

PERISCOPE.

The "Dead-Alive." By R. B. NASON, Esq., M. R. C. S. Sir,—An article, "The Dead Alive," in your last impression* demands of me a veritable statement of the case alluded to. The subject of the inquiry is still living, and some time past has afforded me scope for observation.

I have only been waiting for a termination of the case, either in convalescence or death, to enable me to give to the profession, through your valuable columns, a full and truthful history of this rare and curious case, replete with interest. The exaggerated statement which has gone the round of the press, has produced such great curiosity in this immediate neighborhood, that I have been applied to by many parties, professional and non-professional, to be permitted to see the case, the parents of the patient having refused admittance to all strangers.

The case having extended over a long period, and fearing a detailed account might occupy too much of your valuable space, I have condensed the matter as much as possible; but should the profession consider the case worthy of a more enlarged history, I will gladly at some future period meet their wishes, as far as my rough notes, aided by my memory, will supply it.

In August, 1858, I was requested to visit Miss Amelia Hinks, aged twelve years and nine months, daughter of a harness maker, and residing with her parents in Bridge-street Nuneaton. She was supposed to be suffering from pulmonary consumption. I found her much emaciated, and complaining of headache; great lassitude; loss of appetite; short cough; secretions morbid; catamenia not appeared. I prescribed an alterative, to be taken at night, and a ferruginous tonic three times a day; a generous, though mild, nutritious diet, which she continued some time with benefit. I could not detect any chest disease. She then went into the neighborhood of Leanington, for change, to visit some friends, and after a short stay became much worse. Her parents, being apprized of her state, fetched her home as soon as possible. On her arrival I was requested to see her. I found her very attenuated, and complaining of great debility, headache, and loss of appetite: tongue clean; bowels confined. From this time she began to refuse food and medicine, and friends wished her not to be disturbed for anything, and daily and hourly anticipated her death. She was watched night after night in anticipation of that event happening and on the 18th of Octo-

*January No. p. 66.