; but not being able to see from whence the blood came, I plugged up the opening with lint, &c., and used pressure by means of adhesive plaister and a roller. The child was then laid on a firm cushion on its back, with a view of making the abdominal muscles as tense as possible; and, after waiting an hour or

two, I found the linen again imbued with blood. I made several attempts to ascertain the cause, but to no purpose. I therefore made pressure as before, and, as I thought, successfully; for after waiting some time longer, and not perceiving any bleeding, I had every reason to believe it was stopped. The child was again laid on the cushion, with strict injunctions not to move it all night. When I called on the following morning, I was informed that the child had been dead several hours, having bled to death, as the linen clearly proved. This was a fine healthy male child, about ten days old. The funis came off as usual, and without the least appearance of any thing more than common on the 6th day. The bleeding commenced on the 8th, and continued till death, which happened about twenty-seven hours after. What renders this case most remarkable is, that this lady has lost two children before, under exactly similar circumstances, previous to her coming into this neighbourhood; and has three fine children living.

Upon dissection after death, by the request of the parents, (whose good sense cannot be too much applauded, and to whom I feel much indebted,) I found the umbilical vein full of blood, in a fluid state, and nearly as large as a goose quill. Both the umbilical arteries were sufficiently pervious to admit a probe; and the left still containing a plug of coagulated blood, from which, it would seem, the bleeding took place. They were both so much

retracted within the integuments, that it must have been impossible to have stopped the bleeding by pressure. If ever another case of the kind were to come under my care, I should not hesitate to cut down upon the arteries, and to tie them, as the only means of security.

Market Street, Bedfordshire,

May 24th, 1822.