was extremely well marked; for he frequently rallied wonderfully, when all hopes of life had nearly ceased.

The stage of sphacelus which for a few hours appeared, I must attribute to the application of a cold poultice to the parts by mistake. The extreme want of constitutional power in the system rendered cold applications positively dangerous. Upon the restoration of warmth it speedily gave way, and the scrotum again took on a healthy action. The hernia on the side of the injury descends far less than on the left, and for the first few weeks it could be barely said to come down at all; in fact, its descent now only takes place on violent straining or exertion. This I consider was from the abdominal ring being obliterated in a great degree by the inflammatory action taking place upon and around it. I have found much difficulty (since recovery) in this case, in adapting a truss to the right side, owing to the pain it gave him when he first commenced wearing it; but having now had it constructed with a soft, slightly concave pad in the centre, and elongated nearly half an inch more than usual, he manages to wear it without uneasiness. There is at present some pain on pressure over the abdominal ring, and the cup-like depression from the former pad of the truss still exists. The right testicle and spermatic cord are quite healthy, and of their natural size. The similarity of this disease, in many respects, to hernia is very strong, and the case might easily have at the onset been mistaken by an indifferent observer for one of strangulated scrotal hernia.

1st.—The swelling descended from the abdomen in the course of the cord, which was also situated behind it.

2ndly.—It protruded much while the patient was in the erect posture.

3rdly.—It gave some impulse on coughing.

4thly.—The gurgling noise, and drum-like sound of the tumour appeared as if it contained flatus.

5thly.—The costiveness and sickness which frequently appeared; and had not the intestine readily returned, the other symptoms would, I doubt not, have led to the diagnosis that the whole arose from hernia.

Cheltenham, 1848.

A REPORT OF

TWO CASES OF CHOLERA SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY CALOMEL.

By FRED. WILLIAM MARSHALL, M.B., &c., Horwick.

ELLIS P—, aged twenty-eight, a labourer, who has lately suffered considerable privation, was attacked about noon of July 11th, with vomiting, purging, and cramps. He was at the time in a hay field, and had drunk a considerable quantity of beer. He had two miles to walk before reaching home, which he accomplished with difficulty. I saw him at 5 P.M., and immediately bled him to ten ounces; the blood coagulated as it flowed from the veins, and hung in long strings from his arm. Three grains of calomel, with a minim and a half of tincture of opium, were given immediately, and directed to be repeated every quarter of an hour until the symptoms were relieved. He rapidly improved under this treatment, having taken about twelve doses of the medicine.

James S—, aged fifty-five, a worker in a coal pit by trade, but lately has been haymaking and drinking a large quantity of beer—the same as that drunk by the former case—was attacked whilst haymaking, at 3 P.M. of July 16th, with vomiting, purging, and cramp. These continued during the night, his wife expecting “that every moment would be his last.” I was not called in till next morning about 5 o’clock. No bleeding was practised in this case, as the pulse was too far reduced, but three grains of calomel and one minim and a half of tincture of opium were given immediately, and directed to be repeated every quarter of an hour until the symptoms were removed. Eight doses were sent. He took only seven doses before the symptoms had abated, and he was walking about in three or four days after.

Horwick, August, 1849.

A REPORT OF

CASES OF ABSCESES SYMMETRICALLY FORMED IN THE BODY.

By JOHN H. NANKIVELL, Esq., Surgeon, St. Columb.

In the second number of the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, (for April, 1848,) there is an interesting article relating to Mr. Paget’s Lectures on Nutrition, &c., which contains some truly philosophical remarks on symmetrical dis-

eases. The profession is also deeply indebted to Dr. Budd, of King’s College, for original and valuable investigations on this subject.

I have myself met with two cases of abscesses symmetrically formed, and I have thought it right to forward to you a brief statement of them, under the impression that they may serve to show how even the common cellular tissue of corresponding parts of the body may take on diseased actions simultaneously, or nearly so.

Mr. H—, aged fifty, requested me to visit him on the 25th of January last. He complained of pain in the left side, dry cough, loss of appetite, difficulty of breathing, &c. The stethoscopic signs were those of mild pleurisy, and the disease readily yielded to the application of leeches, and the administration of small doses of calomel, Dover’s powder, and tartarized antimony. At the end of a week my patient complained of some pain in the back, which he attributed to rheumatism, but thought so little of it, that he rode out every fine day during the month of February. On the 1st of March, he requested me to examine the space between the shoulders, as he felt a pricking sensation there, and to my surprise, I found between the bases of the scapulae and the dorsal vertebrae two subcutaneous abscesses, with a very palpable fluctuation of their contents. There was no communication between the sacs, and I found, on making the required openings, that each contained about three ounces of normal pus. This, then, is a case of the simultaneous formation of pus in related structures and in immediate proximity to the median line of the body.

The following case differs in a slight degree from the foregoing, inasmuch as one abscess was not formed until a week after the other had been opened.

It is now seven years since I was requested to visit J. T—, a delicate, emaciated boy, aged five years, who was the subject of stromous abscess between the integuments and the deeper-seated structures lying over the external condyle of the femur on the right side. On the necessary incision being made, about half a tea-cupful of thin pus escaped. A week after this, the father of the child came to me with an account that my little patient had a precisely similar “gathering” on the left knee. I visited the boy, and found that the statement was perfectly correct, and that the abscesses were, in point of extent and locality, precise parallels of each other. The second abscess having been opened, the boy’s health rapidly improved.

Your readers will form their own opinion how far these cases may serve to illustrate the fact, that “certain morbid materials in the blood, or certain morbid actions, will fasten on spots or islands on one side of the body, leaving the surrounding parts unaffected, and on precisely similar spots or islands, in like manner, on the other side.” (Paget on Nutrition, &c.)

St. Columb, Cornwall, 1849.

ANALYSES OF COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO THE PATHOLOGY, CAUSES, AND TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

MR. MITCHELL, of Harleyford-place, Kennington-common, who “has seen a career of twenty-seven years of arduous professional labour, more than eighteen of which have been occupied in the most extensive duties of district medical officer of the parish of Lambeth,” thus records his opinions concerning the nature of cholera, and his method of treating the disease:—

“I believe cholera to be of epidemic origin, becoming contagious under certain circumstances, such as the affected individual coming in close contact with others who are in a low standard of health, arising from improper food, the depressing consequences of intemperance, the residence in filthy apartments, &c. I believe the disease to consist in a violent action being set up in the mucous membrane of the primæ viæ,—deranged often by improper ingesta,—producing the rapid discharge of the greater proportion of the liquid parts of the blood, sometimes in a most inconceivably short time, and at others, in a more protracted period. That the consequences of this state are, that the functions of the body are all soon suspended, so that collapse, and, in too many cases, death, quickly supervenes. The brain ceases its functions, (?) the lungs are unable to decarbonize the blood, the muscular system is deranged, no urine is secreted, no bile is produced, no heat evolved, and hence the appalling phenomena which too clearly designate the malady.