Here we have a case, not merely of simple placenta prævia, but a double surface exposed, there having been two placenta; the fibres of the womb, first in a state of rigid contraction, then the irritation consequent upon the performance of embryotomy; and, lastly, a state of excessive relaxation, and still not a drop of hæmorrhage, and the female entirely recovered. I present this case, so interesting in its nature, so apparently formidable in its character, hoping that those under whose observation it may fall will be induced to investigate the cause of so favorable a result.

I may be allowed here to add the great importance of an obstetrician always being in attendance upon a parturient female, no matter how simple the presentation, or how favorable the circumstances of her case. Had a practitioner been present at the commencement of the case just related, the life of a human being might have been saved, which was certainly sacrificed to ignorant midwifery, though the result to the female was as fortunate as could possibly occur.—*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*, Oct., 1843.

THE
SPONTANEOUS EXPULSION OF A LARGE
POLYPUS,

TWO DAYS AFTER THE DELIVERY OF A FINE
HEALTHY MALE CHILD.

By JOHN DAVIS, M.D., of Smithville, South Carolina.

May 23, 1843. I was summoned to Mrs. C——, aged thirty-two. When I arrived I found her to have been in labor twelve hours, with her fifth child. The presentation was natural, and the soft parts well dilated. The pains were, and, I was informed, had been, pretty strong for three hours previous to my arrival, yet they were irregular, intermitting, and of little effect. She was greatly exhausted by the continuance of her sufferings, and the violence of her exertions, and a serious question arose in my mind what I should do. If we would be governed by authors in general, it was a case in which the ergot might have been given with good effect. Considering the only difficulty, however, to depend upon the irregularity of the pains, I resolved to wait an hour or two, and see if nature herself would not accomplish the delivery; and, to my great joy, in half an hour the pains became more regular and forcible, and, on examination I found the head advancing with a pretty fair prospect of a hasty delivery. It was now just entering the brim of the pelvis, when profuse hæmorrhage came on, the woman sunk rapidly from copious loss of blood, the pains ceased almost entirely, and, indeed, the case became alarming. I ordered her such remedies as appeared most pressingly indicated, and in the course of half an hour the hæmorrhage ceased, the woman revived, the uterus regained its wonted powers, and in fifteen minutes more she was delivered of a large healthy male child. The afterbirth seemed to be slightly adherent, but was soon delivered with little difficulty, and without much hæmorrhage. In short, all things seemed to do well, excepting the uncommonly severe afterpains, which led me to place my hand over the abdomen, when I was a little surprised to find it but slightly

diminished in size, especially over the region of the womb. This led to a still further examination, *per vaginam*, and to my utter astonishment I discovered a large resisting tumor firmly impacted in the uterus. Satisfying myself as to its character, I did not examine as to its location, as the soft parts were very tender to the touch, and as the patient was very much enfeebled; nor was it necessary, as that was not the proper time to search for a pedicle or neck, or if its location were ascertained, to apply the ligature.

I gave such directions as I conceived the case required at the time, and left the lady with the fullest assurance that I would see her as often as circumstances would permit. Late in the afternoon of the day following, however, I was requested to visit her in haste, as her pains had returned with increased violence; but before I arrived she was spontaneously delivered of a polypus, weighing eleven ounces, without the slightest hæmorrhage.

The polypus is now in my possession. Its pedicle or stem is about an inch long and about two in circumference; it is similar to a fungous excrescence, and is covered by a thick membrane. It is full of large veins and arteries, some of the former being varicose.

This is the 19th of June, 1843, and the lady has recovered entirely; and says she feels much stronger than she did during the four last months of her pregnancy. She also states that she was not aware of there being anything wrong about her womb till after she was three months gone, at which time it seemed to be fuller than ordinarily at that stage of pregnancy, and there was also a slight vaginal secretion. These seemed to be the only signs, of which she is aware, that could be considered as symptoms of the disease. She is of a stout, robust constitution, and her general health has been good from her infancy with slight exceptions.—*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*, Oct., 1843.

CASE
OF
TRAUMATIC TETANUS,
IN WHICH THE SULPHATE OF QUINIA WAS SUCCESS-
FULLY USED.

By JOHN W. MALONE, M.D., of Quincy, Florida.

On the 15th of May, my colleague, Dr. William Booth, was called to see a negro girl, about twelve years old, of sound constitution, laboring under the usual symptoms of tetanus, particularly that variety called opisthotonos. The history of the case was as follows:—About ten or twelve days previously she said "she stuck a nail in her foot," to which a lye poultice was applied, but, suffering no farther inconvenience from it, no particular attention was given her, until the muscles of the extremities became rigid, with inability to move without inducing spasm; stiffness of the jaw supervened, and the spine was drawn back in a curve, all of which was supposed to have been produced from a fall she received on the day these symptoms occurred. She was bled, had her bowels operated on, and took morphia, but the symptoms became more violent, and excited in the minds of the family the suspicion that they might be produced from the wound in the foot, which they had supposed well. An examination was consequently

made, and pus was squeezed out from the punctured surface, at which time my colleague was sent for. He made a free incision into the foot, applied a lye poultice, administered opiates and calomel, and had the butter of antimony rubbed along the whole spinal column.

May 16. I saw her, for the first time, this morning, in the absence of Dr. Booth, and removed from the foot a splinter more than an inch in length. Symptoms more aggravated, great spinal recurvation, the mouth can scarcely be opened, frequent spasms about the throat, tongue loaded with yellow fur, great rigidity of the extremities, epigastric region tense and unyielding, and pulse tense and quick. Applied spirits of turpentine to the wound to promote suppuration; continue lye poultice. Castor oil, half an ounce; turpentine, one ounce; to move the bowels, and laudanum to subdue spasm.

In the evening we both visited her together, and, finding no amelioration of the symptoms, we determined to bleed her copiously, and then to use laudanum in large doses, so as to keep the system completely under its influence, and, if this course did not succeed, we then concluded to try the effects of the quinine. The laudanum was tried for two days and nights, with no permanent benefit to the patient, the spasms returning with increased violence, as soon as we suffered the system to get from under the influence of the opium.

18. The case appears to be hopeless; the pulse ranges from 135 to 140; the epigastrium is firm and unyielding; no suppuration is induced in the wound, although the most active irritants have been used; the rigidity of the muscles is increased; frequent spasms extend from the foot to the stomach, and from thence to the throat; pain in the epigastric region upon pressure, and frequent hiccups. Five grains of quinine and fifteen drops of laudanum in a glass of wine were now given every two hours, and fifteen grains of calomel were also ordered, to be followed by oil or injections in the evening. The quinine was discontinued after taking fifteen grains, from its having produced *tinnitus aurium* with *partial deafness*. Copious perspiration, with less frequency of pulse and an increase of volume, followed, together with a partial relaxation of the muscles. The following treatment was now adopted, and continued, with but little variation, throughout the case:—

Sulphate of quinine, three grains;

Muriate of morphia, one-third of a grain. To be taken every three hours, with an occasional glass of wine.

The wine had to be largely diluted in order to prevent its inducing hiccup. The bowels were kept open with castor oil and injections, and on the 29th of the month she was discharged convalescent.

REMARKS.

Notwithstanding the violence of the symptoms, and the great muscular contraction that existed, still the patient complained of very little pain, except when an attempt was made to move her, by raising her up or bending her limb, or when operations were induced upon the bowels, or irritants were applied to the wound in the foot. Violent pain and spasm of the stomach and jaws were excited in every instance by these remedies, and, notwithstanding its extreme

sensibility, still no suppuration ever followed the application of the spirits of turpentine, blistering ointment, lunar caustic, &c., which were freely used for the purpose of promoting it. As soon, however, as the remedies were discontinued, the edges of the wound sloughed off, and it healed up immediately, as it were, by the *first intention*.

I will remark, in regard to the effect of the constitutional remedies used, that, as long as we kept our patient completely under the influence of opium, the spastic rigidity of the muscles partially gave way, but soon returned with increased violence whenever they were discontinued; but when the quinine, in conjunction with the morphia, was resorted to, a continued and copious perspiration was kept up, the pulse became less frequent and increased in volume, the spasms returned at longer intervals, and gradually subsided, the rigidity of the whole muscular system yielded, the spine lost its abnormal curvature, and, on the tenth day after this treatment was adopted, she was able to sit or stand up, and, on the fourteenth day from the time we saw her, she was discharged, laboring under nothing but slight debility and some distortion of the countenance. The quinine was continued, however, for several days, in small doses, after we ceased visiting her, in order to keep the system slightly under its influence, so as to prevent any accumulation of muscular irritability, and to impart to it energy and healthy action. Large doses of quinine have the remarkable effect of diminishing the rapidity of the pulse, where active inflammation does not exist in any important organ—such as the brain, stomach, intestinal canal, &c.—and it has never in my hands failed to be beneficial in all febrile diseases, where, together with the effect mentioned, a general perspiration is established. It calms nervous excitement, quiets restlessness, removes all those transient and disagreeable pains to which the *fever patient* is frequently subjected, and acts in many respects in perfect accordance with the general idea we have of a *sedative*.

It is also proper to add, in conclusion, that the butter of antimony applied early in the disease, to the whole extent of the spinal column, produced considerable and immediate inflammation, but we did not observe any manifest or permanent benefit from its use.—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, October, 1843.

NEW METHOD FOR THE RADICAL CURE OF HYDROCELE.

At the seance of the Academie de Medicine, 28th November, a letter was read from M. Guillon, on a new method for the radical cure of hydrocele. It consists in introducing into the tunica vaginalis a very small flexible bougie long enough to form several spiral folds in the cavity; and keeping it there till pain and inflammation come on.

The following is the manner in which M. Guillon performs the operation. He plunges a trocar into the bottom of the tumor; and when about half the liquid has escaped, he introduces the bougie through the canula into the sac, and causes it to form two or three spiral folds in its interior, so as to distend it greatly. He generally lets it remain about eighteen hours, or at least till pain and swelling come on.