not enlarged; nearly but not quite separated from the membranous portion of the urethra. The edges of the wound into it torn, bruised, and ecchymosed.

The kidneys were next examined. Externally they presented a light greyish appearance, somewhat like the kidney described by Dr. Bright to be generally found in dropsical subjects. Both rather small, but not morbidly so. On laying them open, the pelves, and excretory parts, were unusually large. The mucous membrane on the inside surface of the right kidney rather vascular, and slightly tuberculated; that of the left more pale and healthy.

The heart of an immense size. *In situ*, it seemed as large as a bullock's. When removed, the left ventricle alone was quite as large as a common heart. The orifice of the coronary vein was large enough to admit the little finger. The coronary artery perfectly healthy. The lining of the aorta of a rich creamy colour. The whole of the heart healthy, and exhibiting nothing to explain the irregularity of the pulse.

The right lung slightly adherent to the parietes of the chest; but both lungs, on the whole, healthy.

It was concluded, that the inflammation of the cellular membrane, at the lower part of the abdomen, had been the cause of death, that this had excited the partial peritoneal inflammation, and that the violent disorder, of which the commencement was disclosed by dissection, could not have ended otherwise than fatally.

The extent of the adipose substance of this individual was almost inconceivable. On dissection it appeared to a greater degree than was even expected. Over the sternum the fat was full two inches thick; thence downwards, and over the pubes, it measured five inches from the skin to the bone. The mesentery on being cut through, was full two inches. On the inner, as well as on the external, side of the rectus abdominis, the fat was amazingly deep. The patient was the most corpulent that had ever submitted to a capital operation at this hospital; the calculus the largest ever extracted; the instruments the longest ever used; and the interest, from the moment of his admission to the termination of the *post-mortem* examination, the greatest ever excited.

Some reason existed, when too late, to suspect that the patient had been labouring under unfavourable symptoms, on Friday, about mid-day, when Mr. Lawrence saw him, and when he said that he felt well, and was going on well; but that under a dread of having to take medicine, he suppressed the true state of his feelings.

HOPITAL DE LA CHARITE.

SINGULAR LESION OF THE EYE.

LOUIS B., *etat* 23, of a very strong constitution, was, on the 2d of January, accidentally struck by a whip over the left cheek and eye; although no external wound could be discovered, he felt a violent pain, and was immediately deprived of the sight of the eye, which subsequently became inflamed, so that it was impossible to ascertain the condition of the interior of the globe. Under an antiphlogistic treatment, the inflammation subsided, but when it had disappeared, three weeks after the accident, sight was not restored. He consulted M. Faure, who immediately observed a capsular cataract, and after having continued for some time the use of leeches and emollient poultices, took the patient to the Hôpital de la Charité, where he was examined, and the eye found to be in the following state: the cornea, conjunctiva, and sclerotica, were healthy, and offered no trace of any previous wound; the iris presented, on its external part, a transverse division, four lines in breadth, from the edges of which, membranous filaments were seen running towards the capsule of the lens. The iris was not at all changed in colour, but did not contract, even in the strongest light; the aqueous humour was perfectly limpid. The lens was of a milk-white colour, with mother-of-pearl coloured spots; its circumference was rather irregular, and reached almost to the external margin of the iris, between which and the cataract, a space of about half a line was uncovered, and formed a sort of artificial pupil, through which the rays could pass to the retina.—*La Clinique*.

OBSERVATIONS ON MR. VINES' THEORY OF THE BLOOD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

MR. VINES, in No. 272 of THE LANCET, having denied the hypothesis that the blood is a compound fluid; I beg to know through the medium of this Journal, in what manner that gentleman imagines the various secretions of the body accomplished, or from what source he thinks they are derived. If we admit Mr. Vine's theory to be true, we must blot out the long received opinion, that the secretions are derived immediately from the blood. He further states the *blood* to be "living animal matter, capable of assuming either a fluid or solid form." But, I

presume, while in its proper vessels, and while the natural heat and circulation are combined, the blood never exists in a solid form. Again he says, "I consider the base of the blood to be originally white, and that it derives its colour and coagulating properties, from the combination of atmospheric air, whilst circulating through the lungs." It is admitted that the blood is rendered red when circulating in the lungs, from the action of the air, but it is of a dark colour before, and not white. As to its deriving its property of coagulation from the same cause, I shall say nothing, as I hope Mr. Vines will, at a future time, explain more fully, in what manner this is effected. He continues, "I consider that its different colours indicate its various degrees of vitality, for in the strong parts of the body it appears red, from possessing a high degree of vital power; while in the weak, or finer parts, it is white, from having only a much lower degree of vitality." In what sense of the expression is vitality to be understood? By vitality, is generally understood the life or nourishment of a part or parts; but surely it cannot be advanced with reason, that the parts, in which colourless blood circulates, are not equally nourished with those which receive the same support from red blood. If strength be meant, the objections will appear evident.

HENRY DAY.

CALCULI.

A PATIENT of Mr. M. P. Moyle, of Helston, has lately passed from the urinary bladder several fragments of a calculus, one of which was nearly two-thirds of an inch in length. This fragment was retained for a short time in the urethra, and was, at last, expelled by a violent gush of urine. The penis and scrotum were much swelled and inflamed. The age of the patient was 78.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

As the report sent to us by Mr. Thomas Proctor is not exactly suited to the pages of this Journal, we have forwarded it to the "VETERINARIAN."

Thanks to J. B. for his communication on Tic Douloureux; but the case which he has related is not so interesting as that of Dr. Pemberton, the particulars of which have already been inserted in this Journal. Several cases of tic douloureux have been reported as cured by electricity, subcarbonate of iron, and sulphate of quinine.

We do not believe that Mr. Day's theory establishes the position he wishes to prove. The doctrine of ocular adjustment in most respects is very erroneous. Mr. Day may receive his paper on sending to our office. His note did not arrive sufficiently early to be noticed in our last number.

We cannot insert reports of cases, or any statements of facts, from anonymous correspondents.

We do not send any parcels from our office. J. R., of Liverpool, must obtain his supply through the regular channel. LANCERS to be forwarded by the coaches, may be obtained at the office, at two o'clock on every Friday. Mr. M., of Leeds, will probably deem this notification a sufficient reply to his note.

A Pupil of St. Bartholomew's, complains that a patient about to undergo amputation, was on a recent occasion kept on the operation table upwards of a quarter of an hour before the surgeon made his appearance. This is too bad.

"H. C." on reflection will perceive the injustice of inserting an anonymous criticism on the authenticated statement of Mr. P.

"H. M." It is not necessary to produce articles of apprenticeship at the College of Surgeons. A certificate of having been engaged in acquiring surgical information six years is, however, necessary.

The following note was accidentally omitted at the bottom of the letter of "X. Y. Z." page 767, of our last number. "The old ladies deem the Linnæan name sufficient." We shall be happy to reply orally to the other question.—ED. L.

"Senex." A few of the medical booksellers we believe supply the weekly medical periodicals with great regularity; but it is a trade which is attended with considerable inconvenience to them; hence they do not court it. The inferior journals are generally taken to the medical booksellers, by men called Hawkers, who receive an additional allowance from the publisher. But as we do not think proper to make any such allowance, this work is supplied in London almost entirely by the newsmen, who are remarkable for both expedition and punctuality. "Senex" may send his order to our office.

[Other correspondents must stand over.]

ERRATA.

Page 729, col. 1, line 37, for globe, read socket.

Page 740, col. 2, line 6, from the bottom, for 1327, read 1822.

Page 752, col. 2, line 13, for he has, read they have. Line 19 for he is, read they are.