that it overcame the firmness he so remarkably possessed. He lay for some time in great agonies, but when the surgeons arrived, and discovered with certainty that the bone was broken, he was perfectly resigned, and never afterwards asked a question about the event. A fever soon ensued; on Tuesday he became lethargic, and continued so till about five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, when he expired with great calmness in the 75th year of his age.

On examination, the thigh-bone was found to be carious about four inches in length, and at nearly the same distance from its head. The disease took its rise from the internal part of the bone, and had so entirely destroyed its substance, that nothing remained at the part where it was broken but a portion of its outward integument; and even this had many perforations, one of which was large enough to admit two fingers, and was filled up with a fungous substance, arising from within the bone. There was no appearance of matter about the caries, and the surrounding parts were in a sound state. It was apparent that the torture which his grace underwent during the gradual corrosion of this bone, must have been inexpressibly great. Out of tenderness to his family he seldom made any complaint to them, but to his physicians he frequently declared his pains were so excruciating, that unless some relief could be procured he thought it would be impossible for human nature to support them long; yet he bore them for upwards of six months with astonishing patience and fortitude, sat up generally the greater part of the day, admitted his particular friends to see him, mixed with his family at the usual hours, sometimes with his usual cheerfulness, and except some very slight defects of memory, retained all his faculties and senses in their full vigour till within a few days of his death."

In the second part of the 15th vol. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, two cases of fracture of the thigh-bone taking place, without any violence, in connection with cancer, are related by Mr. Salter, of Poole, in one of which an examination was afforded after death, and his description of the condition of the bone corresponds very much with that of the preceding case. I regret that no examination could be obtained in the case of James Pople's wife.

DISLOCATION OF THE HIP, WITH FRACTURE OF THE ACETABULUM.

By Mr. Toogood.

Thomas Rich, a sawyer, aged thirty, fell into a saw-pit from a piece of timber, and received a violent blow on the hip from the heavy body which followed him. The head of the thigh-bone was thrown on the dorsum of the ilium, and the dislocation was reduced in the usual way without much difficulty. On the following evening it was evident that the head of the bone was not in its proper situation; the limb was shortened and somewhat inverted, presenting just the appearance of a dislocation into the ischiatic notch. Moderate extension, however, easily brought the leg of equal length with the other, and the whole limb to a natural state. He had retention of urine. The next day the limb was found again shortened, and although there was great swelling from the violent contusion which

so heavy a body had occasioned, an accurate examination satisfied me that the head of the bone was still lying on the dorsum of the ilium. I was not present when the dislocation was reduced, but the surgeons who attended the patient were positive that they heard the bone return to its socket, and their opinion was confirmed by the patient and the bystanders. A careful examination was again made, when a fracture of the acetabulum was detected, which allowed the head of the bone to escape, and explained at once the cause of the limb presenting such different appearances. There was not the slightest difficulty in returning the bone to its natural position, but it was no easy matter to keep it there. This, however, was effected by fixing the pelvis, and keeping up permanent extension by means of a pulley. By persevering in this plan for several weeks the patient perfectly recovered the use of the limb.

I have frequently employed permanent extension by the pulley, in cases of very oblique or complicated fractures of the thigh, with the best effects, and particularly in one I attended about a year since, in which the shaft of the bone was broken in three different places, so that it was impossible to keep the limb right in any other way. The patient has an excellent limb, without any deformity.

Bridgwater, June, 1842.

ARTIFICIAL PREMATURE LABOR.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you think any useful hints will be given, or any practical suggestions offered to the profession, by republishing a case in which Dr. Lee induced abortion, together with a case which lately occurred in my own practice, I will trouble you to give them a place in your Journal.

Yours, &c.,
W. ALLISON.

In the "*Lancet*," June 18, 1842, at page 413, a case is related in which the membranes of the ovum were punctured in the fourth month of pregnancy, to arrest fever, epigastric pain, and incessant vomiting; immediately after which the fever and pain subsided and the vomiting ceased, though the fœtus was not expelled until after several weeks.

CASE.—Mrs. J., of Retford, a delicate woman, aged 33, miscarried (about the sixth week) towards the end of 1841. In January, 1842, she became pregnant of her fourth child; I first saw her on that occasion on the 10th of January, on account of a colored discharge, with debility. The hæmorrhage returned frequently until the 7th of June, when it became so copious (in the fifth month) as to justify my endeavour to procure abortion. I passed a thick probe through the os uteri and the membranes, until I felt my fingers wetted with the liquor amnii; after which she had a few pains. From that time there was scarcely any colored discharge—merely a frequent oozing of water, with occasional pains. On the 20th, as she became anxious to be relieved from suspense, I passed the probe again without finding that I had increased the watery discharge. On the morning of the 26th, at five o'clock,