successful, repetition of the operation would have been required; my reasons for not deeming this advisable have been already stated. What I have observed, however, convinces me that in more suitable cases this mode of treating aneurisms will yet be found most valuable.* The sudden and rather alarming increase of the tumour, which occurred during the application of the galvanism, should it be constantly observed may fairly be brought forward against its use in aneurism situated, as this one was, in the neighbourhood of important organs, which would be very intolerant of sudden pressure, although they may bear or accommodate themselves (as we know they do) to the gradual pressure of tumours.

It is not easy to account satisfactorily for this rapid enlargement; the perfect integrity of the sac shows it was not from extravasation of blood by rupture; moreover, no traces of blood could be discovered. We know that during the galvanic action a quantity of hydrogen is evolved from the negative pole; it would, however, have been scarcely equal to the actual amount of the increase; the sensation, also, was of something more solid than if the contents were gaseous fluid. It now appears to me more likely to have been caused by the galvanic influence extending beyond the sac, and coagulating the fluids in the cellular tissue around it, the coagulated matter having been afterwards absorbed. The size of the aneurism at the time of death was certainly not larger than it would have been in the usual progress of the disease, and if the galvanism had never been applied.

M. Petrequin insists on the necessity of the needles crossing, to produce a proper coagulum. The needles, in this case, though they could be made to touch, certainly did not cross, and yet coagulation was complete. But I have further reasons for believing this is not necessary: I thought that, in performing the operation for the future, it would be as well to avoid, if possible, the entrance of the hydrogen gas evolved from the negative pole directly into the circulation. I therefore suggested to Mr. Fagan to make the experiment of putting an albuminous fluid into a small bladder, and to insert the positive needle into the fluid; but merely to apply the negative wire to the outside of the bladder. He accordingly filled a small portion of sheep's intestine with one part of white of egg and two parts water, quite full, and without any air. He inserted the positive needle its whole length through the gut into the fluid, and applied the negative wire merely to the outside of the sac, and succeeded in producing a large tea-spoonful of mucous-looking coagulum, without a bubble of hydrogen in the fluid inside, but many adhering to the outside, and to a silver plate on which the sac was placed. We have no grounds to say the entrance of hydrogen into the blood is injurious; but the fact that coagulation can be produced without its necessarily being present is interesting. The condition in which the par vagum was discovered may, perhaps, explain the incessant vomiting. It is scarcely possible to suppose that a nerve so closely connected with the functions of the stomach could be so much deranged in structure without considerable gastric disturbance.—*Dublin Quarterly Journal, of Medical Science.*

HYDROCELE OR SEROUS CYST, IN THE RECTUS ABDOMINALIS.

Dr. Mayne exhibited to the Pathological Society of Dublin (Dec. 6th, 1845) a specimen, illustrative of the difficulty which sometimes occurs in the diagnosis of abdominal tumors.

The subject of the case was a man, aged 55 or 56 years, an occasional inmate of the South Dublin Union Poor House. He had been liable to attacks of severe bronchitis, for which he was in the habit of seeking admission into the poor house; and, when relieved, he used to return to his occupation—that of a laborer.

About three months since, this man applied to Dr. Mayne, on account of a new complaint, namely, a frequent desire to discharge the contents of his bladder, which, if not immediately satisfied, caused his urine to pass from him involuntarily. He could retain a moderate quantity without inconvenience, but; whenever a certain degree of distension of the bladder took place, an urgent call to evacuate the urine immediately followed. He also directed Dr. Mayne's attention to a tumor in his abdomen, to which he attributed these symptoms. This tumor was seated above the pubis, on the right side of the linea alba, in the track of the right rectus abdominis muscle. It was of an oval shape, about the size of a goose-egg, perfectly uniform on the surface, and yielded an obscure sense of deep fluctuation. There was a very strong impulse communicated to it, whenever the patient coughed. It was not, in the slightest degree, tender upon pressure, but, by compressing it, the inclination to pass water was strongly excited.

At first, Dr. Mayne thought it might be a sacculus, connected with the bladder, consequent on some disease of the urinary passages, but a full-sized silver catheter passed along the urethra without difficulty, showing that there was no stricture, nor any disease of the prostate gland. The urine drawn off was perfectly healthy, from which a sound condition of the mucous coat of the bladder was inferred; and the evacuation of this viscus had no effect whatever in diminishing the bulk or tension of the abdominal tumor, which rendered it unlikely that any communication could subsist between the tumor and the bladder.

Dr. Mayne was led to regard it as a chronic abscess, and the treatment was regulated accordingly; blisters, iodine, etc., were prescribed with little benefit.

After some time, the patient left the poor house, but he returned, lately, laboring under typhoid pneumonia. He was in a state of profound prostration, with extreme dyspnœa, some anasarca, and general dulness over the whole of one lung, posteriorly. He soon sank.

At the autopsy, Dr. Mayne was particularly anxious to ascertain the nature of the tumor,—it was now before the society. They might perceive that it was hydrocele, placed at the back of the right rectus muscle. In this situation, the posterior lamina of the sheath of the muscle is deficient, so that the tumor rested upon the peritoneum.

The experiment of inflating the bladder was made before the society, and, as it became distended, the superior fundus was observed to come fairly into contact with the tumor. The same occurrence must have taken place during the patient's lifetime, whenever the bladder was dilated; and the pressure in this manner exercised upon it, renders a satisfactory explanation of the urinary symptoms under which he labored.

Dr. Mayne thought it probable that any attempt at a radical cure (supposing the diagnosis to have been made would have induced a fatal peritonitis.—*Dublin Hospital Gaz.*, Jan. 1st, 1846.

TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ANEURISMS BY GALVANO-PUNCTURE.

The *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, (Nos. 38 and 40, for 1846,) contains a memoir on this subject by M. Petrequin, of Lyons, who claims the merit of having been the first to suggest this new method of treatment. We copy from the *Monthly Jour. Med. Sci.* (Nov., 1846), an analysis of this memoir.

M. Petrequin gives the following account of his discovery:—the first results of his inquiries, he says, he published on the 25th of October, 1845, in his "*Mélanges de Chirurgie*," and "since then I have not ceased to labour at the subject. Everything was to produce in the plan and in the detail, as it is easy to judge; and I have the satisfaction of seeing that experimental observation has throughout confirmed all my anticipations." He was first led to think of resorting to chemical means for the coagulation of the blood in an aneurismal tumour, by the case of a young man in whom he believed he had detected, by the stethoscope, an aneurism of the opthalmic artery, the consequence of an injury sustained by falling on his head from a considerable height,

* A case is given in the *Revue Medicale*, for December, 1842, of a popliteal aneurism in a man of seventy, cured by M. Petrequin, of the Hotel Dieu of Lyons, with acupuncture and galvanism, in a single sitting; and several cases have since appeared in the public journals.