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white fubstance. This alteration of structure had impeded the free passage of the blood, and gradually produced the appearances observed by M. Chaussier in the left auricle and ventricle.

VI. Observations on some Causes of the Excess of the Mortality of Males above that of Females. By Joseph Clarke, M. D. Physician to the Lying in Hospital at Dublin. Communicated by the Rev. Richard Price, D. D. F. R. S. in a Letter to Charles Blagden, M. D. Sec. R. S.—From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Vol. LXXVI. For the Year 1786. Part. II. 4to. London. 1786.

Newington Green, Feb. 6, 1786.

SIR,

RECEIVED fome time ago the inclosed letters and registry from Dr. Clarke, Physician to the Lying-in Hospital at Dublin. They contain some accounts that seem to me not improper to be communicated to the Royal Society.

The observations which have been made on the laws that govern human mortality prove,

Z 2 that

that the mortality of males exceeds that of females in almost all the stages of life, and particularly in the earliest stages; and that this excess prevails most in great towns, and all the less natural situations of human life. The facts in these papers throw some light on this subject. Male fœtus's requiring more nutrition than female fœtus's, because larger, and being also for this reason more liable to injury in delivery, are brought into the world less perfect: and this happening more or less in proportion to the vigour and just formation of the mother, it must happen most in those situations where the greatest tenderness of frame and deviations from nature take place. The truth, in short, seems to be, that any debility in either parent must affect most the production of that fex which requires the largest and strongest stamina; and that fuch debilities prevailing most in great towns and polished focieties, the excess of the mortality of males must also be greatest in such fituations. And this I reckon the principal reafon of a circumstance in human mortality which before I received these communications from Dr. Clarke, I did not fo well understand.

With much respect I am, &c.

RICH. PRICE,

Dr. Clarke's first Letter to the Rev. Dr. Price.

Dublin,

SIR,

IN your very ufeful Treatife on Life Annuities, &c. you remark *, that " it has been observed, that the Author of nature has provided, that more males should be born "than females, on account of the particular " waste of males, occasioned by wars and other " causes. That perhaps it might have been observed, with more reason, that this pro-" vision had in view that particular weakness " or delicacy in the constitution of males which " makes them more subject to mortality; and " which, confequently, renders it necessary " that more of them should be produced, in " order to preferve in the world a due propor-"tion between the fexes." - And further, you elsewhere remark +, that " the facts recited at "the end of your fourth Effay prove, that there is a difference between the mortality of " males and females; but that you must how-" ever observe, that it may be doubted, whether 66 this difference fo unfavourable to males, be

"that you have reason for such a doubt." After stating a number of very satisfactory sacts of this kind you remark, that "the inference from them is very obvious; that they seem to shew sufficiently, that human life in males is more brittle than in semales, only in confequence of adventitious causes, or of some particular debility which takes place in positional semales, and especially in great towns."

What those adventitious causes are, or how this particular debility is produced and operates, are questions which appear to me highly interesting and curious. I have therefore been at considerable pains to examine and arrange a very accurate and extensive registry in such a manner as I hope will throw some light on these questions. As it is to the accuracy of modern registers that we are originally indebted for our knowledge of the facts in question, I apprehend, it is from the same source only that we shall be enabled satisfactorily to explain them.

Of the registry inclosed, I beg leave to obferve to you, Sir, that it has been kept from its commencement by a man of uncommon accuracy (one of the under-clerks of the House of Commons); and that as the poor women and their children are obliged to pass through his office, before leaving the Hospital, his situation is such that there is no likelihood of his being deceived. It exhibits to our view the occurrences of twenty-eight years in above 20,000 instances: a number which I am inclined to think can hardly appear insufficient for establishing some general inferences and conclusions on a tolerably sure soundation. Although my reasoning on these matters should not appear very conclusive, or my calculations perfectly accurate, yet I flatter myself, that the sacts will neither be unacceptable nor useless to you.

I believe it may be safely afferted, that anatomy has not hitherto detected any internal difference between the animal occonomy of the male and female, which can be supposed to account for their difference of mortality, more especially in early infancy; and this (it deserves to be particularly remarked) is the period during which the chances are much the greatest against male life. It is a matter of common observation that males, cateris paribus, grow to a greater size than females, both in utera and every subsequent period of their growth. Confequently,

fequently, they must meet with more difficulty, and endure more hardship and fatigue, in the hour of birth. Accordingly, practitioners in midwifery, taught by experience, know, that when any confiderable difficulty occurs in the birth of a child (for example, in all the different kinds of preternatural labours) they stand a much better chance of faving the life of a female than of a male. It is on this principle we can explain what our registry concurs with others in proving, viz. that near one-half more males than females are still-born. Naturalists are agreed, that the head of the human fœtus is larger in proportion to its body than that of any other animal; and I believe it is certain. that no animal whatever brings forth its young with fo much difficulty, pain, and danger, as a woman. Now as we know that the head contains one of the most important organs of the body to life, it is highly reasonable to fuppose, that any additional injury which it fustains in delivery may produce very material effects on the whole system. These effects though often may not be always immediate. They may operate in weakening the male conflitution fo as to render it more apt to be affected by any exciting cause of difease soon after

after birth, and less able to struggle against it. It may be asked, how this will apply to the difference of mortality in great towns and country situations? The answer evidently is, that in great towns rickets, scrophula, and other difeases affecting the bones, and producing confequent mal-conformation of the semale sex, are more frequent than in healthy country situations.

There is another circumstance, Sir, which may have fome influence in producing that particular debility which you mention. It is this: as the stamina of the male are naturally constituted to grow to a greater fize, a greater supply of nourishment in utero will be necessary to his growth than to that of a female. Defects in this particular, proceeding from delicacy of constitution or diseases of the mother, must of course be more injurious to the male fex. And although the male children may be fo lucky as to escape abortion and the perils of delivery, it is probable, that they will be more apt to languish under disease, or die at some future period, from the application of noxious causes to an originally half-starved frame. To a person little accustomed to consider physiological subjects, this reasoning may appear somewhat obscure.

It may, perhaps, be somewhat illustrated by confidering that nourishment of the fœtus after birth which nature has provided for. Suppose every mother in a great city obliged to fuckle and nurse her own child, without the assistance of spoon-meat; and every mother in the adjacent country to do the same. Of the former there would not perhaps be one good nurse in five; and of the latter, perhaps, not one bad in ten. The difference of mortality that would enfue both to mothers and children thus fituated, and the greater fufferings of the male than female fex, may be eafily calculated. We fee that, when a women conceives twins, and has two feetuses in utero to nourish instead of one, it becomes peculiarly fatal both to her and her offspring. The chances are above four to one greater against her than against a woman bringing forth one child, and about two to one against her iffue *.

Give me leave, Sir, to call your attention a little further to the facts relating to twins. They are fingular and curious, at the same time that they serve to confirm some of the preceding

^{*} Compare the 7th and 14th, 6th and 13th inferences in the annexed extracts.

reasoning. Near one-half more twins die, and near one-third more are still-born, than of single children. And why?—It is not because they meet with greater difficulties in the birth. On the contrary, it is a known fact, that, being much less than other children, women bring them forth with more ease. Does it not then proceed from a scanty nutrition, by which they are oftener blighted in utero than single children; and, when born alive, have less strength to support life through the first stages of its existence.

It is farther worthy of observation, that though double the numbers of twins die and are stillborn, compared to fingle children, yet the proportion of male twins lost to females is less. Only one-fifth more of the male fex die than of the female, and only one-third more is stillborn. Whereas of fingle children, whose proportional mortality is one-half less, one-fourth more of the male fex die, and near double the number is still-born. To what then are we to attribute this leffened mortality in favour of male twins? Probably to their brain and nervous fystem fuffering less during delivery, on account of their heads being much smaller than Aa2 those

those of fingle children. Were I disposed to be prolix, I could offer many more plaufible arguments on this subject; but to you, Sir, I am fure they would be unnecessary. There is only one circumstance remaining, relative to the proportion of the fexes, which I cannot pass over in filence. We fee evident wisdom in the creation of a greater number of males than females; but why the proportion they bear to each other differs in different countries and fituations, and why there should be a seventeenth more males born of fingle children than twins, are questions which I leave to be decided by those philosophers who understand the theory of generation better than I do. Be this as it may, I am convinced that the majority in favour of the male fex is fooner destroyed than the generality of writers feem to be aware of. Did the limits of this letter permit, I think, I could prove from Dr. Short's own data *, that the majority of males is destroyed long before the common marriageable period; but I shall content myself with an observation or two on the registry before us. If one-half of the whole born in this Hospital die before three years, which is the established com-

^{*} New Observations, p. 72. & seq.

putation for great cities; and if, on the loss of fomewhat more than a third of this half, a majority of 1177 be reduced to 483 by a loss of 694, as appears from the registry, it is pretty evident, that by the death of the two remaining thirds, a majority will be left in favour of the female fex. It is obvious, that the statement with regard to twins corroborates this suppofition: for of them, instead of a fifth, there is near one half dead and still-born, the consequence of which is, that we fend out a majority of females. It may be objected, that their males do not bear fo great a proportion to the females; and that, therefore, it is not to be expected they should keep up their majority fo long. But there is only a feventeenth fewer males produced; whereas it has been already shewn, that there is a much greater proportion between the deaths of fingle and twin males against the former and in favour of the latter.

Such are the outlines, Sir, of my fentiments on this fubject. I have affumed the liberty of addressing them to you without ceremony, as a well-wisher to every member of the republic of letters. I shall be happy, should your senti-

ments happen to coincide with mine, or if I can be of any farther fervice in promoting your very laudable inquiries.

I am, Sir, with great respect, &c.

JOSEPH CLARKE.

Lying-in Hospital, June 9, 1785.

Dr. Clarke's fecond Letter to the Rev. Dr. Price.

Dublin, Oct. 22. 1785.

SIR,

ENCOURAGED by your approbation of my former letter, I will take the liberty of flating to you a few more facts and observations, which I hope you will judge an appendix to it of some importance.

With the view of afcertaining how far fome of the foregoing conjectures are well founded, and of determining with greater precision the more obvious differences between the male and female fex in infancy, I began in the month of July last by weighing forty children, twenty of each fex, and by taking the dimensions of their heads. In the months of August and September I repeated the same experiment twice, taking such children as appeared to have arrived at the

full period of gestation promiscuously as they happened to be born.

I weighed them all a few hours after birth, before they had taken food, and before purgative medicines had time to operate. For this purpose, I made use of a small spring or pocket fteelyard, which weighs any thing (not heavier than a few pounds) appended to it with fufficient accuracy. To this was attached a flannel bag, into which the children were put, at first, naked; but this I foon found troublesome. The purses often wanted time sufficient to affist me. and timid mothers were afraid of their infants catching cold; I was therefore obliged to weigh them with their cloaths on, and to subtract a certain quantity from the gross weight of each child, according as it was full, middling, or light cloathed. Whatever inaccuracy this may have introduced, as to the real weight of the children, it can but little influence their comparative weights, or the differences between the two fexes, which it was my object to ascertain.

For measuring their heads, I made use of a piece of painted or varnished linen tape, divided into inches, halves, and quarters. The varnish has the good effect of preventing the length of such a measure being readily affected by varia-

tions in the humidity of the atmosphere, &c.; and it has little or no elasticity. In this part of the experiment then I can pretend to considerable accuracy. I took first the greatest circumference of the head from the most prominent part of the occiput around over the frontal sinuses; and, secondly, the transverse dimension from the superior and anterior part of one ear, across the sontanelle, to a similar part of the opposite ear. These dimensions appeared to me the most likely to afford data for determining the respective sizes of the brain in the different sexes. The result was as follows:

C' >T	wenty r	nales.	Twenty females.									
Weight.	Circum-	Dimensions	- Weight.	Circum-	Dimensions							
1bs. &c.	ference	from ear to	lbs. &c.	ference	from ear to							
1	of heads.	car		of heads.	ear.							
2 VIIII	Inches.	Inches.		Inches.	Inches.							
Experiment t.												
149½	282	152	1374	273	143							
Experiment 2.												
1442	277	1464	135	272	147							
Experiment 3.												
248	280	1471	132	273	1434							
Totals.												
442	839	4453	4044	817	4334							
		Ayerage v	weight, &c.									
7lbs.50z	.7dr. 14	74 6	olbs. I loz. 6d	lr. 13	\$ 73							
efteri					Having							
442	839	147½ To 445¾ Ayerage v	132 stals. 404 ^x / ₄ weight, &c.	817	143 1 433 1 8 75							

Having found the relative proportions between the fexes to turn out thrice with so much uniformity, and observing them to correspond pretty nearly with some experiments, made for very different purposes by the late Professor Roederer, of Gottingen, I did not think it necessary to prosecute the subject farther.

Upon the whole, it may be observed, that the difference of weight between the male and female at birth may be rated at about nine ounces, or nearly a twelfth part of the original weight. In the circumference of their heads there is a difference of near half a inch, or about a 28th or 30th part; and the same 'proportion of a 28th is pretty nearly preserved in the transverse dimension. It is evident, as the bony paffage through which infants pass is of a certain determined capacity, that, were their heads equally incompressible with those of adults, the difference of half an inch in their fize would often prove fatal to them. By the compressibility of their heads, however, in well formed women, this difficulty is by time furmounted. The effects which such a compresfion on the brain may produce, have not hitherto been well attended to.

In reckoning children, weighing from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$, 6 pounds weight, and from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$, 7, and so forth, in order to avoid fractions, I find the number of males and females, arranged according to their weight, to stand as follow.

Males. Females:

lbs. 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | lbs. 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 N° 0 3 6 32 16 2 1 N° 2 9 14 25 8 2 0

Hence it appears, that the majority of males runs thus: feven, eight, fix, five; whilft that of the females is feven, fix, five, eight. Hence also appears the merciful dispensations of Providence towards the female fex; for when deviations from the medium standard occur, it is remarkable that they are much more frequently below than above this standard. In 120 instances there are only five children exceeding eight pounds and a half in weight. The fame may be observed with regard to the fize of their heads. Only fix measured above 141 inches in circumference, and these all of the male fex; five measured 143, and one 15. In transverse dimensions only four exceeded 73, the largest of which was 81; whereas deviations under the standard n these particulars were very numerous numerous, never however under 12 around and 64 across.

In the year 1753, Dr. Roederer published a Paper, De pondere & longitudine Infantum recens natorum, in the Commentaries of the Royal Society of Gottingen, of which the celebrated Haller was the principal institutor, and long the prefident. In this Paper he proves, in the clearest manner, by incontestible experiments, the absurdity of the ideas of obstetric writers with regard to the progress of the ovum during gestation, and the weight of the fœtus after birth. He shews, although they state the weight of the fœtus, come to the full time, to be from 12 to 14 or 16 pounds, that it is more generally 6 or 7, and very rarely exceeds 8. This deserves particular notice for two reasons; first, because it serves to shew how little dependence is to be placed on the affertions of authors who copy each other fervilely, without having recourse to experiment even in the most obvious cases; and, secondly, because this paper has been overlooked by some of the most celebrated writers and teachers of midwifery now living. What idea are we to form of the accuracy of one of our latest systematic B b 2 writers

writers, who (telling us that he has been a practitioner of midwifery, in a capital city, for twenty years, and a teacher for more than twelve) states, in one page of his work, that the weight of a fœtus at eight months is about feven pounds; and on the opposite page, that at full time it weighs from twelve to fourteen pounds.

Of twenty-seven children, carried to the sull period of gestation, weighed and measured in length by Roederer, without any attention to the difference of sex, I find, that eighteen were of the male and nine of the semale sex; and that the average weight of the former was about 6 lbs. 9 oz., that of the latter about 6 lbs. 2 oz. 2 dr. Whether he and I used the same weights, I cannot exactly say. He observes, that he used the civil pound of Gottingen, which I can easily perceive consisted of 16 ounces, as mine did; but whether a German ounce be the same with ours, I have not data to determine. The average length of the males

^{*} Sec a Treatife of Midwifery (pages 88. and 89.) divefted of technical terms and abstruce theories, by A. Hamilton, M. D. 8vo. edit. London, 1781.

measured by him is about 20½ inches, and of the females about 19½. He weighed also the placentæ of 21 lying in women, 16 of whom had borne male children, and sive female. The average weight of the former was 1 lb. 2½ oz.; that of the latter 1 lb. 2 oz. Hence it appears, that in other circumstances, besides those I have taken notice of, the male and female sex differ. So far I thought it necessary to take extracts from Dr. Roederer's paper, as his observations and mine throw light on each other, and add confirmation to both.

The limits of this letter will not permit me, Sir, to trespass much farther on your patience. There is one circumstance or two so intimately connected with my former letter, that I cannot pass them over in silence. Having found that males suffer more in the birth than semales, I was desirous of knowing whether the chance of the mother's recovery was thereby in any degree affected; and to determine this I was once more at the pains of turning over our registry with care. I found, that of 214 women, dead of single children, 50 were delivered of still-born males, and 15 of still-born females; 76 of living males, and 73 of living females.

females. Of the 15 dead of twins, 6 had twins one of each fex; 6 others had twins both of the male fex; and three had twins both of the female fex. All of which twins (two or three excepted), it is very remarkable, furvived the death of their mothers. It would appear then. that the life of the mother is principally endangered in those cases where the bulk of the male's head precludes the poffibility of his being brought into the world alive, either by the efforts of nature or art. The conception of twins we have observed to be more fatal to the mother than that of fingle children. The average weight of 12 twins, which have occurred to me of late, I find to be 11 lbs. a pair. The largest pair weighed 13 lbs. and the least 81. From some rude attempts made to ascertain the weight of the contents of the gravid uterus in cases of twin and single children, I am inclined to think, that they are to each other as about 15 to 10, or perhaps 141 to 94.

Believe me, Sir, with great respect, &c.

J. CLARKE.

VII. Expe-

An Abstract of the Registry kept at the Lying-in Hospital, in Dublin,
From the 8th of December, 1757, to the 31st of December, 1784.

By B. H. Register.

4		Number of Pa- tients ad- mitted.	Went out not delivered.	in the	Boys born.	Girls born.	Total number of chil- dren.	Women having twins.	Children dead.	Children ftill-born.	Women dead.
From 8th to 31ft De-	- 1757 - 1758 - 1759	55 455 413	I	55 454 406	30 255 228	25 207 192	55 462 420	- 8 13	54 95	3 21 22	1 8 5
Year ending 31st of December,	1760 1760 1761 1762 1763 1764 1765 1766 1767 1768 1770 1771 1772 1773 1774 1775	571 537 550 519 610 559 611 695 689 675 724 725 727 709 752 883	15 16 17 31 22 26 30 31 34 33 35 29 21 33 28 24 31	556 521 533 488 588 533 581 664 655 642 670 695 704 681 728	300 283 279 274 287 288 324 373 350 372 370 377 368 367 357 364 418	260 249 266 224 308 251 261 301 302 301 305 341 344 344 334 378 407	560 532 545 498. 595 539 585 674 664 651 677 711 712 711 742 825	13 1had 3 4 11 12 12 7 6 4 10 9 9 7 16 8 17 10 14 22	93 116 104 106 94 83 94 111 125 154 152 107 102 116 136 154 122 132	36 29 33 29 28 25 18 29 47 38 37 44 32 31 29 27 39	4 9 6 9 12 6 3 11 16 8 8 5 4 13 21
Totals	1777 1778 1779 1780 1781 1782 1783	872 961 1064 967 1079 1021 1230 1317	37 34 53 48 52 31 63 57	835 927 1011 919 1027 990 1167	452 476 550 499 598 549 632 642	395 460 476 441 447 458 553 640	847 936 1026 940 1045 1007 1185 1282	1 had 3 12 9 15 21 18 17 17 1 had 3 23 331	145 127 146 115 121 127 91 76	35 39 59 41 38 57 72 68	7 10 8 5 6 6 15 11

Proportion of males and females born, about nine males to eight females.

children dying under fixteen days old, as one to about fix and a half.

children still-born, as one to about twanty.

women having twins, as one to about fixty.

women dying in child-bed, as one to about eighty feven.

EXTRACTS from the REGISTRY kept at the LYING-IN HOSPITAL, DUBLIN, from the Year 1757 to 1784.

Multiparous, Twins, Triplets, &c.

UNIPAROUS.

Women. Children.					Women. Delivered						Children.				
Delivered in Dead.	Sex		Dead	1	Sti	ll-born.	in	Dead:	Sex		De	ad.	Still I	orn.	
Hospital.	M.	F:	M	F.	M.	F.	Hospital.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
19455 214	10305	9150	1656	1247	602	351	331	15	342	320	116	91	29	20	
	9150		1247	1.	351			1.	320		91	C Y	,20	*	
	19455		2903	1 the	953				662		207		49		
	- 7100		953		755	3 - 6 2		4		- 1 - 2 2	49			-	
					1.0:11:1						77 1 1 1 1 0 11 h				
	Total 3856 dead						The second because the			Total 256 dead and ftill-born.					
Inferences.												1	1		
1. Proportion of males to females born nearly as					17 to	15	8. Proport	ortion of male twins to females born					17 to	16	
	children dying under 16 days					62/3	9.	t	wins dying u	I t	3 3 5				
3	- children still-born				1 to	202	10	t	wins still-bor	ı t	0 132				
4.	males dyi	ng to females		10000	4 to	3	11	, n	- male twins dying to females -						
5.	- ftill-born to ditto -				12 to	7	12.		fti	3 1	0 2				
6. ———	- ftill-born and dead of each fex to t				I to	5	13.	f	till-born and	ch fex t	o the wh	ole i t	0 2 7		
7.	women dying in child-bed -				I to	to 92 14. women dying						I to 22			
	K. Alex										TE .				
	Totals of dead and fill-born, whether														
Totals of dead and fill-born.			1	uı	niparous o	r multiparous.		Totals of twins, &c., dead and still-born.							
	Males.	Females.				Males.	Females.				Males.	Fe	males.		
	1656	1247		, ,		1656	1247				116		91	-	
and the last	602	351	C. last way			602	91				29		20		
	2258	1598				29	351				145		111		
		Since A	and the									35 7 3			
Born in hospital	10305	9150				2403	1709		Born	_	342		320		
Dead and still-born	2258	1598					0.180		Dead an	d still-born	145		III	1.2	
Sent out living	8047	7550			Born	10647	9470		Sent out	living	- 197		200	+ +	
bent out hving	7552	7552		1 1 2	7	2403			belle ou	Tiving	-91		197		
1	-	·	11.	**		8244	7761				Y				
Balance	Balance - 495 in favour of the male fex.					7761	Balance in favour of the female fex					ale fex	12		
Of sort a children horn at the end of a forthight though a halance of again for our of the male few although originally 1177; greater loss of males had.															
Of 20117 children born, at the end of a fortnight, there is only a balance of 483 in favour of the male fex, although originally 1177; greater loss of males 694.															