

only as bearing upon the general question of abdominal section, and s tending to strengthen the hands and cheer the hearts of that great army of the brethren, who, slow to take the responsibility in a doubtful case, are quick and ready to follow a successful precedent. We should not fear, as no doubt many do, the encouragement which the recent grand success of M. Péan in removing the spleen,* will give to Spencer Wells to renew his own brilliant attempts, and still more, that it will lead others less expert to essay their skill, but rather rejoice that a human life, else lost, has been saved, and trust that still others may be also.

PERISCOPIC DEPARTMENT.

Surgery.

CONSIDERATIONS UPON OTORRHOEA, PARTICULARLY IN CHILDREN, AND UPON A NEW METHOD OF TREATMENT.

Communicated to the Imperial Academy of Sciences, April, 1867, by M. BONNAFONT, Corresponding Member of the Academy. Translated from *l'Union Médicale* of July 2d, 1867.

All persons are not equally predisposed to this affection; in general we observe it most frequently in constitutions that are lymphatic, strumous, gouty, etc. There are some exceptions to this rule; thus the affections of the ear are often developed after a cutaneous eruption, as scarlatina and rubeola, more particular after the last, without our being able to give the reasons for this preference.

The age at which this kind of otorrhœa ordinarily manifests itself is from six to ten years, sometimes sooner, but rarely later; it is at this time, therefore, that we should hasten to direct an energetic treatment against the disease, for the simplest piece of negligence, on account of the susceptibility and delicacy of the organs of hearing, may allow the most serious lesions to encroach upon this apparatus. At this age, indeed, it is not the deafness alone that is to be dreaded, but even dumbness as the inevitable result of the loss of hearing. Nearly one-third of the children who are found in the establishments for the deaf and dumb, both in France and in foreign countries, owe their infirmity to nothing but the destruction of the apparatus of the middle ear, by neglected otorrhœas: while it is probable that if these children had been subjected to suitable treatment at the proper time, it would have been successful, at least in a large num-

* New York Medical Record, 16 April, 1866, p. 73.