and tender walls, and ragged edges, evidently made by the turning down of the omentum; the cyst contained within it the bones of a fœtus at full time, which were perfectly clean, as if macerated, and none of the soft parts remained, not even the cartilaginous extremities of the bones; they were all compressed into the smallest possible space, and contained within the bones of the cranium, mixed with a little adipocœnous matter, probably the remains of the brain. The walls of the cyst, as I have said above, were extremely soft and thin, and had contracted adhesions anteriorly with the omentum, and through its intervention with the peritoneal lining of the abdominal parietes, and they were thicker in this situation than in any other, as if the placenta had been attached to the lower edge of the omentum; on the right side they were firmly adherent to the caput coli; on the left, to the sigmoid flexure of the colon, and inferiorly to the superior part of the bladder, with which a communication took place by means of two ulcerations about the size of a goose quill; through these openings, one of the tibia and two or three of the smaller bones (phalanges of the fingers or toes) escaped; the former passed away during life, as above related; posteriorly, the cyst rested upon the rectum, into the upper part of which two pin-hole openings penetrated, forming a communication between them, through which much of the soft parts of the fœtus probably passed away during the profuse diarrhœa from which the patient suffered so much during the latter months of her life. The urethra was much dilated, and, as well as the bladder, exhibited marks of recent inflammation, the consequence of the passage of the foreign body through it during life. The uterus, vagina, and ovaries, were perfectly healthy and natural in their structure, but pressed low down into the pelvis by the tumour, which had, more or less, occasioned the obliteration of the broad ligaments, and the condensation of the Fallopian tubes with the neighbouring tissues.

ON THE ABSORPTION OF CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE IN CASES OF POISONING.

By Dr. R. M. GLOVER, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

In a paper on poisoning by corrosive sublimate, published by Mr. Taylor, in the number of "Guy's Hospital Reports" for April last, are the following words:—"I have not been able to meet with any satisfactory instance where, in a case of poisoning by corrosive sublimate, mercury has been detected in the blood, secretions, or soft organs of the body. This statement is repeated in his work on medical jurisprudence, recently published. In his paper, and in this book, he refers to an experiment of mine, performed in 1840, but first published in a paper on bromine and its compounds, in No. 153 of "Craigie's Journal." In this experiment I succeeded, I think, in finding mercury in the blood of a dog, to which I gave half an ounce of corrosive sublimate, and then secured the gullet by a ligature. But in the account that I gave of this experiment, which account Mr. Taylor would appear to have read, I referred to the researches of Orfila, published in the "Journal de Chimie Médicale" for July, 1842, and which researches, completely, and beyond the shadow of a doubt, establish the absorption of corrosive sublimate, and the detection of it in the "soft organs and secretions." Moreover, in the preceding part of my essay on bromine, published in No. 152 of "Craigie's Journal," I give a reason for the absorption of corrosive sublimate—viz., the solubility of its compound with albumen in solutions of the electro-positive chlorides. In "Cormack's Journal" for September, 1842, there is an abstract, by me, of the important researches of Orfila on the absorption of certain mineral and vegetable acids and metallic salts, in which due attention is paid to this important discovery of the absorption of corrosive sublimate. At the time, I remember being surprised at the absence of information on this subject displayed in some of our most pretending journals; I say surprised, for Orfila is a great name. Had they been the most important researches ever given to the world from a man hitherto unknown to fame, I should not have been at all astonished. But how Mr. Taylor came first to misrepresent the circumstances attending my experiment, and secondly, to overlook the results of Orfila, although referred to by me in the account which I gave of this experiment, and given more fully by me in a British journal; nay, again fully related by Orfila in his work on Toxicology, published last year—how this happened I cannot understand. In Mr. Taylor's book, p. 176, he says:—"Corrosive sublimate is considered to be one of those poisons which are absorbed into the circulation; but chemists have in vain endeavoured to detect mercury in the blood secretions and soft organs of animals poisoned with it." Mr. Taylor says:—"Dr. Glover thought that the tests which he employed indicated the presence of mercury; but as the metal was not procured, it is left uncertain whether mercury was really present in

the blood or not." Now I expressly state that *I did obtain* "very faint evidence of the presence of mercury" by a reduction test; and the indications afforded by the other tests which I employed were such, that there can be no doubt, in my own opinion, of the existence of mercury in the blood which I examined. A brick-red precipitate, from carbonate of potass added to a solution formed by digesting nitric acid on the blood, and this precipitate redissolved in excess of the acid liquor, could indicate nothing but mercury; for, as Mr. Taylor is doubtless aware, Berzelius informs us that the iron of the blood could not so be made manifest. The experiment to which I have referred is still of some little consequence, notwithstanding the researches of Orfila, as this experimentalist failed to obtain decided evidence of the presence of mercury in the blood of animals poisoned by corrosive sublimate, although he detected it in the liver and urine. I shall quote one of his experiments:—

"Five minutes after having poisoned a dog with eight grammes (the gramme is nearly 15½ grains Troy) of corrosive sublimate, dissolved in 180 grammes of water, I bled it, and treated 288 grammes of the blood with sulphuric acid, as in the sixth experiment. An hour after, I again extracted from the jugular vein 90 grammes of blood, and killed the animal; these two quantities of blood, submitted separately to the action of concentrated sulphuric acid, (as has been stated in the sixth experiment,) gave me, as a final result, two liquids, which I left for a long time in contact with several plates of copper; these latter were slightly tarnished, as if they had been plunged for a long time in a mercurial fluid; when rubbed they acquired a silvery lustre; nevertheless, when I submitted them to the action of heat, in two glass tubes drawn out, I obtained a white vapour, excessively slight, in the midst of which it was impossible for me to perceive *well characterized* globules of mercury. The liver of this animal, carbonised with sulphuric acid, and treated by the same process as the blood, gave me, on the contrary, a very great number of little globules of mercury."

I hope Mr. Taylor will not suppose me animated by any but friendly feelings in making this correction. His work is in general a very excellent one; and, indeed, the best text-book on the subject of which it treats, that we possess, the very elegant work of Professor Traill being so brief.

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BRITISH & AMERICAN JOURNALS.

THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM BY CINCHONA BARK.

FROM a resemblance supposed to exist between acute rheumatism and certain periodic diseases curable by Cinchona, this remedy has long been considered as applicable to the treatment of the former. Thus Fothergill remarked, "that those who are subject to intermittent are frequently liable to rheumatism;" and Morton says, that rheumatism is, as it were, an ague set astray; the poison lies latent in the system, and is irregularly developed. "Under the bark, this lurking character is detected, the disease drops its mask, and becomes readily cured." Dr. Haygarth was the first, however, to bring the subject prominently forward in his "Clinical History of Rheumatism," an early specimen of the numerical method, for which so much credit has since been awarded to Louis. From this work, we learn that its author treated and cured with rapidity and ease 111 out of 121 cases of rheumatism by the use of Cinchona bark. The late Professor Davis, with his characteristic ability, introduced the subject to the attention of the profession in a former volume of THE LANCET, (vol. 1, 1840-41.) Induced by this communication, Dr. Popham, of Cork, has tried the remedy, and he publishes the results of his experience in the last number of the "Dublin Journal." He seeks to establish some principle as a guide in the administration of this agent. This communication is a valuable one, and we give at length the conclusions at which the author has arrived:

"That it is important to procure due evacuations previously to the exhibition of the bark, except the patient be greatly deteriorated by constitutional debility, or the protraction of disease.

"That it is more *quickly* successful when the disease is *early* combated by depleting measures, than when inefficiently managed at the onset, and allowed to take root in the system.

"Hence, that it is more likely to extinguish the disease and prevent chronic infirmity in the sequel of *first* attacks being un-