Those made at Xeres, in the province of Andalusia, and known to us under the name of Sherry; that which is called Paxarete, or sweet Sherry, the Tenta de Rota, or Tent wine; that which comes from Granada, the Malaga, or Mountain; from Valencia, the Alicant; from La Mancha, the Val de Penas, all deserve very high commendation, and might, by attention, be made the choicest beverages of the epicure. The Portuguese wines known to us are Port and Lisbon; these are coarse productions, are generally much made up, yet, as I shall have occasion to show you, when speaking of the medicinal effects of the various wines, and their different dietetic qualities, form a very serviceable beverage, without which the inhabitants of this country would, I firmly believe, not enjoy many of the comforts of life, nor be capable of sustaining the vicissitudes of climate, the peculiarities of diet, and the excitement of the nervous system which so strikingly belong to the great mass of English society.

Germany has a very fine wine country, extending along the banks of the Rhine from Mentz to Coblentz; the Rheingan, the Hockheim, the Joannisberg districts furnish the *bon vivans* of Europe with some light agreeable wines, as do the banks of the Moselle. Hungary, Italy, Madeira, the Cape of Good Hope, all furnish localities on which grows the vine, from which various kinds of wine are obtained, and to all these, as means by which health may be promoted and disease alleviated, I shall next direct your attention. I can only regret that I cannot enter on a detailed history of the varied and multiplied species of wine, and describe the qualities which each possesses; for there is open a wide field for medical inquiry, which has not yet been sufficiently trod, but it would amply repay the judicious investigator. The chemical science has now thrown such a light upon vegetable analysis, that what could only be treated formerly in a very cursory manner, can now be most minutely examined, and with the happiest results. The importance to man of this product would fully justify the most intense labour, which, doubtless, would be amply rewarded.

PNEUMONIA IN CHILDREN.—When pneumonia attacks children after the age of six years, the prognosis is very favourable at this age; the disease (if without complication) is rarely fatal. Careful observations, made at the *Enfans Malades*, Paris, show that the mortality rarely exceeds one in forty.

POTT'S DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—May I beg the favour of a place in THE LANCET for the accompanying interesting case. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MARSHALL HALL.

24, Manchester-square, March 17, 1838.

CASE OF HANNAH BLAIR.

INFLAMED AND ULTIMATELY CARIOUS DORSAL VERTEBRÆ, WITH PARAPLEGIA.

The lower limbs totally devoid of sensation, yet admitting of the excitement of powerful involuntary movements on the application of irritation to various parts of the non-sensitive surfaces.

By WILLIAM ELLIOT, M.D., Carlisle, authenticated by other Medical Practitioners.

Six or seven months ago, I first saw Hannah Blair, a poor Irish girl, in her seventeenth year, of rather ruddy countenance, auburn hair, and tolerably stout frame, who laboured under paraplegia with rigid flexion of the lower limbs; slight antero-posterior curvature of, and an apparently fluctuating swelling over, the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh, dorsal vertebræ, very tender to the touch; much pain of the back; sense of heat in the sacrum and lower extremities, which to another felt of natural warmth; sense of constriction across the abdomen; pulse ranging from 100 to 130, rather weak; appetite good; some sensation of the fæces and urine when about to be expelled, but these were often voided involuntarily. She had had a catamenial discharge only once. To its farther non-appearance, and to grief on account of the death of her father, after a short illness, her disease was attributed by herself and her friends. She had been previously bled, and had taken medicine without much benefit.

The loss of sensation and motion continued complete, involving the lower part of the body nearly as far up as the umbilicus, and in its entire circumference. Cupping, a seton, and a caustic issue, were resorted to in that order, without any apparent benefit. Laxatives were not often given (croton-oil twice or thrice), the bowels being free. Mercurials were administered at first, but were discontinued on the appearance of the abscess. The issue was kept open, and during the month of September I saw her only twice.

About the 8th or 10th ult., when once more inquiring if there were no sensation nor voluntary motion of any portion of the lower half of the body, I was informed that there was, as yet, not the slightest feeling, but that powerful involuntary movements had been observed during the preceding week, produced in various ways. Sometimes they were mere tremors, and were even excited by causes acting through the mind—as sud-