MONSTROSITY AND MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.

By JOHN S. BEALE, Esq., M.R.C.S.

MRS. W—, aged twenty-eight years, tall, and well-formed in figure, was attacked by a dog and bitten in the lip when advanced five months in pregnancy with her first child. The child was born dead, and presented the following deviations from the correct conformation:—

Head natural size, but very thick; broad and fleshy about the juncture with the shoulders. The under lip drawn in, and slightly puckered; the upper drawn up, and slanted off towards the alæ nasi. An opening, presenting the appearance of the entrance to the larynx, was seen on separating the lips, and occupied the cavity of the mouth. Two diminutive, shapeless growths, about three inches and a half long, supplied the place of arms, terminated by the outline of the tips of six fingers, arranged almost around a broad, flattened palm. The umbilical cord bulged out into a sac at about two inches from the

navel, and was filled with a bloody-looking fluid. The thighs were extremely short, flat, and thick; the feet presenting the same appearances as the terminal part of the superior extremity, the heels touching the nates, and the whole limb not exceeding three inches and a half in length, and seeming, as it were, to grow out of the pelvis. The anal aperture was situated in the upper part of the lumbar region. No examination with the scalpel was allowed.

This patient has, after the lapse of eighteen months, been delivered of a similar malformation. She this time accounts for the mischief by being frightened by a man in the street who obtains his living by shuffling himself along on a piece of board strapped on wheels (he appears devoid of his lower extremities).

The case is curious, inasmuch as the previous impression conveyed to the uterus has been retained and reproduced after a lapse of eighteen months; and argues that the impression may still reappear in future pregnancies. All the phenomena show an arrest of development, and of a lower type than generally when these arrests take place. Her husband is tall, healthy, and perfectly taken.

Paddington-green, October, 1860.

ON AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF
PHLEGMONOID ERYSIPELAS OF THE HEAD
AND FACE,
WITHOUT ANY CONSTITUTIONAL SYMPTOM.

By J. J. MACGREGOR, M.D.

In the month of June, 1859, I was called in to see a lad, sixteen years of age, of leuco-phlegmatic appearance, named G. B—, residing in a most unhealthy locality. I found, upon examination, that the entire scalp, extending anteriorly beyond the orbital ridges, and posteriorly as far as the occipital ridge, was one mass of purulent infiltration, the fingers sinking into it like a bag upon pressure. The eyes were nearly closed, giving a most singular expression to the face, from the effused matter having penetrated through the loose cellular tissue of the palpebræ. There was no fever; pulse 76, and soft; no flushing of countenance; tongue clean; little or no thirst; very little incoherence, if any, towards night, without any approach to coma; partial deafness.

I made several deep incisions through the scalp, anteriorly

and posteriorly, and a few punctures of the palpebræ, with a lancet, at the same time ordering poppy-head fomentations and linseed-meal poultices. Those means, with wine, beef-tea, and bark, constituted the treatment.

The quantity of foetid pus and decomposed cellular tissue which was evacuated was enormous, which his mother preserved in a basin for my daily inspection. The incisions were kept open by plugs of soft lint till all the slough was discharged, which was not completed for several weeks. They were then allowed to heal, and the head became as smooth and as hard as a billiard-ball.

It was a considerable time before the patient regained his strength so as to enable him to resume work. Bark, porter, and mutton chops were amply allowed; his appetite having become quite ravenous.

There are one or two points in this case which must suggest themselves to every practical man. One is the unusual extent of phlegmonoid erysipelas occupying the scalp; and another is, that inflammation should proceed to such a length, producing such destruction of tissue in the immediate vicinity of the brain, without being attended by the slightest symptom of constitutional irritation. While we witness every day the most violent attacks of delirium, or other cerebral symptoms, from slight erysipelatous attacks of the head and face, here was an instance of not only inflammation of the scalp, but where, from the quantity of cellular membrane discharged, the sloughing process must have quite undermined the scalp, and destroyed the loose tissue between it and the occipito-frontalis muscle; yet, so far as the functions of the brain and nervous system were concerned, there was no evidence of the slightest constitutional disturbance.

It must be admitted that in the phenomena of disease, as they present themselves to our limited powers of discrimination, there often appears little proportion between cause and effect.

Deptford, 1860.

A NEW FORM OF INSTRUMENT FOR
VACCINATING.By SAMUEL SPRATLY, Esq., M.R.C.S.,
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE INSTITUTE.

THE operation of vaccination, though one of exceeding simplicity, has frequently failed, not so much from the imperfection of the material employed as from a want of attention on the part of the practitioner to the simplest points calculated to insure its success. The most important of these, and one least attended to, is making the incision too deep, and causing thereby a considerable flow of blood, which prevents the inserted virus from being absorbed, and causes a good deal of pain to the little patient.

It occurred to me that these inconveniences might be avoided by an instrument so formed that the incision in the arm could be reduced to a minimum, and little more than a minute drop of blood follow its withdrawal from the wound. The instrument, which is figured in the annexed woodcut, consists of a

small lancet-point of triangular shape, about the twentieth of an inch in length, the upper surface being formed by the base of the triangle, the under by the two sides and apex. The upper surface is carefully hollowed out both to the edges and point; this serves for the reception of a moderate quantity of lymph. On the under surface is a small guard, which projects from each of the two sides of the triangle, and which forms the under surface; this prevents the point entering the skin beyond a certain distance. It is mounted on a small steel stem, and inserted in an ivory handle, or may be made to fold up like an ordinary lancet. When about to be used, the excavated upper surface is filled with lymph, either from a fresh vesicle or from some preserved in Dr. Husband's admirable capillary tubes, and inserted diagonally beneath the skin; this forms a little valvular wound, into which a minute drop of matter flows, and no more blood follows the operation than would be caused by puncturing the skin with a fine needle.

I have now used this instrument for more than five months,