while the woman remained in that unnatural condition, which was about one hour. This inclined position of the body, with the head lowest, and pressure as before described, were the only means that seemed effectual in this case.

E. S. DEMING.

Calais, Vt., Nov. 21, 1852.

MELANOSIS IN THE HORSE.

BY CHARLES M. WOOD, VETERINARY SURGEON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN March last, I was requested to examine a grey horse, with a tumor on the inside of the off, or right thigh, and another within the scrotum on the same side, from which he appeared slightly lame. The tumor on the thigh appeared to partake of the character of a wart; the one in the scrotum, I thought, was probably scirrhus of the spermatic cord. The owner consulted me as to the propriety of having them extirpated. As I considered an operation would be attended with some danger, I advised his continuing his work (which was in a job-wagon), stating that if he was found to be getting worse, I would have no objection to operate on him; but would not be answerable for the consequences that might ensue. I did not see him again for about a month, when he was again brought to me, and in a very emaciated condition, evidently suffering much pain from the rapid growth of the tumors.

The owner now requested me to operate at all hazards. Accordingly the animal was duly prepared, and cast and secured for the operation. On opening the scrotum I found that the tumor was completely enveloped in a sac, composed of cellular membrane, very much thickened, and was firmly attached. I had considerable difficulty in getting to the superior surface; but I excised it, after some trouble, with the loss, to the animal, of about four or five pounds of blood. On introducing my hand into the opening in the scrotum, I could plainly feel another tumor, within the abdomen, and apparently larger than the one I had extracted, which weighed one pound and twelve ounces. As I could, of course, do nothing with this, I allowed the animal to rise. He got up, apparently quite strong, and walked to the stable, a distance of some twenty yards, when he commenced eating. I put up my instruments and casting hobbles, and was about to leave, when the man came from the stable and informed me that the horse had lain down. I went to the stable and found him in that position, and in a few minutes he died, without a struggle. He was immediately removed to the field adjoining; and in making a post-mortem examination, I found within him hundreds of these tumors, of various sizes; some of them as large as a goose egg, and down to the size of a pea. The lungs, liver, spleen, mesentery, kidneys, intestines, and even the peritoneum and pleura, lining the chest and abdomen, were full of them, and there were many dispersed amongst the different muscles. They were of a circular form, of a substance as hard as cartilage, perfectly black, and, by scraping them, you would obtain a black mucus, very much resembling the "nigrum pigmentum"

of the eye. Upon further examination of some of the larger ones, I found that they were composed of a number of smaller ones, from the size of a marble down to a very small pea, and apparently united together by dense cellular membrane. Finding the examination very interesting, I determined on examining the brain, and, strange to say, I found congeries of these tumors, nearly as large as a pin's head, upon the plexus choroides, and in the lateral ventricles.

I could not, however, find anything satisfactory, as to the cause of the sudden death of the animal. It could not have been from loss of blood, as the heart and vessels generally were full. I conclude, therefore, it must have been from nervous irritation and exhaustion.

Boston, January, 1853.

MEDICAL APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I wish to communicate, through your Journal, a few thoughts upon the subject at the head of this article.

Dr. William F. Channing, in a small but very valuable work upon medical electricity, has truly remarked that, "The introduction of electricity into medical practice has been made the subject, within a few years, of many empirical treatises. Original and valuable sources of information have at the same time been multiplied, and the European journals, after a long interval, are again filled with cases of the successful application of this agent. Professor Wisgrill, in addressing the Medical Association of Vienna, remarks, that a revolution has taken place in favor of electricity, which, after its wide celebrity at the commencement of the present century, had fallen into disuse, not from the inefficacy of the means, but from the mode in which they were employed. It will be frequently seen, even in successful cases, quoted hereafter, that the nature of the agent and the laws of application have been imperfectly understood; and many of the failures which have occurred must be ascribed to this source."

In these quotations from Dr. C. we have a *text* sufficient for a volume. First, "it has been made the subject of many empirical treatises." This fact has prevented its being employed by many scientific physicians, who would otherwise have investigated its merits, and thoroughly experimented upon its therapeutical effects. There is a feeling, perhaps too general, in the profession, to let any medicine or medicinal agent alone, when it has been generally taken up by irregular or empirical practitioners. This should never be the case. The *true eclectic* physician employs, in turn, any and every means of restoring lost health, by whomsoever it might have been discovered, or afterwards used. It is undoubtedly true that multitudes of little or no medical or physiological attainments have taken up this subject, and written upon it, even flooding the land with their books. Still, many scientific men have put their pens to it, and sent forth much that is truly valuable; among whom may be named Drs. Wilson Philip and Golding Bird.