

more elevated situations. The cretinism and Derbyshire-neck of this country, however, according to the observation of Mr. Wood, are prevalent on the hills.

"This tumour is found in many parts of England; it is frequently seen in the neighbourhood where the intellectual feebleness now spoken of is found. It is observed in Warwickshire, Norfolk, Lancashire, and more especially upon the hills in the County of Derby; its prevalence in the last named district is so great that it has acquired the name of Derbyshire-neck, and is so known throughout England. Pilkington informs us that in the little village of Duffield there existed no less than fifty goitrous families. It is worthy of remark that the idiotism now introduced to the society exists upon a part of the same range of hills: a chain which commencing in Staffordshire, runs through Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Cumberland.

"Cretinism, although it may not always be an inheritance from the parents, is invariably transmitted to the offspring of a cretin; and as goitre follows no such rule, we may reasonably conclude, that if these diseases be endemic, they are so as separable and distinct affections. There is no difficulty in conceiving, when a country abounds with cretinism and goitre, that both should be occasionally and adventitiously united.

"We are told by Fodéré, that cretinism and its different shades are always an inheritance from the father or mother, or that one of the parents have a large Goitre. He has gone farther, and stated, that if a goitrous male, son of a goitre and demi-cretin, marry likewise a demi-cretin, the progeny will be a complete Cretin. On the contrary, if a male Cretin of the second degree, marry a healthy female, well formed and intelligent, the progeny will be a Cretin of the third degree; and if healthy females still marry into his family, the intellectual feebleness will disappear. If these statements are really founded upon accurate observation, they are highly curious, and establish the connection betwixt goitre and cretinism; but there is some reason to doubt their accuracy. If such a decided and perceptible connection existed, idiotism, which is stated to be the effect, should be observed wherever goitre is found prevalent, but this is contrary to fact; goitre is found in many parts of England without any idiotism; we are told by Dr. Reeve that this is the case in the county of Norfolk; and at Duffield, where Pilkington notices so very extensive and prevailing a goitre especially among the females, he does not even allude to the existence of idiotism. Dr. Bright found goitre extensively near Perlac in Lower Hungary, but does not speak of any deficiency of intellect existing, and Marsden describes goitre in the same manner, in the island of Sumatra, without any allusion to the existence of an endemic idiotism; he even states that the goitrous tumour is compatible with the highest health in other respects. Again, if the existence of goitre in father or mother leads to a progeny possessing a defective intellect, the effect should be constant, and the whole progeny should be thus affected; but this is not the case, for we are