

Rare Cause for a Suit of Malpractice.

The *Boston Medical Journal*, November 28, contains the account of a suit for malpractice, in which a woman sought to recover from a physician ten thousand dollars damages for alleged neglect on his part, by which she suffered relaxation of the pelvic ligaments. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for \$4,916.67. Briefly, the facts were that the woman, in labor, was attended by a midwife until she became exhausted. The doctor was then called, found that immediate delivery was imperative, gave ether, applied forceps, and delivered without the slightest injury to mother or child. He visited her on the four following days, and on the eighth day, all doing well, he dismissed the case. This was in May, 1875. July 31st, the husband paid his bill of twenty-five dollars and made no complaint.

In June, 1876, the woman called on the doctor to inform him that she had relaxation of the ligaments of the "hip joints," and that this was his fault, and unless he paid for it she would begin a suit for damages. This was done with the result already stated. A more bare-faced robbery we have never known to take place under the forms of law. There is nothing to show, in all the evidence, that the case had been neglected; while there was much to show that the woman had not taken that care of herself needed to promote recovery. This case reminds us of some of the malpractice suits recorded by Dr. Eugene Sanger, of Bangor, Maine, as having occurred in that State. Apparently the law is worse in dealing with doctors down East than in the West, although it is hard enough here. Nearly five thousand dollars to pay for relaxed pelvic ligaments, produced by a perfectly successful and well treated obstetrical attendance!! If such things occur in polite, intellectual Boston, what must be the heathenlike darkness elsewhere?