

## THE REAL AUTHOR OF THE OPERATION OF GASTRO-ELYTROTOMY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS, ETC.

DEAR SIR: In the report of his exceedingly interesting case of artificial delivery in a deformed pelvis, published by Dr. Alex. J. C. Skene, in the February number of your journal, the doctor is in error regarding the author of the method so successfully resorted to by him. Near the bottom of page 637, he says: "At nine o'clock I performed gastro-elytrotomy, according to the method of Prof. Thomas—the best, indeed, the only authority on this operation;" and in concluding his report, he says further: "I trust that the history of this case, (the first successful one on record,) will aid in placing the operation among the chief triumphs of obstetrical surgery, to the honor of Prof. Thomas, whom I believe to be its author."

Now that Dr. Skene's success and the publication of his paper are likely to attract attention again to the method, it is but fair that Drs. Ritgen, Physick and Baudelocque should receive the credit which is due them for having first suggested it; and, in the case of the latter, planned and attempted its execution. In the paper by Prof. Thomas on this operation, contributed to the third volume, (May, 1870,) of your journal, he refers fully to the literature of the subject, and his remarks are included by Dr. Dawson in the American edition of Barnes's work on "Obstetrical Operations" (p. 302); so that Dr. Skene has no good reason for giving to Professor Thomas the credit of originating an operation, which the latter is careful to lay no claim to himself.

Very truly yours,

FREDERICK A. CASTLE, M.D.

New York, February, 1876.