

*Case of Contraction of the Vagina.* By DAVIS D. DAVIS, M. D.—The subject of this case was a lady, thirty-nine years of age, whose spine was considerably distorted by an injury which she accidentally sustained during her infancy. When she had been in labour only for two or three hours, she was advised by her monthly nurse, who probably anticipated more than ordinary difficulty, to send for her medical attendant. On the author's arrival, he found the orifice of the uterus very amply dilated, NEARLY OBLITERATED, and the foetal head presenting favourably. In ascertaining these facts, however, he encountered some difficulty in carrying his finger through the middle of the vagina, where he found it contracted into a very narrow diameter, and presenting such a feel as it might have been expected to present, if it had been bound by a ligature coiled round it on the outside. It moreover felt firm, thick, and rigid. The mother of the patient being in attendance, reported that her daughter had always menstruated regularly and well, and that she had never been the subject of any known disorder of her genital organs. The affected part gave no evidence of its ever having been the subject of cicatrization. Time and patience, therefore, presented themselves as the principal remedies. The cavity of the pelvis was sufficiently ample. The labour pains became very active in the course even of a few hours, and ultimately exceedingly urgent, accompanied by a tempestuous excitement of the heart and arteries. The patient was bleed

freely and repeatedly, and the hand was as much used to promote dilatation as was deemed consistent with the soundness and safety of the part to be dilated. She was delivered of a still-born child in about FIFTY HOURS after the commencement of the labour. She recovered slowly but perfectly. She sustained no retention of urine, nor purulent discharges during her convalescence. The loss of an heir to a good property, as it might well be supposed, was not a little regretted. But the disappointment was forgotten, and the loss doubly repaired by the subsequent birth of two living children, both sons.

In some cases of contracted vaginæ a considerable, and even sudden dilatation occurs during labour.—*Obstetric Medicine.*