

evidence to show how long they had been in the brain, but it was probable that they had been in there for a considerable time, as the bone had grown over them, and it was with difficulty they were separated. He had examined the eye, but had failed to detect any injury. It was, however, quite possible for such a thing to enter beneath the lid of the open eye, and the wound to heal up showing no signs of the entry. The widow of the deceased man was called in and said that her husband never mentioned to her anything about being hurt by a pen. The coroner said that the case was the most extraordinary that had ever come before him. The jury found that the deceased died from an abscess on the brain caused by a foreign substance, but how that substance got into the brain there was no evidence to show.

#### ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION OF THE MALE BLADDER AND URETHRA.

The electric urethroscope and vesicoscopes which Mr. Hurry Fenwick demonstrated to a large gathering of the Medical Society on Monday, Jan. 23rd, are indeed triumphs of science over grave mechanical difficulties. A reliable index of the progressiveness of the medical profession is afforded by the rapidity with which almost every innovation or advance in science is laid under contribution and utilised to the improvement of the diagnosis and the treatment of disease. As an instance in point, we now find the surgeon enabled to pass an incandescent lamp into the male bladder without pain or danger, and to examine every detail of that viscus in as brilliantly illuminated a condition as if it was viewed in direct sunlight. Surely, with such instruments as these at command, we shall now have fewer uncertain diagnoses of "obscure vesical disease." Increased knowledge and improved methods of diagnosis and treatment have greatly influenced the statistics of large calculi. It is not too much to expect that a similar limitation will in future be placed upon benign vesical growths, for by means of the electric light

they may now be diagnosed in their earliest stages. Mr. Fenwick, in his opening words, regretted that the only unsatisfactory feature of this new resource is the fact that its conception and final stage of perfection emanates from our Austrian confreres rather than from an English source.—*Lancet*.

#### DERMEPENTHESIS.

BY G. F. CADOGAN-MASTERMAN, L.R.C.S.P.

The valuable expedient of skin grafting is attended with several inconveniences: The donor finds the "snip" rather painful, the little sores are some days in healing, and there is danger, if alien skin be used, of conveying disease with it; and, when there is a large surface to be covered, the process is tedious and often disappointing. Frog's skin has been used, but these amphibians are so repulsive to many people, and especially to women and children, that after two trials and failures I gave it up.

About two years ago I was treating in the usual way a broad wound surface in a young farmer, who while riding sustained, from the shaft of a passing cart, a ragged, lacerated wound extending from the middle of the thigh to Poupert's ligament, and involving the muscles. The wound was cleaned and treated aseptically, but the crushed integument at the back of the thigh and much of that in front sloughed away altogether, leaving a surface of about ten square inches to cover, and, after a week of human skin grafts, this was speedily effected with portions of young wild rabbit's skin. The second case was one of a large varicose ulcer, and quite successful; the third, a middle-aged tradesman, had severe orchitis, the result of an accidental blow. Delirium tremens ensued, and probably as the result of further injury, the whole of the integument of the scrotum sloughed away from the root of the penis to the perineum, leaving the tunic of the testicles covered only by the pale pink lattice of the cremaster muscle. There was a border of but half an inch of healthy skin left after the slough had separated, and the case was complicated by large bed sores and the