

without the institution of a new College, which eventually would become a refuge for the destitute.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Yours obediently,

J. S. BARTRUM, F.R.C.S. (*By examination.*)
Bath, 41, Gay Street, March 28, 1850.

INTRA-UTERINE CRYING.

To the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Dr. Turley has now placed me in a very important station, which imposes on me a public duty requiring more ability than I possess, and the strictest impartiality. Metaphorically he has appointed me “Warden of the Mint.” Now, on making my “Assay,” I find that the article which he says he procured from the “Well of Truth,” never came therefrom, because I cannot discover one iota of that precious metal therein. He has also placed me on another high pinnacle—the Poppedom, and says, though I should anathematise him, yet I shall not prevail; but having hopes that I shall find him a good son of the Church, I will not proceed to the extremity, and dropping the metaphor, hasten to matter of fact.

The Doctor says he will endeavour to show me a philosophical thing. But I cannot admit it into this category. He observes:—“The longitudinal fibres of the gravid uterus, contracting in distinct paroxysms, as is well known, advance the fetal head by fits on its passage to the world; when, anon, by their relaxation, the head being drawn up by the body, recedes (the liquor amnii having escaped) in returning, withdraws atmospheric air into the relaxed uterus. Slight contraction and relaxation of this organ (half-pains) may easily excite the respiratory instinct, and this may be followed by the first infantile cry. Such is, I believe, the *rationale* of the facts I have recorded.”

The veritable *rationale* of parturition, according to my idea, is this:—The longitudinal transverse and oblique fibres of the uterus, which are organic and involuntary, being excited by the reflex nervous action, aided by the abdominal muscles, which are voluntary, produce the peculiar parturient pains, which are more or less violent, and more or less frequent, and generally allowing intervals of ease. Each pain pushes the foetus lower down, *vires acquirit eundo*,” the nearer the presenting part approaches the outlet of the vagina, the more we perceive it recede, and the cavity of the uterus becomes more diminished, and its action more energetic, till, by the union of both, the foetus is expelled, when the same action is still continued for the expulsion of the placenta. This I believe to be the normal parturient action.

What then is the meaning of the head being drawn up by the body, recedes (and the liquor amnii having escaped) in returning, withdraws atmospheric air with it into the relaxed uterus? Is the body cognizant of its situation? Is not a dead foetus as easily expelled, *cæteris paribus*, as a live one? Is there not the same withdrawing, whether the mother be horizontal or perpendicular? Whence then is this withdrawing? Not from a flabby or a tonic state of the uterus, for in the

intervals of ease it always closely embraces its contents, and particularly its os. And supposing the case to be a natural one, and the head in the situation of Master Beck’s when he was thought to cry twice, with the os uteri embracing it, and the broken membranes covering the face and mouth, the pudendum in apposition with the constrictores vaginae, and the sphincter muscles performing their duty, how was the atmospheric air to reach his mouth? The head or presenting part only recedes from the absence of the vis a tergo, caused by the temporary cessation of the action of the uterus and abdominal muscles, whereby the former returns to its natural position and healthy tonic state, drawing up its contents with it. It would be a waste of your valuable space were I to pursue this subject further, I will therefore briefly refer to the “Tale” so unfortunate for the Doctor’s logic.

Had Master Beck cried in utero, with a suspension of respiration for about half an hour, physiology assures us that his birth would have been altogether inauspicious to his anxious mother, for total apnoea and asphyxia must have ensued, and instead of his entering “the world in a towering passion, up at all ends,” he would have been down even unto death.

Reciprocating Dr. Turley’s kind and gentlemanly conduct, (*Civitate Fidele Nató*),

I remain Sir, your obedient Servant,
THOMAS POPE.

Clebury Mortimer, Salop, March 8, 1850.

ON THE EXTRACTION OF TEETH.

To the Editors of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,—It is always a pleasing and refreshing duty to bear testimony to the merits, excellence, an worth of our professional brethren, especially so when exercised for the relief of *pain* and *suffering*. I trust therefore you will allow me a corner in your valuable and widely circulated *Journal*, to record mine in favour of Mr. H. Gilbert, of 5, Suffolk Place, Pall Mall, and his newly-invented chair and fulcrum for dental operations.

Being in town for a few days, I visited Mr. Gilbert for the purpose of inspecting his apparatus for extracting teeth; and the courtesy and kindness I experienced in his explaining to me every particular, alike does honour to his heart and head; indeed I had *personal* and most satisfactory proof of the value and almost painless method of his admirable invention, in his kindly extracting for me at the same time a large molar tooth in the lower jaw, without the slightest difficulty or inconvenience. I regard Mr. Gilbert’s invention as an invaluable boon to suffering humanity—entirely superseding the use of chloroform for this hitherto dreaded operation—and would recommend *all*, who take an interest in this branch of our profession, to pay Mr. Gilbert a visit, whom they will find a most intelligent and sound practitioner.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant and Constant Reader,
R. B. C. NEWHOUSE.