

be traced in lineal descent from them through the pages of Morgagni, Haller, Scarpa, Gimbernat, Hesselbach, Cloquet, Astley Cooper, Liston, Morton, and Burns. To this labour the author has, however, devoted himself with that erudite ardour which is produced by a thorough appreciation of the inner interest of a subject which is on the crust uninviting. His erudition has not, however, blinded his judgment; and, with excellent good sense, he has kept the text clear of any interpolation, preserving here an even course of concise and accurate description of the anatomy of the part, and embodying all that is collateral in copious foot-notes.

In the course of these notes much is restored to the older writers that had been credited to late writers, and there are few of the more important parts of the description which have not been anticipated by some one or other. Thus at p. 17 (note), the author restores to Mauchart the credit of distinctly describing the *fascia lata* and its adherence to the tendon of the external oblique, of which the surgical importance is considerable in respect to effusions, and to direction and shape of escaped herniæ, &c.; and at p. 30, he shows how accurately the fascia intervening between the peritoneum and muscular walls of the abdomen has been described by early writers: so venerable an authority as Oribasius correctly detailing its arrangement above where it adheres to its muscles, and below where it leaves the muscles, *καὶ φαίνεται λοιπὸν ἐκεῖνο μόνον γυμνόν*. Several of the older writers (including Vidius and Cheselden) carefully described this fascia; and Astley Cooper *re-described* it, dividing it into two parts, under the title of transversalis and iliac fascia. Mr. Callender prefers the simpler, though old-fashioned, title of subperitoneal fascia, and preserves that title, and with it embalms the fame of the elder anatomists.

The anatomical views of Mr. Callender are not without features of novelty, derived from experiment and research. The diagram Fig. 3, Plate IV., may be referred to with advantage, as affording an exact explanation of the manner and extent to which intestine may be protruded in a hernia without elongation of the mesenteric ligament, and the anatomical relations by which more extensive protrusion is favoured on the right side than the left. The measurements illustrated in Plate I., showing the varying height of the pubic spine, and the influence of this variation on the capacity of the femoro-abdominal aperture, are new and important. In the second plate, the author honestly shows the true anatomy of the fascia lata if fairly dissected, without attempting to fulfil laboured descriptions. As a consequence, the saphenous opening with its falciform edge, often so beautifully defined with the aid of a sharp scalpel, disappears. Mr. Callender truly says, that there is no saphenous opening as it has been described in books, and as commonly treated by the scalpel of routine anatomists to correspond to the classical descriptions. Herein he is borne out by the most accomplished anatomists; and, indeed, anyone may on the dead body satisfy himself of the truth of that statement, or if he have not the time and patience to make the dissection, doubtless Mr. Callender will be happy to show him the dissection from which this drawing was taken, which so well represents the truth. The splendid series of preparations illustrative of the anatomy of this part, which were made by M. Deville when lecturing at the Grosvenor-place School,—preparations unequalled for their accuracy and beauty, and of which a great part were presented to the College of Surgeons of England,—have, we believe, perished through some defect in the fluid in which they were immersed.

Some collateral surgical observations are scattered through the notes; and from a table of the operations for strangulated hernia at St. Bartholomew's Hospital from 1852 to 1856, it appears that the author considers the question of opening the sac or not as secondary to that of careful application of the taxis and *early recourse to the operation*. This view is strongly supported by the general experience of hospital surgeons, and finds confirmation from the following summary of the St. Bartholomew's tables:—

Recovered	{	Sac opened, ... 14	{	Taxis, ... 4 ...	Average strangulation, 21 hrs.
				No taxis, 10 ...	
	{	Sac not opened, 25	{	Taxis, ... 6 ...	" " " 30 "
				No taxis, 19 ...	
Died ...	{	Sac opened, ... 21	{	Taxis in all ...	Average strangulation, 72 hrs.
				Taxis, ... 8 ...	
	{	Sac not opened, 12	{	No taxis, 4 ...	" " " 120 "

We doubt whether the seat of stricture in femoral hernia is ever at the oft-quoted and classical site of Gimbernat's ligament, and apparently, although his utterance is somewhat doubtful, Mr. Callender is also of this opinion.

Medical Psychology; comprising a brief Exposition of the leading Phenomena of the Mental States, and of the Nervous Apparatus through which they are manifested, with a View to the better Understanding and Elucidation of the Mental Phenomena or Symptoms of Disease. By ROBERT DUNN, F.R.C.S.E. pp. 87. London: Churchill and Sons.

THE greater portion of these pages have already appeared in a contemporary journal. They are few in number, it is true; but they are of sterling quality. Every page is suggestive, and displays the close and vigorous thinking of a well-disciplined and philosophic mind. If the profession of medicine in this country would like to know where is to be found an intellect of no common force, and a modesty not too frequently met with, let them look upon the author of "Medical Psychology." We wish we could always be represented by such a man as Robert Dunn.

The Intellectual Observer: a Review of Natural History, Microscopical Research, and Recreative Science. February, 1863.

THE present number is the first of the third volume, and contains several papers of interest: one "On English Beetles and their Relations in the Tropics;" another "On Objects illustrative of Roman Professions and Trades, discovered in the Excavations at Wroxeter;" and a third "On Protean Animalcules." All are illustrated by plain and coloured engravings.

MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND PORTRAITS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—One of the signs of progress of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society was the announcement at the annual meeting that a collection of photographs of disease had been commenced. I think this advance might be still improved by commencing a collection of engravings of medical men. Everybody has some that might be presented. In time a very valuable collection would be in the possession of the Society. There have been several such collections formed by private individuals, but unfortunately after a time they get out of the public sight. Should the Fellows ever have courage to build rooms worthy of the Society, in which the profession might occasionally meet, a fine collection of professional portraits (which some industrious secretary might illustrate with autographs, &c.) would form an interesting part of such *réunions*.

During the Exhibition of last year, one of the most interesting sights was a collection of portraits of eminent men, so illustrated, exhibited in the rooms of the Law Society in Chancery-lane.

Perhaps you would allow a line more on a subject not quite foreign to the one I have ventured to write to you upon. The alterations at Chelsea Hospital have disclosed the tomb of Cheselden, who was surgeon to the hospital. It is rapidly going to decay; and, if not looked to, in a few years it will be impossible to make out the inscription. Surely the authorities of the hospital would, if asked, put the tomb into repair; if not, I think there would be no difficulty in collecting a few pounds among the profession for so laudable a purpose. Next to Cheselden lies Sir Everard Home, also surgeon to the hospital; over his remains there is simply a flat stone with his name on it. *Sic transit gloria mundi*.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Savile-row, March, 1863.

CHAS. HAWKINS, F.R.C.S.

FRENCH MEDICAL STUDENTS.—Several medical students are now leaving Paris, in order to attend upon the wounded patriots of Poland.