

ain of her own identity, and of the reality of the new world which was opening gradually to her senses. Her manner was that of a delirious person communing with herself, and exhibited a strong manifestation of Dr Wigan's theory of the duality of the mind. After sundry ejaculations of wonder and surprise, she turned her head on her pillow, and recognised one of the physicians as a "real man," and discovered to her infinite delight, that she was still a denizen of earth, although her next exclamation, that she thought herself in a "beautiful heaven," exhibited little gratitude for her temporary transition to a celestial abode. Upon being told that she was to submit to an operation, she said she knew it, and was ready; and when informed that the operation was over, seemed unable to believe it. A little hysterical crying, the combined result of apprehension, wonder, and delight, followed, and she was taken back to her bed.

Another, in the same hospital, was a case of amaurosis and ptosis (dropping of the eyelid). The former affection yielded to medical treatment under Dr. Brett, and, though sight was restored, the dropping of the lid, or palsy of the muscle which raised the lid, remained, for which Dr. Brett proposed removing a large portion of the skin, with some fibres of the subjacent orbicular muscle. The patient remained in a state of utter insensibility during the incision of the skin, and the application of three ligatures to unite the divided edge. On recovering, she said she had felt nothing, and was not aware that the operation had been performed. On presenting to her a mirror, she perceived that the lid was now open, like that of the other eye.

A sixth case was the excision of cancerous breast, skillfully executed by Mr. Charles Guthrie. During the whole time the patient exhibited no symptoms of pain. Her eyes remained open, and as the ether was now and then applied to her mouth, she called out sharply—"Take that away; take that away!" In the midst of the operation she was asked if she felt any pain, when, to the utter astonishment of all present, she pointed to a window partially lowered opposite to where she was seated, and said, "I feel that window." The sash was immediately raised, and the poor creature appeared satisfied. The operation lasted five or six minutes, and at its close the patient fainted for a few moments, but soon recovered, and on learning that the operation was over, said emphatically several times, "I am grateful to you, gentleman, I am very grateful." Several of the spectators, incredulous of what they had observed, pressed towards her, and inquired whether she had not suffered very much during the operation. She replied alike to all that she had been quite unconscious of what had been going on. The poor creature was sufficiently recovered in five minutes to walk out of the theatre almost without assistance.

A seventh case was that of a boy at Sheffield, nine years old, whose thigh it was necessary to amputate, on account of an incurable disease of knee-joint. He was carried into the room, crying bitterly, and begging that his knee might not be taken off. Insensibility having been produced, the limb was removed in two or three seconds, less than a minute. About a minute and a half more was occupied in taking up the arteries. The patient showed not the slightest degree of consciousness while the limb was being removed, but when the arteries were being taken up, he awoke. Being in a sitting position, he at once saw that his leg was removed, and exclaimed, "Oh! I'm thankful! I'm thankful! I'm thankful!" He was then asked if he had felt any pain? and he replied, "None at all." "What! none?" "No, not a bit." He was carried away exulting.

In short, the cases in which ether has been successfully administered, are already so numerous, as to defy computation. Not only in London and Edinburgh, but in Glasgow, Dublin, Bristol, Exeter, Sheffield, Aberdeen, and many other places, instances of cures, that would have been termed miraculous in a darker age, have occurred. Amputations of the limbs, cutting for the stone, the most delicate and difficult operations on the eyes, have been performed repeatedly without giving the slightest pain to the patients, and with the best effects afterwards. And a few days ago, Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, stated to his class, that he had practised with entire success the inhalation of sulphuric ether in a case of the most difficult form of labour, and where otherwise the sufferings of the patient would undoubtedly have been extreme. The mother was lame and deformed. Whilst breathing the ether, the labour pains or throes continued, and yet the mother (to speak paradoxically)

felt no pains. This is, we believe, the first instance in which this new and extraordinary agent has been employed in the practice of midwifery. It has also been used in London on a sheep and horse with complete success. No restraint whatever was resorted to, to keep the animals in the required position. In almost every case, great alleviation of suffering, if not total relief from it, has ensued from the use of the ether. If no detrimental effects should be found to follow from the inhalation (and in no case do they seem to have done so as yet), this discovery will prove one of the greatest boons ever bestowed upon man. Though mesmerism is by some declared to be equally efficacious in such cases, the ether will undoubtedly carry the day with all practical people.—*Border Watch.*

THE REVELATIONS OF ASTRONOMY.

(Concluded from North British Review.)

It is impossible to bring to a close a survey of the solar and sidereal systems, without forming some notion, however inadequate, of the structure and uses of such vast collections of matter,—such assemblages of gigantic globes occupying every corner of universal space. We see these bodies shining with the brightness of our sun, and with light of the same composition and character;—we recognise the immensity of their size; we perceive them all in motion, and we cannot therefore doubt that they are portions of systems, if not perfectly similar, at least, in general analogous with our own. But what, asks the anxious inquirer, is the structure and the object of our own? Let us view it from a distance, disentangled from the clouds of prejudice and error in which we are involved, and forgetting that we are earth-born, let us take a position in midway space, and consider the deductions which our knowledge will entitle us to draw. Every planet of our system has its year and its day, and its oblate form; while many of them have their moons to enlighten them, and exhibit on their surface the indications of past and of present change. Each of them is heated and lighted by the sun, and constituting, as they do, a group of similar objects, we cannot but conclude, that however various be their sizes, their motions, and their appendages, they must yet have the same general constitution, and perform the same functions. Hence we are compelled to believe that the primary planets, at least, are bodies like the earth, composed of land and sea, and are the theatres of animal and intellectual life. The variety which characterizes the works of creation, even when their nature and functions are the same,—the very variety in the general aspect of the planets leads us to believe that an analogous variety will exist in the different worlds of our system, and that the beings which form the irrational and intellectual races may be endowed with forms, and organs, and faculties, very different from our own. But whatever this difference may be, we can scarcely doubt that those glorious combinations of matter which form the solar system were intended for the support of animal and vegetable life.

If we now transfer ourselves from our own planetary home to a commanding position among the sidereal abodes, the same analogies which have guided us must guide us still. If we do not desecrate systems of primary and secondary planets, we discover self-luminous bodies like our sun in binary and ternary combination with other bodies, whose nature and character we are not capable of ascertaining. If we cannot measure their day and their year, we see periodical motions which begin and complete their round, and we see recurrent changes which indicate phenomena similar to those with which we have been familiar: and if God has fitted up for living occupants the huge globes of our own portion of his universe, we are entitled to ascribe the functions of suns and planets to all the similar globes with which he has adorned the sidereal expanse.

In order to learn, then, what is the constitution, and what has been or may be the probable history of the various worlds in our firmament, we must study the constitution and the physical history of our own, and hold, as it were, its mirror up to universal nature. The men of limited reason who believe that the Earth was created and launched into its ethereal course when man was summoned to its occupation, must have either denied altogether the existence of our solar system, or have regarded all its planets as coeval with their own, and as but the ministers to its convenience. Science, however, has now corrected this error, and liberated the pious mind from its en-
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