In No. 7 only was there evidence of renal disease, and there it was slight. In Nos. 3 and 5 there was no examination, and we cannot, therefore, be certain of the condition of the kidneys. In the patient who died after the rectovesical operation, the kidneys were healthy, with the exception of a few small cysts in one. They were so also in two children who died after lithotomy performed by other surgeons, and whom I examined. In both these cases death was caused by pelvic suppuration and peritonitis, and in both the deep incisions were very free. The statement, therefore, which has been recently made, that the success or failure of the operation depends entirely upon the absence or presence of renal disease, and not upon the manner in which the operation is performed, must not be too hastily accepted. The general condition of the patient and the state of the kidneys are most important; but the manner of performing the operation is important also.

In four of the cases (Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6) the operation was performed under most unfavourable circumstances—indeed only as a *dernier ressort*, so that they scarcely ought to be taken into account in considering the general result of the operation in ordinary cases. However, I felt it my duty to give the patients the chance, however remote, which the operation afforded—a duty from which I have not shrunk in any instance; and I think it better to class all the cases together, especially as the greater number of those operated on were in good health and in excellent condition for the operation.

(To be continued.)

ON A CASE OF MONSTROSITY.

By THOMAS BOULTON, Esq., L.S.A.

THE patient who gave birth to this strange *lusus nature* is a young married woman (Mrs. D—), aged about twenty-

four, and of good average health and figure. Previously to the pregnancy which resulted in this birth she had had one miscarriage, unattended by any unusual symptoms; and her general state during her recent gestation was good and satisfactory. As she approached her full time, however, she became of a very large size, and the impression was general that she would have twins. After one or two false alarms, owing to a partial escape of the liquor amnii, her labour fairly set in on March 8th, 1864. On my assistant arriving at her house he found the pains good and an arm presenting. Being an experienced accoucheur, he proceeded to turn, which he effected without much difficulty. Shortly afterwards, however, he became rather perplexed by the number of feet and hands he had to contend with; but by using gentle traction, and being aided by strong expulsive pains, the formation came away *en masse*, the placenta soon following; and the patient has since gone on remarkably well.

I shall now describe the appearance of this strange formation. It is that of two female children united to each other

through the entire length of the abdomen and chest. The neck is single, and the head enormously large; in fact, it is two heads joined together in front, but, strange to say, only one face, and that by no means a bad one. The occipital part of the head in both is perfectly well formed, with two ears to each; and the back, shoulders, and lower extremities are quite natural on each side. It is of nearly full size, and weighs about eight pounds. No sign of vitality showed itself after birth; but as there were no appearances of decomposition, it is evident it had lived up to within a very short period before. There was only one umbilical cord, which was of large size, and inserted very low down in the abdomen between the two children, as will be seen by the sketch. The union by the chest and abdomen is perfectly solid, and of the entire thickness of the bodies; not, as I have understood is the case with the Siamese twins, by mere fleshy elongations. The body is rather wide, being almost of the width of that of two fetuses.

One peculiarity of the mother is, that she has remarkably dark and wavy hair, with somewhat of the Ethiopic stamp about it. This is strongly shown on the head of this monstrosity, which has a considerable covering of the same kind of hair.

I have not made any post-mortem examination in this case, as I wish to preserve the formation entire. I am therefore unable to give you an anatomical description of the internal parts, but I may just add that the genital organs and anus on each side are perfectly normal in their appearance.

The question of any supposed cause for the production of these irregularities in the formative process naturally suggests itself to the mind when these occurrences happen. In this case nothing unusual occurred to the mother during her pregnancy, except that on one occasion, when about four months gone, she was much alarmed by a cat suddenly and unexpectedly jumping upon her; and when she was informed, some time after delivery, that there was something unusual in the birth, she exclaimed she was sure it was a cat she was confined with. The influence of the imagination on the foetus in utero is still a *vexata questio*, and one on which I am disinclined to express any positive opinion; but in the majority of cases where malformations occur there is some unusual impression existing on the mind of the parent that things will not be quite right at the birth.

Northleach, Gloucestershire, 1864.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Metallurgy: the Art of Extracting Metals from their Ores, and adapting them to various purposes of Manufacture. Iron and Steel. By JOHN PERCY, M.D., F.R.S. 8vo, pp. 934. London: John Murray.

It has been said, and with justice often repeated, that the medical education is perhaps the only one which deserves the name; and that it is only by following the course of study laid down for the medical profession that any comprehensive knowledge of letters and science is systematically obtained. The student who follows that course, previously indoctrinated with the education of a literate gentleman, is in turn informed of the truths of chemistry, physics, anatomy, physiology, and natural science. Regarded only as a means of systematic mental training, this study is of great educational value; but it has the further importance of affording a knowledge of material facts and applied laws bearing upon all that touches the physical welfare and material progress of man. Sometimes the student, fascinated by the interest of some one of the sciences accessory to medicine, devotes to this his leisure-time, then his whole energies, and so quits the ranks of active medical workers to join the chemists, physiologists, or zoologists, and to illustrate the rolls of pure science. These are often the men of whom we have most reason to be proud; and it is a boast of medicine to have spared such men from her working army. Not to look into the past, we may mention now such men as Owen, Huxley, Sharpey, Carpenter, Busk, Falconer, and the distinguished author of the present book. Dr. Percy, long since led by devotion to chemical and especially to metallurgical science to quit an important position at Birmingham, has become our first authority on metallurgy. The present volume, long announced, has been anxiously looked for. Iron and Steel