These higher grades should be extremely common if the chain was not broken by death and sterility. How else can the fact be accounted for?

Virey, a distinguished French naturalist, states, that the connections between Europeans and the women of New Holland are very seldom prolific! This looks very like some difference in species.

There are also some curious facts connected with the brain and intellectual faculties, which bear strongly on the question of distinct species.

It is well settled by anatomists and physiologists, that the brain of the Negro compared with the Caucasian, is smaller by a full tenth, that its nerves are larger, the head differently shaped, the facial angle less, and the intellectual powers comparatively defective. In the white race the fact is notorious that the child derives its intellect much more from the mother than the father. It is an old remark *that a stupid mother never produces an intelligent family of children*. Look the world over, and ask who are the mothers of the eminent men, and it will be found that there are few exceptions to the rule, that the mothers are above, and most of them far above, mediocrity; but this law is reversed when the white man is crossed upon the negress, or Indian woman—in the offspring the brain is enlarged, the facial angle increased, and the intellect improved. Every observer in the South will tell you that the Mulattoes have more intelligence than the blacks, and we know that the leading men amongst the Indians are the mixed class.

The Mulattoes do not make good slaves, and are always leaders in insurrections.

Buffon and other naturalists assert that *in hybrids the head resembles the father*. In the mule it resembles the ass—in the bardeau it is long, lean, with short ears like the horse. This law holds in other hybrids, and bears strongly on the question before us.

Lawrence, than whom there is no better authority, says, “the intellectual and moral character of the Europeans is deteriorated by the mixture of black or red blood; while on the other hand an infusion of white blood tends in an equal degree to improve and ennoble the qualities of the dark varieties.”

These remarks, though hastily drawn up, are the result of many years' observation; and I am satisfied that full investigation will show that they are substantially true. Every intelligent reader will see the many important bearings of this subject, and I hope it will fall into the hands of some one who has more ability and more leisure to bestow on it. If I can start the ball my object is accomplished.—*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*.

A CURIOSITY IN OBSTETRIC PHYSIOLOGY.

By John H. Griscom, M.D., one of the Physicians of the New York Hospital.

IN the month of October, 1841, I was consulted by Mrs. R. M. H., for a hæmorrhagic discharge from the vagina, she being pregnant, as she believed, about seven months. This discharge had existed about five

months, mostly every day, but sometimes ceasing for a while; but latterly it had become more steady. She described it as apparently not pure blood, but a mixture of blood and water, or very thin blood, of a bright color, and never coagulated. She had felt the motions of the fœtus with considerable distinctness, until within a month, since when they had diminished in strength and frequency, and for the last few days had totally ceased. Her general health (except some muscular pains, and some difficulty in moving about actively), and her appetite, were excellent. She was bled on the 16th, the blood being unusually black. The operation enlivened her much, and she thought she felt some movement of the fœtus, but too indistinct to be certain of it. An examination of the abdomen, in the sitting posture, developed a general enlargement which was quite soft, with none of the uniform and peculiar firmness of the healthy impregnated uterus of that period. Midway between the umbilicus and pubis, the fingers could be pressed back nearly to the prominence of the sacrum. When this was done, there were distinct traces of a tumor, occupying the right iliac fossa, of an elongated form, and very tender to the touch, and a smaller tumor at the left side of the median line. The upper edges of both were distinctly perceived by the hand when pressed gently between them. There was no requirement for any interference until the 24th, when the husband came to me and said he believed she was in labor. I found her sitting up, and having what seemed very much like labor pains, every few minutes. These ceased in a few hours, but recurred slightly the following day. On the 26th she went to bed, complaining of severe pain in the abdomen generally, greatly increased at short intervals, but not subsiding entirely at the intermissions.

An examination, per vaginam, was now made, and a firm round tumor was perceived, giving the distinct impression of a fœtal head felt through the parietes of the uterus. It was moveable, as is ordinary in pregnancy, and motion was communicable through it to the abdomen.

The abdomen now became very tender to the touch, especially over the right tumor; the pulse rose to one hundred and thirty, and the tongue became coated; and though both tongue and skin remained moist, the tenderness of the abdomen soon became so excessive, that peritonitis appeared severely developed. The hæmorrhage from the vagina now disappeared, and did not recur. Active antiphlogistic treatment was adopted; and each successive effort produced a subsidence of the symptoms, but for a few minutes only. The flame would suddenly light up again, after a short period of ease to the patient, and of hope to the attendants, and burn with increased intensity, until, at the end of the week, she sank calmly in death.

When confined to the bed, Mrs. H. first informed me that she had *always* doubted her being pregnant, though she had had many of the usual symptoms, such as enlargement of the mammae, with exudation of their milk, motions of fœtus, &c.; but the latter were often so obscure as to lead her to hesitate between them and borborygmi.

Autopsia in company with Drs. Boyd, Swett, and S. T. Smith. The

interior abdomen presented the usual appearances of inflammation of the peritoneum and intestines, with great vascular injection of the omentum, and loss of its substance; and among the folds of the bowels and through the cellular tissue, there was a large quantity of reddish purulent matter. In the right iliac fossa was a large tumor, of a blue color, and towards the left was the uterus, about the size of that organ in the second month of pregnancy. Extensive recent adhesions existed between the bowels and the tumor, and in separating them, several ulcerated holes were discovered in the membrane covering the tumor.

The tumor was found to dip down into the pelvic cavity, and was subsequently observed to occupy its entire extent. The contents of the pelvis were removed and laid upon a platter for closer inspection. The uterus was first opened longitudinally; it was very healthy looking, except in size, and was entirely void of anything like a fœtus. It contained a small quantity of mucus, and its inner surface was copiously dotted with red points. The left Fallopian tube and ovary were sound, as was also the right tube. The latter was traversed with some difficulty by means of bristles, up to the fimbriated extremities, which terminated against the tumor, the latter being in fact the right ovarium, developed to the size of a large cocoa nut. This was opened longitudinally, and immediately there was brought to view a perfectly-formed fœtus, of about six months, placenta and all complete. The child appeared to have been dead a considerable time; it was very soft, and the placenta was partially converted into purulent-looking matter, similar to that found in the peritoneal cavity. It had escaped through the openings before noticed. The ovarium, as now seen, consisted of a large sac, of a mingled muscular and inmembranous texture, about as thick as a silver dollar, and was irregularly divided into three or four large cells by membranous partitions. The fœtal head presented towards the vagina.—*N. Y. Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences.*

FATAL CASE OF PERFORATION OF THE DUODENUM.

By Joshua W. Ash, M.D., of Delaware County, Pa.

T. R., æt. 50 years, of strongly-marked bilious temperament, energetically active in the prosecution of an extensive business, regular and temperate in his habits, and possessing robust, general health, was attacked suddenly, at 11 o'clock, A. M., June 15th, 1843, while sitting in a meeting for worship, with pain in the epigastric abdominal region of the most intense severity. He had complained for several hours previously of a heavy pain in the right hypochondrium, hard to bear, but not in his estimation sufficiently important to detain him at home. The same had occurred at several different times during the preceding week, which, after lasting a longer or shorter time, had gone off, leaving little or no inconvenience behind. Six weeks previously he had a chill, followed by fever, which confined him but for a day or two. His appetite was good, sleep natural; digestion, assimilation and other functions healthy; intesti-