

DURATION OF LABOUR AND LENGTH OF THE FUNIS.

By G. Y. HUNTER, Esq., Surgeon, Margate.

IN my letter which you inserted in THE LANCET of the 5th of Nov., 1842, I promised to send you the result of my continued investigation connected with the above subject, and, therefore, I now forward a table of 123 midwifery cases, in which I have been able to measure the funis. You will see that in some instances I have added the age of the parents, in hopes of aiding the inquiry which has been commenced by the German writers, for the purpose of ascertaining how far the sex of the infant depends upon the father's age; a question which might soon be set at rest if the registrar-general could be induced to direct the district-registrars in England and Wales to insert, in the proper column of each book of births, the age of the father and mother, whenever it could be obtained. As I have also, in the accompanying report, noticed the deviations from nature, it may be considered as an appendix to the table of 2250 cases published at page 537 of THE LANCET, of January 7th, 1843. In conclusion, I shall briefly observe that in my opinion neither the great length nor extreme shortness of the funis is likely either to expedite or retard delivery, at least, when the contraction of the uterus is strong enough to expel the fœtus, it being clear to me that a very short funis would be soon torn from the placenta, as in case numbered nine (an event which I have known to happen before), or the placenta ejected along with the child, which I have often seen occur in labours where the pregnancy had advanced as far as the seventh month. If my life should be prolonged to the close of the year, I hope again to transmit you the result of my observations in this most useful and highly-important branch of our profession.

Number of each case.	Whether 1st or 2nd pregnancy, or otherwise.	Duration of labour in hours.	Length of funis in inches.	Sex.		Age of parents.		Funis twisted round the neck.	Born with cauls.	Abortions; period in weeks.	Premature labours; period in months.	Remarks.
				Male.	Female.	Father.	Mother.					
1	2nd	3	28									
2	6th	9 ¹ / ₂	30 ¹ / ₂									
3	11th	3	35									
4	2nd	1 ¹ / ₂	23									
5	7th	1 ¹ / ₂	24									
6	3rd	1 ¹ / ₂	18									
7	8th	1 ¹ / ₂	21									
8	7th	5 ¹ / ₂	25									
9	4th	14	21									{ Funis torn from the placenta, which was quickly expelled.
10	4th	12	33 ¹ / ₂									
11	10th	1	48									
12	6th	2	20									
13	10th	1								10		
14	1st	16	20			24	20					
15	6th	1	34			42	33					
16	2nd	7	23 ¹ / ₂			35	32					
17	3rd	20	21 ¹ / ₂									
18	6th	3 ¹ / ₂	22 ¹ / ₂			35	24					
19	3rd	3 ¹ / ₂	27 ¹ / ₂			48	35					
20	7th	3 ¹ / ₂	27 ¹ / ₂			42	38					
21	6th	1	27			37	35					
22	3rd	1	18			26	25					
23	1st	3	33 ¹ / ₂			35	28					
24	8th	1	23 ¹ / ₂			39	42					
25	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	19 ¹ / ₂			35	32					
26	4th	3	19 ¹ / ₂			40	31					
27	1st	5										
28	1st	12					21					
29	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	42			28	28					Annular palate.
30	6th	1	20			40	40					
31	2nd	1 ¹ / ₂	27 ¹ / ₂			25	23					
32	6th	1	34			53	39					
33	2nd	1	17									
34	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	28			35	33					
35	5th	1	15			29	23					
36	9th	1 ¹ / ₂	29			35	35					
37	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	23			25	24					
38	1st	7	13				18				6	Dead some time.
39	4th	3	16									
40	3rd	1	31			27	24					
41	2nd	4	21			30	33					
42	6th	2	32			35	30					
43	5th	2 ¹ / ₂	24			31	26					
44	4th	1	27 ¹ / ₂			31	29					
45	1st	3	20 ¹ / ₂			29	28					
46	2nd	1 ¹ / ₂	20			25	23					
47	10th	1 ¹ / ₂	34			44	42					
48	5th											
49	1st	2	12			37	32					Club-feet; funis torn off.
50	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	22 ¹ / ₂									
51	3rd	1 ¹ / ₂	24			34	33					
52	7th	18	40			41	40					Breech presentation.
53	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	30									
54	4th	1 ¹ / ₂	30			25	29					
55	3rd	5	29			50	52					
56	4th	1	36			25	22					
57	7th	1 ¹ / ₂	38			29	30					
58		1 ¹ / ₂	38				24				7	
59	4th	3 ¹ / ₂	31 ¹ / ₂			33	27					
60	5th	3	37 ¹ / ₂			33	30					
61	2nd	1 ¹ / ₂	31				32					
62	1st	2	23			25	26					
63	4th	4	24 ¹ / ₂			33	33					
64	1st	2	23			23	23				5	
65	6th	1 ¹ / ₂	22 ¹ / ₂			32	32					
66	3rd	1 ¹ / ₂	30 ¹ / ₂			26	28					
67	9th	2										
68	2nd	1 ¹ / ₂	32									
69	2nd	1	31 ¹ / ₂			28	26					
70	7th	1	30									
71	4th					27	27				5	
72										6		
73	3rd	1 ¹ / ₂	33 ¹ / ₂			30	28					

Number of each case.	Whether 1st or 2nd pregnancy, or otherwise.	Duration of labour in hours.	Length of funis in inches.	Sex.		Age of parents.		Funis twisted round the neck.	Born with caulis.	Abortions; period in weeks.	Premature labours; period in months.	Remarks.
				Male.	Female.	Father.	Mother.					
74	8th		35 $\frac{1}{2}$			35	34					
75	3rd		36									
76	1st		37 $\frac{1}{2}$									
77	3rd	5	32			37	32					
78		3	36 $\frac{1}{2}$									
79	4th		22 $\frac{1}{2}$									
80		2	28 $\frac{1}{2}$									
81	1st	3	33 $\frac{1}{2}$									
82	1st	1	27									
83	5th		24			39	42					
84		2	32 $\frac{1}{2}$									
85	3rd		32 $\frac{1}{2}$									
86	1st	3	31			26	22					
87	7th	2	32 $\frac{1}{2}$									
88	7th											
89	8th	1	{ 24 } { 25 }								7	
90	2nd		21 $\frac{1}{2}$									Twins.
91	1st	1	42									
92	6th	1	28									
93	2nd		24									
94	3rd	1										
95	1st	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	38			23	25			10		
96	2nd		30			32	35					
97	6th	1	20			26	27					
98	3rd	13	32			22	24					
99	1st	6	26			39	34					
100	8th		21			22	21					
101	2nd		22									
102	2nd		27									
103	8th		39									
104	4th	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	39									
105	5th									10		
106	3rd					30	32				7	Dead some time.
107	8th	1	18			41	41				8	Dead some time.
108	4th	16	33			25	24					
109	5th	3	22								7	
110		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	32									
111	4th	1	30									
112	4th	1	38									
113	3rd	2	{ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ } { 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ }									Twins ; one breech presentation.
114	7th	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$									
115			22									
116	7th	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	32									
117	1st	3	30									Head embraced by the child's hands.
118	3rd	$\frac{1}{2}$	31									
119	1st	44	24									
120	3rd	6	30									Hour-glass contraction ; removed placenta.
121	5th	5	27									
122	8th	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$									Face presentation.
123	2nd	2	36									
		385	3175	58	63			11	2	4	8	

Average length of funis, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Average hours of labour, 3h. 7m.