ductus arteriosus. The pupillary membrane was visible, but was only formed of one layer. Its anterior and posterior surfaces were lined by the membranes of the aqueous humour.

The membrana pupillaris materially assists in the secretion of the aqueous humour; its vessels are more numerous, in the fœtus of the lion, than in the human subject. The vessels, which pass to the centre of the pupillary membrane, do not arise from the ciliary arteries, in as regular a manner as in the human eye; they anastomose freely with each other and the vessels of the iris, and form a true vascular net-work. It may be seen, and without any difficulty, that the tissue of the iris does not pass into that of the pupillary membrane. In the centre, the author has seen the vessels fold back to the internal edge of the iris, from which it may be concluded, that these vessels form the small vascular circle of that membrane. The pupillary membrane disappears when the animals open their eyes, which takes place from the 12th to the 18th day. The author thinks, from these facts, that the fetal circulation continues longer in animals than in man. M. Cuvier denies the existence of the valve of Eustachius in the lion; but the author describes a part which he believes analogous to it.

A WOMAN WITH THREE BREASTS. BY DR.
H. L. DREGER.*

This woman, at her first accouchement, had, beside the two natural mammæ, which were well filled with milk, a third smaller one, but quite similar in form, and situated under the left breast; it extended from the 6th to the 8th rib. There was no areola, but a nipple, from which, on slight pressure, a considerable quantity of milk escaped. The milk flowed spontaneously, as long as the child sucked at the upper breast. The nipple was a kind of *nævus*, presenting in its centre an opening, with which several lactiferous canals communicated.

MIDWIFERY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In compliance with the request of the Gentlemen attending my class, I inclose you a copy of an Introductory Lecture I delivered on Midwifery, a few days ago, at the Central Infirmary and Metropolitan Lying-in Institution, Greville Street, near

* Hygea; juill. Sept. 1827.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Another reason that induces me to send this communication is, that it contains a concise, though perfect, history of the rise, progress, improvement, importance, and utility of this branch of medicine, and also the universal sanction it has received from mankind in the past ages, and present most enlightened times. From the historical sketch afforded, it is evident that the diseases incident to females, in every period of life,—before conception, during pregnancy, at, or during the process of childbearing, and after delivery,—were attended to by many of the most eminent physicians and surgeons in ancient and modern times, and were not despised or neglected, as some few persons of antiquated and obscured ideas would endeavour to lead the public to imagine.

Should you think this production worthy of a place in your highly useful and very valuable Journal, I shall feel obliged by its insertion when convenience will permit.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
M. RYAN, M.D.,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

68, Hatton Garden,
May 21, 1828.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE TO THE THEORY
AND PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY.

BY DR. RYAN.

Delivered at the Central Infirmary and Dispensary, Greville Street, Hatton Garden.

GENTLEMEN,—In commencing a course of lectures on any art or science, it is usual to make a few preliminary observations, on the utility and importance of the subject, and also on the arrangement, or classification, of the matter intended to be adopted in the subsequent discourses. In compliance with this ancient usage of medical teachers, I proceed to make some remarks on the subject of which I mean to treat, namely, on that branch of the healing art denominated Midwifery, and on the qualifications and duties requisite for the accoucheur, as well as for all medical practitioners.

It is now very generally admitted, that every class of medical practitioners must be intimately acquainted with all the branches of the art and science of medicine, namely, the theory and practice of medicine, surgery, midwifery, and pharmacy; and that he who does not acquire this universally-established course of education, will be sadly embarrassed in his future practice—will find himself continually disappointed in