venous blood from the small vessels, owing to congestion; on removing the calvarium, the vessels of the dura mater were also found turgid with blood, and the small vessels minutely injected. On removing the dura mater, the arachnoid membrane and pia mater were found excessively congested, the congestion assuming, in many parts, the appearance of dark masses of extravasated blood, and penetrating deep into the convolutions; on careful examination, however, no extravasation could be detected. The substance of the brain was most minutely examined, but its texture was healthy in appearance, of the usual color, and of firm consistence; no effusion of blood could be detected in any part. The ventricles were healthy, and contained only a small quantity of fluid; but the vascular structures, as the venæ Galeni, and choroid plexus, presented the same congested appearance which was noticed in the investing membranes.

Chest.—The lungs were voluminous and much congested; but no appearance of inflammation, or any other pulmonary disease, could be detected. The heart and aorta were removed for separate examination; the heart was of natural appearance and dimensions. The ventricles, auricles and valves were all separately laid open and examined, but no trace of disease, no contraction or dilatation, neither hypertrophy nor atrophy, could anywhere be observed. The aorta was quite healthy.

Abdomen.—The liver was large, excessively congested, so as to assume in some parts almost a black color, but, except the congestion, no trace of disease was visible. The stomach was empty, and its mucous membrane presented generally a healthy appearance, with the exception of some traces of chronic gastritis. The kidneys were congested, but in other respects presented the normal structure; on the right kidney, a fibrous tumor containing cells was discovered. The other viscera presented no remarkable appearances.

There can be no doubt that death resulted from an attack of congestive apoplexy, and that there were no other appearances which could in any way account for the fatal termination. Whether the deceased did or did not experience any premonitory symptoms it is impossible to ascertain, but I think it is clear, from the *post-mortem* examination, that if the deceased had been copiously bled, the fatal attack might have been averted. Still, as no medical advice was requested till the vital spark was extinct, and as the deceased made no complaint previous to death, no person can be liable to blame for the melancholy result.—*Lond. Lancet*

VARIOLA AND SCARLATINA IN THE SAME PATIENT.

By Robert Barnes, Esq., M.B., London.

ANN B—, aged 9, was seized on the 17th of December, 1844, with malaise, sickness, disinclination for food, and difficulty of swallowing.

18th.—In addition to the foregoing symptoms, fauces injected; tongue covered with viscid mucus, tip red; chest and abdomen covered with a diffused rash, interspersed with thickly-studded red points, presenting a slight elevation above the level of the skin; pulse 100; strength little

impaired; thirst; bowels open. Warm bath; low diet; nitre and tartar emetic.

20th.—The red spots have now increased to well-marked papulæ, which are found universally spread over the whole body, and over the lining membrane of the mouth, while the diffused rash has disappeared, leaving the intervals between the papulæ of the natural appearance; pulse 90; febrile movement diminished. Has been vaccinated.

21st.—Papulæ enlarged, filled with lymph, centres depressed, so numerous as to be nearly confluent; conjunctivæ inflamed, but no papulæ on them.

January 4th.—The varioloid eruption has run its regular course; the scabs have partly fallen; the ophthalmia continues. Collyrium of sulphate of zinc, three grains to the ounce.

7th.—Inflammation of the eyes apparently removed; œdema of the eyelids and face has taken place. Compound jalap powder, half a drachm.

9th.—The jalap powder produced copious watery stools; the dropsy has disappeared.

14th.—The ophthalmia has returned; the ocular conjunctivæ much injected; over the cornea dim so as to impair vision; excessive lachrymation and intolerance of light.

The eyes perfectly recovered in a few days under the influence of nourishing diet, the use of ten-grain doses of tartrate of iron three times a-day, and the application of nitrate of silver ointment, in the proportion of ten grains to the ounce of lard.

The diagnosis decided on, the first day, was scarlatina; the sore throat, red-tipped tongue, the blush over the chest and abdomen, and the prevalence of the fever in the neighborhood, fully warranted this. At the same time the maculiform nature of the eruption arrested my attention, and I entered it in my note-book as an unusual appearance. Two days later, however, the spots had assumed an unequivocally papular character, and it became evident that variola was also present, although the patient bore the scars of vaccination. As the case proceeded, the scarlatina was lost in the predominating intensity of the variola: and it might now have been imagined that the poison of the former disease was eliminated from the system, while the varioloid poison was running its course alone; but presently, three weeks after the accession of the first symptom, the occurrence of anasarca again asserted the continuance of the operation of the poison of scarlatina, leaving no doubt that the two morbid poisons had infected the system together, and had run their course concurrently. It would have been desirable to ascertain the state of the urine, but this I was precluded from effecting by the negligence of the attendants.

In the course of the illness of the patient, another interesting circumstance occurred, which further tended to strengthen the opinion that the two morbid poisons continued to infect the system together. Twelve days after the accession of the attack, three sisters, all vaccinated, living in the same room, were seized with the usual prolegomena of eruptive

fevers, and in due course the *modified variola* made its appearance, and went through its various stages, while another girl, residing in the same house, was seized, also on the twelfth day, with *scarlatina*. Of the three sisters, one had slight sore throat, in addition to the ordinary varioloid symptoms, so that it is not improbable that this one caught the double infection, for it does not appear that the occurrence of the rash is necessary to establish the presence of *scarlatina*. When, therefore, the period at which the *variola* appeared in the three sisters, and the *scarlatina* in the fourth girl, is considered, it may fairly be presumed that the first patient served as the common focus of contagion from whence the two diseases were propagated; that she not only labored under the two diseases conjointly, but transmitted them separately to other individuals.—*Ibid.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 30, 1845.

Mesmeric Infirmary.—It may appear incredible to persons abroad, who are familiar with the educational efforts made in the city of Boston, that an imposition, regarded by the people generally as one really and truly belonging to the catalogue of humbugs, should or could be tolerated here. A hand-bill is circulating, announcing that a Dr. Taylor has opened a *Mesmeric Infirmary*, in Lowell street, in connection with one Tarbox—"who is well known as one of the best clairvoyants to be found in the United States, for the examination of diseases." No doubt exists on that point. The bill further heralds the astounding information that "the services of other clairvoyants for examining by hair, and for travelling clairvoyance, have also been secured. Magnetic, botanic, and all other medicines usually prescribed by clairvoyants, kept constantly on hand." This is an item in the local history of Boston, for 1845!

A first impression would be, that no one possessed of a grain of common sense could be duped by such an unblushing system of deception; but it is altogether probable that it will prove a very money-making device. As far as our own observation extends in regard to these constantly coming and going efforts to profit by the credulity of mankind, strangers from the country are their chief prop and support. It would not be at all surprising to hear that a crowd of persons were seeking advice from this new oracle of mesmerism, and making their pockets as empty as their heads before leaving the premises.

Fossil Remains.—In the last No. of the American Journal of Science and the Arts, are several paragraphs on recent discoveries of fossil animals, that fill the naturalist with perfect astonishment. For example, at Algoa Bay, near the Cape of Good Hope, several skulls, together with bones of the extremities, have been found, which belonged to several species of reptiles. Some of them appear to hold a place between the tor-