

gers, and entering into the formation of the skin and its subjacent cellular tissue, become therefore questions of importance in reference to practice, but which are involved in the same obscurity as are the causes and effects of epidemic diseases in general. It is, however, encouraging to know, that the advances made of late years in human physiology are fast clearing up this hitherto obscurely understood though important subject, and that just in proportion as our knowledge of the processes of healthy blood-making, healthy nutrition and healthy secretion, becomes more perfect, so will the pathological conditions to which that fluid is liable to become better understood. Already many of these conditions have been traced to arrested secretion, by which the wasted elements of the tissue, usually secreted from the blood, and excreted from the system, are retained in that fluid, than which no more poisonous element can be introduced from without. The epidemic causes of such retention usually referred to atmospheric variations, yet remain to be investigated, but whether these are thermometric, barometric, hygrometric, electric, or consist of terrestrial emanations, which, by diluting the atmosphere, unfit it for purifying the blood, the effect is probably the same—arrest of secretion. The practice inculcated by this view of the subject in such diseases as those referred to, is purification of the blood, not by specific remedies, but by attention to the functions of the secreting organs, particularly to those of the lungs, liver, bowels, kidneys and skin, by which the waste of the system is chiefly carried off. That this is specially called for in individuals about to undergo surgical operations, rendered necessary in consequence of any prevailing disease, which manifests itself by phenomena characteristic of impure blood, is, I think, well exemplified by the case above recorded.

8 Little St. James Street, Sept. 1853.

**ART. XIX.—*Case of Malignant Fungus of the Mamma*, removed by
ARTHUR FISHER, M. D., L. R. C. S. E.**

Miss ———, ætat 29, came with her family to reside in Montreal about ten years ago, since when she has been under my care. Her parents enjoy average health, have an appearance the opposite of that indicating a scrofulous or cancerous diathesis, and do not remember any previous case of malignant disease in the family.

Up to June, 1852, when her present malady may be said to have commenced, I had treated her occasionally for diarrhœa, to which she is rather subject, and in the summer of 1847 for abscess round the rectum, which discharged copiously, and reduced her very low, lasting over two months, but from the effects of which she seemed to recover perfectly.