ART. II.—Observations on Professor Hamilton's "Deviations,"
&c. By Robert Collins, M.D., late Master of the Dublin
Lying-in Hospital.

A sense of duty again forces me to expose to my junior professional brethren, the hasty, and if generally acted upon, mischievous measures urged by Professor Hamilton, of Edinburgh, for the artificial dilatation of the mouth of the womb within twelve or fourteen hours, and the actual delivery of the patient within twenty-four hours from the commencement of labour.

I am led thus, a third time, to register the most solemn protest against Professor Hamilton's unnecessary and mischievous intermeddling, in consequence of a letter published by him in the preceding volume of this Journal; and I state, without hesitation, that the said letter is one of the most perfect demonstrations of his often-exercised powers of evasion ever offered to public consideration.

When stigmatizing Professor Hamilton's doctrine, regarding the artificial dilatation of the mouth of the womb, in a communication made by me in this Journal, March, 1837, I have given the following quotation from Dr. Hamilton's work: "When the pains take place, if the dilatation proves tedious, that is, if the continuance of strong pains for six or eight hours do not advance the dilatation to such a degree as to give reason to expect its completion within a few pains, it becomes necessary to interfere lest the patient's health should suffer." In my second communication, September, 1838, (to which Professor Hamilton pretends to reply in the last number of this Journal,) I state the following are Dr. Hamilton's own words, upon the validity of which the key-stone of his arch ideas rests, and which, although inculcated by him for a series of years to some thousand pupils, he complains the practitioners in London, Paris, and Dublin reject.
"MANAGEMENT OF THE FIRST STAGE OF LABOUR.

"One of the earliest innovations in the treatment of human parturition, which I found good reason to introduce, was the limiting the duration of the first stage of labour to twelve or fourteen hours, whenever the uterine contractions continue to be regular and progressive; and I have stated in my Practical Observations, that the following are the necessary effects of the protraction of that process beyond the time specified."

In the learned Professor's reply to my second communication, he slips back, cautiously, to the Dublin Journal of Medical science, No. XXXI., where my first criticisms are published, and gives the first extract which I have supplied above; shunning his "innovations," as set before his eyes in the very glaring manner just recorded, as the key-stone upon which his ideas rest. In reference to the passage given in my first article, the Professor now, as he thinks, cunningly remarks, "In this quotation Dr. Collins has left out certain words, and transposed others, which completely misrepresent what I have published; for, firstly, I do not state ' that the full dilatation of the os uteri should be completed within twelve or fourteen hours from the actual commencement of labour, as the natural efforts can no longer be trusted to;' my statement being in the following words: 'If uterine contractions continue regular the full dilatation of the os uteri should be completed within twelve or fourteen hours, &c.' This condition, which Dr. Collins has carefully suppressed, changes altogether the proposition which he has thus alleged to be mine." And it is added, "for this misrepresentation he can have no excuse." I ask is it not to Dr. Hamilton's everlasting shame, that I am compelled to thus expose him. Who could read such sleight of hand efforts, without contempt for the writer?

Have I not proved that the identical words were absolutely emblazoned in order to attract notice; and yet Dr. Hamilton