

face. Having made the woman support herself upon her knees and elbows, he introduced the instrument directing it with the first finger of the left hand, towards the posterior part of the vagina, so as to have the convexity of the staff backwards, so long, till the concave surface of the cone received the fundus uteri, and now he lifted the uterus forwards by the handle of the instrument, he held in his right hand. The uterus instantly and with some noise jumped into its normal situation, into the upper pelvic aperture. The prolapsus vaginae, the dysury and the pain instantly ceased, and the pregnancy was normally finished. The author also recommends this instrument which he calls *Hysteromochlion* or *Vectis uterinus in obliquitas, prolapsus and inversio uteri*.

Continental Medical Repertory.

METHOD OF REDUCING HERNIA IN RUSSIA.

JOHN CONRAD HILTEBRANDT *on a kind of large dry cupping machine, used by the Russians for reposing incarcerated ruptures.* They take a pot capable of holding about a few pounds of liquid, stop up the hole it has got at the bottom with a cork, rarify the air contained in it by lighted tow, and put it along with the burning tow upon the abdomen, previously rubbed with oil or soap. Thus the abdominal parietes and bowels are, not without pain, drawn into the pot, and the parts contained in the rupture into the abdomen. The pot is removed by drawing the cork and if the effect is not yet complete, the pot is again replaced. This popular remedy, the author like many other physicians, has found very efficacious and harmless. He cured with it incarcerations, where vomiting and singultus had already taken place, where the pulse was quick, hard and small; and where the operation was going to be resorted to, other remedies having been found ineffectual. In an inflammatory state, blood should be drawn first; in lusty, dropsical or pregnant people this method finds no application. The common Russians however make also use of it in childbed, hæmorrhages and spasms, which, according to their theory, they derive from an irregular position of the uterus. *Ibid.*

Observatio de lithocele; by P. F. PFAHLER. A man thirty-one years of age, whom when a boy of seven, two caculi had been cut out of the scrotum, again laboured under the same complaint in the anterior left part of the scrotum, causing violent pain, dysury and impotence. The author cut it open longitudinally, and removed three calculi laying close to the testicle, weighing one ounce and a half. A quantity of

fetid urine flowed from the wound and with it eleven stones as big as lentils were voided; the bag being cleansed with lint, still more stony concretions came forth. The Parietes of the scrotum were much thickened. The wound however did not heal, the urine dripping out continually. The author thus introduced a catheter, through the urethra into the urinary bladder, and left it in six weeks; when the wound was perfectly cured, and the patient recovered, who was still quite well for ten years after. This was a diverticulum vesicae which arises, when its muscular coat relaxes, or is spasmodically contracted, and the urine distends the mucous membrane in one particular place. This diverticle at the time, when the continuation of the peritoneum still formed an open canal into the tunica vaginalis testium propria, had descended with it, and has come in so immediate a contact with the testicle, as to form a hernia inguinalis cystica. The urine stagnating in the diverticle produced calculi; the diverticle seems to have entirely disappeared by suppuration after the operation. *Ibid.*

Experiments and observations upon the State of the Air in the Fever Hospitals of Cork, at a Time when they were crowded with Patients, labouring under Febrile Contagion. By EDMUND DAVY, Esq. Professor of Chemistry, and Secretary to the Cork institution.

FROM numerous experiments made on air, collected in different countries, by the most enlightened enquirers, it seems to be generally admitted, that the chemical constitution of the atmosphere is nearly the same at all seasons of the year, and in all parts of the globe. Nitrogen and oxygen gases form its principal component parts: it also contains a minute portion of carbonic acid gas, and a variable quantity of aqueous vapour. As oxygen gas is essential to animal and vegetable life, and to the processes of combustion, fermentation, &c.; and, as it is constantly entering into new forms, by which its peculiar properties are modified or destroyed, it is considered the most important, and the most active part of the atmosphere. The most general and important change that the oxygenous portion of the air undergoes is its conversion into carbonic acid gas, a substance, which, though obnoxious to animals, is yet made subservient to vegetable life; and this change is invariably connected with the exertion of the vital functions of organic beings, and with the burning of coals, wood, candles, &c. The salubrity