mencement of these symptoms, she had had a violent attack of what she called lung fever.

I inquired what remedies had been usually applied for the pain in the side, (which was the most troublesome symptom) and was informed that they had been various, and attended with very little success: that blisters sometimes afforded temporary relief. I recommended a blister as near the pained part as convenient, and a gentle cathartic. But they were attended with no permanent advantage. Consultations with two able physicians were held, and various remedies administered, but all to no effect. She continued getting worse, respiration more difficult and uneasy, fulness about the heart increased; she used to say it seemed as if there was something there that would burst. The face and hands were purple, feet and hands uniformly cold. She had frequent fainting fits, during which the purple colour of the face did not subside: she could not endure a horizontal posture, till within a few days of her decease, when she had no choice of position, being equally easy in one as in another. She died on the 29th of March, 1819. Having obtained leave of her friends, an examination of the abdomen and thorax was made, in presence of Drs. Walker, Webster and Gould, and likewise of my students Mr. Buck and Mr. Green.

The abdominal viscera exhibited no unusual appearances of disease. There were about two pints of a transparent fluid diffused among the viscera.

On opening the thorax, there were found contained in the pericardium three and a half pints of fluid resembling in colour and consistence thick chocolate. The whole of the lungs adhered posteriorly to the thorax and to that degree that it was impossible to separate them. They appeared to be about the consistence of the liver. The heart was displaced to the right, it was thought nearly its width.

Malden, (Mass.)

Case of Fungus Cerebri successfully treated by excision, together with some remarks on the nature and treatment of Cerebral Tumours. By JONATHAN A. ALLEN, M.D.

[Communicated for the New-England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.]

EVERY thing which has a tendency to elicit truth or establish a medical fact, is interesting to the scientific practitioner. Under this impression I am induced to submit to the public the following case of *Fungus Cerebri*.

Jesse Graves, aged 19 years, of an ordinary constitution, on the 21st of September last, received a wound from the discharge of a musket loaded with powder and wadding, near the posterior and inferior angle of the left parietal bone. The unburnt powder, wadding and hair of his head, together with broken pieces of the skull, were forced into the brain. Some portion of the brain was discharged and the hæmorrhage which ensued was considerable. He fell senseless and remained partially comatose for several days.

The extraneous substances were carefully removed. To accomplish this, at each dressing it required attention for several days, on account of the minuteness of most of the foreign substances which were driven into the brain. A dosil of lint spread with simple cerate was laid on the brain in order to preserve a suitable degree of pressure. The head being previously shaved, the lips of the wound were then brought to approximate—but could not be made to co-adaptate within about two inches, and retained in that situation with strips of adhesive plaster. Strict antiphlogistic treatment was adopted—venesection was several times performed.

His mental faculties gradually returned; the febrile symptoms subsided, and in a few days granulations appeared, having a healthy appearance around the edges of the wound.—From the brain, however, there arose a fungus, and apparently vascular tumour, which increased to such a size that on the first day of October, notwithstanding it had been daily touched with a caustic, it closed the passage through the cranium so as to prevent the discharge of pus from within the skull.

A severe pain of the head ensued which was soon followed with delirium and convulsions. Under these circumstances I determined to remove the tumour by excision. For this purpose I passed a tenaculum through it, and elevated it to such a situation as to enable me to remove it somewhat below the inner surface of the skull. The bleeding at first was considerable but was soon checked by the application of the lunar caustic. All the disagreeable symptoms immediately subsided. The wound was then dressed in the usual manner.

At this time the patient being feeble, he commenced a moderate use of the bark and wine. His health returned rapidly and the wound assumed a healthy appearance. The fungus cerebri caused little or no more trouble. The caustic was repeatedly used and moderate pressure made. Under this mode of treatment in about six weeks from his receiving the injury, he was able to commence a journey of two hundred

miles which he performed without any inconvenience, notwithstanding the wound was not entirely closed. Last winter he wrote "my health is good and the wound almost entirely sound."

Mr. Abernethy is of opinion that extravasated blood pushes out the brain: and Dr. Dorsey mentions two cases he dissected, in which the protrusion appeared to be caused by the pressure of pus. Mr. Charles Bell supposes that Mr. Abernethy's opinion is correct; and yet two other kinds of tumour arise—the one a fungus excrecence from the dura mater—the other a proper organized fungus from the brain—each of these opinions is probably true, and each variety of fungus may require a different mode of treatment.

In the case which is the subject of this communication, the tumour was evidently organized substance originating from the brain, and differing in no respect from fungus excrecences in other parts of the body except in texture. If the opinion of Dr. Gall be correct, that the brain is a convolution of capillary vessels, fungus flesh may as well be conceived to arise from it, as from other parts of the body. The prevention of fungus formations in most instances is accomplished by a proper degree of pressure in the diseased part, whether it be on the brain or other parts of the system. This implies identity of formation. The propriety of cutting off *fungus cerebri* has been questioned on account of the hæmorrhage which often ensues. In such cases does not the hæmorrhage arise from a partial removal of the tumour? For the same reason fungus tumours in other parts of the body are frequently found to bleed copiously when partially removed; but when completely, cease entirely. All of a truly organized *fungus cerebri*, if our opinion be correct, should be removed, with caution, however, that none of the healthy brain be included. In confirmation, the case mentioned by Quesnay, as stated by Mr. S. Cooper, in which the patient tore off the tumour himself and recovered, may be cited; and also a case communicated to me by Dr. Spaulding of Montpelier, Vermont, in which he cut off the tumour and his patient recovered. Another opinion which the case of Graves militates against is, that these tumours are luxuriant granulations, caused by general increased excitement. In some instances this may be correct; but the good effect of bark and wine in the case of my patient plainly shows, that increased action could not be the cause of the cerebral tumour.

Brattleborough (Vt.) August, 30, 1819.