Dr. STEWART hoped that Mr. Hunt would enter on the treatment of premonitory symptoms at the next meeting. He thought the profession would do well to direct their attention to the premonitory symptoms, as well as to the appearances after death. There was one remarkable characteristic to which he would request their notice, viz. the coldness of the body down to the abdomen, while this cavity in a body he had examined, presented, twelve hours after death, a temperature of 87°. Another case was under salivation when the patient was seized with cholera.

Dr. WEBSTER was convinced, from what had fallen from Dr. Johnson, that the disease described by Dr. Thackrah in 1825 was identical with that now existing, and referred to cases in Buchan's Domestic Medicine, which presented precisely the same symptoms, with the exception of the rice-water evacuations, which was perhaps omitted only through oversight. In two of the cases, Buchan described the countenance as *ghastly*.

Dr. JOHNSON said that Dr. Barry had stated in that room, that there was great variety in the quality of the stools, and it was strange that the rice-water should be insisted on.

A desultory conversation now ensued, in which it was agreed on all hands that no reliance could be placed on the pathological appearances, as no one of them was a constant characteristic of the disease. The meeting adjourned at a late hour.

EXTRAORDINARY ENLARGEMENT OF THE SPLEEN IN THE HORSE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Perceiving both in Part 3, page 489, of Mr. Percival's scientific lectures on the Veterinary Art, and also in a work of great merit entitled the "Horse," under the patronage of Lord Brougham, that the authors are not aware of any means by which diseases of the spleen may be detected, and further encouraged by your kind notice of my successful case of lithotomy, I beg leave to lay before you an account of the way in which, in five successive cases, I have found the spleen to be extraordinarily enlarged, the insertion of which, should you consider them worthy a place in your valuable journal, will oblige, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. MOGFORD, V. S.

Having first emptied the rectum by raking, injections of warm water, &c., I

bare my arm to the shoulder (in fact I generally divest myself of my upper garments to the skin), which being previously well oiled, and a little also being introduced by the fingers into the anus, I gently pass up, and, at the same time, with a creeping-like motion of my hand, gather as many of the loose folds of the rectum towards me as possible, still pushing the arm on to its utmost length; at that part of the rectum, the commencement of the colon, the hand is at perfect liberty, when turning it over on the left side, the spleen, if enlarged to the sizes subsequently described, may be very distinctly felt. Another thing I would beg leave to suggest is, that as there is a great anxiety felt by breeders and gentlemen to ascertain whether mares are in foal, before it can be distinguished by any external appearances, or before the fetus has left the cavity of the pelvis, by passing the arm up in the same gentle manner, this may be felt without incurring the least risk of causing abortion or any other ill consequence.

CASE 1.—The first case of enlarged spleen which came under my notice was in a race-horse, the property of George Leach Esq., of Spichweek, near Ashburton; he had been ill for some time, under the care of several veterinarians, all of whom were unacquainted with the nature of his disease. When I first saw him, in June, his winter-coat was still hanging in patches on him, his skin very dry and hide-bound, pulse beating 28 in a minute, and intermitting every third stroke; urine dark-coloured, and full of mucus, and similar in appearance to train-oil; his bowels in a very disordered state, continually voiding large quantities of mucus, not in the manner horses do after having been hard ridden, or when under the influence of fever, but separately, and more of a jelly-like consistence.

I commenced my treatment by slightly purging him, which brought off a great quantity of mucus; but a few days after the physic had set, the mucus was again voided as before. I then gave him gr. opii ʒss, hyd. submur. ʒj, for eight days successively, which brought his bowels into a regular state, but his urine remained unaltered. In consequence of the dark colour and turbid state of the urine, I passed my arm up the rectum to ascertain if there was any enlargement of the kidneys, and distinctly felt the spleen, which was of a very unusual size. Soon after he died. On a post-mortem examination, the liver was found in a very decayed state; the spleen weighed 15 pounds, and measured nearly three feet in length.

CASE 2.—The second was in Clarence, a first-rate hunter, belonging to J. M. Woollcombe, Esq. of Ashbury, near Okehampton, whose spleen weighed 14½ lbs., and his liver

was in a highly decayed state. He was subject to inflammatory affections, for which he frequently lost great quantities of blood; in one attack of inflammation of the lungs, he lost 26 quarts before he recovered. He hunted for six years, during which time, at the end of each hunting season, I gave him hyd. submur. ʒj, antim. tart. ʒss, gr. opii, ʒss, every day for nine or ten days following, at which time it produced an inflammation of the gums and strong fœtor of the breath; he would then chew young grass, but was unable to swallow it, and was supported on bran mash and gruel. I then used to give him, in solution, 1lb. magnes. sulph., and as soon as the inflammation of the mouth and throat subsided, again repeated it. This perfectly restored him for his next winter's work, with the exception of his sometimes hunting in cold winds, wet and long checks, which shut up the pores of his skin, and lumps of the size of a small nutmeg would appear on his skin, a scurf over the eyelid, constipated bowels, dung of a light clayey colour, with a peculiar toss of the head; aloes would then have no effect upon him, but he was always relieved by the following balls, two or three times administered; hyd. submur. ʒij, antim. tart. ʒij, pulv. antimonialis ʒij, gr. opii ʒi. This would again perfectly restore him. He was a horse of great power, and, notwithstanding these repeated attacks of illness, was capable of almost incredible exertions. I once saw him leap over a ditch, without touching it, the distance from the place where he took off to that on which he landed being 32 feet, and could carry 16 stone to the tail of the fastest hounds. He was well known in the Devonshire hunts, where he repeatedly signalled himself by his superior speed and bottom. An account of his exploits is recorded in rhyme, in which he is described, by George Templar, Esq. of Stovor, as "fleet-footed Clarence."

CASE 3.—The third is Sultan, a hunter, who was never beaten, and for whom no day was too long, belonging also to J. M. Woolcombe, Esq. The horse was unexpectedly called upon for his services in the field when totally unfit for the exertion. In consequence of the great fleetness of Mr. W.'s hounds, he was ridden excessively hard across a very heavy country, and came home completely blown and exhausted. The next day there was a total loss of appetite, a high degree of fever, and his urine in a state similar to that of Mr. Leach's horse. I then passed my arm up the rectum, as before, and felt the spleen very much enlarged. I then bled him copiously, administered some laxative medicines, and in about a week he appeared perfectly recovered. I then again passed up my arm to feel if the enlargement still

existed, but it was beyond my reach, and I concluded diminished to its natural size.

CASE 4.—The fourth was in Tom, another horse belonging to the same gentleman, who was troubled with an inveterate cutaneous affection, for which I introduced, by way of experiment, large quantities of mercury into the system by friction. The hair was shaved off along the course of the spine, and on the inside of the thighs, and two active men were employed in rubbing in the strongest mercurial ointment for nearly an hour for 8 or 9 days following. This oppressed his breathing, swelled his body to an uncommon size, rendered his mouth sore, and produced a discharge of saliva; there was no mucus in the intestines, nor any in the urine, but it was of a very high colour and very pungent; the standard of his pulse was 24, intermitting every third stroke, and he had a peculiar stiffness in his hind-legs; his health appeared generally good, and he was able to stand a hard day's hunt; but his spleen is, I am certain, larger than either of the other horses' were. As it reached back as far as the pelvis, it must be more than 3 feet in length, and I should judge 20lbs. weight. I saw him in May, 1830, looking tolerably well.

CASE 5.—Also another, belonging to Major Lane of Guernsey. The spleen weighed 14½lbs.; the liver was perfectly healthy; the horse had never done any work, but had always an unthrifty appearance, his old coat sticking to him, and he was subject to fits of ague, with great trembling; he was destroyed as useless. There was this difference from any of the beforementioned cases, that the splenic artery was completely clogged up with coagulated blood; worms were found in the pancreas, and in the mesenteric gland. This is by no means uncommon, as I believe they will be found there in five cases out of ten, in horses that have been subject to them for a great length of time. While on this head, I would also observe, that horses are frequently, in the spring, seen rubbing the hair of their tails, sometimes occasioned by large quantities of bots lodging in the upper part of the rectum, just under the sacral vertebræ, causing great irritation and uneasiness to the animal; their expulsion by introducing the hand and pulling them off, is a great relief to the tormented animal.

FOREIGN VARIETIES.

CURE OF TIC DOULOUREUX BY THE CYANURET OF POTASSIUM.

The cyanuret of potassium has been employed very much lately, both at the *Hôtel Dieu* and *La Charité*, by Messrs. Trousseau