

12th. Rested better; has very little pain in the orbit or temple; dressings covered with a sanious discharge; bowels have been freely acted upon by the medicine.

14th. Suppuration is now completely established; rests well at night; has scarcely any pain. From this time forward no unfavourable symptoms occurred; granulations sprang up from the bottom of the orbit, which adhered to the inner surface of the lids; and on the 27th of March, being anxious to return to her family, she left the infirmary, there being still a trifling discharge from between the lids, the free edges of which were not quite in contact. I heard from her about two months ago; the discharge from the orbit still continued, but in other respects she was tolerably well.

The tumour, on examination, presented externally a lobulated appearance, and was covered by a thin membrane, which appeared to be a prolongation of the conjunctiva; the eye was found at its posterior part in a healthy state, and was connected with it by a very narrow pedicle which arose from the anterior layer of the cornea, from which it had raised the conjunctiva. On dividing the tumour, its section presented a smooth surface, which yielded on pressure a very small quantity of a dark-coloured fluid; in consistence it resembled a fleshy uterine polypus, was rather more dense towards the circumference than the centre, and something like a fibrous arrangement of its particles could be observed near its pedicle; its colour was dark-brown, with yellow patches scattered through it; at present, after having been upwards of two years in spirits, it has a resemblance in some parts to dark-coloured rosewood. As I wished to preserve the parts, I did not separate the tumour from the eye, consequently I could not say whether any vessels entered it from the cornea; the conjunctiva appeared thickened, where it was reflected over the tumour. I could not perceive the slightest trace of vessels in its substance, not even in the pedicle by which it was attached; injection might perhaps have shown some, but there was no vessel sufficiently large for the insertion of a pipe.

CASE 2.—*Tumour on the Cheek.*

Mr. R., a healthy man, æt. 64, applied to me in the month of June, 1832, on account of a tumour on his right cheek, immediately under the malar bone. He states that it commenced about two years ago, when it was not larger than a pea, and continued gradually to increase in size until the present time.

The tumour is now about the size of a hen's egg, is perfectly moveable, and free

from pain; the parotid and submaxillary glands are unaffected. Mr. R.'s object in applying to me being the removal of the tumour, I proceeded to remove it in the usual manner; the wound healed in the course of a fortnight, and there has been no appearance of the disease in any other part of the body up to the present period.

On examining the tumour, which was imbedded in the fat of the cheek nearer the mucous membrane than the skin, it was found to be without a distinct capsule, unless the cellular membrane, which adhered to it, could be called one; its surface was irregular, and on making a section it resembled very much the tumour in Case I, except that the colour was lighter, approaching to a grey, and its consistence more uniform.

The above are cases of what would be denominated by the French writers "*Melanose en masse*." I could not in either of them observe the slightest appearance of the softening which Laennec mentions as taking place in such tumours, unless the diminished density in the centre of the first be considered as the commencement of that process.

It is generally supposed that melanosis is always of a malignant character; but if I may be allowed to form an opinion from the observation of the cases which I have just related, I would say that melanotic matter may be deposited in a tumour of the most innocent nature, without altering its character. In this I am borne out by the opinion of Dr. Armstrong, who does not consider that it is always connected with a peculiar affection of the solids.

PREPARATION OF EXTRACTS.

The different Modes adopted. The best Mode. Injury resulting from the Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the present is the period for the preparation of several EXTRACTS, and as on their *proper* preparation the efficacy of many hundred remedial applications will be dependent for the ensuing year, I am desirous of calling the attention of medical men and operative chemists to the following remarks, forming part of a lecture delivered by me at the Westminster Dispensary. I beg to remain, Sir, yours in well wishing,

JOHN EPPS, M.D.

89, Great Russell-Street,
June 22, 1833.

"I have now, Gentlemen, to draw your attention to a subject of considerable importance, particularly at the present moment. It is the *Preparation of Extracts*.

"Extractive matter, as it is called, is very liable to chemical changes under the combined influences of *heat and air*.

"Some extracts are made from *decoctions*, the extractive matter of which, during the decoction itself, is consequently exposed to a considerable *heat*, and to a considerable, and, very often, unnecessary extent, to the *air*. Hence one source of injury to the active medicinal principle. But, in addition, during the *inspissation* of the liquor obtained by the decoction, a further exposure to the heat and the air takes place, and thus the injury done to the active principle is augmented.

"Other extracts are obtained by *expressing the juice* of the *recent* plant by means of a press—the watery part of the juice being driven off by the agency of a *water-bath*, the juice being but partially exposed to the air. Thus the *extractum conii* and the *extractum hyoscyami* are prepared by many chemists, and this mode is one which is very superior to the one before mentioned; the heat from the water-bath never rising above a certain point of temperature. The extracts thus prepared are often very efficacious.

"The most efficient method, however, of preparing extracts is by *spontaneous evaporation* of the juice: the evaporating agent being the *sun's rays*, or rather the *heat thence arising*. This plan was first proposed, I believe, by an intelligent practitioner, Mr. Houlton. Mr. Smith, of Brown-Street, Nutford-Place, prepares his *extractum taraxaci* in this way, and it is as different from and superior to the *extractum taraxaci* as generally sold, as two things of the same nature can possibly be. The *extractum conii* and the *extractum hyoscyami*, as prepared in this way, are very efficacious.

"This method is adopted by very few chemists. Custom and prejudice are almost omnipotent; and it is only by medical practitioners demanding that the extracts shall be thus prepared that extracts in their most active state will be obtained.

"Another source of injury is now introduced and should be exposed. Herbalist gardeners are adopting the practice of *cultivating* medicinal plants. To you, Gentlemen, who know the effects of cultivation upon plants, the statement of the fact is quite enough to induce you to condemn the practice. To illustrate the evil arising from this practice, let me refer you to one plant, whose medicinal virtues are almost destroyed by cultivation, the lettuce (*lac-*

tuca). Let any one compare the *wild* lettuce (*lactuca virosa*) with the *cultivated* lettuce (*lactuca sativa*), and he will be satisfied that nature produces the medicinal agent best when left to follow her own courses. Notwithstanding, the London College of Physicians, the sapient legislators, who found out some years since, that to constitute a Fellow *by right*, it was necessary that the individual should believe in the thirty-nine articles of the church of England, and who, also, are enlightened by the light to be derived from the study of "all the collateral branches of philosophy," have ordered that the "*lactuca sativa*" the less efficient, should be used. At least, this is the species or rather the variety, introduced into their pharmacopœia. They take no notice of the *active* plant. Chemists have, however, supplied the deficiency; and in the shops *two* extracts of lettuce are to be met with, the *extractum lactuce* and the *extractum lactuce virosæ*.

"These few remarks on extracts will, I trust, be impressed upon your mind, and I have no doubt you will exert your influence in the benevolent attempt to obtain remedial agents in that state in which they will produce the most beneficial effects in the treatment of disease."

General and Particular History of Anomalies in the Organization of Man and Brutes, comprising Researches into their Characters, Classification, and Physiological and Pathological Influence; Laws and Causes of Monstrosities; Vices of Conformation, and their Varieties. By M. ISIDORE GEOFFROY SAINT-HILAIRE. Vol. I., J. B. Baillière, 1832. 8vo., pp. 746; with an Atlas.

THE present volume, interesting as the work of a young man who has been thought worthy to succeed the great Cuvier at the *Jardin des Plantes*, acquires still greater interest from the application which has been made within the last few years of general anatomy to the study of the formation of beings, both organic and inorganic. Thanks to the labours of a few scientific men, we have long since repudiated the idea that certain ill-formed homunculi are the handy work of the devil, who takes especial pleasure in distorting the face of nature. Equally freed, too, are we now from the dogmas