

ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE VAGINA AND OS UTERI DURING LABOUR.

The remark of Dr. Granville,¹ that the temperature of the uterine system, during parturition, sometimes rises as high as 120° of Fahrenheit's scale, has always struck us as needing farther confirmation. We have often been impressed with the seemingly elevated temperature of the vagina under these circumstances, but have always suspected² inaccuracy in the observations of Dr. Granville, not only because the temperature he indicates is so much higher than has ever been noticed in any condition of the system, or of any organ, but because the results of our own experiments have not shown that the temperature is *really* much elevated in the cases in question.

The following results of observations made at our request by Dr. Barnes, one of the Senior Resident Physicians of the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley, so far as they go, confirm our own. They likewise exhibit the ratio of the pulsations of the maternal and the fœtal heart at the times of observation.

OBSERVATION FIRST.

Pulse.	Fœtal Heart.	Temp. within Labia.	Temp. at os uteri.
84	130	100°	100°

This is the *average* result of a series of Thermometric observations, made during a space of 25 minutes; six hours after the commencement of true labour pains, and one hour previous to the delivery of the child. The patient was in labour with her first child, of an exanguious habit—with a hereditary predisposition to phthisis.

OBSERVATION SECOND.

Pulse.	Fœtal Heart.	Temp. at Labia.	Temp. within os uteri.
72	120	100	102

The result of a single observation made, in the case of T——— A———, 12 hours after the commencement of regular and severe, but not propulsive pains. The patient is stout and muscular—of short stature—and of intemperate habits. A few minutes after making the first observation, the pains ceased entirely, and did not recur until twenty-four hours after.

OBSERVATION THIRD.

Pulse.	Fœtal Heart.	Temp. at Labia.	Temp. within os uteri.
73	128	105	106

¹ Philosoph. Transact. for 1825, page 262; and Sir E. Homes Lect. on Compar. Anat. p. 201. Lon. 1828.

² See the Editor's Human Physiology, 3d edit. vol. ii. p. 226. Philad. 1838.

The *average* result of a series of observations made during a space of two hours, commenced 14 hours after first labour pains, and terminating with the delivery of the placenta. The patient was of a full and corpulent habit, and in labour with her first child.