

trate into the vacuities or cavities of this viscera ; therefore may it not be supposed that they do not separate from their cavities all at the same time ; that each separation causes those acute pains, and the intervals between are those of ease and rest ? The effect in this case perfectly answers the cause, and we can support this conjecture by another observation.—Immediately before delivery there issues a whitish and viscous liquor, like that which flows from the nipples of the placenta when drawn out of their places, which makes it probable that this liquor, which then issues from the matrix, is produced by the separation of some of the papillæ of the placenta.

It often happens that the foetus quits the matrix without bursting the membranes, and consequently without the contained liquor flowing out. This kind of delivery appears to be most natural, and resembles that of most animals ; nevertheless, the human foetus commonly pierces its membranes by the resistance it meets with at the orifice of the matrix. It also sometimes brings away part of the amnios, and even the chorion, upon its head like a cap. When these membranes are pierced or torn, the liquors, called the *waters*, which they contain