the blood, even to saturation, does not give rise to cerebral symptoms. The cerebral symptoms referred to are often most severe when the jaundice is slight, or when there is none; and they are readily accounted for by the knowledge of the disintegrating function which the liver is now known to perform. When this function of the liver is arrested or seriously impaired, urea is no longer eliminated in sufficient quantity by the kidneys; lithic acid and deleterious products of disintegrating albumen even less oxydised, such as leucin and tyrosin, and perhaps others with which we are as yet imperfectly acquainted, accumulate in the blood and tissues; and the result is the development of symptoms of blood-poisoning similar to those which arise when the kidneys are unable to eliminate the products of albumen-disintegration, owing to disease of their own structure, or to an excessive formation of urea and other products, as happens in many febrile diseases. In acute atrophy, for example, the structure of the liver is destroyed and its functions arrested; leucin and tyrosin take the place of urea in the urine, and are also found in large quantity in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, while cerebral symptoms and the typhoid state are prominent features of the disease.

OBSTETRIC MEMORANDA.

TREATMENT OF POST PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE.

XIX.

AGREEING most cordially with my friend and former class-fellow, Mr. Alfred Godrich, in his remarks and suggestions as to the preventive treatment of *post partum* hæmorrhage in the JOURNAL for April 4th, I would add another suggestion. There exists one plan of treatment, for which I do not claim any novelty, but simply more importance than it at present enjoys. It is a plan for conducting the third part of labour—"all the circumstances which relate to the separation and expulsion of the placenta," according to Dr. Denman. It was my good fortune to become early impressed with this plan of treatment, which I am about to describe; and it is my firm conviction that by its means we can, with an amount of certainty otherwise unattainable, prevent the supervention of that most fearful phenomenon, "flooding". I have never had a case of flooding, although during the management of many varieties of labour, both natural and difficult, and obstetric operations, *post partum* hæmorrhage has threatened; and this I attribute solely to this way of conducting the removal of the secundines. The following is the plan I uniformly adopt. Immediately on the expulsion of the child—the binder of course being applied during the commencement of the second stage, and gradually tightened—I pass my hand (the left one), and grasp the uterus over the abdomen, and make firm pressure downwards in the axis of the pelvis. I then hook in my right index finger on to the edge of the placenta, which is invariably by this time in the vagina; and, with a gentle rotatory movement, extract. If, however, as is very seldom the case, the secundines be not low enough, I follow up the funis, and hook my finger at its insertion, and so effect its removal. I say, immediately the child is born I do this, because, if pressure be not directed at once to the uterus, the womb closes over the after-birth and prevents its speedy expulsion, and a proportionate amount of risk of *post partum* hæmorrhage is involved. I do not believe it right to teach that we should wait for a griping pain or two to effect the expulsion of the after-birth. These so-called griping pains should only cause the firmer contraction of the womb after the expulsion of the placenta. The advantages of this plan of treatment are the following. 1. We effect the speedy and safe removal of the placenta, and so place the uterus out of the danger of hæmorrhage. 2. Should *post partum* hæmorrhage set in, we can have the uterus more immediately under our control. 3. It hinders the supervention of an unusual amount of vascular excitement. I submit these imperfect remarks to the notice of the profession, in the hope that they may evoke some larger experience. But I would feel like that deep thinker who, with more meaning than will disclose itself at once, said, "Already my opinion, my conviction, gains infinitely in strength and sureness, the moment a second mind has adopted it." I am sorry that I am unable to state from whose writings I gained this valuable piece of knowledge of the treatment of the third stage of labour and the prevention of flooding; but the subject was treated of in Braithwaite's *Retrospect of Medicine*. Dr. Churchill, in his fifth edition of the *Theory and Practice of Midwifery*, says: "I have adopted this practice for twenty years, and rarely have the placenta detained more than five minutes; nor have I had a case of hæmorrhage during that time. If we wait some time before making pressure, the uterus closes over the after-birth, enough to retain, but not enough to expel it."

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LEAVES FROM MY DIARY DURING THE ASHANTEE WAR.

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III.—EN ROUTE.

WHEN steaming past Teneriffe, we were leaving behind the last traces of European civilisation, and about to enter within the boundaries of an entirely new climate and scenery. Low alluvial shores were to replace arid volcanic islands—realms of disease, countries presenting quite the opposite characteristics. We were about to enter the region of the north-east trades, with its hot sun and cold breeze, so trying to the invalid returning from West Africa, or to any one who has resided there for any length of time. Watching the flying-fish by day, and the beautiful phosphorescence of the sea at night; the gorgeous sunsets, in every hue of purple, violet, crimson, and gold; and the splendid moonlight, or, in its absence, myriads of brilliant stars, which light up the firmament of the heavens in an almost equal degree, was about all the occupation there was to wile away the long hours and days which intervened before the low shores of the Gambia were sighted. The short twilights precluded all attempts at reading in the evening; and, as it was becoming too warm to remain below with any degree of comfort, we, as a rule, remained on deck, until the putting out of one light after another in the cabin, warned us that we must either turn in at once or go to bed in darkness. The sea here heaves in a long rolling swell, not nearly so disagreeable as the choppy seas of the Bay of Biscay, or so provocative of sea-sickness—at least such appeared to be the general experience. The waves appear singularly free from zoological specimens. I have watched for hours without seeing anything more than a little Portuguese man-of-war, with its small purple crest glittering in the sunlight, while a sail on either bow is quite a *rara avis*.

Leaving Teneriffe on the evening of the 27th August, the peak was still visible at 6 A.M. On the morning of the 28th, it was becoming much warmer. The following meteorological observations show the gradual transition from the cooler to the more tropical climate, and one now becoming largely saturated with moisture, and give at the same time a general idea of the sensations felt by individuals as they passed from the Canaries into more intensely heated latitudes.

	Wet Bulb.	Dry Bulb.	REMARKS.
Aug. 28th.	72	75.....7 A.M., in cabin, port closed; at sea; left Teneriffe previous evening.	
	71	74.....9 A.M., in shade in air on deck; feels warm; sea choppy; N.E. trade beginning to blow.	
	72	75.....7 A.M., in cabin, port closed; at sea; two days from Teneriffe; very warm.	
29th.	69	71.....9 A.M., in shade on deck; clouded, chilly, damp; about 50 miles off African coast.	
	69	72.....3 P.M., in shade in air on deck.	
	76	77.....7 A.M., in cabin, port closed; at sea; three days from Teneriffe; very warm & muggy.	
	76	78.....9 A.M., in shade in air on deck; off Arguill Bank.	
30th.	78	81.....3 P.M., in shade in air on deck; very hot and muggy; first really warm day we have had; 83 deg. in cabin at bed-time; rain-cloud threatening to windward; every one perspiring profusely while at dinner in the cabin.	
	80	82.....7 A.M., in cabin; port closed; very close.	
	80	82.....9 A.M., in shade in air on deck; very warm, clouded; light S.W. wind.	
31st.	80	84.....3 P.M.; every one looking pale, and perspiring, upon the least exertion, profusely; scarcely any breeze.	
	80	82.....7 A.M., in cabin, port open; very close; perspiring profusely while dressing; water in coolers quite warm.	
Sept. 1st.	77	80.....9 A.M., in shade in air on deck; in River Gambia, 2,500 miles from England—12 days 12 hours; slight rain, thunder; cool breeze from S.E.; misty clouds in this direction; nimbi all about.	
	79	86.....3 P.M., in shade in air on deck; very close and uncomfortable.	