

## BIRTH OF AN EXTRAORDINARY LARGE CHILD.

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I WAS called upon on Wednesday morning last, about half-past five, to attend Mrs. F., Alloa, who was in labour with her seventh child. Matters went on as usual till the head was expelled, and I expected that the next pain or so would terminate the delivery; but, on the contrary, though the pains were severe, and I applied a moderate degree of traction to the head during nearly twenty minutes, I could not deliver the body of the child; the shoulders appeared to be the obstacle, and the right arm-pit could be reached with the finger without much difficulty. I sent for Dr. Duncanson, who came immediately, and he brought my instruments with him. We then applied the blunt hook to the right axilla, and, by traction of no ordinary kind, extracted a dead male child of the following dimensions:—Weight, 17 lbs.; length,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches; circumference around the head over the occipital and frontal prominences, 15 inches; circumference around shoulders, 20 inches; circumference around chest,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches; circum-

ference around stomach, 17 inches; from funis to sole of foot,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches; from funis to head, 13 inches; circumference of thigh, 9 inches; length of leg from trochanter to heel,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches; length of arm, 10 inches.

The measurements were taken in my presence by Dr. Duncanson and Mr. F., the father of the child. Mrs. F. is making a very favourable recovery. The father is 6 feet high,—a very proportionate man, and rather good-looking; aged 44; weight, 13 stone. The mother is 5 feet,—rather stout, aged 40,—was never weighed, but looks about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  stone. The child was perfectly formed in every way—no signs of hydrocephalus whatever. This will be seen by the measurement of the head, which was 15 inches, and was well formed. The child was living when the head was expelled from the pelvis and vulva, as it gave a convulsive effort, as if trying to pull back the head occasionally. This lasted, I think, for about ten minutes. When these efforts went off, I believe the child died. I suppose the cause of death was pressure of the cord, the body of the child being of such a size as to effect this most readily. When the child was extracted, it was quite dead; its right humerus gave way near the neck, from the pressure of the blunt hook. There was no hæmorrhage afterwards worth mentioning—just what is usual.

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*Dr. Keiller* thought this was about the heaviest child he had ever heard of. He had shown a fœtus some time ago, which had been delivered by craniotomy, and whose shoulders were so large that great difficulty had been caused in extraction. Even now, although preserved in spirit for such a length of time, this child still looked a giant, but he did not think it would weigh more than 14 lbs. He had heard of an American baby which weighed  $19\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. at birth.

*Dr. Pattison* said there was a child in Dr. Thatcher's museum which weighed 16 lbs.

*Mr. Priddle* said he had attended at the birth of a child in Stockton-on-Tees which weighed 14 lbs.