

42. *Delivery of a Living Child weighing upwards of eighteen pounds.*—Dr. A. MEADOWS, Assistant-Physician Accoucheur to King's College Hospital, relates (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Aug. 4, 1860) the following remarkable case:—

“I was called on the 13th instant at 10 A. M. to Mrs. K., aged 35, who was in labour with her second child. She stated quite positively that she was at least a fortnight over time; and she fully expected to have twins, as she was such an enormous size, and had been greatly inconvenienced thereby for the last month. Fœtal movements had sometimes been so strong as to be quite painful.

The present labour began at 6 A. M., with pain which regularly increased up to the time of my visit. The membranes were still entire. On examination I found the parts soft; the os uteri dilated to about the size of a shilling, but I could not make out the presenting part, the child being still very high. By the abdomen I believed I detected the head at the fundus, with the back of the child looking forwards. Auscultation gave distinct evidence of fœtal life, for, notwithstanding Dr. Adams's disbelief in the use of the stethoscope in pregnancy, I am still disposed to have some faith in my own ears.

I left the patient, desiring to be sent for should any urgent symptoms arise. At 10 P. M. I made another examination, the labour having so far gone on steadily and well. The membranes were still entire. I now made out a breech

presentation. The os was well dilated and soft, the patient in good condition, and the pains regular and strong. The breech descended but very slowly, and seemed, notwithstanding powerful uterine action, much jammed in the pelvis. However, at 4 A. M. on the 14th, it had so far descended as to enable me to get a purchase on it with the fingers hooked round the groin, and with strong efforts I succeeded, at 5.30, in bringing down the breech and lower extremities. The cord was pulsating. Great difficulty was now experienced in extracting the head, but after some little force I had the satisfaction of bringing this down, and in a few minutes the child recovered and breathed comfortably.

All the lower part of the body and thighs were of a deep purple colour, as if violently bruised, but the child was otherwise well. The placenta was expelled in half an hour; and the mother subsequently did well.

I called five hours afterwards, and to my surprise found that the child had died suddenly about an hour before, while lying at its mother's side. No reason could be given for this, as a short time before it appeared quite well. No *post-mortem* examination was permitted. On weighing the child it was found of the enormous weight of 18 lbs. 3 oz. Its extreme length was 32 inches; the circumference of the head, 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. These are *post-mortem* measurements. It was most perfectly formed and beautifully developed. The placenta was of proportionate size, and weighed 3 lbs."