of notice, that, although the superfluous growth is in some respects favourable to the supposition that such organs do exist, in other respects it does not favour that view. The beard, for example, existed *at birth*, and at *eight years old was two inches long*—thus anticipating the period of puberty instead of accompanying or following it, and proceeding altogether in advance, and *apparently independently*, of special organic influence. The beard was, and still is, confined to certain parts of the face, and is absent on others, where, in accordance with special influence, in a male, it should have been present, as on the upper lip and under the lower. On the whole of the anterior part of the trunk above the umbilicus, where, in accordance with the same influence, it should be even especially abundant, it is wholly or very nearly wholly absent. These circumstances conspire to weaken the supposition that there are concealed male structures, and to strengthen the probability that the superfluity of hair belongs to the accidental class.

Accidental Growths of Hair.—Accidental growths of hair are nearly, if not entirely, confined to the skin, the mucous membranes, and the interior of cysts. The physiology of the latter two is not without its extreme, if not insuperable, difficulties, and indeed many of the productions found in these situations having been ascertained not to be hair, but only resemblances to it, has involved the subject in extreme uncertainty, as well as difficulty. Those cases in which hair is said to have grown on the tongue, the pharynx, and the interior of the intestinal canal, where no hair follicles exist, may also be regarded as instances difficult, of not impossible, of solution.

As in the present instance there is not anything to indicate that the hirsute peculiarity has for its origin concealed masculine structure, except the situations which it occupies, it may be regarded as analogous to other examples of similar growth, which appear to be purely accidental. We may therefore regard it as very doubtful whether special primary organic structure is necessary to the production of hirsute growths, even of masculine character.

Several cases considered to be accidental have been attributed to frights prior to the birth of the child—modes of accounting for them which have been participated in by the mother. Other examples of hirsute growths not congenital, have been attributed to disease affecting the system generally; others to local disease.

ACCIDENTAL HIRSUTE GROWTHS NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF SEX.

I had occasion to see, some years since, a child which had at birth a patch of hair on the shoulder, which when the child was about four years of age was nearly as large as the palm of a small hand; the hair was fawn colour, and in thickness and length closely resembled the hair of that animal; indeed, the patch looked very much like a piece of fawn-skin in its natural state. This was attributed by the mother to her having been startled by a fawn which unexpectedly skipped by her. She states that at the moment she involuntarily raised her hand, and touched the part of her shoulder corresponding to that on which the patch of hair described grew.

M. M. R. Villermé speaks of a child which had several patches of hair on its person. He says:—"J'ai vu, à Poitiers en 1808, un malheureux enfant de six à huit ans, qui avait un grand nombre de ces marques disposées en plaques brunes saillantes, de grandeur diverse, éparées sur tout le corps à l'exception des pieds et des mains; et qui étaient toutes couvertes de poils plus courts et moins gros que ceux du sanglier, mais qui avaient de l'analogie avec eux. Ces poils et les marques sur lesquelles ils naissaient occupaient peut-être un cinquième de la surface du corps."—*Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales*, vol. xliii., Art. Poil, p. 509.

Dr. F. Bird mentioned to me the case quoted by Dr. Cummin, in his "Lectures on Forensic Medicine." It was published first at Venice, in 1815, and was much discussed in the German journals soon after. In the course of legal proceedings it transpired, that "a lady of twenty-seven, much admired for her beauty, had, on her person, from the breast to the knees, a profusion of black, thick, and bristly hair."

A case is recorded by Mr. South, of a male child, "John Sparrow, born (Sept. 6, 1818) at Longford, in Suffolk, . . . who at the time of his birth was completely covered with hair, and the back of his head particularly with black hair, about the length usual to children of four or five months."

Hirsute Growth; characteristic of sex, but apparently accidental.
—A very remarkable case is recorded in which a female had not

only hair all over her body, but also a very profuse and thick beard, and indeed on every part of her face; the description states that it *was* so, and is accompanied by an engraving representing it as being so. It is to be inferred, however, that the limbs were not in the same state, as the hands and forearms are represented as being free. "In the year 1655 was publicly shown, for money, a woman named Augustina-Barbara, the daughter of Balthazar Ursler, then in her twenty-second year. Her whole body, and even her face, was covered with curled hair, of a yellow colour, and very soft, like wool; she had, besides, a thick beard that reached to her girdle, and from her ears hung long tufts of yellowish hair. She had been married above a year, but then had no issue. Her husband's name was Vaubeck; he is said to have married her merely to make a show of her, for which purpose he travelled into various countries, and among others visited England." This account of her is published amongst the "Portraits, Memoirs, and Characters of Remarkable Persons, from the reign of Edward the Third to the Revolution," by Mr. James Caulfield.* He proceeds to say, "If I conjecture right, she is that very hairy girl mentioned by Bartoline, and appears to me not to differ from her whom Borelli describes by the name of Barba; who, he believed, improved, if not procured that hairiness by art. But whether she is the same that the famous Vitruvius saw at Rome and Milan I dare not affirm, for he hath nowhere mentioned this countrywoman of his that I know of."

(To be continued.)

DISPLACEMENT OF BOTH HUMERI.

By HAMERTON GREENWOOD, Esq., Bradford.

THREE cases of simultaneous dislocation of both humeri have lately appeared in THE LANCET, but in neither case is it stated whether a previous luxation had occurred. The accompanying case came under my notice a short time since.

Dec. 9th, 1851.—Ephraim R—, aged twenty-seven, about the middle height, and very muscular, had been drinking with some companions: as they were going home, and in the vicinity of the hospital, he slipped over some orange-peel, fell on his back upon the pavement, and, on his companions picking him up, wished to be taken to the infirmary immediately, as both arms were put out. When he was brought into the accident room, I found both humeri dislocated into the axilla; he being very faint, I at once reduced them, without much trouble, by placing the knee in the axilla, the patient being seated on a bench, one hand on the shoulder, to fix the scapula, the other depressing the elbow over the knee; the left arm I had previously reduced once some six months previously, that being the first time of its occurrence, but the right had been luxated ten or eleven times.

Bradford Infirmary, Yorkshire, April, 1852.

A Mirror

OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE HOSPITALS OF LONDON.

Nulla est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quam plurimas et morborum, et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum proprias, collectas habere et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI. *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. 14. Proœmium.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

*Fissure of the Soft and Hard Palates, and of the Alveolar Arch;
Operation upon the Velum and Osseous Parts.*

(Under the care of Mr. GAY.)

Those who are conversant with the principal operations of surgery know full well that there are very few which present so many difficulties, as regards manipulation, as those which are performed in the cavity of the mouth, or within the vagina and uterus. Both regions require patience, temper, and dexterity; but as operations upon the cavity of the mouth almost preclude the use of chloroform, and since fits of coughing are almost sure to occur, patience and perseverance are more necessary for the oral than the uterine

* London Medical Gazette, vol. xix. 1836-7, p. 263.

† Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, vol. xii. p. 76.

* Vol. ii. p. 168.