

*Case in which the Caesarian Operation was successfully performed twice on the same Woman, communicated by Dr CHISHOLM.*

**I**N October 1805, Monsieur D'Ariste, an eminent surgeon accoucheur in the island of Martinique, was employed to attend a first labour, of which the following particulars are the most interesting: The lady was 25 years of age, three feet ten inches high, of a very ricketty constitution, and much deformed. During her pregnancy nothing remarkable occurred; but to the period of delivery, her friends looked forward with a degree of anxiety for which they had but too much cause. The surgeon, sensible of the disadvantages opposed to him, proceeded with much caution. The touch increased his apprehensions, as it convinced him that a living child could not pass through the natural passages, the diameter from the pubes to the sacrum being under two inches. The patient was sensible of her danger, but she had good spirits and much fortitude; the child also was lively. So circumstanced, and it being late in the evening, Mr D'Ariste thought it prudent not to proceed to extremities till next morning, when he could have the assistance of his professional friends. At that time, accordingly, being joined by his brother and others, and the case being maturely considered, their united opinions were in favour of the Caesarian operation, in preference to the certain destruction of the child, by the scissars and crochet. The patient consented readily; and being properly placed on a matress, raised on a table, her legs were secured by assistants, and an attempt was made to empty the bladder, but from the pressure of the uterus, the catheter could not be introduced. A straight incision was now made along the *linea alba*, beginning an inch below the umbilicus, and extending to nearly the same distance from the pubis; several arteries were divided, and immediately secured by ligatures; a portion of the intestines were protruded at the wound, but easily reduced; an incision was now made through the anterior part of the uterus, of the same extent as the external one; the placenta immediately presented itself, and was separated. The surgeon then introduced his hand in search of the child's feet, and having laid hold of them, had little difficulty in completing the delivery. As soon as the secundines were brought away, the natural contraction of the uterus restrained the hemorrhage, which was at first considerable. The edges of the external wound were brought together by sutures, and simple

dressings were applied, and retained by a proper bandage round the body. The wound was dressed daily, and in three or four weeks the patient was able to sit up in a chair, only prevented from stirring about by the debility consequent to so formidable an operation. Some untoward circumstances attended the progress of the cure; a diarrhœa was at times troublesome, and she had some accessions of fever, all of which, however, yielded to common remedies. The child was weak and faint for a few minutes after it was brought to light, but restored by the common cordials; nothing particular was noticed with respect to it afterwards.

The case appeared of such consequence to the Captain-General, Villaret Joyeuse, that he ordered an account of it to be published at the government press, which was accordingly done.

In June 1807, a gentleman of veracity, from Martinique, informed me, that the same woman had again been pregnant, and again Monsieur D'Arise had performed the Cæsarean operation on her with the same success. I do not vouch for the truth of the second statement, but I believe it myself, from the character of my informant.