

In Jones and Sieveking's Pathological Anatomy there is a case mentioned of complete absence of these organs in a child.

In the *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, for the 11th of December, 1856, there is a letter from M. Martini, detailing a most remarkable and significant case of this abnormality. I quote the more important parts. "The subject of this observation had a fair skin; was married and the father of three children; was of sufficient strength to follow the trade of a carpenter. He died of phthisis at forty years of age." "At the autopsy, in the course of a thorough investigation into the state of the internal organs, with a view to a vascular injection, the supra-renal capsules were found to be utterly wanting. Notwithstanding the strictest search, not the slightest trace of them was to be found."

Now, is it possible that an organ which, in a perfectly developed human being, is essential to life, can be completely absent in an individual, and yet that individual live to healthy maturity, with no evidence to show the existence of such a deficiency? Certainly, then, it would appear that the supra-renal capsules are not essential to life.

Reviewing now the entire subject, the important details of which I have attempted to bring together and impartially to discuss, the amount of definite knowledge thus far obtained, and the conclusion which may reasonably be drawn therefrom may, I think, be briefly summed up in the following words.

A peculiar and usually fatal disease has, within a few years, attracted the attention of the medical profession for the first time. Its symptoms are, principally, general debility, anæmia, feebleness of the heart's action, irritability of the stomach, and, as an almost pathognomonic sign, a most characteristic discoloration of the skin. The most diligent and skilful examination can detect no adequate cause for these symptoms, against the increasing severity of which medical treatment seems wholly ineffectual.

The essential pathological condition of this disease is as yet unknown.

From a critical survey of the evidence bearing upon this point, laying especial stress upon those well-attested post-mortem examinations where complete disorganization of the capsules was found unaccompanied by any sign of bronzed skin, I think it reasonable to decide that there is no direct mutual dependence, as of cause and effect, between bronzed skin, with its accompanying symptoms, and a morbid state of the supra-renal capsules. Whether, in some cases, there be some indirect and less important connection, arising out of the anatomical relations of these bodies, I do not undertake to say.—*New York Journal of Medicine*, May, 1860.

## LARYNGOSCOPY.

It would appear that M. Czermak, Professor of Physiology at Pesth, is at present in Paris, where he gives demonstrations of his laryngoscope. The instrument consists of a concave mirror, somewhat like that used with the ophthalmoscope, but larger and more curved, though likewise pierced by a small central ocular hole. A lamp, placed behind or by the side of the patient to be examined, and on a level with his mouth, sends its rays to the mirror, which reflects them into the fauces of the person to be examined. When the patient has his mouth wide open, and the tongue is depressed with a spatula, the surgeon introduces, with great care, below the uvula, a little mirror, the back of which is in contact with the uvula, and placed like that used by dentists when they wish to examine the posterior aspect of the incisor teeth. The little mirror is fixed to a long, thin, and somewhat slanting stem, so that its axis may not be the same as that of the mouth, the plane of the mirror presenting with the stem an angle of 45°. Supposing the patient obedient, and already accustomed to the hardly inconvenient presence of the mirror between the pillars of the palate, rays of light enter the mouth horizontally, and reach in the fauces the plane of the mirror of 45°, which reflects vertically from above downwards. All the parts situated in the course of these reflected rays are thus most vividly lighted. This mechanism is certainly simple; and when