

SMALLPOX IN THE SEVENTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I was called, recently, to attend a young married lady, who, I was informed, had been suffering *intense* pain for the twenty-four hours previous. I found the patient with hot skin, dry red tongue, high arterial excitement; pulse 110 per minute, full; severe pain in the head and back, and in the *seventh* month of pregnancy. Prescribed leeches to the temples, and hyd. and jalap, āā gr. x., followed with saline draught, and diaphoretics. In about thirty hours pustules made their appearance, and continued until the case assumed the appearance of genuine smallpox. She passed through the various stages favorably, and convalesced as rapidly as usual, save a slight ophthalmia, which retarded somewhat the cure, went her full time, and gave birth to a fine, plump, healthy girl, without the least appearance of its having had the disease. Vaccination had no effect upon it.

Query.—Can the mother, during the last months of pregnancy, go through with smallpox and not infect the child in utero? If so infected, will there not be unmistakable evidence upon the skin? or does exclusion of light and air prevent scarring, and thereby leave a smooth surface? Will some of your numerous readers inform us? S. F. PARCHER.

East Boston, June 20th, 1851.