about 20 pounds. On cutting the liver through its entire substance, from above downwards, it was found to present the same appearance on its internal sections that it did on its external surface when viewed, covered by the peritoneum. The cut surface exhibited numberless sections of black masses, varying in diameter from three lines to one and a half inches; their form was spheroidal, very nearly circular, the feel was unctuous: placed upon bibulous paper they caused an oily stain: set fire to by taper, a thick offensive smoke was given off, and an odour of burning animal matter. The peritoneum investing the abdominal parietes was studded in parts corresponding to the locations of the masses in the liver, with slate colored spots, evidently due to simple imbibition. No doubt could be entertained, that the proper structure of the liver had admitted into and between its molecules, an immense deposition of true melanotic and scirrhoid matter, the accessary lobes of the liver were as large as full-sized oranges, or turnips. The gall bladder was shrivelled, contained very little bile, which was dark colored; its ducts were quite pervious, the spleen, pancreas, kidneys, and bladder, could not be examined, nor was there any possibility of securing blood from the veins of the liver, for subsequent microscopical examination. The writer of this communication was fortunate enough to secure two longitudinal sections of this pathological curiosity, which have been deposited in the valuable collection belonging to the University of McGill College.

From the perusal of the above case, we are naturally led to draw the following conclusions:

1st. That all these heterologous formations are evidently the result of perverted or diseased action in the animal economy, as proved both anatomically and chemically by their entire dissimilarity to any other tissue necessary for the right and healthy exercise of the functions of the body.

2. That the seat of the perversion or derangement is manifestly in the capillary system, the grand centre of the metamorphic changes constantly occurring in the blood.

3. That while the great and important changes necessary for the growth and health of the body and its parts are due to the metamorphosis of arterial blood in its capillary vessels: nevertheless, a similar and protective process is carried on in the venous blood, in its proper capillaries, by which, inconveniences which would infallibly arise, jeopardize health, and induce disease, are obviated.

4. That we have in the instances of Melanoma, Scirrhus, and Tuberculosis, the most positive proof of the incorrectness of the theories of Laennec and his followers, that all those matters are deposited originally in a solid form and subsequently undergo a species of softening—however long may have been the time required for the development and maturation of the masses in this particular case, certainly nothing bearing the resemblance of softening had manifested itself at the time of death—the consistence here was like that of cartilage.

Lastly, that the complete limitation of this enormous melanotic deposite in the liver, (so far as we were enabled to judge from our unfortunately hurried examination) would justify us in assigning to this organ, as has been conceded by common consent to the cutaneous and general mucous tissues, the highly important office of decarbonizing the venous or already employed blood of the system, and enabling the repara-