

tumor extended so far behind the sternum that not only the trachea but the great vessels were exposed and the finger pushed into the bottom of the wound rested upon the arch of the aorta, between the innominata and left carotid. 52 ligatures were applied. One secondary hæmorrhage followed—wound treated openly—Recovery complete.

**GLOSSOPHYTIS.**—Dessois is of opinion (*Thèse de Paris*, 1878): 1. That the black hue of the tongue and hypertrophy of the papillæ of the tongue are always connected with the presence of a vegetable parasite. 2. That this colouring must be ascribed to the fungus, from which it spreads to the long epithelial sheaths of the papillæ. 3. That the hypertrophy of the papillæ, which exists more or less before the affection breaks out on the tongue, and which proves a fertile soil for the parasite, is principally due, at a later period, to the irritation caused by this cryptogam.—*Lond. Med. Record*, April 15, 1879.

**ANTIPYRETIC METHODS OF TREATMENT.**—At a meeting of the Glasgow Medico-Chirurgical Society, Prof. Gairdner, after reviewing the history of cold-water bathing in fevers from the time of Currie down, criticising in detail the methods of Liebermeister, Brand, and others, closed with the following words: "I am myself perfectly open to conviction on the whole subject, only I confess I am not yet convinced that it is absolutely necessary to keep a fever patient suspended between pyrexia and collapse by means of cold baths, and still less that it is necessary to half poison him with digitalis and veratria, and then restore him with stimulants, in order to secure his safe passage through an attack of typhoid fever."—*Boston Med. Jour.*

**HISTOLOGY OF TUBERCLE.**—Baumgarten (*Centr.ubl. f. die Med. Wissenschaft.*, March 30, 1878,) has already drawn attention to the constant presence of a granulation tissue, containing epithelioid and giant cells, around ligatures placed on vessels, but he could not recognize nodules analogous to those of tubercle. More recently, he has observed around foreign bodies such as bits of hair, cotton fibres, and the dust

which settles in all operative wounds, true tubercular giant cells; there is the same typical disposition of the nuclei at the periphery, the same protoplasm with its dark granules; the cells are sometimes isolated, sometimes surrounded by round or oval collection of lymphoid cells, often surrounded by a reticulum; no vessel could be recognized. No distinction could be drawn between their appearances and those of tubercle, but the growth showed no tendency to caseation or dissemination.—*Lond. Med. Record.*

**STUDIES ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF CONCEPTION.**—Some interesting observations on this subject were communicated last year to the Berlin Medical Society, by Dr. L. Löwe. He has discovered that a single spermatozoon is sufficient to impregnate an ovum; indeed, that in nearly every case only one gains admittance, and that as soon as this one penetrates the walls, an immediate deposit, something in the nature of a chemical precipitate, takes place on the walls of the ovum, which prevents any further access of spermatozoa. Occasionally, however, two spermatozoa do gain admittance, either owing to their penetration being simultaneous or the animal being in ill health. When this is the case, the result is a double monster, or a malformation of some kind. The transparent eggs of certain fish are best suited to exhibit these processes.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

**HEART AND BRAIN.**—At the fifty-first meeting of German Naturalists, in Cassel, Dr. Weidemeister made some remarks on the connection between heart-disease and mental diseases. Practitioners who are not exclusively psychologists are much inclined to consider cardiac affections as one of the causes of madness, while psychologists are of a totally different opinion. If his memory did not fail him, Bazin had found, in making *post mortem* examinations of lunatics, that in one per cent. of the cases there was disease of the heart. Witkowsky had found this in more than seven per cent., and Karrer of Erlangen in thirty per cent. Wishing to find some more definite numbers, he had for some years past carefully measured the hearts of lunatics, especially the left ventricle, and had found that in 75 per cent. of the cases there was thickening of the wall of the left ventricle, and that the latter was hypertrophic.—*British Medical Journal.*