

ON A CASE OF  
EXTRAORDINARY LENGTH OF THE FUNIS.  
By JOHN ROUSE, Esq.

ON the morning of the 8th inst., I was called to attend Mrs. F——, a patient of the Middlesex Hospital, in labour with her seventh child. I had learned previously that she had suffered

from tedious labours, and that, at the last, the funis was twisted four times around the neck of the child. On my arrival, at five A.M., I found that she had been in labour about twelve hours; the pains were strong, and occurring at regular intervals of about four minutes, the os being partially dilated. No progress was made for some time, when a severe pain completed the dilatation of the os, and brought away a male infant, followed immediately by the placenta, which was close upon the left knee. The funis, which was fifty-one inches and a half in length, was coiled six times round the neck, and once round the left thigh. On being released from its bondage, the child cried vigorously. No hæmorrhage occurred, notwithstanding the sudden emptying of the uterus, which was rendered unavoidable by the exceedingly small space left between the fœtus and placenta by the coiling of the cord, leading me to the conclusion that the funis was preternaturally short, and rendering delivery impossible until after the detachment of the placenta. The mother has recovered, with but one peculiar symptom, which was, that the lochia have never made their appearance up to the present time.

I find in none of the standard works upon Midwifery any well-authenticated record of a case, in English practice, where the funis equalled this one in length. Baudelocque mentions one of fifty-seven inches, and this appears to be the only case of such length of cord to be relied upon in the French. As, however, the statistics are very imperfect, no great attention apparently having been paid to the subject, perhaps some of your readers might know of instances of equal or greater length of funis, occurring in our own country.

Albany-street, Regent's-park, Aug. 1855.