

*Case of Imperforate Hymen.* By CHARLES BALDWIN, M. D., of Union, Monroe county, Va.—In the summer of 1836, I was called in great haste to visit Miss J. K. in consultation with my young friend Dr. Ward Cook. From her friends I received the following history of the case. That she was then in her sixteenth year of age, and had never menstruated. That she had every appearance about twelve months previous of having arrived at the period of puberty. That about that time nature had evidently commenced her efforts to establish the menstrual flux: that regularly once a month there was slight indisposition which continued five or six days: that for the last three or four months these attacks had increased in violence, being attended with bearing down pain, and pain in the hips and loins. Yet there was not the slightest appearance of menstrual discharge. During the intervals her health was perfectly good. All the common remedies usually resorted to in such cases, proving of no avail, Dr. Cook was called on. He, believing it to be a case of tardy appearance of the menses had treated it accordingly, till the increased violence of the symptoms awoke his suspicions as to the cause, when he proposed an examination, which being reluctantly submitted to, confirmed his suspicions. He then immediately requested her friends to summon my attendance. On my arrival I found her suffering intensely with bearing down pain, and pain in the hips and loins, accompanied with a frequent desire to pass urine, and with tenesmus. I proceeded to make an examination and discovered a tumour resembling the head of a fœtus, presenting at the vulva; but on a careful examination perceived that the tumour was soft and yielding, and tender to the touch, and could detect no entrance into the vagina. Placing the hand upon the hypogastric region, I could distinctly discover, through the abdominal parietes, the uterus distended and reaching nearly to the umbilicus. Having no doubt that it was a case of imperforate hymen, I proceeded to operate, by penetrating the tumour (near the middle) with a sharp pointed bistoury, and making an incision downwards. A dark tar-like fluid immediately gushed forth, which occasioned instantaneous relief from her sufferings: another

incision was then made upwards, which completed the division of the membrane. About five pints of fluid were discharged, which resembled tar in colour and consistence, and was unattended with fetor. A tent was introduced into the vagina to prevent the closure of the hymen, and there was a slight discharge of purulent matter for three or four weeks. At the next monthly period the menstrual flux made its appearance, and has continued to recur with great regularity ever since.