

tion, 6; feet presentation, 7; the rest undetermined. Of the 512 head presentations, we find 415 in the first position of the vertex; 81 in the second; 4 in the third; 2 in the fourth; 1 transverse position of the head; 2 presentations of the apex; 2 of the face; 4 times oblique position of the head. Compound presentations, i. e. presentation of a hand or arm, together with the head, were observed in twelve cases, especially in women whose pelvis was capacious. These cases terminated without difficulty by the efforts of nature alone, although three times the umbilical chord was twisted round the child's neck. There were only two cases of twins, and the professor accounts for the small proportion of foot and breech presentations by the fact, that the great majority of the women were pregnant for the first or second time only.

As to the period of gestation, 523 cases occurred at term; 40 before term; in 5, apparently the term of gestation was prolonged.

Of the cases of abortion, the following present some circumstances worthy of notice.

Case 1.—In a woman pregnant for the first time, who had suffered from leucorrhœa, the placenta came away immediately after delivery; the child was completely anasarctous, and died fifteen hours after birth. On examination, besides a watery infiltration of the cellular tissue, some serum was found effused in the thoracic and abdominal cavities, the foramen ovale closed, and the ductus Botalli open.

Case 2.—In another case of premature labour, in the thirty-second week, the child, a female, weighing only two pounds twelve ounces, died in four hours after birth. The lungs contained a small quantity of air, presented no trace of crepitation; when compressed under water, furnished hardly any air bubbles, and did not float.

In the five cases of prolonged gestation, the commemorative circumstances, and the development of the children, made it probable that the period had been prolonged from 290 to 300 days.

The duration of labour was on an average six hours. Nine cases of precipitate labour occurred, viz., labour where the different periods were confounded into one, and the child expelled with a few pains immediately after the rupture of the membranes. Several labours were, on the contrary, protracted in primiparous women, through atony of the uterus, or spasmodic contraction. In the first cases, gently stimulating remedies were quickly beneficial; in the second, cooling and antispasmodic means. Another course of protracted labour, which sometimes presented itself in cases of head-presentation, was an increased thickness and toughness

Schmidt's Jahrbücher, 1835. B. VII. l. 1-3.

OBSTETRICS.

Review of the Midwifery Institution at Stuttgart, from 1828 to 1833. By Dr. ELSASER.

THE number of patients received during the above period was 580, of whom only 541 were delivered in the institution.

The number of natural births was 519; that of the artificial, 51. As to the position, we find:—Presentation of the head, 512; oblique presentation, 9; breech presenta-

of the membranes. In one case the membranes gave way, and the waters were discharged four weeks before labour commenced. Twisting of the umbilical chord round some part of the body occurred in one out of 39 cases,—more frequently in women who had borne several children, and where the quantity of waters was considerable.

The number of artificial labours, as we have remarked, was 51,—turning 11 times, the forceps used in 32.

The general size of the placenta, as Stein has already pointed out, was to that of the infant about one to six. Not a single case of placenta prævia or lateralis presented itself,—a circumstance in accordance with the observation of Outrepoint, who says that he never saw a placenta prævia in a primiparous female, and only once in a woman who was at her second pregnancy. In 11 cases the placenta presented an abnormal appearance. In one it contained four or five tubercular bodies of the size of a nut, resembling the mammary sarcoma of Abernethy. Similar tubercles as large as beans were found on the foetal surface of another placenta, otherwise quite normal. In another case the external edge was changed into a kind of cartilage, and once the union between the placenta and uterus was so intimate as to require the assistance of art to separate it. The uterine surface was covered with a number of whitish, thick, hard, bony spots, which in the substance assumed the appearance of grains of sand. In one case the umbilical chord was divided into branches nearly four inches long, which were inserted separately into the placenta.

The number of children born in the establishment was 572,—281 boys, 291 girls. It is the custom in most of the midwifery institutions in Germany to keep a careful register of the weight and length of each child: the following were the average results obtained upon these two points, after a considerable number of observations:—Mean weight 6 pounds 13½ ounces; mean length 16.8 inches. The mean pulsation of the navel-string immediately after birth, from 21 observations, was 144.33 in the minute; the mean pulse for the first week, from 16 observations, was 123.00; from 8 to 14 days, 17 observations, it was 133.41; within the first 21 days, 19 observations, it was 132.95. The average pulse of girls was less quick than that of boys by 3.85 beats in the minute. The above results are quite at variance with those obtained by M. Billiard, and almost equally at variance with the observations of Baron and Vogel.

One of the most frequent diseases which attacked the new-born children was *icterus*. On an average two-fifths of them were thus affected. The predisposing causes seemed to be, insufficient clothing, unwholesome air, neglect, and retention of the meconium.

Icterus neonatorum is probably a disease of development occurring in the transition from foetal life to independent existence, and belongs, like other developmental symptoms at a later period, such as dentition, puberty, &c., to the physiological change that takes place in infants in the functions of the liver. The treatment employed was confined to the use of tepid-baths to favour the absorption of the bilious matter diffused through the subcutaneous cellular tissue. Gentle laxatives, such as an injection of lukewarm water, with a weak infusion of chamomile, &c., were only employed in rare cases, where the icterus seemed connected with retention of the meconium. Aphthæ were principally treated with a view to correcting any disturbance of the digestive process, and improving the nutrition. Thus, when the mother's milk seemed insufficient, a mixture of equal parts of cow's milk and barley-water was substituted with the best effects. The local treatment consisted, when the case was mild, in simply cleaning the mouth with a rag dipped in fresh water; in more severe cases the buccal cavity was sprinkled two or three times a day with finely-powdered sugar, or a compound made with two ounces of quince pulp, one ounce of honey of roses, and one scruple of horax.

Ophthalmia neonatorum occurred in 47 boys, and 45 girls. In the greater number of cases it was mild, and seemed to depend on some atmospheric influence. It commonly appeared between the fifth and ninth days after birth, in a sudden manner, towards evening, and during icterus, or soon after that disease. Only six cases were attended with very severe inflammation; of these, three were cured; two children lost one eye, and one child both eyes.

This ophthalmia is an inflammation of the sebaceous glands of the eyelid, supervening either in conjunction with icterus, or produced by contagion from the mother. In the first case it is generally mild, and requires little or no treatment beyond cleanliness. The more severe cases were treated during the first period with laxatives, as manna, rhubarb, calomel, and with cold fomentations; leeches were not found useful. In the second period, stimulant washes, small blisters to the head, collyria with zinc, and corrosive sublimate united to opium; sometimes a solution of chlorine, four grains to the ounce, was used with advantage. In order to diminish the danger of contagion, when the mother was affected with a virulent discharge, an injection with chlorine was thrown up the vagina before delivery, and the child's face, during labour, washed with a similar lotion. This precaution had the desired effect.

Four boys and nine girls were seized with trismus, and all died: two boys and two girls died with the symptoms of apoplexy:

in one of the boys the aorta and pulmonary artery were found united in one branch, with perforation of the septum ventriculorum.

Endurcissement of the cellular tissue in its acute form (erysipelatous) occurred in three cases of premature birth. The two boys died on the 5th day; the girl on the 17th. Aromatic baths, fresh air, great cleanliness, excellent milk, &c., had no effect in arresting it. On examining the bodies, the cerebral vessels were found much congested with sanguineous extravasation and effusion of serum at the base of the brain; the spinal marrow presented similar appearances. The cellular tissue was extremely hard, and contained a saffron-looking fluid, which coagulated on the application of heat.

In two cases of *congenital hydrocele*, a cure was obtained in six weeks by friction, with the unguentum nervinum. The congenital malformations observed were, irregular insertion of the frenum lingua, hare-lip, spina bifida, club-foot, hypospadias, and unions of the fingers or toes together.

time that escaped were soon replaced. The incision of the uterus extended to four and a quarter inches in length, and here also the hemorrhage was slight. The extraction of the child, which presented the back, was the only difficult part of the operation, but this was soon done, and the placenta removed. The umbilical chord was twisted several times round the child's neck, who was born in a state of asphyxia, but soon brought to life by the usual means. The edges of the wound were now brought together and kept in apposition by a bandage.

Up to this period the patient seemed doing very well, but as soon as the bandage was applied she was seized with vomiting, which continued without interruption up to the 18th. The vomiting was accompanied by thirst, acceleration of the pulse, anxiety of the countenance, and tenderness of the abdomen. Leeches were repeatedly applied to the abdomen, gentle laxative clysters, with anodynes and the potio Riverii, were given without any advantage. An attempt was made to induce the child to suckle, but he refused taking the breast. The lochial