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ART. XXVI.—*On Fungi, their relation to Disease.* By JOHN LOWE, M.D.,
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Read to the Botanical Society of Canada, by Prof. Lawson, Kingston, 12th April, 1861.

It is now more than twenty years since it was first discovered that vegetable growths could exist upon the human body. From the earliest age diseases of the skin were known and described: the symptoms and appearances they presented were matters of ordinary observation, and rules of an empirical character were laid down for their treatment.

During all this time, it is probable, nay almost certain, that in some forms of the disease fungi were constantly present, but it was not until the year 1839 that this fact was demonstrated. To M. Schönlein of Berlin we are indebted for this most important discovery, which, but for the rapid advance which has been made in scientific knowledge during the present century, and above all in the proper use of the microscope, would, like many other wondrous things, be still one of nature's own secrets. Even now, strange to say, there are those, who regard the growth described by Schönlein as an abnormal production of the body, and deny its vegetable origin; but a vast amount of accumulated evidence leaves no room for doubt upon this point, to any one who is at all conversant with the character, structure and behaviour of the humblest individuals of the plant world, the Fungi.

Regarding it, then, as an established fact, with botanists and the medical profession generally, that a fungous growth is really present in the majority of skin diseases, I shall abstain from entering on the discussion of the reasons for up-