

ART. VII. *Case of Premature Puberty.* By J. LE BEAU, M. D. of
New Orleans. (Communicated in a letter to Dr. DEWEES.)

I TAKE the liberty to acquaint you with an extraordinary case of prematurity in a child, which fell under my observation in this city. Matilda H. was born of a white family in low circumstances, the 31st of September, 1827. She came into this world with her *mammæ* perfectly formed, and the *mons veneris* covered with hair, as much as a girl between thirteen and fourteen years old; when precisely three years of age the *menses* made their appearance, and have continued to reappear regularly every month until the present time, and as copious as any woman might have them—each period lasting four days. She is now four years and five months old; she measures forty-two inches and a half in height, French measure; her features are re-

gular; she has a rosy complexion; her hair chesnut colour; her eyes bluish-gray; she is what may be called handsome; the conformation of her body is very strong; her *mammæ* are now of the size of a full-grown orange, and the dimensions of the *pelvis* are, in my opinion, such as to enable her to bear children when eight years old, and very likely sooner. She constantly enjoys good health.

With sentiments of the greatest consideration, I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and respectful servant,

J. LE BEAU, M. D.

New Orleans, May 31st, 1832.

We, the undersigned, physicians practising in the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, do certify that at the request of our brother, Dr. Le Beau, we called at the dwelling of the parents of Matilda H., where, after having attentively and minutely examined the said Matilda H., confirm all that is above expressed. In truth whereof, we have signed the present certificate.

FORMENTO, M. D.

DAVID C. KER, M. D.

JOHN LABATUT, M. D.

DASIT SENAC, M. D.

New Orleans, the 4th of June, 1832.

State of Louisiana.—Mayorality of New Orleans.

I, Denis Pricur, Mayor of the City of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the foregoing signatures are those of Messrs. J. Le Beau, Formento, D. C. Ker, J. Labatut and Dasit Senac, practising physicians of said city, and that full faith and credit is due to them as such.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Mayorality of said city, this eighteenth day of July in the year 1832.

D. PRICUR, *Mayor.*