

tical with those found in animal fluids—that every kind of blastema deposits those elementary granules, these united, constituting nuclei, which merely require to take place in the animal body to have the characters of vitality attached to them; the practical fact, that the molecular element is the basis of all living tissues, a view not contrary but in advance of that of Schwann, who considered, I need hardly remark, the cell as the primary form of life; the very great probability that cancer or encyphaloid is not a new growth; everything, in fact, tends towards a solution of the difficult problem, what cancer really is. There is no doubt that the nuclei in cancer and cancer-like growths are produced precisely similar to those in the normal textures of the body. That there is a diminished or altered vitality of the blood plasma, is all that we can assert with any amount of certainty. The nuclei of cancer, like those of other cells, may be produced by the aggregation and melting together of molecules and granules, producing new nuclei and cells, which all microscopic observers have seen in their thousand forms, or the original nucleus may expand and we have an outer cell wall,—a new nucleus produced within it by the deposition or melting together of granules. Free nuclei, again, in a fibrous stroma, to the young microscopist, may be still quite different, namely, the result of disintegration—of breaking down not building up of tissues, nay, both processes may even be going on together. One of the chief sources in hospital research, perhaps of the multiplicity of cancer growths and cancer cells, is this arrest of development from constitutional causes and treatment; there are no granules distinctive of cancer nucleoli and nothing distinctive infallible of cancer cells; nothing but constant histological researches and study of the history of each case, to mark out cancer cells from epithelium or pus cells. Treatment may arrest the disease, and a change in the constitution of the blood from different hygienic conditions, or from cutting out a cancer growth and thus preventing the seeds of the disease spreading, may alter the microscopic appearances; but the microscope alone will tell very little.—*Medical Times*, December 7, 1850.

CANCER CELLS IN THE URINE.

By Mr. Balman.

[At a meeting of the Liverpool Medical and Pathological Society.]

The urine of a patient suffering from cancer of the uterus was exhibited under the microscope, and was proposed by the author as a means of diagnosing the presence of cancer without the necessity for making an examination per vaginam. The urine washing off the cancerous discharge from the vulva, the nucleated cancer-cells were shown to the society in proof of the value of the test.—*Medical Gazette*, January, 24, 1851.

SURGERY.

CICATRIZATION OF AN ULCER PROMOTED BY THE ELECTRIC MOXA.

Under the care of Mr. Bransby Cooper.

[The attention of Mr. Cooper was formerly directed to this process for the promotion of the cicatrization of obstinate ulcers, by Dr. Hull, of the United States of America. Instead, however, of employing the galvanic battery which