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# JOURNAL DE MEDECINE DE QUEBEC.

JUILLET, 1826.

## PREMIERE PARTIE.

### Analyse Critique.



*Eléments d'Anatomie Générale, ou Description de tous les genres d'organes qui composent le corps humain.* PAR P. A. BECLAR, D'ANGERS, Professeur d'Anatomie à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, pages 728, octavo, Béchet Jeune, Paris 1823.

LA Médecine ne serait point aujourd'hui une doctrine fondée sur l'observation des phénomènes naturels dans l'état de santé et de maladie, si les recherches anatomiques n'avaient fixé l'attention sur les altérations sans nombre que subissent nos organes dans les tissus particuliers dont ils se composent. La dissection des cadavres se pratiquait depuis bien des siècles, lorsqu'on commença à entrevoir les avantages que l'on pouvait en retirer; car la manie des systèmes avait fait jusqu'alors de cette étude un objet de simple curiosité. Depuis la renaissance des lettres, l'Anatomie est devenue la base des travaux des Modernes, et les nombreuses découvertes que cette méthode a fait faire dans la connaissance des lois qui régissent l'économie animale ont rendu à la thérapeutique ce qu'elle avait lieu d'en attendre.

Plus récemment encore un jeune homme dont on regrettera la perte prématûrée tant que l'on saura apprécier son génie; Bichat en, s'attachant surtout à observer les propriétés des divers tissus qui constituent nos organes, ourit la voie à la connaissance des altérations identiques dont chacun d'eux est susceptible. C'est cet alliage heureux de la Pathologie et de l'Anatomie, dont ce grand homme a le premier donné l'exemple, qui a fait concevoir à M. Cruveilhier le dessein de développer une partie de cette doctrine dans son estimable

ouvrage sur l'Anatomie Pathologique dont nous aurons le plaisir d'entretenir nos lecteurs dans quelque numéro suivant.

Pénétré de l'utilité d'une méthode dont il n'a pas peu contribué lui-même à faire apprécier les avantages, M. P. A. Béclard s'est appliqué à la réduire à ses éléments premiers, et pour cela il a renfermé dans le volume qui est devant nous toutes les recherches de ses prédécesseurs qu'il a enrichies d'un grand nombre d'autres puisées dans l'anatomie comparée dont il paraissait avoir fait une étude particulièrre. Son ouvrage est dédié "A LA MEMOIRE DE BICHAT." Dès la préface l'auteur nous annonce qu'il a mis à contribution le traité de ce grand maître, en même tems qu'il a puisé, pour chaque système ou genre d'organes, dans les traités *ex professo* dont ils ont été l'objet. Il a eu soin de citer à chaque chapitre les titres des ouvrages qui ont servi à composer le sien : beaucoup moins pour faire un vaste étalage d'érudition; que pour dispenser les autres de lire les ouvrages qu'il a lû lui-même, et en même tems pour indiquer, au choix de ceux qui voudraient faire des études approfondies, une sorte de bibliothèque anatomique choisie.

Il divise l'anatomie de l'homme en anatomie générale, en anatomie spéciale des organes, et en anatomie des régions. Le volume que nous parcourons ne contient que l'anatomie générale, et l'auteur se proposait de compléter son travail lorsque la mort l'a enlevé.

Dans la première section de son introduction, l'auteur a en vue de donner au lecteur une idée générale de l'anatomie et de la Physiologie comparatives. "Je n'ai pas eu, dit-il, l'intention de dispenser par là les étudiants de l'étude de l'anatomie des animaux, mais, au contraire, de leur montrer l'utilité de cette étude."

La dissection des animaux semblait être un obstacle à la culture de l'anatomie comparative, vu la difficulté qui aurait toujours existé de se procurer des objets de comparaisons dans les nombreux animaux dont notre vaste pays abonde. Mais le zèle d'un concitoyen vient de faire disparaître l'inconvénient. Nous devons à M. P. Chasseur d'avouer que son entreprise lui mérite à bon droit les éloges qu'il a reçus de toutes parts, et le succès qu'il va rendre à la science lui garantit l'estime de ses contemporains, et la reconnaissance de la postérité. Au moyen de cette institution l'élève en Médecine voit s'ouvrir une carrière nouvelle qui lui fera connaître tous les avan-

teges d'une étude qui, grâce aux travaux des modernes, a porté l'art de guérir à sa plus haute perfection. Pour nous en convaincre, parcourons avec M. Beclard les différents degrés dans l'organisation des êtres animés.

" Il y a en effet entre tous les organes, entre toutes les fonctions des animaux, un enchaînement qui existe bien dans tous les corps organisés et vivans, mais qui se fait remarquer davantage dans les animaux, surtout dans quelquesuns d'entre eux. Dans les êtres organisés réduits à la nutrition et à la reproduction, la dernière de ces fonctions est la suite et la conséquence de la première. Dans les animaux qui jouissent du mouvement et du sentiment, la nutrition a dû être exécutée par une digestion, car l'animal ne pouvait être tout à la fois locomobile et enraciné; la génération a pu être sexuelle. À mesure que chaque ordre de fonctions devient plus compliqué, les organes qui s'ajoutent à ceux dont l'existence est plus générale, tiennent ces premiers sous leur dépendance. Ainsi, dans l'ordre des fonctions nutritives, la circulation, et dans la circulation, l'action du cœur, beaucoup moins générales que les autres phénomènes nutritifs tiennent, quand elles existent, tous les autres phénomènes sous leur influence. De même dans les fonctions animales, l'action des centres nerveux tient sous sa direction, des phénomènes dont l'existence est plus générale. Les fonctions animales tiennent de même sous la leur toutes les fonctions nutritives et reproductive, mais celles-ci, à leur tour, tiennent aussi les premières sous leur dépendance: les organes des fonctions animales devant être nourris pour remplir leurs fonctions, et celles-ci déterminant l'exercice des organes des fonctions végétatives. De sorte que dans les animaux très-développés en organisation, la vie semble essentiellement résulter de l'action réciproque de l'organe principal des fonctions animales: de la circulation et de l'action nerveuse, et de l'action du sang sur le système nerveux, et du système nerveux sur les organes qui meuvent le sang. Les autres phénomènes entretiennent ces deux actions principales que l'on peut regarder comme les deux fonctions essentiellement vitales des animaux."

Après quelques considérations générales sur la circulation l'auteur poursuit: " Le cœur le plus simple se compose au moins d'un ventricule qui pousse le sang dans les artères, et souvent d'une oreillette ou sinus des veines à leur entrée dans le cœur; il est aortique quand il envoie le sang à tout le corps, et pulmonaire quand il l'envoie à l'organe respira-

toire ; il est double quand il y a deux ventricules, qui peuvent être d'ailleurs séparés ou réunis. Le cœur est simple, sans oreillette, et pulmonaire dans tous les animaux articulés qui en sont pourvus. Il en est de même dans les poissons, excepté qu'il y a une oreillette. Il est simple, mais aortique dans la plupart des mollusques ; il est triple dans les mollusques céphalopodes, où il y a deux ventricules pulmonaires et un aortique séparés et sans oreillettes. Dans tous les reptiles il y a un seul ventricule plus ou moins cloisonné qui envoie le sang dans un seul tronc tout à la fois aortique et pulmonaire ; la plupart ont deux oreillettes, les batraciens n'en ont qu'une. Enfin le cœur est double ; il y a deux oreillettes et deux ventricules accolés, l'un aortique et l'autre pulmonaire, dans les oiseaux et les mammifères."

Toutes les autres fonctions principales sont exposées avec une précision et une clarté qui ne nous permettent pas de les exprimer autrement que par les paroles mêmes de l'auteur.

" La respiration est partielle et la circulation simple dans les reptiles où il n'y a qu'un ventricule et qu'une aorte dont l'artère pulmonaire est un rameau. Dans tous les autres animaux qui ont une respiration locale et une circulation, celle-ci est double et la respiration complète, c'est-à-dire qu'à chaque circuit du sang, tout le liquide passe par l'organe respiratoire. Dans les articulés et les mollusques, le cercle est simple ; dans les premiers, le sang va du cœur à tout le corps en passant tout entier par les branchies, il en est de même dans les poissons ; dans les mollusques, il va du cœur aux branchies en passant auparavant par tout le corps. Dans les oiseaux et les mammifères, les deux coeurs étant accolés, le cercle est double, ou mieux, le circuit est creisé, et peut-être représenté par un S, au centre duquel est le cœur.

L'organe du goût ne se trouve pas distinct dans tous les animaux qui digèrent, et cependant la sensation semble devoir exister dans tous. On ne voit rien dans les animaux rayonnés à l'entrée du canal alimentaire, qui semble être cet organe. Il en est de même dans les mollusques et les articulés. Dans quelques insectes cependant on suppose que c'est l'extrémité de la trompe ou un palpe, enfin il s'en faut beaucoup même que tous les vertébrés aient une langue organisée d'une manière propre au goût.

L'organe de l'odorat semble manquer dans un grand nombre d'animaux, cependant les insectes, les crustacés, les arachnides sentent les odeurs, mais on ignore le siège précis

de cette sensation. Il en est de même dans les mollusques. Dans les vertébrés mêmes les fosses nazales ne traversent pas la face dans toutes les classes.

L'organe de l'ouïe ou l'oreille n'existe pas dans les dernières classes d'animaux, et le son ne paraît y être perçu que comme impression tactile. Parmi les animaux articulés qui entendent tous, les écrevisses sont les seuls où l'on ait aperçu l'oreille, elle y consiste en un sac rempli d'une lymphe gélatineuse recevant un nerf distinct. De même parmi les mollusques, les céphalopodes seuls ont cet organe, qui existe dans tous les vertébrés, et y présente beaucoup de variétés.

Dans tous les animaux la lumière exerce une action sur toute la peau, sur toutes les parties qui y sont exposées, mais la vue n'a lieu qu'au moyen de l'œil. Il n'y a point d'yeux dans les animaux rayonnés. Les vers et une partie des annelides en sont dépourvus, dans les autres il n'est que rudimentaire ; c'est un petit point noir. Les articulés à pieds, savoir : les crustacés, les arachnides et les insectes, ont tous des yeux qui peuvent être de deux sortes, plus ou moins nombreux, et toujours symétriques : des yeux simples dont la cornée n'a qu'une facette, l'iris qu'une ouverture, et le nerf optique un seul filet ; et des yeux composés ou à facettes multiples avec autant de pupilles et autant de filets du nerf optique. Quelque fois les yeux sont pédiculés ou placés sur des appendices articulés. Les mollusques acéphales sont dépourvus d'yeux, la plupart des gasteropodes en ont, mais de très petits et rudimentaires, placés soit à la tête même, soit aux tentacules postérieurs. Les céphalopodes ont des gros yeux recouverts par la peau transparente en cet endroit. Les yeux ne manquent que dans un petit nombre d'espèces dans les vertébrés.—

L'homme se distingue des autres mammifères, par quelques différences peu importantes dans les organes des fonctions végétatives, par quelques autres plus marquées dans les organes des fonctions animales, mais surtout par l'intelligence.

L'intelligence qui constitue l'homme, est surtout caractérisée par la conscience, par la raison, par une volonté libre, par le sentiment moral et par celui d'une cause divine."

Il fait ensuite l'analyse du corps humain qu'il divise en solides et en fluides, et dont la composition chimique est donnée avec soin.

“ La composition chimique (1) des solides et des fluides du corps humain résulte d'un certain nombre de matériaux immédiats, dont les principaux sont le gélatine, l'albumine, le mucus, la fibrine, l'huile, l'eau, le sucre, la résine, l'urée, la picrocholine, l'osmazôme, la zoohématine, le phosphate de chaux, le carbonate de chaux, &c. Ces matières elles-mêmes sont composées, et les élémens que l'on trouve dans le corps humain sont l'oxygène, l'hydrogène, le carbone, l'azote, le phosphore, le calcium, le soufre, le potassium, le sodium, le chlore, le fer, le manganèse ; on y trouve même du magnésium et du silicium.

Ces substances élémentaires, pour former les matériaux immédiats et ceux-ci pour composer les parties solides et fluides du corps humain sont combinés dans l'acte de la nutrition et de la génération d'une manière que la chimie ne peut imiter : c'est précisément cet acte de formation ou d'organisation qui caractérise la vie.”

En parlant du sang, l'auteur remarque très judicieusement que l'état du sang dans les différentes maladies, n'a pas été suffisamment étudié, surtout lorsque nous sommes forcés de convenir que la plupart des systèmes modernes reposent en grande partie sur celui des solidistes, que le célèbre Hunter avait tenté de renverser en recourant à la vitalité du sang. Voici ce que dit M. Béclar :—

“ Dans le fœtus le sang, dont la couleur est très foncée, n'a presque pas de matière coagulable. Il en est de même du sang menstruel de la femme. Le sang artériel présente plus de particules colorées que le sang veineux. Chez les personnes qui font usage d'une nourriture succulente, le sang abonde en caillot ; il est plus sérieux dans les circonstances opposées. La soustraction répétée du sang y diminue la proportion des particules colorées et même celle de l'albumine, et y augmente celle de l'eau.

Dans les maladies, le sang éprouve des altérations qui n'ont pas été assez étudiées. Dans les inflammations, le caillot du sang extrait se recouvre d'une couenne blanche, c'est de la fibrine : et l'on trouve dans le caillot une grande quantité de matière colorante libre. Dans d'autres maladies, comme le scorbut et les maladies septiques, le sang a perdu sa coagulabilité, il reste fluide. Il est beaucoup de maladies sur lesquelles l'examen attentif du sang répandrait un grand jour.”

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(1) Voyez Orfila. Chimie Médicale.

Dans la classification qu'il fait des organes et des élémens qui les composent, il adopte celle indiquée par Haller, comme suit : " Le tissu cellulaire, élément principal et général de l'organisation doit tenir le premier rang : il existe dans tout le règne organique, il entre dans tous les organes, et fait la base de toute l'organisation.

Ce tissu, un peu modifié dans sa consistance, dans sa forme, dans la proportion de substance terreuse qu'il contient, forme plusieurs autres genres d'organes.

Disposé en membranes closes de toutes parts, dans l'épaisseur desquelles il a plus de fermeté et moins de perméabilité, il constitue les systèmes séreux et synovial.

Il forme de même le tissu tégumentaire qui comprend la peau et les membranes muqueuses, ainsi que les follicules de ces deux sortes de membranes et les organes producteurs des poils, des dents, &c.

Il en est de même aussi du tissu élastique, qui fait la base du système vasculaire, lequel comprend les artères, les veines et les vaisseaux lymphatiques, et qui appartient encore au même ordre, en se rapprochant du tissu musculaire.

Le système glanduleux, qui est formé par la réunion des systèmes tégumentaire et vasculaire, est encore du même ordre d'organes.

Le système ligamenteux ou desmeux, qui comprend des organes très-ténaces et très-résistans, résulte encore d'une modification du tissu cellulaire.

Enfin les systèmes cartilagineux et osseux appartiennent encore au tissu cellulaire, et doivent leur solidité à sa condensation, et à la grande quantité de sels terreux que contient cette substance.

Un second ordre d'organes est formé essentiellement par la fibre musculaire : ce sont les muscles, soit ceux qui appartiennent aux os, soit ceux des téguments externe et interne, et des sens, soit ceux du cœur.

Les nerfs et les masses nerveuses centrales constituent un troisième et dernier ordre d'organes formé essentiellement par la substance nervale.

On voit que cette classification repose sur les bases indiquées par Haller, et qui existent vraiment dans la nature.

Tous les animaux ont un centre commun auquel se rapportent toutes leurs sensations, qui sont surtout plus vives et plus répandues dans les membranes muqueuses. Mais quant à l'action nerveuse sur les muscles, elle en dirige l'irritabilité ;

elle s'exerce aussi sur les vaisseaux, surtout les plus petits.

Les actes intellectuels et moraux diffèrent tellement des phénomènes organiques, qu'ils ne peuvent dépendre de la même cause : ils seraient en effet aveugles et nécessaires, au lieu d'être éclairés et libres. La physiologie qui d'un côté se rencontre avec la physique ou la philosophie naturelle, se rencontre ici avec la philosophie morale ou la métaphysique."

Nos limites nous obligent de terminer, mais nous ne pouvons quitter ce sujet sans mettre sous les yeux de nos lecteurs quelques remarques qui ne manqueront pas d'intérêt au moins pour la curiosité : "Toutes les phases par lesquelles passe l'organisme humain répondent à des états permanens dans le règne animal. On pourrait ici accumuler les preuves de cette importante proposition, en mettant en parallèle le fœtus humain à divers degrés de développements, avec les degrés de l'organisation de l'échelle animale. Quelques exemples suffiront. L'embryon n'est d'abord qu'un petit bourgeon ou germe placé sur une vésicule ; tels sont quelques-uns des vers les plus simples. Plus tard c'est un petit corps vermiforme sans membres et sans tête distincts : c'est le cas des annélides ; plus tard les membres sont égaux et la queue est saillante : c'est le cas de la plupart des quadrupèdes. Dans le système nerveux, on voit d'abord apparaître les nerfs avec leurs ganglions : c'est le cas de tous les invertébrés pourvus de nerfs ; plus tard, on distingue la moelle vertébrale et crânienne, les tubercules de cette dernière, et seulement encore des rudimens de cercelet et de cerveau : c'est le cas des poissons et des reptiles ; plus tard enfin ces dernières parties s'accroissent beaucoup plus que les tubercules, et l'encéphale est successivement celui des oiseaux et des mammifères, jusqu'à ce qu'enfin, par la prédominance des lobes cérébraux et cérébelieux sur le reste, il devienne celui de l'homme lui-même. On verrait, en suivant le développement des os, d'abord mucilagineux, puis cartilagineux, puis osseux, et à cet état séparés d'abord en beaucoup de pièces qui se soudent plus tard ; en comparant ce développement avec l'état du système osseux dans la lamproie, dans les poissons cartilagineux, et dans les vertébrés ovipares en général, on verrait une autre preuve de la proposition énoncée. Il en serait de même enfin en passant en revue tous les gênes et tous les appareils d'organes.

L'Espèce humaine présente des différences d'organisation héréditaires dans les races ou variétés répandues sur le globe, et qu'on peut rapporter à cinq, dont trois principales ; savoir la caucasienne, la mongole et l'éthiopienne, et les races malaise et américaine.

La race caucasienne, à laquelle nous appartenons, se fait remarquer par la beauté de la forme et des proportion de la tête, dans laquelle le crâne l'emporte de beaucoup sur la face ; ce dont on se convainc par la plus simple inspection comme par l'application des méthodes céphalométriques. Le crâne est arrondi et élevé, la face est ovale, ses parties sont peu saillantes. La coloration de la peau est généralement blanche et rosée, celle des yeux est bleue ou brune, celle des cheveux, en général nombreux, fins et longs, varie du blanc au noir.

Cette race se fait particulièrement remarquer par le développement de son intelligence, par la civilisation et par la culture de la philosophie, des sciences et des arts. Les races colorées, au contraire, l'emportent par la perfection plus grande des sens.

La race mongole se reconnaît à la force du tronc, à la petitesse des membres, à la forme presque carrée de la tête et à la saillie des pommettes, à l'écartement, à l'étroitesse et à l'obliquité des yeux ; la couleur de la peau est olivâtre ; les cheveux sont droits, noirs et courts ; la barbe est rare, et manque quelquefois tout-à-fait.

La race nègre a le tronc mince, surtout aux lombes et au bassin ; les membres supérieurs sont longs, surtout l'avant-bras ; les mains sont petites, les pieds grands et aplatis ; le genou et le pied sont tournés en dehors ; la tête est étroite et allongée ; la partie inférieure de la face est saillante ; le nez est écrasé ; les dents antérieures sont obliques et les lèvres saillantes ; la peau, l'iris et les cheveux sont noirs : ceux-ci sont crépus, et la barbe est peu épaisse.

La race américaine a des caractères anatomiques moins tranchés, et semble intermédiaire à la race caucasique et à la race nègre. La peau est d'un rouge cuivré ; les cheveux sont noirs, droits et fins, et la barbe rare ou nulle.

La race malaise est, comme la précédente, peu distincte par des caractères tirés de l'anatomie : elle paraît intermédiaire aux deux premières. Dans cette race la peau est brune ou basanée, et les cheveux épais et frisés.

Le chapitre premier traite des tissus cellulaires et adipeux qu'il regarde comme très distincts. Leur utilité dans l'organisme et les changemens auxquels ils sont exposés y sont présentés avec exactitude, ainsi que leurs propriétés physiques ; c'est aussi ce que l'on remarque dans les dix autres chapitres qui sont dévolus à la description des autres tissus, dans l'ordre que Bichat a lui-même observé dans sa nomenclature. Mais comme il est impossible de suivre à chaque pas un ouvrage dont les sujets sont si multipliés, nous nous sommes contenté d'en donner un apperçu général qui, nous l'espérons, mettra le lecteur à portée de juger du mérite de son auteur.

Nous ne saurions prendre congé de cet excellent ouvrage sans nous arrêter un instant sur la couleur noire de la peau humaine, dont M. Béclard nous a paru faire trop peu de cas. Cette question fut traitée il y a quelques années par Le Cat, Beldone et Fourcroy, et dernièrement par Sir H. Davy, M. Coll et Sir E. Home, mais aucun d'eux n'est parvenu à des résultats certains.

Un Médecin très distingué des Etats-Unis, Dr. Felix Pascalis, de New-York, l'illustre partisan de la non-contagion, vient de donner à ce sujet une attention particulière ; et d'après les résultats qu'il a obtenus, nous ne doutons pas qu'il n'ait trouvé la vraie cause de ce phénomène. Il a en effet découvert que le procédé chimique qui s'opère dans les poumons par le dégagement du carbone se fait chez les noirs à la surface du corps. L'eau de chaux mise en contact avec le résidu de la respiration chez un blanc a produit une précipitation instantanée, tandis que chez un noir il ne s'est opéré aucun changement sensible. Sous ce point de vue, on pourrait attribuer l'odeur qui s'exhaloit du corps de ces derniers, au carbone qui se dégage par une plus grande surface, mais que le résidu de la respiration n'est point aussi désagréable que chez nous. Si cette théorie est fondée, il faut que l'oxygène soit aussi absorbé par la peau, puisque ce n'est que par son contact avec le carbone que celui-ci se dégage du sang sous la forme de gaz. Les poumons ne sont donc plus essentiels au maintien de la vie chez les sujets à peau noire. Un viscère aussi considérable ne serait-il donc chez eux qu'un organe inutile comme la rate chez tous les animaux qui en sont pourvus. N'y aurait-il donc chez eux aucun danger de suffocation par la privation d'air dans les poumons tant que la surface demeurerait soumise à l'action de l'atmosphère.

environnant. N'y a-t-il aucun procédé chimique dans leurs poumons, et les gaz qui sont si délétères pour nous sont-ils donc nuls pour eux. Telles sont les objections, et quelques autres que l'on peut faire à cette belle théorie, mais nous nous flattions que le savant Médecin qui a pu concevoir une idée aussi ingénieuse et aussi plausible en apparence, ne laissera pas son ouvrage imparfait. Au contraire, d'après la connaissance personnelle que nous avons, et les preuves réitérées qu'il a données au monde savant de son zèle infatigable à contribuer à la découverte des vérités utiles, nous espérons qu'il fera disparaître les difficultés en poursuivant ses recherches et ses expériences.

Nous prions le lecteur de nous pardonner une digression que le sujet a fait naître, et dont la nouveauté est une excuse suffisante, surtout pour celui qui désirerait s'en occuper d'une manière particulière. C'est sous ce point de vue que nous nous sommes déterminé à traiter cette matière séparément, aussitôt que nous serons en possession de documents plus circonstanciés sur ce phénomène intéressant.

*Pathological and Surgical Observations on the Diseases of the Joints.* By B. C. BRODIE, F. R. S. &c. 8vo. London.

We brought our analysis of this excellent work to the fourth Chapter in our last number, and come now to the consideration of the symptoms attending ulceration of the articular cartilages. This disease is more frequent after the age of puberty and without any apparent cause. The pain which resembles rheumatism is more severe at night, and if the patient be placed on an even surface, in an horizontal position, and the hand of the surgeon be applied to the heel so as to press the head of the femur against the concavity of the acetabulum, violent pain is the consequence; although this be done in so careful a manner that not the smallest degree of motion is given to the hip-joint. It is also frequently referred to the knee where it is more severe than in the hip, the nates become wasted and relaxed. At the beginning the limb appears longer, but is really shorter than the sound one as the disease advances. The formation of abscesses is indicated by the latter symptom, aggravation of pain, frequent spasms

and wasting of the limb, and by the circumstance of the thigh being bent forward, and incapable of extension ; the whole accompanied with general excitement in the system. The abscess comes out through the *vastus externus* as in the middle and inside of the thigh. The case is then desperate. When the disease is seated in the knee, the pain never comes on in less than four or five weeks, and often several months from the commencement of the disease. It is also sometimes attended with an accumulation of fluid in the joint.

Rest, caustic issues, setons and blisters are beneficial, but not mercurial alteratives. Plasters of ammoniac and other embrocations are inefficacious. Frictions injurious. Ulceration may take place without suppuration. The applications are to be made as near the joint as possible. Instead of beans the author prefers a solution of potash or vitriol for keeping up the discharge. It sometimes happens that after the issues have done good, the disease is increased or renewed by their continuance. In cases of abscess, the consequence of the ulceration, emetics, electricity, pressure or an early puncture have not proved serviceable. After it has become necessary to open the abscesses, the limb is to be wrapped up in a flannel wrung out of hot water, as long as the discharge continues to flow. When the cure takes place in an advanced stage, the limb will remain ankylosed.

We now come to the Vth chapter, *on a scrophulous disease of the joints having its origin in the concellous structure of the bones.* It attacks the spungy texture of bones which become very vascular and contain a less than usual quantity of earthy matter ; while at first, a transparent fluid, and afterwards a yellow cheesy substance is deposited in its cancelli.

It occurs in children and at the hip or shoulder joint. The swelling is pufty, elastic and firm, and increased after exercise. The skin assumes a dark red or purple colour, the abscess is slow, but when it bursts it discharges a thin pus, with portions of curdly substance floating in it. The discharge at length becomes thicker and cheesy, such as in scrophulous absorbent glands, and by means of a probe the bone is felt carious. The pain is not adequate to the extent of the mischief.

Local bleeding is useless. Cold evaporating lotions may have some good effect, but rest is the best remedy, and poultices when suppuration has begun, and the cure will be ef-

fected by ankylosis, which is to be promoted by pressure, by means of stripes of linen, spread with soap cerate, or other moderately adhesive plaster, and applied in a circular manner round the limb. The use of preparations of iron are very proper as well as attention to regimen and diet. Mercury is generally prejudicial. The author further says that "if the affected joint be removed by an operation, there is more danger of disease breaking out elsewhere, than if the operation had not been resorted to." He relates three cases where amputation was performed and not one recovered. In a similar case which came under our own care four years ago, the subject being twenty years of age, was removed to the Hotel-Dieu, where amputation was immediately performed, and death occurred ten days after. In this kind of disease, the bones are found soft, and may be cut with a scalpel without turning its edge, or even crushed between the fingers.

Chap. VI treats of *Caries of the Spine*. In speaking of the symptoms of this disease, M. Brodie says: "I suspect, that where the disease has its origin in the concellous structure of the bones, it is more immediately followed by suppuration, than where it commences in the form of ulceration of the intervertebral cartilages; and that in cases of the latter description, the pain and tenderness in the situation of the carious portion of the spine, is more considerable than in those of the former. But farther than this, nothing, which I have hitherto observed, enables me to point out any circumstances in which the symptoms of these different diseases differ; nor do I believe (however desirable it may be to do so), that it is possible, in the present state of our knowledge, to distinguish them from each other, with any degree of accuracy, in the living person. This is the more to be deplored as we find that the extensive experience of our author and of his contemporaries have not been able to add any thing like improvement to the method prescribed by Pott and Dessault, for the cure of that disease. The employment of mechanical contrivances, in order to correct the deformity attendant on this disease is here judiciously reprobated."

*Tumours and loose Cartilages in the cavities of Joints*, are the subject of chapter VII. So much has been said on this disease, that the author declines dwelling much on it. He is decidedly in favour of extirpation. Having noticed nothing

of importance with regard to the nature or any new mode of treatment of the complaint, we pass to

Chapter VIII., *On some other diseases of the Joints.* It comprehends those irregular affections of the joints which cannot be included in a separate article, such as common inflammation in the articulating extremity of a bone, its death, exfoliation, absorption by a process apparently different from ulcerations, and which are to be met with in elderly people. He also mentions those peculiar cases of considerable tumefaction of joints which depend on a morbid condition of the nerves, and which may be regarded as a local hysterical affection. In these cases the author recommends cold evaporating lotion, pressure by plasters of belladonna and soap, purgatives, valerian or bark.

The last chapter is devoted to *Inflammation of the Bursæ Muscosæ.* This inflammation has almost the same character as that of the synovial membrane, (allowance made for the difference of neighbouring parts), and produces nearly the same results. The author has seen it terminate in the thickening of its coats to at least half an inch. When the inflammation is of long standing, it is not unusual to find floating in the fluid of the bursa a number of loose bodies, of a flattened oval form, of a light brown colour, with smooth surfaces, resembling small melon seeds in appearance. There seems to be no doubt that these loose bodies have their origin in the coagulable lymph, which was effused in the early stage of the disease: and he had opportunities, by the examination of several cases, to trace the steps of their gradual formation.

Antiphlogistic local and general applications and other ordinary means are here prescribed, which offer no particular degree of interest.

Having now extracted from this valuable and deserving specimen of scientific surgery, what we deemed highly useful to our countrymen, we will not still leave the subject without strongly recommending the perusal of M. Brodie's book which we consider has been surpassed by none if equalled by any surgeon in any age. The reader who has the advantage of perusing the work itself, must share our regret that the numerous cases which are presented of each disease under its different aspects, should have been unavoidably excluded of our limited pages; but we feel confident that a work whose merit must assure to its author a lasting fame, both from the useful information with which it is replete, and also from

the example which he has afforded to the medical world in the prosecution of his professional labours, will become the constant adviser of every practitioner, particularly in this country.

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SIR ASTLEY COOPER, MR. EARL AND MR. CHAS. BELL.

We promised in our last number to give our readers an account of the surgical controversy which has arisen between these three distinguished caracters, and whatever our desire may be of dwelling fully on subjects of such practical utility, as those which we shall presently consider, it cannot be expected that we should devote to discussions, bearing evidently a character of personal animosity, a time more advantageously employed for the information of the Canadian practitioner.

The principal question arose from the assertion of Sir Astley Cooper, that when fracture of the neck of the thigh bone occurs within the capsular ligament, no bony union takes place. He says that during an extensive practice of forty years, not one instance of union has taken place in this case, except it were a mere ligamentous junction. This is accounted for by insufficiency of the ligamentum teres to supply the insulated head of the bone with ossific matter, except what may be requisite for its nourishment. He, however, does not deny the possibility of ossific union, "when the fracture is through the head of the bone, and there is no separation of the fractured ends; or when the bone is broken without its periosteum, and the reflected ligament which covers its neck being torn; or when it is broken obliquely, partly within and partly without the capsular ligament," but in all these cases he has never yet seen an instance of bony union in all his practice. The experience of Dr. Colles of Dublin is brought in corroboration of Sir Astley's views. That gentleman affirms that he has never known a bony union to occur when the fracture takes place within the capsular ligament.

Some time after the publication of Sir Astley's work, Mr. Earl, Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, felt it a duty he owed to his profession to contradict a statement which he considered might lead the practitioner particularly the younger part of the profession into a practice which must appear incontrovertible, coming from such a respectable source,

He accordingly endeavoured to prove the possibility of bony union in fractures in that situation upon physiological principles, and produces specimens of united bones in this kind of accident. His testimony is also corroborated by that of gentlemen of the highest consideration in Surgery. But what seems deserving of attention, in Mr. Earle's statement, is that part where he says that in consequence of Sir Astley's assertion, the practitioner might be induced to abandon to nature cases in which perseverance and a proper management might ensure if not a total want of deformity and lameness, at least a considerable alleviation of the patient's sufferings. Sir Astley does not entirely deny the possibility of union, and we therefore leave it to our readers to decide how far the assertion may influence the Surgeon.

We will for the moment take no further notice of Mr. Earle's answer, but proceed to examine the contents of Mr. Chs. Bell's lectures which appear to us to possess more practical interest.

This gentleman, after accusing Sir Astley of plagiarism and of having assumed to himself the credit of certain doctrines which, he says, belong to his late brother Mr. Jn. Bell the celebrated author of *the principles of Surgery*, notices some omissions in Sir Astley's work, but we shall only give the following, viz. *subluxation* of the lumbar vertebrae. "The accident, says Mr. Bell, happens to young people, and from the operation of a force which in advanced years, would fracture the bodies of the vertebrae. A weight on the head and shoulders overpowering them, and bending them double, the articulating processes of the upper lumbar vertebrae are burst from their connexions; if they again fall into their places, the case is diastasis; but sometimes their edges meet, then it is *subluxation*, they are not restored to their natural position. The body is bent forward, as if the spine were distorted by disease, and the spinous processes of the vertebrae are felt to project; being at the same time deranged from the right line, and leaving an unusual space between them."

He then relates the case in Sir Astley Cooper's treatise (page 551), which this gentleman pretends to have been a fracture of the spinous processes, and which was the consequence of a heavy weight upon his already distorted shoulders, but which Mr. Bell asserts to have been a subluxation.

On the subject of fracture of the spine and the expediency of having recourse to the operation of the trephine as advised by Sir Astley, Mr. C. Bell gives it as the result of experience

that it is highly improper, particularly from the inflammation and suppuration which must inevitably follow and destroy the patient. He, on the contrary, recommends rest and other means calculated to preserve, if possible, the life of the patient.

In cases of this nature, a difficult question presents itself to the surgeon. Is he to risk the danger of a formidable operation rather than allow the patient to live without the use of half of his body? Experience must here decide. Sir Astley himself acknowledges that he did not succeed to effect a cure in any of the cases where he operated, and that all the benefit he derived from it was, he suspects, a temporary alleviation. It is a well known fact, and we have had opportunities of ascertaining it in some cases which occurred in our own practice, that patients will generally recover in such case, but remain paralytic all life. But let us enquire what Mr. Bell says on the subject of fracture of the neck of the thigh.

He is decidedly in favour of Sir Astley Cooper's assertion on this point, but claims it as belonging to his brother who explained, "that in fracture within the joint, the capsule is distended with fluid, and the bone does not unite; but that, on the contrary, union takes place when there is more extensive injury and bloody effusion. He (Mr. T. Bell), knew also, and quotes a variety of authors to prove that the lameness of old women is from fracture of the thigh bone."

The following are the reasons assigned by Mr. Bell for the want of union: if the bone be broken within this capsule, it is attended with an increase of colourless effusion into the joint, and the bones remain loose and subject to motion. But if the bone be broken external to the joint, the cellular connexions are torn, and there is bloody effusion; there follows this:—inflammation and consolidation of the surrounding parts; the bones are sustained by this mass of inflamed matter; and in due time bone is formed in it, and that bone constitutes the medium of reunion."

He further says that, as it is impossible to decide whether the fracture is such as will unite or not, union is to be attempted by proper means, but if it appears that after six weeks there is no reunion, nor such stiffness and swelling as forbade it, we must let the parts fall out of use and waste.

We shall also notice one accident which Mr. Bell says has not been understood by his brother, nor by Sir Astley;

"When ever there is any, the slightest degree of inflammation of the hip-joint, whether it proceeds from an injury, or be a spontaneous and constitutional inflammation, there is an inclination of the pelvis on the head of the thigh bone, as represented above, and the inclination of the trunk from the line of the thigh bone, increases in proportion to the degree of inflammation. At last the disease continuing, the affected leg and the trunk will form an angle of 45°, and the head of the femur will be thus raised upon the lip of the acetabulum, and prepared to start out of the socket altogether," the ligaments being also inflamed permit dislocation, but do not cause it. "It is the inclination of the body and the leg which throws out the head of the bone from the socket; and owing to the softening and yielding of the ligaments, there is no check or limit to the distortion, and thus dislocation is consequent upon injury."

From the first to the last degree of this inclination, it is of the highest importance for you to notice it. In examining a limb which is supposed to be fractured or dislocated, you request the patient to lie upon his back, and putting the heels together, you find that one leg is shorter than the other. But before you allow yourself for a moment to think of dislocation or fracture, you look carefully to the position of the trunk; you take a piece of tape, you lay it across the pelvis, and fixing it with the thumbs upon the anterior and superior processes of the ossa illi, you observe that the line made with the cord is oblique; you now compare the height to which the process of the ilium on the injured side is raised above what it ought to be if the pelvis were truly poised, and comparing this with the elevation of the heel, you find that there is no shortening of the leg."

Such is the substance of Mr. Bell's lectures which no one can read without regretting that such a celebrated surgeon should have allowed his feelings to have assumed too much ascendancy on his judgement. We do not, however, pretend to countenance what must be considered at least an omission on the part of Sir Astley, not to have consulted the experience of his predecessor and his contemporaries in the elucidation of some doubtful points, yet we are inclined to believe that he has been rather too harshly censured by his antagonists. On the whole we consider these controversies to have been of great service to the cause of science, as every champion has been compelled to give to the subject more attention,

## PART II.

# *Substance of Foreign Journals.*

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## **BRITISH JOURNALS.**

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### *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions.*

*Cæsarian Operation.*—At Frankfort on the Maine, a successful case of the Cæsarian operation occurred to Dr. Ferdinand Spitzbarth, of Schewln, county of Mark. The same operation was also successfully performed twice on the same woman by Dr. F. Lorinser, of Nîmes in Bohemia. In one of these two cases the Doctor found the uterus ruptured, but the woman also recovered, and in the three cases not one life was lost.

Dr. Locher, of Zurich, also performed it with success, but on attempting it a second time on the same subject, the uterus having ruptured, both mother and child were lost.

*Knives in the Stomach.*—Dr. A. Marcet relates a case in which a number of clasp-knives were swallowed by a sailor, and were found in his stomach ten years after.

*Measles and Vaccine.*—A female child was inoculated with the vaccine virus by F. Gilder, Esq. Surgeon to Goldstream guards, on the 17th. December. On the 30th she was seized with the measles which continued with regularity and severity, whilst the vaccine which had appeared the next day (31) went through its regular course; the child recovered.

*Destruction of the Fœtal Brain.*—In a case where deformity of the pelvis prevented parturition, Mr. Hammond made an opening near the fontanelle and broke down the cerebrum of the foetus which was then extracted. The child still cried loudly, passed faeces and urine, and died twelve hours after, from the hemorrhage of the cerebral vessels.

### *London Medical and Physical Journal.*

*Ophthalmia.*—Dr. J. R. Grant says: “A solution of ten grains of the Argent. Nitratum in an ounce of distilled water

has been found an excellent application for sore eyes ; one drop or two put into the eye every second day.

*Lymphatics.*—Lymphatic vessels communicating with the large veins of the trunk have been discovered by Dr. Regalo Lippi of St. Mary, in Florence.

*Acidity in the Stomach.*—Dr. Dewees, of Philadelphia, recommends the use of acids in this disorder when alkalines fail.

*Hydrocephalus.*—In a case of this kind, Dr. R. Gray prolonged the life of a child by tapping the head several times.

*Non-contagion of Yellow Fever.*—Dr. Cherwin in order to settle the question of the contagiousness of the Yellow Fever, left Paris in 1814, and went to Guadeloupe, Cayenne and the United States, where he was present at the most memorable catastrophes of the yellow fever epidemic. He in the years 1816 and 1817 opened the bodies of more than 500 persons who had died of the disease. The result of his immense labours is, his firm conviction that the yellow fever is produced only by local causes, put into action by a peculiar constitution of the air, which it is however, difficult to appreciate ; that the local cause consisted of emanations from vegetable or animal substances in a state of putrefaction ; and that the disease was never propagated by contagion, in any of those instances which came to his knowledge.

*Cure for Cataract, &c.*—Dr. Goudret in France reports, that the cauterization of the frontal portion of the cranium, either by means of a heated copper or by aminonia, cures, as well as prevents, both cataract and gutta serena.

*Cancer of the Heart.*—A case of cancer of the Heart has been observed, in a child eleven years of age, by Doctor Legalias. The child had died suddenly, after being seized with ascites.

*Delivery after Death.*—A successful case of Delivery after the death of the mother is also related in the Edinburgh Medical Journal, wherein Professor Hermann of Bern says, that a subject brought forth twin foetuses, three days after death, and at her sixth month of utero-gestation.

#### *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.*

The *Oleum Tigillum* (Croton Oil), is now in great repute in England as an infallible purgative. The dose is from half a drop to two drops given with simple syrup. Notwithstanding its activity it has been employed in inflammation of the intestines with evident benefit.

A case of *ankylosis* in the knee joint, the consequence of external injury and subsequent abscesses, was cured by Mr. J. Boyle, by the use of moxa daily, and the application of steam. He also made use of an instrument which he calls *genu rector*, and which is described in his treatise on Moxa.

In the year 1821, a boy fourteen years of age, had complained from childhood of palpitation, (there was continually more throbbing than natural) the pulse small, quick and intermitting, and not corresponding with the throbbing of the heart, but the same at both wrists. In the month of September, Mr. Wm. Thomas warned the parents of the danger of sudden death; and on the 11th of February 1825, while exerting himself by walking pretty smartly, the child called one of his companions to feel his heart, when he instantly dropped down, and expired without uttering a groan. The heart was double the natural size, the large vessels much enlarged, there was an irregular opening (evidently a rupture) leading out of the right auricle, about three-eights of an inch long, through which dark-coloured blood has escaped in the pericardium; the sides of this auricle were quite flabby, and giving way to pressure, but the parietes of the ventricles were rather thicker than natural. All other contents of the chest were healthy.

### *The Lancet*

*Hydrophobia*.—Dr. Fayermann, of Norwich, cured a case of hydrophobia by the use of Gouillard's extract of lead at the dose of 20 to 40 drops every three or six hours, which occasioned a palsy of the lower extremities, but this was perfectly cured in a few months after the disappearance of the hydrophobic symptoms.

*Colchicum in the Gout*.—Dr. Charles Sudamore of London, has recently published a work on gout and asserts as the result of an extensive practice, that the *Colchicum Autumnale* is yet the best and safest remedy ever used for that complaint, taken in the dose of about a drachm every morning with magnesia.

### *Monthly Gazette of Health*

*Elm Bark*.—Mr. Jeaffreys, Surgeon to the Lock Hospital, and to St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, has published several cases of pseudo-syphilitic affections, and constitutional ulceration &c., in which a compound decoction of the

elm of bark proved as beneficial as that of sarsaparilla. Mr. Jeffreys employed the following form :

Take of Decoction of Elm Bark,\* eight pints,  
Sassafras Root sliced,  
Guaiac Wood shavings, of each one ounce,  
Bark of the Mezerian Root, bruised, 3 drachms,  
Liquorice Root, do, 1 ounce,

to be boiled for one hour.

"The decoction," says Mr. Jeffreys, "administered in the quantity of a pint a day, appears to increase the insensible perspiration, restore the appetite, improve the tone and power of the digestive organs, strengthen and invigorate the general system, and to cheer and compose the animal spirits."

*Stone in the Bladder.*—M. Amusut of Paris, states that he has brought to great perfection an instrument for reducing a stone in the bladder to such a state of powder, as to admit of its being conveyed, like gravel, through the urethra with the urine, without putting the patient to any pain. The instrument consists of pincers, which are confined in a tube, not larger than a sound, until introduced into the bladder; they are then opened, the stone is seized with facility, and by moving the handles in a particular manner, is soon reduced to powder. In a few seconds a stone, the size of a nut, is broken with facility. The experiments having as yet only been made on a *dead body*, it still remains to be ascertained what will be the result in the living one.

Mr. Regnault, an able physician at Grenoble, well known for his success in many difficult cases of stone, has invented an instrument by which the operation of the stone may be completed in two minutes. Our correspondent states, that "several experiments have confirmed the fact."

*Children's Food.*—A respectable lady of Yorkshire, observes in a letter dated May 2, that in consequence of losing her three first children, one during teething, and two of inflammation of the bowels, she gave her fourth child a little wine in every article of food, from the conviction that the disease which terminated the lives of her former children were occasioned or aggravated by a disordered state of the stomach and intestines, occasioning indigestion, and consequent pro-

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\*This decoction is made by boiling a pound of the inner rind in twelve pints of water until reduced to eight pints.

duction of a powerful acid; she added a dessert and sometimes only a tea-spoonful of lime-water to every article whether liquid or thick; it succeeded in keeping up healthy digestion, and a regular state of the bowels; the child, instead of being feverish, flatulent and fretful, was free from any symptom of indigestion, and cut its teeth without constitutional disturbance. She has continued this practice with two more children, with the same good effects. We have known this simple addition to the food of children prove very efficacious in incipient cases of rickets and of irritable bowels, attended with looseness, &c. but if the child be disposed to constiveness on account of its astringent quality, a little magnesia should be occasionally added to it.

*Application for Corns.*—Dr. James Jones of New-York, prescribes the following composition for corns and indurated skins of the feet:

Take of Powder Squills, half an ounce,  
Gum Ammoniac Powder, one ounce.

Mixt together in a mortar, and with the solution of pure potash form a smooth pulp; then add half an ounce of mercurial ointment, and unite them by tritature. When properly mixed, spread it thickly on thin soft leather, and expose it to the air, till the water evaporates, when, by becoming thick, it will be in a proper state to apply to the diseased part. The corn, or thickened skin, should be previously removed by a rasp or knife, after immersion in warm water. This application will assuredly prevent a reproduction of the disease. It is also a valuable topical remedy for indurated tumours, and chronic enlargement of joints.

*New mode of measuring Temperature.*—Mr. John Murray, Chemical Professor at the Surrey Institution, has adopted a new and ingenious mode of measuring temperature of the atmosphere, by which the unexpected consequence has resulted of ascertaining the changes of the weather, as corresponding to the indications of his thermometers; thus, at the same time, producing both a thermometrical and barometrical effect. His method is the following: he takes two of Breguet's metallic thermometers, (which is an instrument susceptible of the most delicate sensibility,) and places the bulb of one upon the floor, in a room without a fire, and the other he suspends about six and a half feet above it, when he observes that as often as the two thermometers differ  $2^{\circ}$ . to  $2^{\circ}.5$  from each other, the weather becomes variable

and wet. Thus, on the 11th of November, the thermometer placed on the floor stood at  $53^{\circ}.5'$ , whilst that which was suspended six feet and a half above, rose to  $69^{\circ}$ , consisting a difference of  $5^{\circ}.5'$ ; the weather is noted as "continued rain."

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## JOURNAUX FRANÇAIS.

### *Revue Médicale.*

*Théorie de la vision.*—On lit dans le même Journal que Mr. Lehot, dans un volume, octavo, prétend prouver que la rétine n'est pas le siège de l'impression des rayons lumineux, mais que c'est l'humeur vitrée. Il rapporte plusieurs expériences et des arguments solides à l'appui de sa théorie.

*Oleum Tiglium.*—La fameuse huile, nommée "CROTON TIGLIUM," est parfaitement semblable à celle que l'on obtient d'une plante connue en France sous le nom de *Pignon d'Inde*, et M. M. Recanuer et Kapelar pensent que celle-ci peut être très bien substituée à la première.

*Laitue.*—Le jus de la laitue tant vanté par le fameux Dr. Duncan, comme un substitut pour l'opium, vient d'être examiné par Chs. François, qui en a découvert le principe actif auquel il donne le nom de Thridace.

*Frère dans l'Estomac.*—La Gazette de Santé fait mention d'une petite fille de 4 ans qui avait avalé un morceau de verre large de 8 lignes et épais de 3 lignes, et qu'elle passa par les selles sans beaucoup d'inconvénients 24 heures après. Son Médecin avait prescrit beaucoup de nourriture solides et liquides, dans la rue, sans doute, de dilater le canal alimentaire et surtout le pylore.

*Préservatif contre la fièvre.*—Le Dr. Huphland rapporte dans son Journal, le témoignage de treize personnes qui se sont préservées de la Fièvre écarlate (*Scarlatina*) par l'usage d'une petite dose de Belladona tous les matins. Un d'eux même en a préservé tous ses enfants en leur donnant tous les matins un vingtième de grain de ce remède pendant 8 ou 9 jours.

*Cautérisation dans la Petite Vérole.*—MM. Seres et Bretonneau se disputent la gloire de cette découverte, mais il paraissent s'en servir d'une manière différente. Le premier emploie une solution de *caustic lunaire*, 20 à 25 grains par once d'eau, et le second se sert de caustic solide. Il paraît de plus, par les observations de M. Gozo, que cette application ne peut réussir qu'au moment de l'apparition des pustules, et qu'après le quatrième jour, le caustic n'a plus d'effet sur elle. D'autres prétendent que ce remède est dangereux et qu'il peut causer une inflammation du cerveau.

*Effets de l'Iode* (vulgairement nommée *Iodine*).—M. Locher Balber vient de publier plusieurs cas de *dysmenorrhœa*, accompagnée de douleur à la tête, aux intestins, ou de maux de dents. Les malades après avoir pris une once de la teinture (la dose n'est pas mentionnée) se trouvèrent guéries et ne furent plus incommodées de douleurs par la suite, le remède a produit quelquesfois l'émaciation.

*Muriate d'or dans le syphilis.*—Dr. Gustavus Benaben a guéri plusieurs cas de syphilis avec ce remède. Il prétend que ce remède est en usage depuis 1540 jusqu'au tems du Dr. Chrétien qui a découvert la manière de l'employer et que voici : “On l'emploie en friction sous la langue, en commençant avec la quatorzième partie d'un grain et augmentant par degrés jusqu'à la huitième partie d'un grain, avec un peu de soude ; on s'en sert quelquefois à l'intérieur à petites doses, et produit des sueurs ou une décharge d'urine très abondantes. La quantité requise pour les symptômes secondaires est de six à huit grains en tout.”

#### Archives Générales

L'Académie Royale de Médecine a entendu le 23 Novembre un rapport sur l'efficacité des ventouses employées dans le traitement des plaies empoisonnées. Une ventouse, appliquée sur la partie du corps mordue par une vipère, a arrêté sur le champ les effets de cette morsure. En terminant, le rapporteur a appellé l'attention des médecins sur les effets qu'on pourrait attendre de l'emploi des ventouses contre la morsure des serpents et des animaux enragés.

#### *L'Ami de la Religion et du Roi.*

Journal de Paris, 3 Déc. 1825.

(Nous devons l'extrait ci-dessus à la politesse d'un Monsieur très respectable du Clergé, que nous remercions de cette preuve de l'intérêt qu'il prend à notre Journal et à la cause de l'humanité.)

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Le Dr. Parry qui a fait ce rapport avec MM. Adelon et Laennec, pensant que la circulation du sang dans les veines, est la conséquence d'une action que le thorax exerce sur lui pendant l'inspiration, conclut de là que tout agent capable de changer cette action de la circonférence au centre en une direction opposée, c'est-à-dire du centre à la circonférence, comme par les ventouses, non-seulement empêche l'absorption, mais encore rappelle à la surface toute matière qui se serait déjà absorbée, en autant qu'elle soit encore à la portée de l'influence de cet agent.

Mr. Naudin a lu, à l'Académie de Toulouse, un mémoire sur l'*Hydrophobie*. Six personnes furent mordues par un chien supposé enragé, mais on n'en fit point de cas. 48 heures après des symptômes d'hydrophobie se présentèrent dans une des personnes, et la mort s'en suivit deux jours après.— Les pustules dont parle Marochetti ne s'y trouvèrent pas, mais les glandes sublinguales étant enflammées, avaient été cautérisées sans succès. Il y a déjà un mois et les cinq autres n'ont éprouvé aucun inconvenient.

*Neuralgia nervi sciatici*.—M. Réveillé Parise, vient de publier un pamphlet dans lequel il recommande la méthode de Cotugno comme la seule capable de guérir cette maladie. Cette méthode consiste dans l'application des vésicatoires à la partie extérieure et inférieure du genou et entretenues en suppuration pendant un mois et plus. Voici les conclusions qu'il tire de ses expériences :—

1er. Que la méthode de Cotugno est la plus efficace dans la guérison du *sciatica*, surtout quand la maladie est chronique.

2me. Que la suppuration des vésicatoires et des moxas doit être entretenue pendant longtems.

3me. Que, néanmoins, toute application irritante dans la vue d'entretenir cette suppuration est injurieuse.

4me. Que les intestins doivent être tenus constamment ouverts.

5me. Que pour prévenir les rechutes, on doit employer les moyens propres à fortifier le membre malade ; tels sont les frictions, bains de cendre chaude, &c. &c.

*Blenorragie (gonorrhée)*. La même Académie a entendu un mémoire par M.M. CULLERIER ET LAGNEAU, de la part de Mr. TARNES, sur les moyens de rétablir l'écoulement dans cette maladie. Mr. T. rapporte quatre cas : dans les trois premiers, il a inoculé le virus de la blenorragie et a

rappelé l'écoulement dans l'urètre pour guérir dans l'un une opithalmie, et dans les deux autres le *hernia humoralis*. Le quatrième était de la nature de ces derniers au côté droit, et fut guéri par l'injection de l'ammoniaque.

*Bulletin des Sciences Médicales.*

*Petitesse du Cœur.*—M. Masseau rapporte le cas d'une petite fille qui fut durant son enfance en butte à des convulsions, et qui mourut âgée de douze ans, d'une attaque d'épilepsie. En ouvrant la tête, on ne trouva rien de remarquable, si ce n'est une congestion dans les sinus de la dure mère, ainsi que dans les vaisseaux du cerveau qui paraissaient amollis ; mais dans la poitrine, on ne trouva pas le cœur plus gros qu'un œuf de poule, et qui paraissait ne se composer que de l'oreillette droite. L'auteur pense que le ventricule droit, n'ayant pu contenir tout le sang qui lui était envoyé par l'oreillette droite, ce fluide s'est regorgé dans la veine cave, les veines jugulaires et celles du cerveau, ce qui avait produit les attaques de convulsions.

*Tumeur de l'Ovaire droit.*—M. Vettu fait mention d'une femme âgée de vingt-cinq ans, dans laquelle cette maladie survint en conséquence d'un coup violent porté sur le ventre. La tumeur augmenta pendant dix-sept ans, ayant alors atteint le poids de soixante-six livres. La substance était homogène, grisâtre, d'une consistance cartilagineuse, excepté à trois endroits où elle était plus amollie, et d'une substance semblable au cerveau ; pendant longtemps elle ne causa d'inconvénient que par son poids, et ne commença à affecter la malade que trois mois avant sa mort.

*Cicatrice du Cœur.*—M. Bougon a présenté à l'Académie Royale de Médecine de Paris, le cœur d'une personne morte à l'Hôpital sous ses soins.

On appercevait sur les téguimens de la poitrine des marques très évidentes d'une ancienne blessure qui paraissait avoir pénétré à l'intérieur. On trouva en effet en ouvrant le thorax que la blessure avait traversé les poumons, le péricarde et le cœur même ; mais tous étaient cicatrisés. Le malade mourut d'une maladie dans laquelle tous ces organes ne paraissaient pas avoir eu de part.

*Gonorrhée.*—Nous avons signalé dans notre dernier numéro, l'emploi de l'Iode dans le Goître, et nous voyons avec plaisir dans la plupart des Journaux qu'il a réussi à guérir aussi la Gonorrhée même la plus invétérée.

*Des Tempéraments, (Cont. page 93.)*

**Tempérament Lymphatique.**—Si la proportion des liquides aux solides est trop considérable, cette surabondance des humeurs, qui est constamment à l'avantage du système lymphatique, donne à tout le corps un volume considérable, déterminé par le développement et la réplétion du tissu cellulaire. Les chairs sont molles, l'habitude décolorée, les cheveux blonds ou cendrés, le poils faible, lent et mou, les formes arrondies et sans expression, toutes les actions vitales plus ou moins languissantes, la mémoire infidèle, l'attention peu soutenue. Les individus qui présentent ce tempérament, auquel les anciens donnaient le nom de *pituiteux*, et que nous nommerons *lymphatique*, parce qu'il dépend réellement de l'excès de développement de ce système, ont, pour la plupart, un penchant insurmontable à la paresse, répugnent aux travaux de l'esprit comme à l'exercice du corps ; aussi ne doit-on pas s'étonner de n'en point rencontrer parmi les hommes illustres de Plutarque. Peu propres aux affaires, ils n'ont jamais exercé un grand empire sur leurs semblables, ils n'ont jamais bouleversé la surface du globe par des négociations ou par des conquêtes. L'un des amis de Cicéron, Pomponius Atticus, dont Cornelius Népos nous a transmis l'histoire, se conciliant tous les partis qui détruisirent la république romaine dans les guerres civiles de César et de Pompée, nous en offre le modèle. Parmi les modernes, l'indistinct Michel Montaigne, dont toutes les passions furent si modérées, qui raisonnait sur tout, même sur le sentiment, était vraiment pituiteux. Mais chez lui, la prédominance du système lymphatique n'était pas portée si loin, qu'il ne s'y joignit une assez grande susceptibilité nerveuse. Chez les pituiteux, les parties aqueuses dominant dans le fluide qui doit porter partout la chaleur et la vie, la circulation s'effectue avec lenteur, l'imagination en est refroidie, les passions excessivement modérées ; et de cette modération dans les désirs naissent, dans bien des occasions, ces vertus de tempérament, vertus dont, pour le dire en passant, les possesseurs devraient moins s'énergieillir.

**Tempérament Nerveux.**—Cette propriété, qui fait que nous sommes plus ou moins sensibles aux impressions que reçoivent nos organes, faible chez les pituiteux, presque nulle pour les athlètes, modérée dans ceux qui sont doués d'un tempérament sanguin, assez vive chez les bilieux, lorsqu'ellic

est excessive, constitue le tempérament *nerveux*, rarement naturel ou primitif, mais le plus souvent acquis et dépendant d'une vie sédentaire et trop inactive, de l'habitude du plaisir, de l'exaltation des idées, entretenue par la lecture des ouvrages d'imagination, &c. On reconnaît ce tempérament à la maigreur, au peu de volume des muscles mous et comme atrophisés, à la vivacité des sensations, à la promptitude et à la variabilité des déterminations et des jugemens. Les femmes vaporeuses, dont les volontés sont absolues, mais changeantes, la sensibilité exaltée, le présentent fréquemment avec tous ses caractères ; assez souvent néanmoins elles ont un embonpoint médiocre ; la prédominance extrême du système nerveux s'alliant à un développement du système lymphatique. Les mouvements convulsifs ne sont point rares chez ces personnes ; et si l'on fait attention que, d'autre part, la constitution athlétique, directement opposée au tempérament nerveux, prédisposée au tétonos, ne pourra-t-on pas dire que les deux extrêmes se touchent ou produisent les mêmes effets ?

Les antispasmodiques réussissent dans le traitement de leurs maladies, qui prennent toujours plus ou moins la teinte du tempérament. Les stimulans conviennent, au contraire, beaucoup dans les affections auxquelles sont exposées les personnes d'un tempérament pituité ou lymphatique. Le tempérament nerveux, comme le mélancolique, est moins une constitution naturelle du corps que le premier degré d'une maladie. Ce tempérament, comme les affections vaporeuses auxquelles il dispose, ne s'est jamais offert qu'au milieu des sociétés parvenues à ce degré de la civilisation où l'homme est le plus loin possible de la nature. Les dames romaines ne devinrent sujettes aux *maux de nerfs* que par suites de ces mœurs dépravées, qui signalèrent l'époque de la décadence de l'empire. Les vapeurs étaient extrêmement communes en France pendant le dix-huitième siècle, dans les temps qui précédèrent la révolution. C'est à cette époque qu'on vit éclore à la fois les ouvrages de With, de Raulin, de Lorry, de Pomme, &c. sur les vapeurs. Tronchin, médecin génois, s'acquit une grande fortune et une immense considération dans le traitement de ces maladies. Tout son secret consistait à exercer jusqu'à la fatigue, ces femmes habituellement oisives, en soutenant leurs forces par une nourriture simple, saine et abondante. Les deux hommes les plus remarquables du dix-huitième siècle, Voltaire et le grand Fré-

dérick, peuvent être donnés comme des exemples du tempérament nerveux, et l'histoire de leur vie si brillante et si agitée, montre assez combien les circonstances au milieu desquelles ils vécurent contribuèrent à développer leurs dispositions natives.

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*(The following intelligence is received this day.)*

*Remedy for Worms.*—Dr. Jones of Manchester has employed powdered glass with success in a case of worms after all other means had failed. He gave two scruples of it to a child every morning during a week, adding calomel to the last dose. To an adult he prescribes a double quantity.

*Worms in the Ear.*—In the Journal der Practischen Heilkunde for August 1825, Mr. Mohr, Surgeon at Berlin, is said to have extracted six worms from the ear of a child, six years of age, who had laboured under the same train of symptoms as noticed in a similar case related in our last number by Dr. Perrault of this city. Two of them were deposited in dry earth, and in two days were found changed into chrysalides, immovable and composed of many rings. In about five days they became perfect insects with wings spotted with grey and black and belonging to the genus *Tachina*.

They are supposed to have originated from eggs deposited by an insect into the ear of the child while asleep in the open air.

*(The Lancet.)*

*Inflammation Intermittente.*—Dans un cas d'inflammation périodique de la joue accompagnée de fièvre générale, les accès étant quotidien et à des heures marquées, le Docteur Durand a employé avec succès le Sulfate de Quinine. Ce Monsieur conclut de là qu'il existe des inflammations intermittentes et qu'elles peuvent être guéries avec ce remède.

*Parigline.*—On lit dans la Gazette de Santé que Mr. Galileo Palotta a découvert dans la sarsaparille ce qu'il croit être son principe actif, et auquel il a donné le nom *Parigline*.—On trouve dans le même Journal pour Janvier 1825, et dans le *Lancet*, le procédé qu'il emploie pour extraire cette substance.

*TRANSFUSION, or Blood taken from a Man and injected into the Veins of a Woman, who was dying of Hæmorrhage.*

This operation was performed about three weeks since, under the direction of Dr. BLUNDELL, Lecturer on Physiology and Midwifery at Guy's Hospital.

A poor woman, about 25 years of age, was attended, whilst in labour, by Mr. Waller, of Aldersgate-street.— Nothing particular occurred during the labour, but after the birth of the child and expulsion of the placenta, the womb did not properly contract, and during the absence of the medical attendant flooding occurred to an alarming extent.— When visited by Mr. W., the patient's pulse, at the wrist, was scarcely perceptible, indeed, at times, it could not be felt; the lips and face were of a pallid, or death-like hue, and in a word, the taper of life was but faintly glimmering.

Under these circumstances, it occurred to Mr. Waller that the operation of transfusion would be a measure to rescue the patient from her perilous situation.

Dr. BLUNDELL was sent for, and upon his arrival he found the patient had somewhat rallied; in consequence of which he deemed it better to delay the performance of the operation, for, as Dr. B. observed to his pupils, this operation is only justifiable in extreme and otherwise desperate cases.— After waiting an hour the patient became worse; she vomited and was exceedingly restless, which may always be regarded as a very bad symptom; the pulse at the wrist was fluttering, and occasionally not to be felt, and there was that peculiar expression of countenance which can scarcely be described; it may be called "death in the face." It did not appear proper to delay the operation, which was therefore commenced as follows:—

The cephalic vein of the right arm was laid bare, to the extent of about an inch, and a blunt-pointed bent needle was passed under the vein, at the lower part of the opening, so as to prevent the efflux of blood. The husband of the patient, a robust, healthy young man, was now called in, and two ouuces of blood were taken, in a full stream, from his arm, and received into a conical glass tumbler. An opening of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch was made in the vein of the patient, and by means of a syringe and tube the blood abstracted from the husband was somewhat slowly thrown in, towards the heart. No very obvious effects were produced from this

supply of vital fluid, and after a pause of one or two minutes, two other ounces of blood were thrown in; soon after this the pulse at the wrist intermitted, and there was slight restlessness, or rather desire to change posture, but these symptoms passed away in the space of two or three minutes. In consequence of the occurrence of these symptoms, it was deemed prudent to wait awhile; and after a lapse of five minutes the patient was evidently rallying.

From this period the patient went on improving, and had not a single bad symptom which could be attributable to the operation; the functions of respiration, circulation, and of the chylopoetic viscera, were duly performed; the temperature of the surface of the body was of the natural standard; neither was there any subsequent affection of the sensorium, which Dr. BLUNDELL has known to occur in some cases after the operation of transfusion.

The syringe employed was of brass, and well tinned on the inside; to the mouth of the syringe a pipe was fixed, of about two inches in length, of the size of a crow's quill, shaped like a pen at the end, but with a blunt point.

Before the blood was thrown into the vein of the patient, all air was carefully expelled from the syringe, by placing the mouth upwards and pushing up the piston until the blood appeared at the end of the tube attached to the syringe.

Dr. BLUNDELL observed, this case demonstrated, beyond all cavil, that the blood of a man may be injected, by means of a syringe, into the veins of a woman exceedingly reduced from haemorrhage, without causing death. Whether the syncope which occurred after the injection of the blood was the result of the operation, or of the previous haemorrhage, may be disputed; and admitting the syncope to be the result of transfusion, we should be no more justified in rejecting the operation on this account than in refusing to employ the lancet in other cases, because it occasionally produces syncope.

As only four ounces of blood were injected, Dr. BLUNDELL admitted, that it might fairly be questioned by some, whether the supply of so small a quantity of blood really saved the patient. The Doctor, however, (and he has seen a great deal of haemorrhage,) is decidedly of opinion, that this timely supply of vital fluid turned the scale in the patient's favour, and rescued her from death.

[This case was related by Dr. B. in one of his lectures.]

*The North American Medical and Surgical Journal.*

[We have lately been favoured with the first number of this valuable publication, which was issued out on the same day as our own, 1<sup>st</sup>. January last, and which has met with a general cheering reception throughout the United States; and if we may judge of its merit from this specimen, it cannot be questioned that in point of usefulness, the work is an acquisition to the world at large. The communications are numerous and highly interesting, the review is exercised with energy and justice and displays an uncommon stock of professional knowledge; but what appears, in our opinion, to give it a decided preference over a great number of publications of this nature, is the taste and judgement with which their numerous selections of the daily improvements, throughout the medical world, have been made. From this peculiar advantage, and from the facility with which it can be procured, we have no hesitation in recommending its perusal to every practitioner in this country. The Editorship is conducted by five medical Gentlemen of consideration in Philadelphia, viz : Drs. Hodge, Bache, Meig, Bates and La Roche.—We can now afford room for the following extracts.]

DEAR SIR. About three years ago, my servant, Lemuel Jones, was afflicted with a neuralgic affection of the right side of the forehead, of a periodical character. Such was the severity of the paroxysm, as to affect his mind, and to raise a considerable tumor at the time of attack. Believing, from the protracted duration of the complaint, and from certain phenomena, that the bone was diseased, I cut down to it, in the hope of relieving him. The bone was found perfectly sound, but the part appeared unusually vascular. This led to the opinion that perhaps the local irritation might be removed, by tying up the branch of the temporal artery going to the part, which was accordingly done. The disease ceased, and from that period he has not felt, in the part, the least symptom of irritation; nor has a similar disease attacked any other part of his system. Dr. Sharpless, of this city, favoured me with his assistance in this operation, and can vouch for the accuracy of the statement.

Encouraged by the success of this operation, I have since, in two other cases of neuralgic affection of the scalp, passed ligatures round the principal arteries going to the part, and in both cases had the pleasure of effecting an immediate and perfect cure.

I expect soon to receive from the country two cases of neuralgia, one of the cheek, and another of the great-toe, in both of which, if acupuncturation should fail, I will try the effect of ligatures on the arteries of the part, and report to you the result.

J. K. MITCHELL.

**ACUPUNCTURE.**—At a sitting of the section of surgery in the French Academy of Medicine, Mr. AUMONT briefly related the case of an officer on whom acupuncture was performed for the relief of pains which had resisted all other means. The first needle was introduced two finger's breadth from the umbilicus, and caused severe pain. A second needle was inserted at the same height, and along the inner border of the rectus muscle; the second puncture was scarcely made before the patient fainted; and when he recovered he complained of tormented pain, which was soon accompanied by fever, and a distressing heat in the region of the abdomen. This state lasted several days, and when it had yielded to an antiphlogistic treatment, the original disorder had not suffered the slightest diminution.

Professor PELLETAN FILS has published a notice of the theory and effects of acupuncture, from experiments made at the hospital Saint Louis. It results from his observations that he has seen acupuncture practised with success; 1st, in violent neuralgia; 2nd, in rheumatism; 3d, in accidental contusions and anomalous pains; 4th, in chronic affections.

**STRUCTURE OF THE NERVES.**—M. Bogros has succeeded not only in injecting, with quicksilver, the neurilematic tubes, which contain the nervous medulla, but in demonstrating that the medullary matter itself possesses a tubular arrangement. Thus, by inserting the point of his injecting tube into the centre of a nervous fibril, after having corroded and removed the neurilema, with nitric acid, he was able to pass the quicksilver through all the minute anastomosing fibres of which the nerve is composed. These unite their cavities at the places of anastomoses. Ganglions were injected, and then traversed by the fluid metal; the latter filling other nervous fibres after passing through them. M. Bogros passed mercury, from the inferior cervical nerve, into the cardiac plexus, through ganglions of the great sympathetic, through the ganglions at the roots of the spinal nerves, &c. In these last, the mercury entered the veins; insinuating itself, first, into the minute venous plexus, which lies between the proper substance of the ganglion, and the coat which they derive from the dura matter. It thus ran in one instance, as far as the heart; but was never found in the arteries or lymphatics. After leaving these ganglions it passed into the roots of the nerves, and then immediately escaped into the spinal cavity; whether through ruptures or natural openings, could not be ascertained.

From the little we have seen of this discovery, we should presume these cavities to be similar to the ventricles of the brain.

**SEMDIECUSSATION OF THE OPTIC NERVES.**—Dr. Adrw. Crawford, of Winchester, has published in the London Medical and Physical Journal, an account of a case confirming the observations previously published by Dr. Wallaston, on the effect of a palsy of the optic nerve, above its semidecussation. A female had a slight hemiplegic attack on the left side, accompanied with total loss of

sight in the right half of each retina. Objects held before her, were distinctly seen on the right side of a middle line, but were entirely invisible on the left.

The injury having been sustained by the right side of the brain, may be presumed to have affected the nerve on the right side, above its semidecussation. We thus have paralysis of the left side, accompanied by injury of the right half of the apparatus of vision. But instead of losing the sight of the right eye, that of the right half of each retina was destroyed; thus, by the inversion of the figures of objects on the retina, preventing the vision of all objects on the left side of the middle line of the eye.

*Non-communication between the circulation of the Fætus and the Parent,*

MM. Prevost and Dumas have found the globules of the chick, extracted from the egg, to differ in size and form, from those of the adult animal. Encouraged by this discovery, M. Prevost repeated his microscopic observations upon the goat. He here found the globules of the fætus twice the size of those of the adult. Of course, there can be no mixture of such dissimilar fluids in the circulation. If the analogy extend to man, it solves a question which has given rise to much discussion.

**HYDROPHOBIA.**—In a case published by Dr. Brandreth, the whole nervous system, as far as examined, appears to have been in a state approaching or amounting to inflammation.

**MACKENZIE ON CROUP.**—Dr. Mackenzie of Glasgow proposes to assist the cure of croup by means of nitrate of silver, employed as a wash to the fauces. Croup arises from inflammation, which causes the deposition of coagulating lymph in the form of membrane. This secretion often is observed as far up as the tonsils, uvula, &c. A camel hair pencil dipped in a solution of twenty grains of nitrate of silver in one drachm of water, and applied to the tonsils, uvula and the posterior parts of the fauces, generally causes them to throw off the false membrane; and as the diseased surfaces within the larynx are continuous with these, the same action is extended so as to effect the detachment of the croup membrane therein. He recommends that the pencil be freely thrust in the fauces once or twice a day, according to the severity of the disease. No bad consequences have occurred, in his practice, from this method.

**Spirits of Turpentine in Erysipelas.**—H. Cox, Esq., has described an interesting case of erysipelas of the face and scalp, in which the oleum turbinthinæ was successfully administered, although the patient presented the most alarming symptoms—such as countless pulse, profound coma, fuliginous coat of the tongue, teeth and jaws. The medicine was

exhibited in large doses ; repeated several days in succession ; the symptoms gradually disappeared, and the patient recovered.

*Prussic Acid in Tetanus.*—Prussic acid has lately been applied to the treatment of tetanus by Dr. David H. Trezvant, of Columbia, S. C. Although in the case described the patient did not recover, the prussic acid had a decided effect in moderating the spasms of the affected muscles. Dr. T. says, "This acid appears to exert a much more decided effect upon the muscles of deglution and those of respiration, than upon the limbs." If subsequent experiments prove this to be a fact, will it not be a valuable auxiliary in the cure of asthmatic affections, and the whole train of anginas? The remedy certainly deserves a trial in tetanus.

*Acupuncture.*—M. Meyrank has also published the results of experiments tried at la Pitié by Dr. Bally. From him we learn that Dr. B. used it in rheumatism, and in general obtained success from it, provided there existed no inflammatory fever. He also prescribed it with success in a case of pleurodynia succeeding to pleuritis, and with relief in a case of chronic inflammation of the pericardium. In this case, Mr. Beclard introduced four needles in the region of the heart, one of them penetrated as far as the left lungs, and probably touched the pericardium.

M. J. Cloquet has in like manner tried experiments amounting to several hundreds, at the Hospital Saint Louis. For an account of many of these we must refer to an essay on the subject, by M. Alorand, a translation of which has lately been published in Philadelphia by Dr. Franklin Bache.

MM. Povillet and Jules Cloquet have established on sure grounds, the fact of galvanic changes, effected in acupuntuation. The electro galvanic phenomena were always visible in their experiments when oxydizable metals, as steel were used. None, however, were visible in experiments made with needles of platina, gold or silver. Hence the influence of galvanic, and not mere electric movements in the cases under consideration.

*Cornine.*—Mr. George W. Carpenter, a very intelligent chemist of Philadelphia, has lately succeeded in obtaining an alkaline principle from the bark of the *cornus florida*. To this substance he has given the name of cornine. Doctors Morton and Reynel Coates of this city, have employed this preparation in intermittent fever, and speak highly of its efficiency. The dose is the same as that of sulph. quin.

*Fistula Lachrymalis.*—M. Gensoul, chief surgeon of the Hotel Dieu at Lyon, has reported through M. Lisfranc, several cases of fistula lachrymalis, cured by means of "caustic introduced through the inferior orifice of the nasal canäl."

*Circoccle.*—Dr. Jameson has executed with success, in two instances, a new operation for this complaint, by tying the spermatic artery; thus cutting off the supply of blood to the enlarged and diseased veins. He, in this manner, avoids the danger of operating upon diseased veins, and at the same time, prevents their further distention. His first operation was in March 1821, the second in November 1822. The same operation, says Dr. Jameson, has also been performed by M. Maunoir, of Geneva, in two cases with success.—These were published in 1821, after Dr. J. had devised and executed his operation in Baltimore.

*Chronic Hydrocephalus.*—J. F. Barnard, Esq. member of the Royal College of Surgeons, published in the Medical Repository for 1823, a case of chronic hydrocephalus, successfully treated by pressure, at a very advanced period of the disease, and when there appeared little chance of the recovery of the patient.

He now reports a second successful case of a child eighteen months old. Head enlarged: bones separated, and fontanelles distended by the included fluid: convulsions, but no strabismus: disorder of the stomach and bowels: excretions various in colour and in consistence. He had the head shaved, and applied adhesive plaster tightly around it. Castor oil directed to be exhibited occasionally. The plaster was renewed as it became loose. This practice was steadily continued for one month. The child retained its health and strength, and continues to enjoy both, "The head is now three months from the time of leaving off the pressure of its natural size, and the bones are rapidly uniting." Bath, 21st July, 1825.

In Hufeland's Journal for February 1825, there is an interesting case recorded, in which *Gastrotomy* was performed for an intussusception, with success. The disease came on suddenly in a healthy man. Dr. Fustheius saw him on the fourth day; and with the usual symptoms of obstruction, perceived also, an induration about the angle formed by the ascending and transverse portions of the colon.

The usual treatment for obstructed bowels was ineffectually tried, not omitting the exhibition of quicksilver, and

enemata of cold water; and on the tenth day, the patient, when nearly exhausted, consented to the operation.

An opening about two or three inches in length, was made on the outer edge of the right rectus muscle, and about two inches above the level of the umbilicus; through which Dr. F. introduced his hand, previously smeared with oil, to search for the indurated part. A portion of the ileum was found, containing a foreign substance, just where the hardened part had been felt externally, and was drawn out; it was neither inflamed nor distended, but evidently contained an intussusception, the end of which, however, could not be felt. The intestine was opened and a portion of the invaginated gut exposed. The operator introduced his finger into the bowel, and fortunately succeeded in unfolding the entangled intestine, which amounted to 2 feet in length. There was no trace of inflammation, or any of its consequences. There was a teres worm in the upper part of the invagination. The glover's suture was used for the intestine, the ends of the ligature being brought out of the external wound; and the interrupted suture for the opening in the integuments. A natural stool occurred on the second day; no bad symptoms followed; and on the fourteenth day, the patient was quite well.

*Discovery of Iodine in the mineral kingdom.*—Vauquelin has discovered Iodine in a mineral from Brazil, containing sulphur, silver, lead and carbonate of lime.

*Sensibility to touch, of the Nerves of vision.*—M. Magendie, at a recent meeting of the Institute, stated verbally that he had touched the retina in three cases, without producing any pain. He found, by repeated experiments on animals, that this part may be pressed, pricked or torn, without pain being evinced.

*Inflammation of Nerves.*—M. Martinet, in the *Revue Médicale*, has published a number of cases to prove, that in *neuralgic* affections, (tic douloureux,) the nerve or neurilema is seldom inflamed or changed in an organic manner. He has given ten strongly marked cases of nervous inflammation. In every case where dissection was performed, and the parts brought into view, more or less redness of the nerves was found; evidently dependent on injection of the vessels of the neurilema. Partial ecchymoses, or sero-sanguinous infiltrations were also generally present; and, in some instances, traces of suppuration. Generally, the nerves were augment-

ed in volume; rarely softened in texture. The symptoms were more or less extensive diminution of their functions, pain, either of a lancinating or numbing kind, never suddenly *intermittent*, but generally continued, with occasional exacerbations and remissions.

The treatment, of course, is antiphlogistic.

The suddenly intermitting and recurring pains, called *tic-douloureux*, M. Martinet considers as not inflammatory.

*Tic Douloureux*.—Dr. Borthwick relates three cases of neuralgia or *tic douloureux* cured or much mitigated by the exhibition of carbonate of iron, in doses of one drachm thrice a week; one drachm thrice a day, and one scruple three or four times a day. Dr. B. considers it "now almost a settled point in practice, that iron will relieve, if not cure, *tic-douloureux* (neuralgic affections, generally speaking,) as certainly and speedily as quicksilver, in particular forms, will relieve and cure *lues venerea*."

#### *Boston Medical Intelligencer.*

*Temperature of the Earth*.—M. Grago communicated to the Institution of France the results of a great many experiments which he had tried to ascertain the temperature of the earth at different depths from the surface; according to which it appears, that the temperature increases in the proportion of one degree to every hundred feet in depth.

*Composition of the Atmosphere*.—Mr. Dalton states that there is a variation in the quality of oxygen in the atmosphere of about 0.45 per cent. The greatest quantity was found on the 8th January 1825, when the wind was north-east, and the barometer 30.9 inches; the wind was moderate after three days calm and gentle frost. The atmosphere then contained 21.15 per cent, of oxygen, while, in its general state it yields only 20.7 or 20.8 per cent.

*Indian Medicine*.—The dried and pulverized root of the gigantic *asclepsia* furnishes to the inhabitants of Bengal, and it is presumed it would be equally efficacious in Europe, a powerful remedy for cutaneous and glandular diseases for leprosy, rheumatism, ruptures, &c. The doses in which it is daily exhibited are 10 grains.

*New-York Medical College*.—All the Professors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the city of New-York have resigned. Drs. Mott, Mitchell, Hosack, Macneven and Francis, resigned on the 11th May. Dr. Post resigned previously.

*Artificial Ice.*—Messrs. Robinet and Henry presented a Report to the Section of Pharmacy, on a Memoir of M. Coardemanche, chemist at Caen, respecting a new method of making artificial ice. This method consists in mixing four pounds of sulphuric acid with five pounds of the sulphate of soda in powder; the acid must be at 36 degrees, and this is done by diluting five parts of this acid at 66 degrees, with 5.5 parts of water. Instead of acid, the residuum of æther at 33 degrees may be employed; the proportions are four pounds four ounces of the residuum weakened to that degree to five pounds eight ounces of the sulphate of soda.

*Simple mode of obtaining Meconiate of Morphia.*—The following process is by D. Giuseppe Meneci; reduce good opium to powder, put it into a paper filter, add distilled water to it, and slightly agitate it; in this way wash it till the water passes through colourless; then pass a little diluted alcohol through it; dry the insoluble portion (now diminished to one half), in a dark place; digest it when dry, in strong alcohol for a few minutes, applying heat; separate the solution; which by cooling and after evaporation, will yield well crystallized meconiate of morphia of a pale straw colour.

*College of Surgeons.*—Upwards of one thousand surgeons &c. met on Saturday at Freemason's Tavern, London, to petition parliament against the charter of the college of surgeons, which, as they stated, conferred privileges on that body detrimental to science, and complaining of various abuses and grievances exercised by the court of examiners.

*Singular Deformity.*—We have been informed, says "the Western Carolinian," that there is a white female now living in Buncombe county, N. C. about 13 years of age, who was born destitute of legs and arms. Her body is of the usual size; and is as perfect, in every respect, as any of nature's works; her head, however, although of regular formation, is something larger than that of common persons; her features are regular and even pleasing. Our informant (who is a medical gentleman) saw the young woman, and conversed with her mother. She stated that her daughter could talk as sensible as any child of that age. She sits up in a chair (being tied to it) most part of the day. Not having the least sign of a leg or arm, she is obliged to be removed by others, when she wishes to change her position.

# METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

QUEBEC.

1826.

MONTREAL.

MARCH.	DATE.	MOON.	THERMO-		WINDS.			ATMOSPHERIC VAR.		THERMOMETER.		BAROMETER.		ATMOSPHERIC VARIATIONS.					
			S. A. M.	P. M.	8 A. M.	3 P. M.	8 P. M.	8 A. M.	3 P. M.	7 A. M.	3 P. M.	7 A. M.	3 P. M.	7 A. M.	3 P. M.				
21	36 36	26 S	E	S	W	N	W	snow	cloudy	21 34	X	34	X	29	93	30	01	fair	
22	16 34	30 N	W	S	W	S	W	clear	clear	22 20	"	47	"	30	.05	30	14	fair	
23	26 34	32 S	E	N	E	N	E	clear	cloudy	23 29	"	36	"	30	.12	30	.06	fair	
24	34 40	40 N	E	N	E	N	E	rain	cloudy	24 33	"	33	"	29	.87	29	.49	rain	
25	36 40	34 S	W	S	W	S	W	snow	cloudy	25 34	"	28	"	29	.54	29	.68	fair	
26	26 30	22 S	W	S	W	S	W	snow	cloudy	26 32	"	25	"	30	.01	30	.03	snow	
27	20 30	25 S	W	S	W	S	W	clear	clear	27 24	"	34	"	30	.01	30	.07	fair	
28	24 34	32 S	E	N	E	N	E	clear	clear	28 22	"	45	"	30	.03	29	.84	fair	
29	20 40	32 S	W	S	W	N	W	snow	snow	29 36	"	39	"	29	.86	29	.87	fair	
30	20 26	20 N	W	S	W	S	W	cloudy	clear	30 16	"	36	"	29	.88	28	.81	snow	
31	26 39	34 S	W	S	W	S	W	cloudy	clear	31 15	"	40	"	29	.78	29	.79	fair	
APRIL.																			
1	28 40	36 S	W	S	W	S	W	clear	clear	APRIL.	127	"	52	"	29	.88	29	.85	fair
2	32 46	36 S	W	S	W	S	W	cloudy	clear	2 32	"	44	"	29	.87	29	.93	fair	
3	28 42	34 S	W	S	W	S	W	clear	clear	3 23	"	53	"	30	.07	30	.09	fair	
4	28 50	14 S	E	S	E	S	E	clear	clear	4 29	"	58	"	30	.12	30	.11	fair	
5	42 46	36 S	W	S	W	S	W	clear	clear	5 36	"	50	"	29	.89	29	.96	fair	
6	24 34	28 N	W	N	W	N	W	clear	clear	6 25	"	49	"	30	.16	30	.12	fair	
7	24 36	32 S	W	S	W	S	W	clear	clear	7 21	"	42	"	30	.13	30	.14	fair	
8	25 38	36 N	W	N	W	S	E	clear	clear	8 26	"	53	"	30	.83	30	.25	fair	
9	34 42	32 N	E	S	W	N	E	snow	clear	9 44	"	50	"	29	.81	29	.89	fair	
10	22 34	26 N	W	N	W	N	W	clear	clear	10 24	"	42	"	29	.93	29	.24	fair	
11	12 22	18 N	W	N	W	N	W	clear	cloudy	11 12	"	25	"	30	.01	30	.50	fair	
12	16 32	25 N	W	N	W	N	W	clear	clear	12 14	"	40	"	30	.46	30	.50	fair	
13	22 46	44 N	W	S	E	S	E	clear	cloudy	13 25	"	55	"	30	.61	30	.43	fair	
14	39 46	42 S	E	S	E	S	E	cloudy	cloudy	14 40	"	50	"	30	.16	29	.95	rain	
15	41 57	50 S	E	S	W	S	W	cloudy	clear	15 45	"	56	"	29	.73	29	.89	fair	
16	38 40	36 N	E	N	E	N	E	cloudy	rain	16 46	"	55	"	29	.84	29	.87	rain	
17	38 42	46 N	E	N	E	N	E	cloudy	clear	17 42	"	60	"	29	.71	29	.87	fair	
18	42 46	40 S	W	N	E	N	E	clear	clear	18 41	"	67	"	29	.95	30	.01	rain	
19	45 52	44 N	E	S	W	N	E	Rain	clear	19 45	"	63	"	29	.75	29	.73	fair	
20	40 48	42 N	E	S	W	S	W	foggy	cloudy	20 40	"	46	"	29	.83	29	.77	fair	
21	40 48	40 S	W	S	W	S	W	cloudy	cloudy	21 40	"	48	"	29	.78	29	.76	fair	
22	36 42	34 N	W	N	W	N	W	clear	cloudy	22 31	"	40	"	29	.77	29	.83	fair	
23	38 46	40 N	W	N	W	-W	N	W	clear	23 34	"	55	"	29	.99	30	.03	fair	
24	42 54	42 N	E	N	E	N	E	clear	clear	24 35	"	60	"	30	.13	30	.09	fair	
25	42 47	42 N	E	N	E	N	E	cloudy	clear	25 42	"	56	"	29	.97	29	.98	fair	
26	42 53	42 S	W	S	W	S	W	cloudy	clear	26 43	"	55	"	30	.09	30	.16	fair	
27	42 46	42 S	W	N	E	S	W	clear	clear	27 39	"	50	"	30	.21	30	.23	fair	
28	38 44	40 S	W	N	E	N	E	clear	clear	28 35	"	60	"	30	.27	30	.00	fair	
29	38 42	48 N	E	N	E	S	E	rain	rain	29 46	"	54	"	29	.90	29	.81	rain	
30	40 50	42 N	W	N	W	N	W	clear	clear	30 45	"	55	"	29	.88	29	.97	fair	
Y.	1	42 58	48 S	W	S	W	E	cloudy	clear	1 45	"	56	"	30	.05	30	.01	rain	
2	50 60	52 S	W	S	W	N	E	cloudy	cloudy	2 0	"	58	"	29	.93	29	.90	fair	

MAY.	MAY.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	506052S	WS	WN	E	cloudy	cloudy	re-	250	"	93
2	425044N	E	N	ENE	rain	cloudy	rai-	355	"	29
3	506755S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	458	"	65
4	424240N	E	N	ENE	cloudy	rain	rai-	560	"	53
5	6464742N	E	N	ENE	cloudy	cloudy	rai-	652	"	97
6	425042N	E	N	EN	cloudy	clear	rai-	753	"	93
7	425650N	E	N	ES	W	cloudy	rai-	850	"	29
8	486254S	WN	EN	E	clear	clear	cl-	950	"	15
9	485448S	WN	ES	W	clear	clear	cl-	1049	"	30
10	505650N	EN	EN	E	clear	clear	cl-	1151	"	28
11	527662S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	rai-	1265	"	30
12	567270S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	1366	"	19
13	566858S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	1466	"	30
14	647954S	WS	WN	E	cloudy	clear	cly	1571	"	97
15	608472N	E	S	WS	E	clear	shery	1675	"	29
16	607456N	E	S	E	N	W	cl-	1779	"	77
17	465650N	WN	WN	WN	W	clear	cl-	1855	"	30
18	546656N	WS	WN	N	E	clear	cl-	1953	"	27
19	547456N	E	N	EN	E	cloudy	cl-	2066	"	16
20	588070S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	2169	"	30
21	628062S	WS	WS	NE	clear	clear	cl-	2270	"	29
22	607864S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	2367	"	88
23	567058S	WN	NE	NE	clear	clear	cl-	2455	"	96
24	526256N	E	N	EN	E	clear	cl-	2556	"	30
25	567262N	WS	WN	E	clear	clear	cl-	2658	"	23
26	678066S	WS	WS	E	clear	clear	rai-	2757	"	16
27	605848S	WN	WN	W	rain	showery	clclly	2857	"	30
28	464950N	WN	NE	NE	rain	rain	rai-	2945	"	76
29	505048N	E	NE	NE	clear	cloudy	clclly	3048	"	12
30	507264S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	3160	"	30
31	607866S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-			97

JUNE.	JUNE.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	607866S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cle-	165	"	95
2	606866S	E	S	WS	W	rain	clody	265	"	29
3	658073S	WS	WS	W	cloudy	thuh. str.	cler	374	"	87
4	627056N	E	N	E	N	cloudy	cloudy	458	"	29
5	547267N	E	S	WS	W	clear	clear	557	"	30
6	648074S	WS	WS	W	cloudy	clear	cler	668	"	14
7	657874S	WS	WS	W	foggy	cloudy	cl-	770	"	30
8	738779S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	875	"	89
9	708474S	WS	WN	E	clear	clear	cl-	972	"	00
10	659082N	E	S	WS	W	clear	clear	1072	"	95
11	747664S	WN	WN	W	clear	clear	cl-	1177	"	84
12	617262N	WN	VN	W	cloudy	clear	cl-	1255	"	09
13	546864N	WN	VN	W	cloudy	clear	cloudy	1353	"	27
14	606858N	WN	NE	N	clear	clear	cl-	1459	"	21
15	565260N	WN	NE	N	clear	clear	cl-	1562	"	24
16	586664N	WN	NE	N	clear	clear	cl-	1657	"	25
17	608070S	WS	WS	W	clear	clear	cl-	1765	"	30
18	688475S	E	S	ES	E	clear	cl-	1864	"	15
19	707262S	WN	NE	N	clear	clear	cl-	1975	"	30
20	647262N	E	NE	N	clear	clear	cl-	2072	"	09