The patient was not aware of having introduced anything into the nose, but stated that she first observed some obstruction about eighteen months since.

Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose and throat followed, but yielded readily to the antiphlogistic treatment.

In Rankin's Abstract several cases of nasal calculus are recorded, but I am not aware of any that have been published in this country.

Yours respectfully, HENRY COOK.

Sag Harbor, Long Island, N. Y., May 12, 1847.

CASE OF PERITONEAL PREGNANCY IN A CAT.

[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Observation, May 17, 1847, by Wm. Henry Thayer, M.D.—Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In the presence of several members of this Society and other gentlemen, assembled at the dissecting room of the Boylston Medical School, on the 14th of this month, a cat was killed by the inhalation of sulphuric ether. She was secured by placing her neck in a wooden stock, with her legs tied. On account of her struggles, she was held by a forcible grasp of the hand around the lumbar region, compressing the abdomen.

The body was opened eleven minutes after death; and there were found floating in the peritoneal cavity three *foetuses* with their membranes and placenta, all having lost their liquor amnii, and one having escaped entirely from the membranes. Two were lying unattached upon the intestines; the third was adherent by its placenta to the lower border of the omentum (which was here more vascular than elsewhere), firmly enough to support its own weight. The uterus had, at the superior part, just at the departure of the left horn from the centre, a circular opening three fourths of an inch in diameter, through which projected unruptured membranes enclosing another *foetus*. On close examination, this opening was found to be a perpendicular division of the muscular layer of the uterus, through which protruded a fold of the mucous membrane, forming a lip—and this had very much the appearance of a natural opening.

The left horn was strongly contracted throughout, as evinced by deep lines on its exterior surface. The right horn had twice the circumference of the left, was smooth, and evidently contained another ovum. Upon laying open the left horn by an incision from its left extremity to the opening through which projected the ovum, it was found to be lined with a thick, grayish substance—evidently the *caduca*—covered with small masses of coagulum; and the whole cavity communicated freely with the false opening. The peritoneum had a natural appearance, and nothing abnormal was seen in the abdomen.

From these appearances, it is inferred that rupture of the uterus took place at some previous time, and one ovum escaped and formed an attachment to the omentum, through which it has been supported; that the other two ova found in the cavity of the abdomen had *recently* escaped

by the same aperture—perhaps in consequence of the firm grasp of the loins during the inhalation of ether.

One of the gentlemen present, who had owned the cat from birth, said that she had never kittened.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 26, 1847.

Progress of the Sciences.—A continued press of matter has prevented us from sooner speaking of the admirable report of Dr. Paige, one of the examiners at the Patent Office, to be found in Document No. 52, of the last Congress. He is the strong man of that institution when the sciences are brought forward, and he deserves, on the score of his distinguished attainments in electro-magnetism, a much higher position than has yet been awarded him at Washington. He holds the chair of chemistry, to be sure, in the Columbian College; but the Smithsonian Institute should secure the brilliant powers of a man who is so eminently calculated to give eclat to whatever department he might be assigned.

In the document emanating from the Patent Office, it devolved especially on Dr. Paige to speak of the business that fell particularly under his own eye, in regard to the progress of the sciences since the last annual report. Under the head of Chemistry, therefore, his observations commence, and close in such sensible generalizations, as to increase our confidence in his discretion and good judgment as a public officer. He remarks, at the beginning, that, "It needs not my testimony to prove that Chemistry is at present more rapidly advancing than any other department of human knowledge." He alludes to gun cotton, the ether inhalation, caoutchouc, candle-making, soaps, dyeing hair and wool, the preservation of meats, oleic and stearic acids, sugar from cane, bleaching paper pulp, impregnation of timber, daguerreotype pictures, furnaces for heating buildings, and the principles of construction in stoves,—but these must be passed over, with this brief allusion. A part of the observations, however, on the *alleviation of pain during surgical operations*, are reserved for a future occasion.

Professional Controversy.—Ever since the appearance of Dr. Green's work on the treatment of certain diseases of the throat, there has been an unusual state of excitement in New York, the echo and tremor of which, have been not very slightly felt in this vicinity. Articles have appeared, *pro* and *con*, in this Journal, by those who seemed to be conversant with the subject under discussion, and a leading effort of the writers appeared to be to establish the date of certain facts in relation to the origin of a novel kind of practice. With no other object for ourselves than the attainment of the truth, and the accommodation of those who manifested a strong desire to discuss the matter, as much room has been given them for the publication of their papers, as was consistent with the relative importance of the subject and the rights and claims of other correspondents. Individually, we have taken but little interest in the controversy, from a supposition that it