far over the medial line of the perineum. This, however, did not take place, and the child did not complain unless when pressure was made behind the trochanter, or when the limb was moved for the sake of ascertaining whether it had retained its normal position or not. The excoriations healed rapidly, and the head of the bone has not even once slipped from the acetabulum since the application of the apparatus.

This case, sufficiently interesting in itself, speaks much in favour of the splint, as the small size of the perineum, when compared with the large size of an instrument intended for an adult, the previous excoriation caused by the former apparatus, the early age of the child, and the facility with which the bone slipped from the acetabulum on the slightest motion, all rendered it peculiarly difficult of management.


In the present state of our knowledge on the subject, it is a matter of deep interest and of considerable importance to determine the power which galvanism possesses of exciting or increasing the action of the uterus, and of arresting hemorrhage from that organ during pregnancy or labour. Few, as yet, have recorded their experience on this point, and our knowledge of the subject is meagre and unsatisfactory. Those who have published their cases (with one exception, Dr. Simpson) speak in unvarying terms as to its powers, and would lead us to look to it with confidence in some of the most trying difficulties to which we are exposed in obstetric practice.

Dr. Simpson, on the contrary, seems altogether to doubt its powers, and after having recorded eight cases, the results of which are given below, he proceeds to say: "It would be hasty, and logically incorrect, to deduce from the preceding experiments
that under no modification and under no manner of application does galvanism possess the power of directly exciting or increasing the contractile action of the uterus. Forms and methods of employing it may possibly be detected or devised, affording a different result. But I believe I am justified in inferring from the preceding inquiry that, as employed at the present time, and in its present mode, it is not a means which can in any degree be relied upon for the purpose in question, and is so far practically and entirely useless as a stimulant of the parturient action of the uterus.

"In stating the above conclusions as the result of my own experience, I by no means wish to impugn the validity of the observations made in one or two isolated cases by others in which an opposite result was supposed to be produced. Uterine contractions may certainly have been occasionally increased while the galvanism was being used; but I strongly question whether that increase was the result of galvanic agency." Further on he observes: "Uterine action may be modified by the state of the patient's mind, or by other more unappreciable conditions, by the application of cold or mere mechanical irritation of the vagina or cervix uteri." "The use of so portentous an apparatus as the galvanic machine may influence the uterus through the mind of the patient." "The application to the skin of a wet sponge attached to the external conducting wire may excite uterine contraction by reflex action, on the same principle as cold thus used very generally leads to this effect both during and after labour; and lastly and principally, the mere introduction and mechanical irritation of the vaginal conductor upon the surface of the vagina and cervix uteri will, I doubt not, occasionally excite more strong and powerful uterine pains, in the same way and on the same principle as the mechanical irritation of the finger or the forceps certainly sometimes produces the same consequences."

Dr. Radford, of Manchester, holds a very opposite opinion