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A Case of Twins, in which the Birth of the second Child was obstructed by the protrusion of a Hand by the side of the Head. By Mr. **ATMARAM PANDOURUNG**, Graduate of the Grant Medical College.

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Early in the morning of the 2nd of March 1853 I was called to see a Mahratta woman in her fifth labour, residing in Girgaun. She was about 28 years of age, of rather spare constitution. I found her sitting on the floor, with her legs stretched out. She was supported in this position by an attendant sitting behind. Before her lay a full-grown newly-born child. It was wrapped up in a piece of cloth, and was not separated from the placenta, which was still within the uterus. A midwife in attendance stated that there was another child in the womb, but that the pains being feeble, it could not be delivered, and hinted that some medicines were required to excite effective pains. The size of the abdomen was such as to indicate the possibility of there being a second child. I proposed that first of all the infant already born should be separated; but the idea was quite opposed to the usual mode of procedure of the people of this country in such cases, and associated in their minds with some degree of horror, from a strange belief that if the cord is cut before the placenta comes away, that then the placenta passes high up, and out of reach, and causes the death of the mother. They would not therefore at first consent, but after some explanation of its necessity, and being assured that it was unattended with the least danger, either to the mother or the child, they agreed. I separated the child after putting two ligatures on the cord, and gave it in the charge of a nurse. I then at once proceeded to make an examination per vaginam, without any opposition. (I have very often found that such an examination made at once, and without asking in the first instance the consent of the patient, is seldom offered any opposition to, but, on the contrary, to propose, and then to wait till consent is given, generally fails.) I passed my hand slowly upwards in the direction

of the vagina, and detected a hand, hanging in the centre of the pelvic cavity. On tracing it upwards, I found the head resting upon the brim of the pelvis. I passed my fingers all round the presenting part of the head, and found the fingers of the other hand of the child lying on the side of the head, just opposite to that part of it along which the protruded hand had passed. At first I thought it was a case of arm-presentation, in which turning would be necessary, and accordingly began to search for the feet, but the uterus, having been drained of its liquor amnii, was pretty firmly contracted upon the body of the child, and consequently my attempts at finding the feet failed. I found, however, that it was very easy to put the protruded hand above the head, that is, towards the chest, and thus remove the only obstruction there was for the passage of the head, and the safe delivery of the child; but a vivid recollection of Dr. Rigby's recommendation that "the prolapsed arm is not to be put back" made me hesitate before I ventured to have recourse to such a proceeding; for though simple, I believed it was one of my own invention. I paused to reflect that if I could, by a very simple method of putting the protruded arm back, make it a common case of natural labour, there could indeed be no grave objection to the plan. At all events, I thought of doing so, and sat by the side of the patient watching if any progress in the labour was made otherwise. Such not being the case, I therefore after some time returned the prolapsed hand, and made a little screw-like motion of the head, to adapt its long diameter more accurately to that of the pelvic cavity, and thus to allow no space for the return of the hand back again. The labour pains immediately began to increase, and the head in consequence to make progress. But it was slow, and I had to wait for about three hours, when, after giving her a dose of 20 minims of the ethereal solution of ergot, a living healthy child was born, and the two placentæ came away of themselves quite naturally.