

*Case of peculiar formation of the Umbilical Cord.* By  
Dr. JOHN Mc'NABBE.

[Communicated for the New England Journal of Medicine, &c.]

**O**N the 22d of August, 1816, I was called to attend a lady in travail. She was delivered of a feeble male child. When about to divide the funis umbilicalis, I was astonished, indeed, on beholding a singularity, which, to me, was a new thing, and entirely out of the common course of nature. The navel was about four inches long, and remarkably large and hard. The funis appeared like two, adhering to each other, and attached to the upper and lower edges of the elongated navel. About three inches from the navel, the apparently double cord united more closely, and became one, of a remarkable magnitude. I divided it, and applied the ligature in the usual manner. About the fourth day after delivery, I was called upon to visit the child, who appeared to be in acute pain, which was much increased on motion. I directed the nurse to examine the dressings on the navel, and see if they caused the distress. There did not appear to be any remediable difficulty, and the cord, or cords, were almost separated from the navel. In two days more, a complete separation took place. The child was still in distress, and the extremity of the navel, assumed an inflammatory and very disagreeable appearance. Two other physicians of respectability were called to see the child, who declared they had not seen any thing like it in their extensive practice.

The next day I visited the child, and was informed by the nurse and other attendants, that it had voided considerable urine at the lower edge of the navel, exactly where the lower cord was attached; after which evacuation it appeared to be considerably relieved. The navel is not so long now as formerly, nor does it exhibit such a disagreeable appearance; yet

it is very troublesome. Its extremity very much resembles the glans penis. Suitable dressings are still necessary to defend it from external injury, to which it is very liable, and frequently receives from its apparel, it being very tender. I am not able to determine with certainty, but am induced to believe, that there were arteries in each branch of the fork. Although there was an apparent union of the branches at a small distance from the navel, yet my opinion is, that there were proper and distinct blood vessels for two cords. The ground of my belief was the appearance on the dissection, which I made of the cord or cords near the placenta, and of the placenta itself, about thirty minutes after delivery. The placenta was very large, and appeared like two, firmly adhering to each other; likewise the appearance of the cords at the placenta very much resembled that at the navel. The child discharges its urine by the urethra freely, and in usual quantity for one of its age. There has been a daily evacuation of urine from the navel, ever since the time it made its first appearance there.

Once in about four or six days the child is unwell, and seems to have considerable pain in the umbilical region, until a copious discharge issues therefrom, after which it appears to be well and perfectly easy. I was informed by its mother, a few days ago, that the evacuation from the navel increases considerably in quantity, without producing any diminution in the discharge by the urethra.

Notwithstanding all the attending difficulties, the child grows very well. Its head is very large, and it has had a cough ever since it was born.

It had the influenza last November; since that time, the cough has been more severe. It has, ever since its birth, had much difficulty in swallowing, either solids or fluids. I believe there is some imperfection in the organs of deglutition.

Barnet, (Ver.) June 10, 1817.

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The foregoing is an instance of the urachus being open to the umbilical cord. The urachus is a sort of ligament extending from the upper part of the urinary bladder toward the umbilicus. It has a small cavity communicating with the bladder, but not usually remaining open, as far as the umbilicus. In the foetus of quadrupeds, there is an open urachus, which extends from the bladder to the allantois, one of the membranes which invests the quadruped foetus. This allantois is supposed to be a temporary receptacle of urine, conveyed to it from the bladder through the urachus. Cases of open urachus in the human foetus are not common. Ed.