and was permanently flexed upon the arm by the adhesion of the adjacent integuments, and terminated in a solitary well-formed finger, lying near the shoulder, whilst the elbow arose perpendicularly to a level with the vertices; the triangular space between the heads posteriorly being thus occupied by this unique extremity. The two ani communicated with each other, opening into a rectum common to them both, and in all probability the intestinal canal, stomach, and viscera generally, were single, excepting, of course, the oesophagus, trachea, &c., which were necessarily double. The entire length of the child's body was upwards of 20 inches, and weighed nearly 10lbs. avoirdupois.

The mother had attained the full period of uterine gestation, during which she had not suffered materially in her health, nor had her attention been attracted to her state by anything unusual. At the period of conception, whilst setting out on a journey from home with her own child and that of a relative, she was greatly affrighted by the horse and cart which conveyed the children being very nearly precipitated over a rude bridge, leading across a rivulet upon the moor; the horse turning abruptly, stumbled, and fell astride upon the low parapet of the bridge, and from the injury it received, and the alarm and agitation of the mother, who was walking at a short distance behind, they were obliged to suspend their journey, and return home. What influence this occurrence exerted upon the economy of the mother, in the production of the phenomenon to which she gave birth, or whether it exerted any, I leave for the curious in such matters to determine, merely remarking that this is the only circumstance to which she can refer, as having powerfully affected her during her conception or subsequent pregnancy.

ON THE

PREVALENCE OF NERVOUS DISEASES.—ARREST OF THE URINE.

By T. LAYCOCK, Esq., Surgeon, York.

I HAVE been hoping to see some notice in our medical journals of the diseases of the nervous system, which are so prevalent at this moment. Although nothing of the kind has been mentioned, yet I cannot think I am singular in the opinion, that paralysis and apoplexy are so unusually frequent as to deserve the epithet of epidemic.

I have heard of several cases of this kind occurring in the practice of my medical friends, and within the last three weeks no fewer than seven cases have come under my own observation. I am curious to know whether my medical brethren have observed these diseases to be more frequent than

usual at this time. I have heard several people remark on the frequency of "fits" lately. They say that they are almost as common as the scarlet fever.

Upon inquiry, in all the cases mentioned (excepting in one, hemiplegia with apoplexy, which was fatal, and in which the patient could not answer inquiries,) I found that the urinary secretion was very much diminished previously to the attack. In two of the cases (hemiplegia) scarcely three ounces of urine were secreted in the course of twenty-four hours. These were, and are, still relieved by diuretics. In three cases, in which there were the premonitory symptoms, diuretics were equally useful. In two, the symptoms which were removed altogether by the use of the remedies, recurred so soon as these were suspended and the renal secretion diminished in quantity; and were again removed altogether by restoring the functions of the kidneys. My attention was more particularly directed to the kidneys, from observing the great frequency with which those organs were affected in the present scarlet-fever epidemic, and have been for several months past. I have also noticed, in common with some of my professional friends, that children have been attacked by the dropsy, consequent on the renal disease, which is the sequel of scarlatina, without having had any *apparent* attack of the fever. Now, Dr. Bright, and others (as Dr. Addison), who have followed up his views, have distinctly shown, that renal affections may, and often do, induce cerebral disease, as coma, convulsions, apoplexy, &c., and it struck me, that the greater frequency of these affections just now, might originate in a *masked attack of the scarlet-fever epidemic attacking the kidneys*. This might have no effect on the encephalon of individuals in tolerable health; but those having incipient chronic disease of either the brain or kidneys, or a predisposition to diseases of the nervous system, might suffer in the way just mentioned. I am not anxious to recommend, that we should all become exclusively "water-doctors." I am sure, however, that it could not but be beneficial to practice, if practitioners were to examine into the morbid changes of the urine.—*Abridged from the Dub. Med. Press, July 1.*

A HINT TO THE THOUGHTFUL.

"In reading authors, when you find,
Bright passages that strike the mind,
And which, perhaps, you have reason
To think on at another season;
Be not contented with the sight,
But take them down in black and white."*

* John Byrom.