

his father, *abused* his mother, popped in between the election and his hopes, and thrown out his angle for his proper life."

A careful reading of the *Hystorie* of Hamlet, to which reference has been made, contributes much toward the illustration of a character deemed peculiarly difficult. It will assign rational motives for actions otherwise unintelligible, and lay the foundation for the necessary distinction that has been made between the natural and artificial character of Hamlet, and will explain the reason for his deportment to Ophelia.

The Ophthalmoscopic Appearances in Certain Cases of Epilepsy
By REUBEN A. VANCE, M.D., New York City.

The ophthalmoscopic appearances in the following cases are so peculiar and interesting that I desire to call the attention of other observers to them, and, as the mechanism of their production is closely connected with many physiological actions and pathological processes, to learn from the researches of others the relative frequency with which these phenomena occur in individuals suffering from the various forms of cerebral diseases attended by loss or impairment of consciousness.

Case I.—One morning during the early part of February, 1871, while making an ophthalmoscopic examination of a young gentleman under my care for epilepsy, the parts in the region of the optic nerve-entrance of the right eye being in view, certain vessels disappeared, the papilla underwent a peculiar but not very definite change, and the patient fell to the floor in a fit. Prior to the attack, the arteries and veins were very distinct, and the vascular branches of the disk quite easily traced. At the moment of attack certain vessels contracted, but whether they were discal or retinal I was unable to determine, from the sudden movement of the patient. About two hours subsequently I again made an ophthalmoscopic examination, and found the retinal veins enlarged and tortuous, and the parts about the nerve-entrance very much congested.

Case II.—Another patient under my care at the same time, who originally suffered from attacks of the *grand mal*, due to cerebral congestion, ultimately recovered to such an extent that the paroxysms of the severer form of the disease had entirely disappeared. He complained, however, of sudden momentary attacks of vertigo, which recurred many times a day. He did not stagger or fall—in short, presented no external indications of anything wrong, at such times—but was quite fearful lest these new symptoms might indicate a tendency to apoplexy. While making an