on the continent, where local treatment is more exclusively relied on in the greater number of the diseases of the eye.

Besides continuing my descriptions, I hope to be able in another letter to send you an account of the experiments being made by Prof. Gräfe and others with the new remedy, the "Calabar bean," recently discovered at Edinburgh to be capable of acting on the eye in a contrary sense to belladonna. This long-sought-for acquisition seems to have been at last attained, and promises, I think, to be a most valuable addition to the means at our command for the relief of some disturbances of vision, for which glasses have seemed hitherto to be the only effectual resource. The quantity of the remedy to be obtained has been so small that its effects have been only partially observed; but its power of producing great contraction of the pupil is most clearly established. HENRY W. WILLIAMS.

Berlin, Prussia, 25 June, 1863.

OSSIFICATION OF THE SPLEEN.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

HAVING seen, in a recent number of the JOURNAL, a very interesting case of ossific deposit in the spleen, communicated by one of our army surgeons, with a request to hear from others on the same subject, I am induced to send the following.

In making a post-mortem examination, in a case of sudden death from apoplexy, the spleen was found to consist entirely of an osseous shell, with internal bony partitions. Its size was increased and figure changed. If you imagine a goose-egg with a small piece of spleen attached at one end, you will have a tolerably good idea of the specimen now before me.

The subject of this was a male, more than eighty years of age; he had been many years a British soldier, and served a long time in India. Several years previous to his death, I operated on him for strangulated hernia; he had a rapid recovery, and always seemed otherwise in good health.

Andral relates a case similar to the above.—(*Anat. Pathol.*, tom. ii., p. 433.) Others have seen the peritoneal covering of the spleen partially ossified.

JOHN BRANCH, M.D.

St. Albans, Vt., July 18, 1863.

CYCLOPEAN MONSTROSITY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. C., in her first pregnancy, was taken, as she supposed, with labor pains on Monday, Sept. 30, 1850. Water began to discharge itself in the morning, soon after she was taken, and continued until the time of delivery, the Saturday following, about noon. She was

then delivered of a dead foetus, intended for a male child (weight five pounds). She was near the end of the eighth month of her gestation. The child's head was seventeen inches in circumference, and eleven inches from ear to ear. When punctured, it discharged about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint of water. The organs of generation were imperfect, only the glans penis being formed. The limbs, body, under-jaw and mouth were perfect. There was but one eye, and that at the natural place of junction of the ossa nasi and os frontis; it was large and open. Immediately above it, was an imperfect resemblance of a nose, with the nasal bones directly over the eye at the lower edge of the os frontis, pointing directly upwards as far as the nasal bones extended. The cartilage and soft part attached thereto were directed downwards, and measured $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length. At the end and in the centre of it, was a slight perforation, into which a probe could not be passed more than one sixteenth of an inch.

Both parents were large, well formed and healthy.

Littleton, N. H., June 29, 1863.

WM. BURNS, M.D.

NON-FORMATION OF CICATRIX IN RE-VACCINATION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ON account of the prevalence of variola, I had occasion, during the past winter, to re-vaccinate a number of patients. In nine cases the vesicle ran through the regular stages; but in one only did I observe the characteristic circular scar. In referring to the medical works in my possession, I found it had escaped the attention of their respective authors; or, if aware of the fact, they considered it unimportant. I therefore mentioned the subject to an old practitioner, and was informed it was nothing new to him, he having observed the same years ago, and that not one in fifty would have the second "pock-mark."

Although this may be deemed an unimportant communication, still, when considered physiologically, it cannot, I am sure, be wholly devoid of interest.

AMOS SAWYER.

Hillsboro', Ill., April 25th, 1863.

ON THE IMMUNITY ENJOYED BY THE STOMACH FROM BEING DIGESTED BY ITS OWN SECRETION DURING LIFE.

By FREDERICK W. PAVY, M.D.

THE author referred to the communication by John Hunter "On the Digestion of the Stomach after Death," published in the "Philosophical Transactions" for 1772. In this communication Hunter notices that in occasional instances, especially in persons who have died of sudden and violent deaths, the stomach is found on inspection to have undergone solution, to the extent of perforation, from