

diate cause of his death, as we had conjectured, was clearly ascertained to be inflammation of the heart; that viscus was considerably enlarged in size, and the surface every where covered with a layer of coagulable lymph, so loosely adhering as to yield to light pressure with the finger. The liquor pericardii was more abundant than usual, and of a turbid reddish colour. The inflammation had not extended to the lungs; and all the other viscera, both in the abdomen and the thorax, were apparently healthy.

Art. VII. *Remarks on Abortion.* By H. W. WARD, Esq.

Mr Ward with Dr D. Stewart believes that the death of the foetus is frequently owing to irritation of the bowels, and that to prevent it is to remove this irritation by opium used either as a suppository, or given by the mouth. This irritation is manifested by diarrhoea, and it is to the diarrhoea Mr W. attributes abortion. He gives a case in which abortion had occurred three successive times. He was called in at the fourth. It was the fifth month of pregnancy, and it was at this period the other abortions had occurred. No pains were present which seemed to warrant any idea of labour. She was suffering much from diarrhoea which had now existed four days. An opiate mixture was given, but without checking the discharges and in eight hours a dead foetus was expelled.

He was called again to the same patient with similar symptoms, and in the fifth month of pregnancy. An oleaginous mixture was given, and afterwards suppositories of opium. These produced no relief, and large and repeated doses of laudanum were now given. The bowel complaint soon yielded and the woman went her full time, and was delivered of a living child. Cases are next alluded to, in which all ordinary exertions will be foiled. These cases may be dependent on syphilitic taint, inaptness in the uterus to the development which the growth of its contents requires, or in some state of the uterine vessels which prevents a due supply of blood to the foetus.

There are one or two circumstances in Mr W.'s case which deserve a moments consideration. It appears abortion occurred with great regularity as to the period of pregnancy, the fifth month, and that it was attended and as he thinks was produced by diarrhoea. Now how are we to explain this periodical occurrence of diarrhoea with its attendant irritation of the bowels. Mr W. seems to think that this was an idiopathic affection, and that to relieve this was to prevent the abortion. Is it not however a little probable, that this diarrhoea was an

effect of something peculiar to the uterus or period of pregnancy, and occurred along with the other precursors and ordinary attendants of abortion? The reasons for believing this are, the fact that instances of habitual abortion, and abortions recurring with a remarkable regularity of time, are constantly met with, where such a state of bowels is not at all concerned in the occurrence, where the bowels on the contrary are, and have been for some time very torpid, or even very regular, in which the uterus contracts without any apparent cause, and where every known means has been used to prevent premature delivery.

The fœtusses in Mr W.'s case, are stated to have been dead, and from this fact being particularly noticed, they probably had marks of having been dead for some days. May not the irritation of the bowels which occurred in this case, or in some of the abortions, be attributed to the irritation of the uterine contents, they having lost their life; or to simple disturbance in the uterine function? If so the increased action of the bowels was probably one of the effects of the causes existing in the uterus, especially as it existed along with those incipient contractions of the womb which such causes ordinarily excite, and which were ultimately to expel its contents.

These remarks are not made because the practice in these cases does not seem a very good one, but because we can see nothing in the case to warrant the belief that the affection of the bowels was the primary one. The circumstance of the period, and regularity of recurrence of the diarrhœa, and the decided evidence of disturbance in the uterine function, go to show that the diarrhœa was induced through the direct agency of the gravid womb, that the bowels sympathized with its disturbed functions, and that the effect of the opium was to check this disturbance, and at the same time to quiet the bowels. In the successful case, the means were promptly employed, and in this the fœtus was not dead, when the precursors of labour manifested themselves. From this fact it is highly probable, that the womb was disposed to expel its contents, without the agency of the death of the fœtus, and that death took place merely as a consequence of disturbed uterine function.

Experiments on the Cerebellum and Cerebrum.

1st. M. Flourens removed the cerebellum in successive layers from a pigeon. At the taking away of the first slice, the animal experienced but little weakness and hesitation in its motions. At the middle layers, its walk became unsteady and