

BRITISH AMERICAN
MEDICAL & PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. VI.—No. 11.]

MARCH, 1851.

[NEW SERIES.

ART. LIII.—*Cancerous Tumour of the Neck, simulating Scrofula; Hypertrophy of the Spleen; Death; and Autopsy.* By GEORGE D. GIBB, M.D., L.R.C.S.I., *Physician to the Montreal Dispensary, Member Parisian Medical Society, &c.*

On the 14th February, 1850, Madame P—— called upon me for advice about her little boy aged 5½ years, with a tumour in his neck. His *history* was as follows:—When about three months old he had ascites, with œdema of the arms and chest, which, after a while, disappeared without treatment. His health continued good until he was two years of age, when he became very delicate and sickly. When about three and a half years old, he fell upon the pavement and struck the front part of his chest, fracturing the middle of the sternum, which some time after united, but with angular deformity, the projecting angle being considerable. He was at this time treated by an eminent surgeon, who recommended suspension of the body by the arms from the steps of a ladder, to correct the deformity, and at the same time put him upon tonic treatment. When about four years of age, a small tumor less than the size of a marble was noticed on the right side of the neck near the angle of the jaw; it commenced slowly to increase, and after the lapse of six months, attained the size of the yolk of an egg.

He was treated for it by as many as six or seven physicians, and had taken a large quantity of medicine from each, with the use of Iodine internally as well as locally, which his mother thinks re-

duced it a little in size, or kept it stationary for a time. It however has continued to grow up to the present time, and has assumed a large size. On the 1st January, 1850, he had an eruption about the face and head which turned into sores; and on the 14th February there were some red patches about the face, the remains of the sores.

Present Symptoms and Appearances.

—A tumour exists on the right side of the neck, proceeding from the parotidæan region, downwards towards the clavicle and extending in the direction of the shoulder. It approaches also the mesian line of the neck, and would appear to encroach slightly upon the larynx, but not extending within the lower jaw. The tumour forms a considerable prominence, and a number of small veins are running in different directions over its surface. On the left side of the neck the external jugular is very prominent; not so on the right side. Three or four small red patches are present on the right cheek and chin; the countenance is pale and flabby; the eyes prominent and full of expression; which, with the shape of the head, denote precocity of intellect. And the general appearance is what would be at once pronounced by an observer as scrofulous. On examining the tumour, however, we find that it is lobulated and divided into two portions—a superior and an inferior;—the former is partly anterior to the inferior at its lower part, and the latter extends outwards and downwards upon the neck towards the shoulder. The tumour is freely