make the journey to Kingston with her second daughter. These two cases might be called a coincidence. But soon after my patient had returned home, there appeared in my office her brother's wife with two female children, one eleven months and the other three years old, and each of these had an imperforate hymen. This was too much to be called a coincidence. There was evidently no connection of diet, or at least of a family peculiarity, and the more curious from the fact of a transmission through the father to the next generation.

Many of the observers have noticed peculiarities of formation or malformed one sort or other running in families. There is now a man living in this town who has six fingers (i.e., five fingers and a thumb) on each hand, and six toes on each foot. He has a brother with the same redundancy, and he is the father of four children, all of whom have precisely the same redundancy. And there is also a woman living in this town who had a hare-lip, and on five of her seven children I have operated for hare-lip. The other two were unaffected. None of the five had everted palate. Parallel cases need not be repeated, but, I doubt not, have been observed by most medical men.

Kingston, Canada, April 15th, 1870.

SCARLET FEVER SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY AMMONIA AND MILK.

BY R. SWEETING, M.D., M.R.C.S.

During the present epidemic of scarlet fever much has been written about its distinctive characteristics in comparison with other specific diseases, and sometimes remedies are recommended. I read with great satisfaction the graphic account given by Sir William Jenner, in The Lancet of the 10th January last, of the signs that distinguish this from other eruptive diseases. But, however serviceable a proper and correct diagnosis may be, I think a successful treatment is more so; for although many remedies have been recommended, and all have proved more or less successful in the hands of those who have used them, yet the greatest weight and importance should be given to that form of treatment which gives the greatest amount of success. Many who have written on the subject have given directions and rules of treatment, but, unfortunately, have not given positive results of perfect cures either in the acute or desquamative stage, nor the sequelae of the disease. When I read the admirable lecture referred to, I much regretted that the lecturer stopped short after giving the duration of the eruption, without telling us whether his patients died after the seventh, eighth, fourteenth, or sixteenth day from the first appearance of the disease.

The object of this communication is to give to the profession the results of a number of cases treated by ammonia and milk. During the last four months I have had under my care upwards of sixty cases, the ages varying from eight months to forty years; the disease also varying from the mildest to the most malignant form. Out of these were under three years, and in not one case did dropsy occur. My mode of treatment is as follows:-On my first visit I give a powder of five grains of calomel and castor oil, I give a dose of castor oil every other night. It is astonishing to see how clogged and offensive the fauces become; it would seem as if the whole system was in a state of putrefaction. By expelling the morbid matter from the bowels at intervals of forty-eight hours a better tone is given to the circulation, and the milk then acts like a charm.

Should the cervical glands become swollen, a warm linseed poultice is used constantly until the swelling disappears.

During the whole period of the disease I allow the hands and face only to be wiped with the end of a towel dipped in warm water.

I hold that it is the duty of each individual member of the profession to communicate the results of his practice in any branch of his calling, especially when such results tend to alleviate the ills of life, or in any way conduce to its preservation. We are often deterred from thus recording our experience by the fear of seeming egotistical; so that our literature too often merges into magnificent writing, or into that sort of learned profundity that would dissect an oyster, but never humble itself to the results of different modes of treatment. Our studies are of use only as they make us more capable of relieving human suffering. Homines medicinal non eloquentiâ curantur.

Stratford, March, 1870.

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

Nulla antem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum descriptionum historiae, tum aliorum, tum propiorum collectas habere, et inter se comparare. —MAGNAN, De Sed. et Caus. Morb., lib. iv. Proemium

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

MALIGNANT DISEASE OF THE RECTUM; COLOTOMY.

(Under the care of Mr. Bryant.)

On Tuesday, May 31st, Mr. Bryant performed colotomy for the purpose of giving relief in a case of stricture and ulceration of the rectum from malignant disease. The patient was a well-nourished and healthy-looking woman, fifty-seven years of age. About six months before admission the symptoms commenced with severe diarrhoea. When