

of France. He states, that up to the present time, zoologists had only recognised one species, but the animal now in the Jardin des Plantes differed so essentially from the species found at the Cape, that there could be no doubt of there being two species; therefore M. G. St. Hilaire has given the name of *Giraffe of Sennaar* to the animal now in France. It was stated that some young Egyptians had been visiting the camelopard, and that the animal, on seeing the visitors, gave most unequivocal demonstrations of joy, and loaded them with carresses. The animal has a very great affection for its Arabian keeper, which may probably explain the effect produced on it by the sight of a turban.

M. Moregez read some details respecting the natural history of this animal; he conceived that the camelopard was unknown to the Greeks and Egyptians, since Aristotle, who travelled in Greece, makes no mention of it in his works. The camelopard was not known to the Romans before the year 708 from the building of the city, at which time Julius Cæsar exhibited one at Rome. After that time several other Emperors exhibited these animals at the triumphant festivals, in honour of the defeat of the African princes.

Among the writers of the middle ages, Albert the Great is the first who notices this animal in his Treatise *De Animalibus*. Whilst Florence was under the rule of the Medicis, one of this illustrious family conducted, in the year 1486, a camelopard to that city, which is said to have lived a long time. That which is now in Paris is the first living one ever brought to that city.

Some authors boast of the docility of this animal, whilst others regard it as ungovernable; this difference of opinion, says M. G. St. Hilaire, results from their treatment. One of the male sex was conducted, six years ago, to Constantinople; that animal was very savage. The keeper, who conducted it to the capital of the Ottoman empire, is the same who conducted the present one to the *Jardin des Plantes*.

Human Ovum.

M. Velpeau has been lately engaged in investigating the human ovum, the results of which are,—

1st. That the membrana decidua exists in the uterus of the female in the form of a closed sac, until the arrival of the ovum.

2d. That it is always filled with a limpid, rosy liquid, of a thread-like and gelatinous texture.

3d. That it is reflected in the uterus and around the ovum, in the same manner as serous membranes.

4th. That the epichorion, distended by the germ's growth, ultimately comes in contact with the decidua uteri.

5th. That the two layers are not united.

6th. That it is not organised.

7th. That its use is to surround the placenta and to fix the ovum in the uterus.

8th. That it is found, but with different modifications, in most vertebrated animals.

Sitting of the 21st.

M. Gay Lussac read a paper on the decomposition of water by electricity, from which it resulted that 600 plates, each a foot square, when immersed in distilled water, caused the escape of very few bubbles of gas, which shows that they only exercise a very feeble action on this liquid, whilst on adding a small quantity of salts to it the water was quickly decomposed, and bubbles of oxygen and hydrogen were given off without interruption.

AMPUTATION AT THE CARPO-METACARPAL JOINT.

By HENRY SULLY, M D., Wiveliscombe.

IN the 205th Number of THE LANCET, Mr. Evans Riadore, of Tavistock Square, details a case of amputation at the carpo-metacarpal articulation, wherein he says, that M. Lisfranc considers that the operation performed by M. Gensoul, senior surgeon of the Hotel Dieu, of Lyons, to have been the first ever performed on the living human subject; and, in the 204th Number of the same publication, Lisfranc states, that the advantage of this mode of operating, is the long wrist with which the motion of flexion and extension may be performed, and especially the power of preserving the thumb.

Baron Larrey and M. Yvan, denied that this was the first operation of the kind; and Mr. Evans Riadore details the case of Major Heyland's son, whose hand was shattered by the bursting of a horse pistol, in which case he saved the fore-finger and thumb. In corroboration of the statements of Baron Larrey, M. Yvan, and Mr. Evans Riadore, that this case of carpo-metacarpal amputation, was not the first of the kind ever performed on the living subject, I beg leave to add another, which occurred upwards of twenty years ago; the man is now living, and the operation was performed by myself, assisted by Mr. Wills, who was then house surgeon to the Infirmary at Wiveliscombe, and now a surgeon of great practice at Crewkerne. The man was a labourer in

the employ of Gregory Webber, Esq., of Bathelto Court, about thirty years of age, who, by the bursting of a fowling piece, shattered his left hand in a dreadful manner. The man was brought to the Infirmary, and upon examination the metacarpal bones of the middle, ring, and little fingers, were found in so shattered a state, that several of their pieces were carried away by the explosion, as were also the os lunare and magnum; the thumb and forefinger much lacerated in their soft parts, the ulnar and interosseal arteries torn asunder, and profusely bleeding. No time was to be lost, the tourniquet was applied, and the amputation performed, by making an incision about three inches above the carpus, the ulna being shattered about two inches above its articulation; the incision was carried close by the radius, down to the carpus. The os unciforme, orbiculare, cuneiforme, and metacarpal bones of the three fractured fingers were thus separated, and a corresponding incision made on the back of the arm. About two inches and a half of the ulna was then sawed off, the arteries secured, and the operation finished without difficulty, by bringing the integuments into coaptation. Other cases have occurred, in my practice, where the carpo-metacarpal articulations have been exposed without mischief.

A lady had a fungus hæmatodes on the periosteum of the metacarpal bone of her little finger. The incision was begun a little above the articulation at the carpus, and carried down to the separation, both outside and inside the hand; the bone was then turned out of its articulation, and the integuments brought to cover the parts. I have not seen this lady since the operation, but her surgeon states her to be going on well.

A case of exostosis of the metacarpal bone of the ring-finger, to a considerable size, occurred at Bridgewater lately, in which I was concerned with Mr. Toogood, an eminent surgeon of that place. The incision here was begun, as in the former case, at the carpus, the middle and little fingers separated from the diseased ring-finger, whose metacarpal bone was turned out of its articulation at the carpus, the parts brought into coaptation, and the wound healed in a very short period.

These cases show, that in whatsoever light M. Lisfranc may view the exposure of the carpo-metacarpal articulations, that attempts to save portions of the hand may be made with great probability of success, and also that M. Gensoul was not the first person who performed this operation on the living human subject.

Wiveliscombe, Sept. 1, 1827.

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, September 22, 1827.

THE present state, and the prosperity, of the medical school of St. Bartholomew's, engross almost entirely the conversation of the profession, both in London and in the country, and very naturally attract a considerable share of more general attention. From the advertisement we published last week, our readers must see that the Hospital Theatre opens on the usual day with the old company, and that the *dramatis personæ* are distributed as before. The list of performers will appear very scanty, when compared to that of some other schools, and more especially when contrasted with the long array of professors in a foreign university. Deficiency of numbers may, however, be compensated by vigour of talent and extraordinary energy, by superior industry and larger stores of knowledge. Let us see then what provision of ability and learning is made in this instance, for filling up the encyclopædia of medical science:—Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Surgery, Medicine, Materia Medica, and Chemistry, are to be taught by Messrs. ABERNETHY, Stanley! Hue!! and James Wheeler!!! Our readers may smile in derision and disbelieve, but the fact is so; we refer the incredulous to the advertisement in the last LANCET, which was accurately copied from the *Morning Chronicle*. Respecting medicine, materia medica, and chemistry, we shall not say another word; it is enough to have mentioned the names of HUE and WHEELER. Anatomy, being the foundation of all medical science, is justly regarded as the most important department of a medical school, and we accordingly find four persons allotted to this single branch:—Messrs. ABERNETHY, STANLEY, SKEY, and WORMALD. But how are they to act together in the business of instruc-