was as follows:—Fourteen years ago he became afflicted with syphilis, and mercury was apparently administered for the cure of it, judging, at least, from the fact that his mouth was observed several enlargements on the shin bones, of a soft, affected soon afterwards, for which, also, medicines were pre-
exhibited by Mr. Canton at a previous meeting, was then read. It consisted of a cluster of enlarged glands, probably lumbar, with some vessels adjacent. The weight of the organ was twenty-one ounces; its length eight inches, and its breadth three inches and a half. It might be supposed from the yellow-white matter, of the consistence of curd, is infiltrated throughout the medullary substance, as well as through a part of the cortical, reaching to within about a half or three-quarters of an inch of the outer surface. The preparation presents a form of tubercular kidney by no means commonly met with. It would be desirable to know what was the state of the other organs of the abdomen and of the chest, in relation to their indications of tuberculosis.

Dr. DRUTITT read a paper
ON THE INDICATIONS FOR ELIMINATIVE REMEDIES IN FUNCTIONAL DISORDERS OF THE WOMB

He began by observing, that in a certain number of persons of all ages and of either sex, there occurs at intervals an accumulation of a morbid something in the blood, which, after accompanying the urine, passed down in size and form, and in an infected state, as if a medicine had been taken. The chief symptoms, or those which led him to place a morbid condition in the urine, were impurity, peculiar colour and smell from the healthy standard. As a remarkable illustration of the eliminative power of the womb, he related a case in which a woman pregnant at the seventh month, and likewise affected with ascites, passed a large quantity of clear fluid after the manner of urine.

Dr. DENDY had observed the condition of the urine as men- strual flow was to purify the blood, but only that if the blood were impure, it might in some cases be purified by this means, and become perveted, so as to produce diarrheaa, painful menstruation, abortion, and uterine cataract; and that functional derangement of the womb might, in such cases, be prevented by drainage of the blood beforehand the morbid matter had been eliminated through the womb. The author did not pretend to say, that the true use of the menstrual flow to be eliminated might be either an antecedent or a consequent condition upon the uterine affection. Most frequently he (Dr. Druitt) believed in the reaction of the urine, and infirmity of appetite, which otherwise might be eliminated through the womb. In proof of which he brought forward several cases of disorder of health, of eczema, boils, varicose veins, and piles, in which local symptoms were mitigated after the time of menstruation, and in which the fluid exuded differed materially in colour and smell from the healthy standard. As a remarkable illustration of the eliminative power of the womb, he related a case in which he had been brought happily to the end of the eighth month; it was difficult to determine which of these powerful remedies had effectuated the good.

Mr. I. BAKER BROWN would have been glad if there had been some chemical account of the urine in these cases, as he did not know in what way we were to distinguish the pale urine characteristics of the peculiar condition mentioned by Dr. Druitt, from that consequent upon hysteria, or a check of the perspiration. He thought we did not lay stress enough on the importance of urine, and of the connection of the portal system in removing the cause of abortion. He mentioned the case of a lady who had miscarried on several occasions. Before marriage she had been subjected to frequent attacks of rheumatism, the ovaries were slightly inflamed, with ill-scented vaginal discharges, and the condition of the urine was of a tertium quid in the system. Two accoucheurs in extensive midwifery practice had placed great reliance on the use of iodide of potassium and purgatives, and had been much satisfied with the results. He could not help asking for the urine to be eliminated might be either an antecedent or a consequent condition upon the uterine affection. Most frequently he (Dr. Druitt) believed in the reaction of the urine, and infirmity of appetite, which otherwise might be eliminated through the womb. In proof of which he brought forward several cases of disorder of health, of eczema, boils, varicose veins, and piles, in which local symptoms were mitigated after the time of menstruation, and in which the fluid exuded differed materially in colour and smell from the healthy standard. As a remarkable illustration of the eliminative power of the womb, he related a case in which he had been brought happily to the end of the eighth month; it was difficult to determine which of these powerful remedies had effectuated the good.

Mr. MILTON did not regard colchicum necessarily as an eliminative; and mentioned that Sir E. Home had found it relieved gout before it had produced any eliminative effect. He thought that Dr. Druitt had not shown that any morbid matter had been eliminated in his cases. The pale urine mentioned might be the result of fatigue, mental emotion, or other causes, and was easily removable; there being no more blood disease in such cases than in those in which the urine was found loaded with lithic acid, as the result of cold.

Mr. DENDY had observed the condition of the urine as a consequence of the action of the portal system in removing the cause of abortion. He had placed the urine under the influence of iodide of potassium and purgatives, and had been much satisfied with the results. He could not help asking for the urine to be eliminated might be either an antecedent or a consequent condition upon the uterine affection. Most frequently he (Dr. Druitt) believed in the reaction of the urine, and infirmity of appetite, which otherwise might be eliminated through the womb. In proof of which he brought forward several cases of disorder of health, of eczema, boils, varicose veins, and piles, in which local symptoms were mitigated after the time of menstruation, and in which the fluid exuded differed materially in colour and smell from the healthy standard. As a remarkable illustration of the eliminative power of the womb, he related a case in which he had been brought happily to the end of the eighth month; it was difficult to determine which of these powerful remedies had effectuated the good.

Mr. Surr admitted that the water always that remedies acted by carrying out a detectable substance; they frequently did good by forming, as it were, with the poisonous material a tertium quid in the system.
for on other grounds than by assuming that the fluid which was
poured out of the vagina before the total rupture of the mem-
branes was the eliminated peritoneal fluid. He had often met
with cases in which this preliminary discharge had been so
abundant that the patient had presumed that the membranes
were ruptured, whilst, on examination, the membranes were
then distended; and he presumed that in such cases, and
possibly, also, in that of the author, the fluid had passed
through a small opening in the upper part of the membranous
bag. He also found, in other instances, some difficulty in
clearly connecting the results with the treatment adopted by
the author on the principle of elimination.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd.

The Report of the Treasurer was read, which showed that
the Society was in a most prosperous condition, and having
a balance in hand of about £150.

TARTAR EMETIC OINTMENT IN SUBCUTANEOUS NÆVUS.

Mr. I. B. Brown had lately employed an ointment, con-
sisting of a drachm of tartar emetic to half an ounce of sper-
matozo ointment in cases of cutaneous naevus. A small piece
of the ointment was rubbed into the part affected every night
until pastes appeared. When the inflammation resulting from
this had subsided, the application was to be repeated. It
appeared to act in the same manner as vaccination in cases of
mercury, and was successful in all the cases in which he had
used it; but in one instance in which the naevus was situated on the
top of the head, and was as large as a small walnut, the patient
had, in mistake, used too large a quantity of the ointment; the
consequence had been the collection of a large quantity of
purulent matter under the scalp, which eventually sloughed
entirely away, leaving the periconium sound.

Mr. Dendy inquired why this mode of proceeding was to be
preferred to the use of the lead, nitric acid, or other caustics.

Mr. Brown replied that the plan was less dangerous than the
use of caustics, and appeared less simple to mothers, who had
an objection to any kind of operation.

Mr. Harding considered that when the naevus was situated
in the callosum of the ears, the objectionalities of lead were
suggested the plan of passing backwards and forwards a needle
armed with silk through the base of the tumour, and then
allowing it to remain. The skin was not destroyed by this
process.

Mr. Weedon Cooke had seen a case of naevus at the tip of
the nose in which various modes of treatment had been employed
without benefit. Mr. Brown’s plan might, perhaps, succeed.

Mr. Headland remarked that the pastes which resulted from
the use of the tartar emetic ointment left marks similar to those
of small-pox.

Mr. Dendy mentioned a case of a large naevus situated in the
lower jaw, which was cured by injecting it with strong liquor
plumbi, and the application of constant pressure for three
months.

FIBRINOUS CONCRETION.

Dr. Richardson exhibited some fibrinous concretions taken
from the longitudinal sinus, and the heart, taken from a child
who had died from convulsions and syncope, supervening on
influenza.

Mr. De Méric read a paper on INFANTILE SYPHILIS.

The author dwelt, in his introduction, on the importance, to
the practitioner, of the study of venereal diseases, and passed a
well-merited eulogy on the labours of M. Ricord, whose name
is so closely connected with these affections. He believed
that by Mr. de Méric, the mercury should be combined with a
tonic.

Mr. Weeton Cooke had at one time thought he had been able
to treat congenital syphilis with tonics, &c., without mer-
cury; but the plan had failed. He had found most benefit
from the endermic method, combined with the internal use of
mercury with the compound chalk-powder and opium. He
related a case in which the syphilitic poison appeared to be
worn out in the father; the second child having lived, the first
died.

Mr. Headland remarked, that it had been suggested that
syphilis could be communicated through the agency of the
lymph, but he had not been able to detect any proof of
this. He considered that a husband suffering from secondary
syphilis does not infect his wife; and that the latter, though the
mother of a supposed diseased child, was healthy, but the
father had undergone no treatment.

Mr. De Méric had lately employed an ointment, consisting
of a drachm of tartar emetic to half an ounce of sper-
matozo ointment. A small piece of the ointment was rubbed
into the part affected every night, round the limbs of the child; he gave also small doses of mercury
with chalk and Dover’s powder, and good food. To the
mother, he recommended tonics and a vigorous course of
mercury, repeated, if necessary, three or four times.

The Society was in a most prosperous condition, and having
a balance in hand of about £150. Mr. de Méric fully entered, in the third place, into the difficult
question of infection from nurse to suckling and vice versa,
and maintained that primary symptoms must be present for
the communication of the disease. As regards the fourth part
of the inquiry—viz., the treatment, the author spoke in very
high terms of Sir B. Brodie’s plan, which, with a slight modi-
fication he had so successfully carried out.
the dubitative form. He possessed no positive data on the subject, and had only mentioned that the following question lightly be pronounced syphilitic; and he (Mr. de Meric) thought likewise very highly of such tonics as the syrup of iodide of mercury treated by Dr. Willshire, whose experience in the treatment of children was very large, that mercury may sometimes considerably chase the skin. He agreed with the speaker, that the greatest care must be taken in diagnosing hereditary syphilis, and that further investigations were required to test the truth of the doctrines set forth by Dubois and others respecting the syphilitic origin of the pemphigus of infants, the abcesses of the thymus gland, the morbid changes of the liver and lungs. He would fully agree with Mr. Dendy, that a child should not find his views so thoroughly corroborated.

The President, on leaving the chair, took an opportunity of thanking the fellows for the manner in which they had supported him during his time. It was gratifying to him that he had had no dissension with a single member of the Society. (Loud cheers.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH.

The anniversary meeting was held at the Albion Tavern on the 8th inst., in the President in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing session:-


SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH.

MR. SNOW, President, in the Chair.

After the usual votes of thanks had been given to the retiring officers of the Society, the newly-elected President, Dr. Snow, addressed the meeting as follows:-

Whether I look back on the great men who have held this chair before me, or look around on the number of eminent members of the profession who at present belong to the Society, I am equally impressed with the importance of the honour you have conferred on a man to which nothing can be added by the office of president of a medical body. On reflection, I am led to the conclusion that the office has been given to me, not so much for any general merits I possess, as for my long attendance at the Society and devotion to its interests; but what I feel to be the most important is, that I feel it is one of the greatest distinctions which can be conferred on a medical man. Fortune is peculiarly fickle in our profession. Honours and emoluments are not always awarded in proportion to merit; and, therefore, the distinction conferred on a medical man by members of his own calling are extremely valuable. Many a medical man tells hard and waits long before he meets with much reward from the public, but it is a consolation and an encouragement to him to know that he has been able to give the nation the best that he was able to give. I beg, therefore, that you will applaud the creation of a science as medicine if he had felt himself able to give the same clear descriptions and classifications of diseases and their effects that he has been able to do. As Humphrey Davy was a medical man, and left medicine to become one of the greatest chemists who ever lived; but I have no doubt that he did more service to medicine, by his discoveries in chemistry, than he could possibly have done by remaining within the ranks of the profession. There is a right time for the advancement of every science. Medicine could not approach to perfection till the collateral sciences were first advanced; but the time has now arrived when the profession of medicine can, and should, approach to perfection in the same rapid manner that chemistry has advanced in the last seventy or eighty years. I have the confidence of some fellows of this Society; men of hope, energy, and perseverance, who consider that we are on the eve of discoveries in medicine; and I think it not improper to live to see their anticipations realized. I do not wish to say that we shall find a cure for every disease, but that we shall have a rational knowledge of it, and know what to expect from treatment. The parts of medical science have already arrived at a certain amount of certainty; for instance, surgeons are all agreed respecting the proper treatment of fractures and dislocations; they know what to expect from treatment, and if they are disappointed, they can generally explain the reason why. The result of this is, that the whole tribe of ignorant bone-setters have disappeared, or, at all events, they practise only amongst the most medullated of the population; and when the nature and causes of the disease are known, it will not be impossible that intelligent persons should submit to be treated with globules of sugar of milk, having the name of medicine attached to them, and nothing else. If the profession should then not have quite the position in society that we could wish, it will, at all events, not be placed beneath the other professions; and we shall not see the civil engineer and the chemist placed over the medical man, in matters which are exclusively in his own profession. I beg all members of the profession to support this Society as much as we can.

Mr. Hutchinson exhibited a specimen of indurated prepuce (i) mistaken for chancre, which had been removed from a man, thirty years of age, who had been ten years married; the basis of the case brought forward by Mr. Cooke had much analogy with it. The case was under treatment by Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Mr. Partridge in the Chair.

PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1855.

Mr. Partridge in the Chair.

Mr. Hutchinson exhibited a specimen of indurated prepuce (? mistaken for chancre, which had been removed from a man, thirty years of age, who had been ten years married; the basis of the case brought forward by Mr. Cooke had much analogy with it. The case was under treatment by Mr. Lawrence and Mr.