the centre, and, at times, the stricture is on one side. The middle of a long stricture is sometimes larger in diameter than at the ends, and frequently the urethra assumes a tortuous direction; or a membrane, denominated a bar, will extend across the canal. All these remarks on the variety of strictures,—which require different modes of treatment,—by bougies, catheters, natron exsiccatum, argenti nitras, kali purum, and unguentum hydrargyri fortis, are introduced, in order to show the enormous amount of irritation which would be produced in an already excited state of the urinary organs, where extraneous deposits are of too stimulating a nature to require any addition of inflammatory excitement to remove the cause. With a view of mitigating the existing symptoms by the removal of all unnatural secretions, and relaxing spasmodically contracted canals and passages, the soothing effects of heat and moisture are employed, as being well-known agents for the purpose. Nothing but an easy and perfectly controllable method of administering them is wanted, a desideratum which I have found attained by means of the instrument referred to, a diagram of which may in some measure serve to point out its construction and mode of application.

A, is a vessel made sufficiently strong, and of material impervious to air in a condensed state; B, a syringe for compressing atmospheric air into the said vessel; C, is a stopcock which screws into the opening at D, and, in conjunction with the valve, E, serves to secure the injection, after being poured into the vessel through the opening, and to regulate the stream by diminishing or increasing the power from one drachm to the weight of several pounds; G, is one of the vessels for containing compressed air, or any of the gases. When the injector is to be used, unscrew the stopcock, C, and fill the vessel quite full of the liquid to be injected, then return the stopcock into the opening tolerably tight. The air-syringe, B, must now be screwed into E, which, being worked to the extent of twenty or thirty strokes, renders it ready for use. On introducing the ivory pipe in the usual way, the injection can be administered with any required degree of force, and in any position of the body, without the aid of a second person, and without the introduction of the slightest particle of atmospheric air.

Carlisle street, Soho, 1849.

A REPORT OF TWO CASES OF OSSIFICATION OF THE PLACENTA.

By JAMES ROBERTSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.,
SURGEON TO THE HITCHIN INFIRMARY.

OTTO says, that "even the dead child, with its membranes, if it have been retained for a long time in the mother's womb," is sometimes ossified; but I suppose this, or even the ossification of a part, as the placenta, is rare, for I am not able to find any case recorded of late. Even Rokitsansky omits to mention ossification amongst his "Abnormalities of the Ovum," and appears not to have seen ossification of the placenta; for he says, "Foreign observers have given instances of osseous deposits in, or ossification of, the placenta; they are gibbous, nodulated, or cordate formations, which are probably developed in the placental tissue after it has been obliterated by inflammation, or in the fibrinous coagula caused by hæmorrhage."

As the instances are few, I have noted the two following, which have occurred in my practice:—

Mrs. —, the mother of several children, supposed herself pregnant; but when about six months gone, her abdomen diminished in size, and she knew no more about it till about nine months afterwards, when suddenly, early one morning, she thought herself in labour, and quickly gave birth to a withered, leather-like foetus and placenta, of average size for a full-grown child, but which was entirely composed of an

aggregation of spiculæ of bone. There was scarcely any discharge. The foetus was probably six months old, and had been retained in the womb nine months after its death.

Mrs. — supposed herself about five months gone with child, when the abdomen began to lessen in size. She consulted me about two months after this, when a tumour, having all the appearance, on examination, of the pregnant womb, was evident. Three months after she suddenly aborted a withered, leather-like foetus, and a placenta which was bloodless, gristly, and had numerous spiculæ and plates of bone scattered over both free and attached surfaces. There was considerable flooding. The foetus was probably about five months old, and had been retained in the womb five months after its death.

Hitchin, Herts, August, 1849.

ON THE NEGLECTED AND UNHEALTHY CONDITION OF A PART OF PADDINGTON.

INEFFICIENCY OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, AND INGRATITUDE TOWARDS THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

By JOHN GRAY, Esq., Surgeon, London.

OBSERVING that an inquest was lately held on the body of a man who died of cholera in the Wharf-road, Paddington, and as you invariably expose the neglect of sanitary measures by the accredited authorities, I trust you will afford a niche in your paper for this letter, whereby the public may be made aware of the neglected and disgraceful state in which that locality is left by the parish authorities, and the utter inefficiency of the so-called board of health. I have frequent occasion to visit the neighbourhood where the attacked person died, and never could it be believed, except by actual inspection, that such a mass of filth could be allowed to accumulate and rot amidst a densely crowded population. Why, Sir, there is a dust-heap of garbage, of the most disgusting description, that has been lying for years, consisting of many thousand tons, with herds of swine luxuriating on this decomposed offal; the smell is so abominable, that the highly respectable inhabitants of Eastbourne-terrace, several hundreds of yards distant from it, and opposite, are obliged to keep their windows shut when the wind blows from that quarter. Besides, a vast amount of dung is allowed to be brought there by the Grand Junction Canal Company; and when it is turned over to be rotted for conveyance, the stench is so abominable that every one in the neighbourhood is instantly forced to close every aperture to shut out the horrid effluvia. If the ancient Egyptians were visited with plagues, surely the inhabitants of Dudley-grove have as much reason to complain as they had, for of all the places that ever I saw, this certainly is the place for the plague of flies, and such flies as are nowhere to be seen but there—they are not the ordinary flies, but great long fellows, with snouts like elephants, and stings in their tails as long as stocking needles. If I said they swarmed in myriads I should be infinitely behind the mark; they are myriads and tens of myriads; and to preserve a piece of meat beyond a day is out of the question, for the bluebottle flies keep up a perpetual buzz, and hum around your ears as if a whole congregation of Welch ranters were catechising. Another and very serious matter for reflection is that of the Paddington churchyard, which is so filled with dead that it has actually risen upwards of four feet above the footpath with the remnants of mortality; but so long as the clergy, who have fees from the living and the dead, are allowed to bury there, so long will the danger to the living be permitted. Frequently as I pass through the churchyard when graves are being dug, the effluvia is disgustingly perceptible. What, I ask, is the value of the sanitary board, when they allow such abominations? What is the use of Mr. Edwin Chadwick's statistics to society, by detailing the number of deaths, if no stop is put to the cause of them? Where is the pretended philanthropy of Dr. Southwood Smith, if he merely prates, and does not act? In short, I believe Mr. Edwin Chadwick has sucked the brains of the credulous and easily led medical profession for his own advantage; and Dr. Southwood Smith, after trying many dodges—viz., sanatoriums, &c., has not been slack in bayoneting him in the rear. And then, in reference to that excellent and open-hearted good nobleman, Lord Carlisle, full of tenderness, and plastic in disposition, he would do much if greater firmness were characteristic of his mind.

No real rectification of malarious influences can or ever will be achieved, until persons are appointed by authority to