matism, as in the following cases, communicated by Dr. J. S. Combe to Dr. Macintosh, of Edinburgh :—

“A remarkable case of purpura was pointed out to me (says Dr. Combe) by the late Dr. Kellie. The subject was a brewer’s servant, big and plethoric, who, on the fourth day of an attack of acute and general rheumatism, was found covered with bright petechial spots; he also discharged some blood from the bowels. Active depletion was had recourse to, and he made a quick recovery.” Dr. Combe states that he lately saw a robust girl, aged 5, who had been attacked with a violent convulsive fit, and on recovery complained of severe pain of the head. “In a few hours I saw her, and as smallpox prevailed in the neighborhood, her friends considered it as such, and pointed out some spots on the skin; they were, undoubtedly, petechial, and covered nearly the whole body, with smart fever and vomiting. On the 3d day the extensor muscles of the head were so painful that she could not bend it forward without much suffering; in a few hours this was followed by acute pain of all the larger joints. The spots on the 5th day were fainter in color, and disappeared in a few days after; but eight days more elapsed before the rheumatic affection subsided. She was treated actively by venesection and purgatives.”*

(To be continued.)

OF THE COLOR, FORM, FEATURES, &c. OF THE FUTURE OFFSPRING.

BY SAMUEL FISH, M.D.

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THERE are fixed laws and a cause for everything; for the globes which move in the heavens, and the dust which floats in the air—for the light which is reflected from the planetary worlds, and the color and tints of the whole of nature’s productions. The universe is a vast machine, in which one thing puts another in motion, and that another, like some little wheel, which after it has received an impulse from a different power, puts a complicated machine in operation. We are all aware that the heavenly bodies revolve in their respective orbits by means of laws which never vary, but we are not so conscious that there is an unerring cause for the color, form, and features of every infant and every animal that is ushered into the world.

Let us look at this thing a little farther. And, first, let us inquire what it is that causes such a variation in this respect in the human species, so that out of the innumerable multitudes that populate the earth, no two persons can be found who exactly resemble each other. But very little attention has been paid to this subject; yet we have some data from whence we may obtain tolerably accurate testimonials. The ancient patriarch Jacob was probably a philosopher, as well as a person who could foretell future events. That he was taught of God, matters not in regard to the reality of the thing. Whether a person becomes acquainted with the nature of things by observation and subsequent de-

* Macintosh’s Practice.

ductions, or by having the veil removed and beholding them through a different medium from others, is the same thing. Material substances cannot be altered by the means. From some cause or other, this righteous person knew, that by peeling the rods of the poplar, the hazel, and the chesnut, so that there should be white and dark-colored streaks, spots, &c. in them, and placing them in the gutters and watering troughs, when the flocks and herds came to drink, the eyes of the cattle would be upon the rods, and that when they conceived they would bring forth ring-streaked, speckled or grizzled, according to his desires.

The common people are sometimes philosophers, or philosophers in some things. Farmers, by being continually among their flocks and herds, have learned some facts which those who are accounted wise do not know. Many of them are aware that when a cow or a mare is to receive the male, a full view of him immediately afterwards will impress his likeness upon the future progeny. "Stand before my mare," said a wag upon such an occasion, "for I want to have a black colt." It is the custom among grooms, in some places, to lead the horse in front of the mare, after she has received him, that she may look at him a minute or two. The ancient Greeks, ever solicitous for the improvement of their race, hung up pictures of strong athletic men and handsome women in the apartments of their wives, that they might have effect upon their offspring.

Darwin ascribes the likeness of the progeny to the imagination of the male after coition; but, though this may have some effect, it is doubtless owing more to the female than the male. It is his opinion that the sex is formed, and the form of the features moulded, in conformation to the thoughts and imagination of the male at that time. If his thoughts run upon a handsome female, the sex and external appearance will be determined by such thoughts.

That the color, form, and features are, in some measure, more or less determined and produced by the objects with which the female is associated from the period when gestation commences, until it is determined, is proved from the following facts and circumstances. Some twenty or twenty-five years ago, a relative of mine purchased a yoke of oxen, one of which was perfectly white. There was not another creature of this color in the whole town, and not another in the herd to which this now belonged that had scarcely a particle of white belonging to it. Notwithstanding this, a cow that stood by the side of this creature during the winter succeeding the purchase, had a calf which perfectly resembled him in form and color. I have remarked myself, and others have done the same, that women who have the care of, or are in the presence of, very sick persons during the months of gestation, have children with distorted features, and other resemblances of the sick person. An acquaintance of mine had a man in his employ, whom his wife, from a number of disagreeable attributes belonging to him, disliked so much that she said she perfectly hated him. She could not express her antipathy in terms strong enough to correspond with her feelings. He was a singular featured person, differing as widely in this respect from any of the family, as two persons of different and distinct nations. Not-

withstanding this, a daughter of this woman, born during the period of his service, resembled him so perfectly in her external appearance, that even after she was twenty years old, all who were acquainted with them made frequent remarks about it.

One fact more, out of a great number which might be adduced, will be mentioned to prove that the marks of the future offspring, whether brute or human, are in a great degree impressed upon it by the objects with which the female is surrounded, or by which she is accompanied. Capt. W., a near neighbor of mine, has a gray mare, which two years ago was taken to a dark bay horse. A fortnight afterwards, a friend of his, upon a visit from a distance, rode a brown mare with a very peculiar streak of white upon her face and nose, which was kept with the gray mare for ten or twelve days. About a year ago the gray mare had a foal, which had the same peculiar mark, and the same color of the other mare. The first words of Capt. W., when he saw the foal, were, "I wish B." (the person above referred to) "had kept his mare away."

From these, and many other cases, it may be inferred that the color, form, and features of both the human and brute creation, are influenced by surrounding objects. The flocks and herds of Jacob were operated upon in this way by the peeled rods of poplar, hazel and chesnut. From a similar influence the Greek women had athletic and handsome children. And from the same cause one or more children, in some families, have no resemblance to either of their parents. It is perhaps from the same cause, too, that children so often resemble one or the other of their parents, or some of their relatives. There must be something peculiar in such cases—something calculated to produce strong impressions, one way or the other—vehement love, strong hatred, deep compassion, or some other unusual affection. After all, however, persons' thoughts and feelings are so much beyond their control that it might not occur according to any one's desires, where it might be wished to exert any particular influence.

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MEDICAL BOTANY.

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NO. VI.—CHELONE. SNAKE HEAD.

Sex. Syst. Class didynamia; order angiospermia. *Generic Characteristics.*—*Calyx* five-parted, with three bracts; corola ringent, ventricose; *sterile filament* between the two longest stamens; *anthers* wooly; *capsule* two-celled, two-valved; *seeds* with a membranaceous margin.

Specif. Descrip.—*Chelone Glabea*. Plant smooth; leaves opposite (inferior sometimes alternate), lance-oblong, acuminate, serrate; flowers in dense terminal spikes. It grows in moist places, and flowers late in summer. Stem simple, often solitary, about two feet high; flowers