

sensation of a solid mass, but in the centre of which is always found a small cavity or fissure; or be it soft, and containing fluid, whether large or small, suppuration in the course of from two to five or six days, will inevitably follow. The thread may then be removed. The disease is converted into an abscess, and may be treated as an abscess. I may assert, without exaggeration, that I have cured from 100 to 200 cases on this simple principle. No other caution is necessary beyond the removal of the thread when the orifices through which it has passed indicate the inflammatory action incidental to its presence.

"The same agent, and on the same principle, is equally applicable to *ranula*. Indeed, it is quite remarkable with what rapidity this disease recedes under the action of the thread, whether the cyst be of average or of the largest size. Of the latter I have reported some, and treated several of such magnitude as to require the lower end of the thread to be brought out in the neck at some distance below the base of the jaw."—*Lancet*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANTIQUITY OF THE HUMAN RACE.

Until very recently, zoologists as well as geologists were agreed that man did not exist before the Deluge. Some of the most eminent men of science even contended that, at that period, when the extinct races of elephants, hippopotami, and rhinoceroses, together with tigers, leopards, and hyenas, lived in this quarter of the globe, man could not possibly have existed. Thus Cuvier, in his treatise on the revolutions of the globe, said, it was settled that fossil human bones had no existence; and it is true that those which had been at first described as of gigantic human beings, were soon recognized to be remains of mammoths and other animals. But even then the question was not so entirely settled as the great French anatomist believed it to be. It was well known, that, in ravines and excavations of rocks, which had, by some catastrophe, become inaccessible to men, and which had not been visited for ages, human bones were found, together with such of antediluvian bears, hyenas, hippopotami, buffaloes, etc., and in some places they were even enveloped and covered with stalactites. This was explained by the supposition, that human remains had only come into those caves by some accident within our period of creation, long after the animal remains had been buried in it; but this was merely an hypothesis, and could not but be open to objection.

Recent discoveries can no longer leave any doubt on the philosophical mind that man really co-existed with the great mammalia of the diluvium; and although there are still those who deny this conclusion, the most eminent men of science have become converted to this theory. That the question has at last been cleared up, is solely to be ascribed to the researches of M. Boucher, who, during his whole lifetime, has worked at the elucidation of this problem, which he studied as far back as 1805, when at Marseilles, and visiting Roland's grotto, in which he searched for fossil human bones. He soon came to the conclusion that man had existed at a much earlier period than is generally supposed; in the first instance, he thought that the tradition everywhere extant of a human race destroyed by the flood could not possibly be without foundation. In that period there existed mammalia closely related to man, which could only live under the same atmospherical conditions as he, so that the earth was certainly inhabitable for mankind. He also found traces of man wherever the remains of the larger mammalia were found, and where no fossil remains of our species could be discovered, M. Boucher believed that they had been either destroyed or overlooked.

After long study the indefatigable zeal of M. Boucher was at last rewarded. He found in certain layers of the earth a few flints, which had evidently been shaped by the human