

remarked that congenital club-foot, as well as the deformity occurring after birth from disease of the nervous system, attains oftener a higher grade on the left than on the right side. I have not had an opportunity of verifying this statement*, which refers to club-foot only, but I have observed a remarkable tendency in polydactylism to affect the left side more than the right. The malformation is altogether confined to the left side in the case above reported, and in an analogous case of bifurcated or double hand described in the forty-sixth volume of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, page 29. We find the same peculiarity in a case* in which the left foot presented nine toes, but no deformity existed in the other. In the *London Medical Gazette* † a supernumerary toe is mentioned as occurring on the left foot of a boy, other members of whose family were deformed in like manner. Mr. Sedgwick reports ‡ the case of a girl who had a complete supernumerary finger attached to the outer side of the first phalangeal joint of the left little finger; the child's father, paternal grandmother, and paternal aunt had precisely the same deformity. Another case § related by Mr. Sedgwick consisted of double last phalanx on the left thumb of a boy whose maternal grandfather's great-nephew had exactly the same deformity. We find mention || also of a boy presenting six toes on the right foot and seven on the left, his hands being similarly malformed. His mother, sister, maternal uncle, and maternal grandfather had the same number of toes and fingers. In Amsterdam a monster, drowned by its parents, had eight toes on the right foot and nine on the left, besides many other malformations. An extended search among the records has discovered many cases of supernumerary digits similar to those already cited, but only a single case ¶ where the digits were more numerous on the right side than on the left. I infer, therefore, that polydactylism generally affects the left side in preference to the right.

Mr. Adams has remarked ** that occasionally we observe an excess or deficiency in the number of

toes associated with congenital varus. Tamplin* has made a similar remark, and has given an illustration of a case of double talipes varus in which the right foot presented a bud-like projection on the little toe, while the left had six well-developed toes.

We observe the association of congenital varus and supernumerary toes in the case of bifurcated or cloven foot, and we now find a further relationship between these deformities, inasmuch as they each attain oftener a higher grade on the left than on the right side. Whatever may be the true explanation of these facts, they show an especial tendency to deformity on the left side of the body, the side known to be the weaker one in the great majority of men.

A Case of Melano-Sarcoma of the Eye. Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, Dec. 30th, 1875, by A. PROUDFOOT, M.D., C.M.

Gentlemen:—I venture to read this paper before you this evening, not from any peculiarity in the case itself, or from its great rarity, but from the extreme importance of an early diagnosis in such cases, as they generally endanger, if they do not destroy, the life of the patient. Therefore the more familiar we are with them the more likely we will be to discover them in their earliest stage, and give the patient a chance for life by at once removing the eye.

On December 4th I was consulted by Mrs. C., æt. 45, the wife of a well-to-do farmer from the United States, on account of almost entire loss of vision in the right eye. Mrs. C. was the mother of three children, had usually enjoyed pretty good health, though subject to attacks of sick-headache. About two years ago she first noticed a slight weakness of the right eye, but it was unaccompanied by pain, and therefore gave her but little uneasiness. For the last year she had been losing the sight of the eye. In August she first applied to her family physician for relief: he, diagnosing incipient cataract, put her upon a course of tonics.

The sight, however, gradually decreased, until she came into this city to consult me. In September (3 months ago) she first experienced great pain in the eye. It had lately become so severe that it kept her awake at night, making her at times, to use her own expression, "almost crazy." It was of a shooting character, and extended from the eye across the right side of the head and down into the neck.

* *Transactions of the Pathological Society of London*, ix. 427.

† December 15, 1832, page 361.

‡ *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, April, 1863, page 463.

§ *Op. cit.*, page 462.

|| *London Medical Gazette*, April 12, 1834.

¶ *Broadhurst on Deformities*, 1871, page 57.

** *On Club-Foot*, page 210.

* *On Deformities*, page 69.