Physiological Illustrations.

It must be admitted, that a child taken from the womb of its mother by the cæsarean section, cannot in philological strictness he said to have been born. The ingenious purpose to which Shakspeare has applied this quibble has no doubt suggested itself to the reader.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!
* * * * * *
Be bloody, bold, and resolute: laugh to scorn
The power of man; for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.”

Act iv, sc. 1

Macd. * * Despair thy charm;
And let the angel, whom thou still hast serv’d,
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother’s womb
Untimely ripp’d.

Act v, sc. viii.

The circumstance merits our observation, in as much as it has furnished a subtlety for disputation, as we have already noticed at page 225.

OF EXTRA-UTERINE CONCEPTION.

It sometimes happens, that instead of the impregnated ovum passing into the womb, it is either re-
operator was immediately honoured with a pension from the French government, and a medal was struck to commemorate the invention; at length, however, the ill success of the practice occasioned it to sink into complete desuetude, and the remembrance of it can now be beneficial only as it may serve to caution us against the inconsiderate and hasty adoption of modes of practice unsupported by just reasoning, and unsanctioned by experience. Merriman, Op. citat. p. 168.
Of Extra-Uterine Conception.

tained in the ovarium, (a) or it stops in the fallopian tube, or it misses the tube and falls amongst the bowels. Of these, the tubal is by far more frequent than the ventral conception. We learn from the numerous cases which are recorded of extra-uterine pregnancy, that it may terminate in several different ways; in some cases sudden death occurs from hemorrhage; (b) in others, the unfortunate woman survives for a long period; and it has occurred that the fætus has been converted into a substance somewhat analogous to the gras de cimetières, (c) in which case very little inconvenience is felt beyond that which must attend the tumour of the belly for so many years. Nature, however, more generally institutes a process to get rid of the extraneous body; the sac adheres to the peritoneum or intestines, and, after an uncertain period, varying from a few weeks to several years, it either opens externally, or communicates with the abdominal viscera, and highly offensive matter, together with putrid flesh, bones, and coaguli, are discharged through the abdominal integuments, or by the rectum, (d) vagina, or bladder. (e)

The most extraordinary circumstance in the history of these conceptions is the sympathetic enlargement of the uterus, and even in some cases, the formation of

(a) See a most interesting case of Ovario-gestation, by Dr. Granville, published in the Phil. Trans. 1820.

(b) See a description of an Extra-Uterine Fetus contained in the Fallopian Tube, by George Langstaff, Esq. Medico-Chirurg. Trans. vol. 7, p. 437.

(c) Fournier, Système, tom. x, p. 83. See also our observations and references upon this subject at page 96.

(d) See the History of a Woman who bore a seven months Fetus for seven years, and was delivered of it per anum, and completely recovered, by Dr. Albers. Med-Chirurg. Trans. vol. 8, p. 507.

(e) See Burn's Midwifery, edit. 4, p. 189.
Of Hermaphrodites.

The term Hermaphrodite (d) signifies an animal in which there exists a mixture of the male and female

(a) Baillie Phil. Trans. vol. 79.
(b) Anthropolog. Lib. 2, c. 34.
(c) Medico-Chirurg. Trans. vol. 10, p. 269.
(d) The Greek word ἕφθαρμερόστος is a compound of ἕφθαμερος, Mercury, and Ἀφροδίτη, Venus—a mixture of Mercury and Venus, i.e. of