

stitutional species since sibbens has never been seen as an indication of the primary disorder.

This epiphenomenon of syphilis is not frequently observed in Canada. Of the few cases I have seen the above is the last illustration. A nearly analogous affection is observed in Ireland where it is commonly called button scurvy, and in the West India Islands and Africa which is technically named frambesia. This almost ubiquitous diffusion is an important circumstance in serving to impute that there is, after all, nothing very national in the constitution of sibbens and that probably the instances of its occurrence in Canada will be confined to immigrants. I have not yet seen it in a native or in the descendants of colonists. The subject of the above case, as well as her husband had been many years in Canada.

ART. XXX.—*Remarks on spina bifida of the London correspondence.*

BY GEORGE NIEMEIER, M. D.

In the November number of the *Gazette* I find under the continuation of the London correspondence No. 3, a new plan of treatment of spina bifida by Mr. Paget, which, by the irritation of the ligature ended four days after the operation in death. I only want to make a few remarks on the following passage:—"Pressure upon the tumour does not in any way effect the cerebral functions of the child, therefore the opening of communication between the cyst and spinal cord is very small." I can tell Mr. Paget exactly the contrary, and any person may notice the following taking place by sufficiently hard pressure upon the tumour. The child gets suddenly comatose, the large fontanel gets elevated the more so the more you press. Why? because you press the water of the tumour through the fourth ventricle under the pons Sylvii through the aquæductus Sylvii in the third ventricle through the foramen of Monro at the right and left sides in the lateral ventricles; whose ceiling, the centrum semi-ovale Vieussanii is expanded by the water. The communication between the cyst and the spinal chord has to be naturally very small, but still large enough, to admit of what I have just demonstrated, because I have myself made this experiment twice. In the same way I account for the sudden death of children, if the tumour was opened at once by a large incision, not only the water of the tumour but the liquor spiralis and cerebralis was coming away by this same communication between the cyst and brain. In conclusion I would say, that the expression "spina bifida" appears to me to be radically wrong, it means