

answering more freely; other symptoms the same Ordered an incision to be made along the mesial line of the scalp, and peas inserted.

24th. Consciousness gone; pulse much accelerated; both pupils dilated; when raised in bed was invariably seized with convulsions.

25th. Moribund.

Autopsy.—On removing the calvarium, the encephalon dilated visibly. Two tumors were observed of the size of an almond in the dura mater on each side of the longitudinal sinus over the middle lobes of the brain. They had caused absorption of the inner table and diploe of the parietal bones. On cutting into them, they were found to consist of enlarged glands of pacchioni, and vascular and fibrous tissue. On opening the great arachnoid cavity, the membrane was found to be *perfectly dry*, the surfaces adherent in many places by fibrous bands, most numerous over the left anterior lobe; dural layer was very pink from the extreme injection of the cellular tissue connecting it with the dura mater, while the pial layer presented numerous opaque patches. The convolutions of the brain were flattened. On exposing the left centrum ovale minus a tumor of the diameter of half a crown was seen in the anterior lobe; it appeared like a piece of pancreas in structure, but of a light liver colour; it was four lines in thickness; the centre was softened, and contained a very yellow pus. On cutting through the centrum ovale majus, four similar tumors of less size were ranged along the right hemisphere, two suppurating in the centre, the others entire. The substance of the brain was fluctuating over the lateral sinuses, and on opening the left one a large quantity of sparkling, limpid and colourless fluid gushed out. A tumor, of the size of a pigeon's egg, and similar to the preceding, was found adhering to the left corpus striatum. The optic thalamus of the same side fluctuating, it was opened, when abundance of pus flowed out of a bright yellow colour; the cavity was of the size and shape of the yolk of a hen's egg. On examining the sac of the abscess, portions of pancreatic tumor were found adhering to the sides, leaving no doubt in my mind that one of these tumors had been formed in the substance of the thalamus, and had been converted into pus. A similar tumor of large size was found in the left lobe of the cerebellum, and another in the substance of the left side of the pons varolii. A ramollissement of the size and shape of a large thimble was found in the right posterior lobe of the cerebrum.

I regret much that I have not been able to procure a more satisfactory account of the case previous to admission to the Hospital, or that I had not had the case

longer under my charge, in order to have watched the symptoms.

Montreal, October 27, 1846.

THE POTATO DISEASE.

To the Editor of the *British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science*.

SIR—As I perceive by the *Miscellaneous Department* of your valuable Journal, that you are willing to receive stray communications from even the *unprofessional and unlearned*, I beg to offer you the following desultory remarks, hinging on the rather unsatisfactory article which appeared in your last Number, "*on the Potato Disease*," in the hope of thereby drawing forth some more erudite and conclusive communication on a subject of such vast, nay, vital importance, to a large proportion of the human race.

As justly remarked in the article alluded to (which it appears you derive from the *American Journal of Science*), little has yet been done on any organized plan in America,* but in Europe the case has been very different, for, while in Holland and Belgium committees had been appointed to collect *facts* calculated to throw light on the nature of the Potato Disease, and in Germany the celebrated Liebig, among others, had turned his attention to the subject, a number of French Philosophers, both alone and in concert with the National Central Society of Agriculture, had engaged in the same object; and the British Government had sent to Ireland a special Commission, composed of three distinguished scientific men, to obtain as much information as possible on the nature and extent of the disease; and a still more extended scheme had originated in Scotland, where the subject was taken up by competent observers, in its

* It may be proper to note here that the same appears to be equally the case in *British North America*, at all events in Canada. Although an occasional paragraph in the public prints intimates the progressive, "rise and spread," of this unaccountable dire disease in every part of the Province; and the *Hamilton Gazette*, in particular, lately went so far as even to state that "*The rot among the Potatoes is universal, we believe, throughout the Province, and the probability is that before New-Year's Day there will not be a potato to be had in this section of the Province at least*;" and late accounts from Cabourg seem to hold out nearly the same gloomy prospects. Now that a Provincial Board of Agriculture has at last "taken root" in Upper Canada, it appears to me that that body ought immediately to originate a correspondence with the different Districts, calling for correct information on the subject, and that a similar step should be taken in Lower Canada, through the medium of some central influential District Society; say, that of *Montreal*; and I am sure that it could not fall into better hands than such men as its present President; and it would add not a little to the certainty of success were Mr. Edmundson, the Editor of the *British American Cultivator*, on the one hand, and Mr. Evans, the Editor of the *Canadian Agricultural Journal*, on the other, invited to act as corresponding Secretaries on this occasion.