

that distinguished surgeon Clot-Bey, an account of which is also given in the same volume of *THE LANCET*, page 823, together with a further promise of the remarks of M. Clot upon his remarkable case. In the case which I have related, it will naturally be asked, why the removal of the tumour was not suggested. To this I can only say, that at the time I saw the patient, such an attempt was out of the question; but I must say, that it is to be deeply lamented that the opportunity had not been embraced by a skilful surgeon during the early stages of the disease, which I am inclined to think would have been attended by the same happy result as in that of the unfortunate Arab, last alluded to in the pages of your journal. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS JEFFREYS, M.D.

Liverpool, June 7, 1836.

ABSENCE OF THE EYES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR: Your correspondent, Mr. Davey, of Portsea, is somewhat in error regarding his case of absence of the eyes as being without a parallel. If he will refer to your journal, vol. 2nd for 1831-2, he will find an account of two cases of the same description which were recorded by me, as having been brought under my notice, and which I also regarded at the time as unique in the history of malformations. I have certainly not met with anything similar in our British standard works on the eye.

I may take the opportunity of stating that one of those children died shortly after the date of my first communication, and that a post-mortem examination discovered that the optic nerves did not form any junction, were very much smaller than usual, and terminated at the entrance of the optic foramina. No other deviation from the normal condition of the brain and nerves was noticed.

Perhaps this statement may render my former communication more complete, and be somewhat interesting at this particular period.

The following quotation, extracted from the *Zeitschrift für Physiologie*, and translated in the *Medical and Physical Journal*, Vol. 1, 1826, proves that these cases, although exceedingly rare, are not unparalleled:—

“M. Tiedemann saw a dog without eyes, the orbits being filled with cellular membrane. On examining the brain, two very soft threads were found in the place of the optic nerves; they arose from the optic thalami, and from the tubercula quadrigemina; they made a turn round the peduncles of the brain, and terminated, without uniting, in front of the pituitary gland. The other nerves of the eye were entirely wanting. Similar cases are recorded by Malacarne, Osiander, Lobstein, and others.” We are further informed that M. Tiedemann concludes, from what he has observed in this and other cases of malformation, “that the nerves do not exist when the organs are not developed; and likewise that the development of the bones is in direct relation to that of the organs they are intended to enclose.” Upon this I may remark that, if such were the case, there would have been no optic nerves, and no orbits in all these cases, which is quite contrary to the facts. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

JOHN WALKER,

Lecturer on the Eye in the Manchester School of Anatomy and Medicine, Marsden-street, and Assistant-Surgeon to the Eye Institution. Manchester, June 14th, 1836.

SUDDEN DEATH FROM

SPASM OF THE HEART.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR: I forward the following case for the favour of insertion in your excellent journal. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

B. H. CLARE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, May 27, 1836.

J. Thompson, æt. 40, a cartman, of regular and steady habits, but always in a filthy state and badly fed, went to his work at 6 o'clock, March 29th, 1836, as usual. He was then attacked with a most excruciating pain in the head, urgent desire to go to stool, and passed a quantity of water, attended with a sensation as if the whole contents of his bowels had been evacuated. Vomiting once only. He was brought home at 10 o'clock, when medical aid was immediately procured. He had had no diarrhœa, nor any previous head affection, until attacked this morning. He was ordered the following medicines. To take an emetic of warm water, followed by

R. *Calomel* gr. ij, *Opii* gr. ½, *Conf. Arom.* q. s. pil. om. hora.

Half-past two o'clock. Purging ceased for the last hour; no vomiting; no cramps have as yet been felt in the limbs; complaints of agonizing pain in the head; surface of the body cold; pulse has ceased at the wrist; tongue and breath cold; hands, feet, and nose, rather blue; eyes sunk in the sockets, surrounded with a dark areola; cornea dull and glassy; deafness; features much altered since the morning; looks much older; has passed no urine for the