

***M. le Baron Paul Dubois***, Honorary Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, Senior Professor of Clinical Obstetric, Member of the Academy of Medicine, Commander of the Legion of Honour, &c., died at the age of 76 at Courteille,

of bronchitis. M. Dubois did not share the fate of most of our great men; he knew little of the difficulties which accompany the start in the medical career, for his father Antoine Dubois, who was Senior Surgeon to the Maternité, caused him to be appointed assistant-surgeon to that hospital in 1820. Here he gained such experience that in 1825 his father retired in his favour, and he became Professor and Senior Surgeon. In 1834 the Faculty thought it advisable that clinical instruction in obstetrics should no longer be excluded, and it was therefore decided to elect some one to fill that post. After a severe contest, M. Paul Dubois was elected, and this choice was soon ratified by public opinion. Directly after his election he displayed those exceptional qualities—precision and elegance of language—which for twenty-five years made him such a distinguished professor. His voice was soft and harmonious, he lectured with method, and he liked to reproduce his ideas in a variety of forms—for he considered it before all things desirable to be understood. He was as skilful in obstetric operation as he was attractive in the lecture-room. His great principle was, before interfering, to leave a great deal to the efforts of nature, yet not to pass reasonable limits. He also carried diagnosis to the highest degree of perfection possible.

For nearly twelve years before his death a veil came over his great intellect, which, gradually becoming denser, and destroying one by one his many brilliant faculties, ended by annihilating them all, and permitting only a vegetative existence. When he found his memory failing him, he understood what would happen to him; he put his affairs in order, and awaited his fate with courage.

Being averse from writing, he was not a voluminous author; nevertheless, his memoirs on the 'Mechanism of Labours' stands as an evidence that he was as adroit in the art of writing, and as clear in description, as he was brilliant in lecturing.

The name of Antoine Dubois, the father of the subject of the present notice, has been rendered familiar to most professional readers from the circumstance of his being frequently spoken of, and quoted by medical writers, as the distinguished Accoucheur of the periods of the Empire and Restoration, and one of the highest French authorities on midwifery. The reputation and great popularity of the father rendered the early advancement of his son a matter of ease and certainty ; his own merits assisted in gaining for him, subsequently, the distinguished and important situations which he now occupies.

Paul-Antoine is one of the "many children of his father," who were so numerous, as to have gained for their worthy and most excellent progenitor, the significant and distinguishing title of *Dubois prolifique*, by which he was formerly as well known in Paris as by the more common one of "le bon Dubois." Paul was born at Paris, on the 7th of December, 1795, and on attaining a suitable age, was despatched to the Academy of Rennes, where he was entered as an ordinary pupil. Having remained a short time at Rennes, he was transferred to the "Lycée Napoléon," where he spent the greater part of his youth, and completed his classical and general education. He passed through college with credit, but without having

distinguished himself as the possessor of brilliant, or even more than very ordinary talents.

In the year 1815, when twenty years of age, he commenced the study of medicine at Paris, and as a private pupil of his father, who prepared him in a short time to contend for the places of "Externe" and "Interne" in the hospitals, which he succeeded in gaining on the first trials; he remained attached to the hospital service for three years, during which period he had frequent opportunities afforded him for prosecuting practically the study of midwifery, then, as it has continued since to be, his favourite branch of the profession.

Having succeeded in obtaining his degree a year before the expiration of the time usually required for study, viz. in 1818, he was soon after appointed assistant, or second surgeon to the "Maison Royale de Santé," where his father presided as first medical officer. After serving for two years at the hospital just named, he was selected and appointed to the post of assistant professor in the school and hospital of "la Maternité," where he resided for some time as "Chef de clinique," and exercised himself thoroughly in all the complicated as well as simple manipulations of midwifery, by participating in and assisting at most of the accouchements. In 1823, he was appointed "Agrégé" to the faculty of medicine; and, in 1825, replaced his father as full professor and surgeon-accoucheur to the Maternité.

A vacancy having occurred in 1832, in the section

of Surgical Pathology of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Monsieur Paul-Dubois was selected to fill it.

At the period of the reorganization of the medical faculty in 1830, immediately after the revolution, Dubois was chosen for the obstetrical chair; since then he has taken the professorship of clinical midwifery, and Doctor Moreau has succeeded him in the one which he formerly occupied.

Dubois is a man of considerable merit, and one of the most experienced accoucheurs of the day; he shares with Monsieur Moreau all the most important and valuable midwifery practice of Paris, and is frequently sent for to a great distance to attend cases occurring in the families of wealthy and distinguished individuals. He is at present president of the Royal Academy of Medicine, a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, Professor of Clinical Midwifery in the Paris Faculty, Physician-Accoucheur to the "*Hôpital des Cliniques*," Surgeon-Accoucheur to the "*Maternité*," and Member of some of the leading Medical Societies of the Capital, and of several foreign Academies.

In figure, Monsieur Dubois is of the ordinary height, and of rather spare habit; the expression of his countenance is pleasant, and he possesses a fine eye; his manners are cold and formal at first, but on a short acquaintance will be found soft, gentle, and agreeable; in the sick room he is rather staid and reserved in his manner, and never allows any circumstance to overcome his habitual and settled gravity. He lives on the south side of the city, in the immediate vicinity of the School of Medicine and the hospital to which

he is attached, and in an Hôtel which is said to have been presented to his father by the Emperor Napoleon, as a fee, upon the occasion of the birth of the young king of Rome. He has succeeded in making, by his conciliatory manner and unobtrusive, quiet demeanor, many warm friends, who are entirely devoted to his interests.

Monsieur Dubois is a good lecturer, and operates well in such cases as require him to have recourse to the use of instruments. He has as yet written no large work, and the small number of his literary productions which have been published present no remarkable features. A treatise on midwifery, recently brought out in Paris, and about being translated in this country, contains most of his ideas in regard to obstetrics.

#### WORKS.

1. *Mémoire sur les avantages de la réunion immédiate des plaies après les Amputations.* Gazette des Hôpitaux.

2. *Mémoire sur l'Auscultation appliquée à l'étude de la grossesse.* Archives Générales de Médecine. [This is a plain but excellent memoir on obstetrical auscultation, and points out very clearly the advantages to be derived from the use of the stethoscope in medico-legal as well as in ordinary cases of pregnancy.]

3. *Mémoire sur quelques Déterminations Instinctives du Fœtus Humain.* Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Médecine.

4. *Que Convient-il de faire dans les cas de Rétrécisse-*

*ment du bassin?* [Thesis for the Concours for the chair of clinical midwifery, in which he indicates what means should be resorted to in cases of deformed pelvis.]

5. *Mémoire sur le mécanisme de l'accouchement naturel dans les Présentations de la Tête.* "Journal des Connaissances Médico-Chirurgicales."

**DUBOIS** (*Paul*) ✱, PROFESSEUR A LA FACULTÉ (chaire de clinique d'accouchemens), nommé le 31 mai 1834; MEMBRE DE L'ACADÉMIE R. DE MÉDECINE (section de pathologie chirurgicale); chirurgien-professeur à la maison d'accouchemens, dite la Maternité; reçu docteur à Paris en 1818. (Rue Monsieur-le-Prince, 12, de 10 hour. à 1.)



**M. Paul Dubois est le fils d'Antoine Dubois (le baron), que ses connaissances positives, l'indépendante originalité de son caractère et plusieurs hauts faits d'une pratique étendue, avaient placé au nombre des professeurs qui ont illustré l'école de Paris pendant les trente premières années de sa fondation. Nommé de bonne heure à la survivance de son père chirurgien en chef de la Maternité, il s'est livré de suite à l'art des accouchemens et a montré dans le concours par lequel il est arrivé à l'école en 1834, qu'il était digne de la faveur qui lui avait ouvert la voie de cette spécialité.**

Plus occupé de l'enseignement qui lui est confié que de la pratique du dehors, M. Dubois a su donner à cet enseignement un attrait jusqu'alors inconnu. Il s'est surtout attaché à dégager l'art des accouchemens de toutes les superfluités théoriques dont on semblait l'avoir encombré à dessein, et l'a réduit à l'étude pure et simple d'un phénomène naturel, d'une fonction physiologique dont l'exécution n'a besoin, dans la plupart des cas, que d'être attentivement surveillée, et pour laquelle la nature se suffisait à elle-même bien plus souvent qu'on le croit et qu'on l'enseigne. Aussi ses leçons sont-elles citées comme des modèles de simplicité et de gracieuse précision qui laissent à regretter que le *Traité complet* qu'il annonce depuis plusieurs années sur la science qui en fait le sujet, se fasse si long-temps attendre.

M. P. Dubois a peu écrit. Nous ne connaissons en effet de lui, indépendamment de quelques rapports qu'il a faits à l'Académie, qu'un mémoire qu'il y a lu sur les *Causes en vertu desquelles l'accouchement se fait de préférence par la tête*; plus, un autre mémoire inséré en 1832 dans les t. 27 et 28 des *Archiv. générales de médecine* sur l'*Application de l'auscultation à la pratique des accouchemens*, et plusieurs articles de la nouvelle édition du *Dictionnaire ou Répertoire des Sciences médicales*, tels que les mots *céphalœmatome*, *opération césarienne*, et *accouchement* qu'il a refait sur celui qu'avait fourni à la première édition feu le professeur Désormeaux.

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Geschichte Geburtshilfe

Paul Dubois

(s. Bd. II), geb. 1795 in Paris, gest. nach 12jähriger Geisteskrankheit, 29. Novbr. 1871, erster Geburtshelfer der Maternité, hervorragender Lehrer unseres Fachs. Seine Vorträge zeichneten sich durch Klarheit und sorgfältige Vorbereitung aus, zahlreiche Schüler und Schülerinnen verdanken ihm ihre geburtshülfliche Ausbildung. Für die Verbesserung der klinischen Unterrichtsmethode hatte er viel Verdienste. Die bis dahin unbekannte Einrichtung von Touchirübungen an Frauen aus der Stadt war sein Werk, seine gemeinsame Visiten in den Wöchnerinnen-Sälen boten den Studenten im Zusammenhang mit den angeschlossenen Vorträgen viel lehrreiches Material. So weit das die entgegen stehenden Bestimmungen der dor-

tigen Gebäranstalten zuliessen, war Dubois emsig bemüht, seine Schüler den Unterrichtsstoff praktisch ausnutzen zu lassen.

Einige Arbeiten von ihm beschäftigen sich mit der Genese der Kopflagen der Frucht. Er ist der Ansicht, dass die Häufigkeit dieser Lagen nicht ausschliesslich physikalisch zu erklären sei, sondern dass dabei die Bewegungen des Kindes, wobei er „déterminations instinctives“ und „déterminations volontaires“ unterscheidet, eine grosse Rolle spielen.

Bemerkenswerth ist auch seine Werthschätzung der künstlichen Frühgeburt und seine Empfehlung der prophylaktischen antisiphilitischen Behandlung der Ehegatten, welche er gegen den Widerspruch von Cazeaux und Roux vertheidigte.

„Traité complet de l'art des accouchements“. Paris 1849.

Ferner die Arbeit von ihm über „the attitude and positions, natural and praeternatural of the foetus in utero, acts of the reflex or excito-motory system. Edinb. 1849.

„Observation d'un cas à l'accouchement prématuré artificiel“. Gaz. méd. 1840.

„Les signes de la grossesse“. Gaz. des hop. 1841. Nr. 31—60.

„La fièvre puerperale de la Maternité“. 1841. Lancette franc. Nr. 85.

Antoine Constant Danyau, geb. 1803, gest. 19. Febr. 1871, Professor der Chirurgie in Paris und zugleich, mit P. Dubois, Hebammenlehrer. D. hat sich durch die Uebersetzung des Nägele'schen Werkes über das schrägverengte Becken verdient gemacht. Eine Statistik von ihm über die Wochenbetts-Todesfälle in der Maternité fand auch in der auswärtigen Litteratur besondere Beachtung (N. Zeitsch. f. Geb. Bd. 19, 1845). Einer seiner Aufsätze betrifft die métrite gangréneuse.

P. F. O. Rayer, geb. 8. März 1793, gest. 10. Sept.

1867, Autor verdienstvoller Arbeiten über Pathologie. Am meisten bekannt ist seine Abhandlung „Traité des maladies des reins et des altérations de la sécrétion urinaire“ 1839—1841. Seine Erörterungen über die Bright'sche Krankheit bei Schwangeren waren für die damalige Zeit bahnbrechend.