was by no means overdrawn. I found a most extensive laceration of the soft parts on the inner side of the leg, upwards of eight inches in length, through which the denuded fragments of bone were protruding in every direction; and on the outer side of the leg was a similar laceration six inches in length, attended with the same comminuted state of the bones. In this state of things it became our duty to point out to the patient and his friends, that not even the most remote chance of prolonging his life existed, save by recourse to amputation, which was willingly acceded to. Accordingly, having previously provided myself with a supply of genuine chloroform from London, we at once proceeded to administer it to him, on a plan which I somewhat modified from that used by Professor Simpson.

The desired, and it may fairly be said, truly astonishing effect, was produced in a little more than seven minutes; the patient after a slight twitching of the muscles, passing off into an apparently profound sleep. In this state we carried him from his bed, and placed him on a previously-prepared table in the adjoining room, without his evincing the slightest evidence of the pain, which under other circumstances he must unavoidably have suffered. The necessary preliminaries having been carefully adjusted, and the chloroform again applied for a few minutes, in order to ensure its full effect, I immediately proceeded with the amputation, which was performed in rather less than three minutes, Mr. Clarke, who rendered me very efficient assistance, and myself, being as much delighted as were the family astonished, at observing that at no step of the operation did our now unconscious patient shew any symptom whatever of enduring pain.

Shortly after we had replaced him as comfortably as possible in bed, he commenced being very talkative, would not believe his leg had been removed, and when questioned as to whether he had not felt pain, he replied, No, he had not felt any pain; he thought he had been asleep! He soon after this sang several snatches of a favorite old song!! And then passed into a most tranquil sleep, in which state we left him.

REMARKS.—From the ossified and diseased state of the arterial trunks met with in the stump, added to the patient's great age, the chances of recovering are of course sadly against him. Amputation below the knee was, however, the only plan of treatment which the *extensive* and *severe* nature of the injury would possibly admit of; and the desired anæsthetic effect of the new agent was certainly *most successful* and *complete*. One circumstance, however, which particularly arrested my attention during the process of securing the vessels, was the highly venous appearance of the blood issuing from the arteries which I particularly pointed out to Mr. Clarke; and I further remarked, that in proportion as the special effect of the chloroform passed off from the patient, the blood from the small muscular branches resumed its arterial character. The *modus operandi* of this truly astonishing, and (as far as the interests of humanity are concerned) certainly invaluable agent, has not, that I am aware of, been as yet fully explained, but if the foregoing remarks are confirmed by further observation, they would, I think,

lead to the inference that its effects are produced through the medium of a highly and perhaps peculiarly carbonized condition of the blood, acting on the sensorium and nervous system; and it will, therefore, be the province of further observation and experience to determine whether any and what degree of injurious influence may thereby be produced on the system, as to its restorative action so much in general required after the major operations of surgery; and whether such effects are calculated to overbalance the high *desideratum* of, as it were, annihilating human pain and agony on such occasions.

TWO CASES OF DELIVERY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CHLOROFORM.

By HERBERT W. BUDD, Esq., Surgeon to the City Gaol, Worcester.

Case 1.—January 23, 1848, I visited Mrs. Price, aged 27, in labour with her third child, at a quarter before five, a.m. Her pains commenced at eight o'clock the preceding evening, were very frequent and wearing, about every three minutes, and had been thus nearly the whole night; pulse 80; os uteri dilated to the size of a crown-piece; the head of the child had entered the cavity of the pelvis; complexion florid; of spare person. Three days ago she had a severe fall on the back, and since that time has had a constant cold weight in the bowels, and has not felt the child. Complains much of her back. On my naming the advantages of chloroform, she entreated me to use it.

Half-past five, a.m. I administered fifteen minims by means of a sponge. In less than a minute she seemed to be comfortably asleep, though easily roused. She had several pains, with intervals of three or four minutes, without feeling them; afterwards she had several in the natural state, which she said were much deadened. The parts became more relaxed, the uterine action not at all diminished in power or frequency. In the intervals she seemed to be asleep.

$\frac{1}{4}$ to 6 o'clock 15 minims, with the same results.

$\frac{1}{4}$ past 6 " 15 " "

$\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 " 15 " "

Seven o'clock, 30 minims. The membranes gave way under a very strong expulsive effort, and a large quantity of liquor amnii escaped. The head immediately pressed on the perineum. Quite unconscious.

10 minutes past 7. 30 minims.

20 minutes past 7. The child was born, and from its appearance had been dead some days; much swelled. In from five to ten minutes the placenta came away with facility, and the uterus contracted firmly. She became conscious a few minutes after the birth of the child, and assured me she was quite ignorant of its having been born. She said, "I have been in another world." She felt no pain on the expulsion of the placenta, although quite sensible. I think it right to add, that the passage of the shoulders was very tedious, and I was obliged to give considerable assistance in their delivery, although the throes of labour were very strong.

She has gone on favourably in every respect since. I saw her to-day, January 31st, and she is quite comfortable.

Case 2.—Thursday, January 27th, I was sent for to Mrs. Lockley, in labour with her first child. I saw her at a quarter to four, p.m. Pains had commenced at eight the preceding evening, with an interval of half an hour for the first few hours; they then became more frequent, and for some hours previously to my arrival came on every five minutes. Expulsive pains weak; os uteri dilated to a size larger than a crown-piece; great thickness of perineum, and a considerable portion of the anterior lip of the uterus to be obliterated. My impression was, that she would not be delivered till twelve that night. On naming the chloroform, she was anxious to have it administered. I did so with the most satisfactory results, as the particulars subjoined will, I think, amply testify.

Mrs. Lockley is of a florid healthy appearance, rather stout, aged 25. Pulse 110. On examination the vagina evinced great irritability.

Quarter past 4, p.m. Fifteen minims of the chloroform were administered with a sponge; she was under its influence in less than a minute. In three minutes uterine action came on of a more expulsive character than before; the parts were strikingly relaxed; irritability of vagina vanished. After an interval of four minutes another pain came on. She afterwards opened her eyes, and on being asked whether she felt any pain, said "No! But I was conscious of something." She dozed between the pains. She then had six pains in the natural way during the next half hour; they were strong, not at all diminished in power or frequency. She assured me they were much deadened.

Ten minutes to five, 20 minims. In two minutes a very strong pain came on, followed by another in a minute, under the influence of which the membranes gave way. She seemed comfortably asleep at this time.

Five minutes to five. During a strong throes of labour, I pressed firmly on the perineum internally; she seemed however quite unconscious.

Five o'clock. Quite recovered from the effects of the chloroform. For thirteen minutes from this period she had four pains, not at all diminished in power, &c. Sensation of pain much diminished.

13 minutes past 5 .. 20 minims, with like effects.

$\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 30

6 o'clock 30

25 minutes past 6 .. 30

20 minutes to 7 30

5 minutes to 7 30

Three minutes after seven, 60 minims; pains are now very forcing; head begins to press on the perineum. Sixty minims.

20 minutes after 7.. 30

$\frac{1}{2}$ past 7..... 30

25 minutes to 8 30

12 minutes to 8 30

5 minutes to 8 30

For the last half-hour or more has been in a dreamy unconscious state.

Eight o'clock. The child born alive, a fine girl; the placenta followed in about five minutes; uterus well contracted; no hæmorrhage.

Shortly after her delivery she became conscious, but seemed much disposed to doze. She was conscious of the placenta coming away, but did not feel any pain; she screamed out at the last throes but one preceding the passage of the head. On my naming this to her, and fearing that she must have suffered much at the birth of her child, she replied, "Oh! no sir, I knew nothing about it; I was in a dream, and I saw my brother drowning; I called out and tried to catch hold of him, to prevent him from sinking."

Friday, 10 a.m. I was informed that she slept for four hours after I left her last night. She had a good night, and has gone on favourably ever since. The lochia were natural; the milk appeared on Saturday night.

February 1st. I found her sitting up in bed, with the child in her lap, and looking well.

CASES FROM PRIVATE PRACTICE.*

By JOHN RICHARD WARDELL, M.D., Edin.;

Late President of the Royal Physical and Hunterian Medical Societies, Assistant Pathologist in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, &c. &c.

INFANTICIDE.

REMARKS.—When employed at the inquest held on the first of these cases, it was not without a full consciousness of the serious duty which was then to be discharged;—serious, because there was no circumstantial evidence beyond the mere fact of the discovery of the body, to lead to the supposition that the child had been murdered, and upon the *ipse dixit* of the medical evidence, would the nature of the verdict, mainly, if not entirely, be decided, and therefore upon the view about to be taken of the matter, would be based important dependencies, it might be, the life or death of another individual. It is not at once sweepingly to be concluded that because the body of a child is found, as in this case, under suspicious circumstances, it has been feloniously destroyed; the mere discovery of the corpse, although it might highly favour the presumption, could not alone warrant us in arriving at such an inference; other enquiries would have to be made, and certain questions previously decided,—for instance, as to whether the child were at maturity; if it had maintained a separate existence; if its death had resulted from wilful or natural causes; what were the proofs of its having been maliciously destroyed, with like questions, which ought of course to be determined.

In former times concealment of pregnancy or of birth in this country were held capital offences, and many unjustly suffered under this barbarous law; in later