

livered, or her life preserved by any means in our power, and she was left to her fate. She died about two hours after I left.

"CASE 299.—Distorted pelvis; died undelivered."

Of the 79 women delivered by the crotchet in the Dublin Institution, fifteen (19 per cent.), died from the following causes, as given by Dr. Collins:

"No. 173. Stricture of the intestine, with effusion into the thorax. No. 201. Abdominal inflammation *previous* to labour. Nos. 257, 303, 504, from the effects of labour *previous* to admission. No. 665. Puerperal fever, which was at the time prevalent in the hospital. No. 745. Admitted labouring under typhus fever. In the remaining cases death proceeded from the effects of inflammation and hæmorrhage, or injury produced by pressure."

We cannot refrain from expressing regret that the details of Dr. Lee's consultations were not given with greater precision. We have in vain gone through them with the intention of presenting an analysis of the cases of craniotomy with reference to the duration of the labour in each case, as well as the ages of the patients. In many instances the latter point is not at all noticed, while with regard to the duration of the labour we are left uninformed. Even on the all-important question of the death of the child we are frequently left without certain statements in several cases. Hence we cannot but think the value of these clinical reports is greatly lessened.

The antipathy that Dr. Lee has to the use of chloroform in midwifery is well known; it is frequently expressed in this little book—for the most part, however, in such periphrastic form as the following: "The patient was anxious to have a poisonous narcotic to stop the pains." (p. 83.)

ART. XIX.—*Die Pathologie und Therapie der Geisterkrankheiten auf anatomisch-physiologischer Grundlage.* Von J. L. C. SCHROEDER VAN DER KOLK.—*Braunschweig*, 1863. pp. 217.

The Pathology and Treatment of Mental Diseases founded upon Anatomy, Physiology, &c. By J. L. C. SCHROEDER VAN DER KOLK.

THE name of Van der Kolk is familiar to every medical man at all versed in modern physiology and medicine. It brings honour to Hollaud, his native land, not only on account of his anatomical and physiological researches, but also because he was the prime instrument in raising the condition of the insane from the lowest to the highest point, and in bringing about the construction of asylums which are regarded throughout Europe as models of what such institutions should be.

The present work is a posthumous publication. Its composition was commenced in 1861, was continued, though health failed, and was finally interrupted by death before it could be entirely completed. It is therefore the last and crowning work of this able author and most excellent man, and will secure his fame as a writer on mental disorder, as his well-known physiological papers have done for him as the learned professor of physiology in the University of Utrecht.

Upon the death of Van der Kolk, the honourable duty of placing the treatise before the public was committed to one of his pupils, Dr. Hartsen, whilst the German translation was made by Dr. Theile.

We regard this small work as one of the most valuable contributions to psychological medicine, and particularly so on account of the endeavour made in it to connect disordered mental phenomena with definite pathological conditions—in other words, to place the study of insanity upon a rational pathological basis. That this is the special feature of the treatise is indicated by the fact that of the 217 pages of which it consists, 120 are devoted to an examination of the physiological and pathological anatomy of the brain. The second section of the work is occupied with the pathology and therapeutics of insanity, this malady being considered under two heads, as idiopathic and as sympathetic insanity. In this second portion the principal forms of mental disorder are passed under review, their symptoms and course sketched, and their treatment discussed in a truly practical manner. Moreover, although he has avoided producing a bulky book, he has contrived to give a good outline of those disorders, and to illustrate most of them by well-selected cases.

The physiological portion of the treatise will be read with especial interest, as constituting a brief summary of the latent views of the lamented author on most of the important problems relative to the cerebro-spinal nervous system, and as addressing itself as much to the student of general medicine as to those engaged specially in the subject of mental disorder.

ART. XX.—*Praktiske Bidrag til Kundskaben om Sygdomme i de quin-delige Sexualorganer.* Ved Prof. Dr. F. C. FAYE, Overlæge ved Fødselsstiftelsen og Børnehospitalet.

Practical Contributions to our Knowledge of Diseases of the Female Sexual Organs. By Prof. Dr. F. C. FAYE, Principal Physician to the Lying-in Institution and Hospital for Children.—*Christiania*, 1864. 8vo, pp. 57.

THE *brochure* before us is devoted to the consideration of fibrous tumours of the uterus. Passing over the author's observations on the nature and development of these structures, we shall confine our attention to a single point connected with them :

“As it agrees with general experience that fibrous growths advance during the menstrual period of female life, numerous observations, on the other hand, show not only that the development of such tumours may be arrested as age approaches, but even that existing fibroids, and especially the hypertrophy of the uterine tissue occasioned by them, may be diminished in a remarkable degree. . . . The practically important question, how far fibroid tumours of the uterus may be absorbed or in great measure disappear during menstrual life, must be looked upon as undecided. At all events, such a result must be set down as very unusual, and as one which can take place only under very favourable circumstances. Scanzoni, who, in his ‘Manual of Diseases in the Female Sexual Organs,’ expresses the opinion that these tumours are scarcely capable of any radical cure, nevertheless relates that he has observed a case