had expired.* Her labour was quick and natural, and the membranes and placenta were quite healthy. She is now suckling a fine infant, and doing well.

What was the source of the fluid in these cases? It evidently came from the sac of the amnion in the first case; and in the second case, it appears to have had a similar origin.

Excessive discharges are spoken of by writers on mid-wifery as taking place in pregnant women from the vagina and membranes of the ovum to the extent of many quarts; but the sudden and profuse loss, followed by shrinking of the abdominal parietes, leave little doubt but the cavity of the amnion furnished the fluid in the two cases under consideration. In the first case, the patient did not go her time; the infant was pony and feeble, and a part of the placenta and membranes diseased, as might have been expected; but in the latter case, it is remarkable that the woman in her weak and delicate state should have dragged through the full term of utero-gestation, and then have given birth to a healthy child. She never remembered to have been so large in her previous pregnancies, and often expressed a dread of having two children at a birth. The other patient also said, at the early period of her pregnancy, that her size was much greater than formerly.

A dropical condition of the amnion would account for the patient's great size. During gestation, she suffered severely from painful flatulence and dyspepsia, hiccup, short dry cough, and great edema of the legs and ankles. Her breathing was so embarrassed that she frequently sat up during the night, or propped herself up with pillows, from fear of lying down.

During my limited experience I had never before met with two such cases; and I must own that they entailed considerable anxiety.

**RETROVERSION OF THE GRAVID UTERUS:**

**THE BEST POSITION DURING ITS REDUCTION.**

By Thomas Skinner, M.D., Liverpool.

The Association did me the honour to publish in the *Journal* for 1860 a series of papers on Retroversio of the Gravid Uterus. As objections have been made in reference to the position of the patient recommended in my essay, as well as to the hand being introduced into the rectum rather than into the vagina, I must beg a little space to answer these same objections.

The position which I have put forth, and which I still maintain is the best, is "the patient upon her left side, the pelvis well raised, the shoulders low, and the thighs as much flexed upon the abdomen as possible." (Journal, 1860, p. 949.) It is objected to this position that it ignores the aid of gravitation; but I cannot see how it does so. I think that the position sufficiently favours gravitation; and that in the great majority of cases it will be found quite enough for all practical purposes.

Similar objections have been advanced in preference, that the patient should be placed with the lower extremities in bed, the pelvis over the side of the bed, and the elbows and hands on the floor; and the observation has been made that this position can be maintained for a considerable period. I cannot agree in this opinion, as in Mr. Wall's and many other cases where this position was tried, the taxis had to be stopped and renewed at intervals, the position being found to be both irksome and tiresome. This position is further open to the following objections, namely, that of raising unnecessary fears on the part of the patient; of being most repulsive to the natural mo-

* See an interesting case of Retrosiess of Labour, by Dr. Churchill, in the *Half-Yearly Abstract of the Medical Science,* vol. xxx, p. 236.

**OLEUM MORRICE FERRATUM.**

Fifteen parts of proto-sulphate of iron are precipitated by fourteen parts of common salt, and four parts of soda; the precipitate expressed; and after the addition of little water, digested for two hours and a half in a water bath, with two hundred and fifty parts of cork liver oil. The deep brown mixture readily becomes clear in a bottle, and soon thickens on exposure to the air. The oil is said to contain about one per cent. of iron. (Amer. Jour. Phar.)

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