

The report of the above case, together with the calculi, were brought before the Pathological Society of London, on the 16th May last, through the kindness of my friend Dr. Sibson, physician to St. Mary's Hospital. I mentioned in the report that I believed no calculi had heretofore been found in the same situation. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Partidge enquired if careful examination had been made at the *post mortem* to ascertain whether the concretions were within the cavities of veins, and if so, they were phlebolites. Dr. Peacock concurred in Mr. Partidge's opinion, that the little bodies were probably phlebolites. As I was not present at this meeting, the question could not be answered by the secretary, Dr. Quain; but in a subsequent letter to him, I informed him they were *not* found in the cavities of veins; there were no traces of vessels near them, and that they were enveloped in cellular tissue.

At the request of the Society, Dr. Lionel Beale made an examination of them, in order to determine their real nature. The following was his report on the specimens which, together with the details of the case, and several drawings, have just been published in the fifth volume of the Transactions of the Pathological Society:—

One of the smaller of the round bodies was ground down upon either side, in order to make a thin section. Upon subjecting this section to examination, with a quarter-inch glass, it was seen to consist of a clear, transparent material, exhibiting an indistinct arrangement of concentric lamellæ arranged round the central portion of the body. Scattered through this matrix were a number of irregularly stellate dark spots. These were more abundant in some localities than in others, but everywhere were characterized by the same general characters, irregularity of form and size, highly refractive nature, and hard, dense structure, as was determined by endeavoring to crush them between glasses.

Acetic acid did not act upon the sections in the cold, but upon applying a gentle heat; slight action ensued, and was accompanied with the development of a few bubbles of gas.

Nitric acid acted energetically, with brisk effervescence, leaving behind organic matter colored yellow by the action of the acid. Upon subjecting this matrix to microscopical examination, it was seen to consist of fibrous laminae, arranged parallel to each other, and forming a somewhat loose and irregularly fibrous mesh-work (plate X., fig. 8), much disposed to break in the transverse direction. In fig. 9, the appearance of one of the fibres, represented in the lower part of fig. 8, is shown under a power of 220 diameters.

Upon the addition of excess of ammonia to the nitric acid solution, a

* See Med. Times and Gazette 10th June, 1854, p. 608.