have recourse to the last remedy, a secession from the College. We may confidently reckon that nine-tenths of the members would secede; at all events, a sufficient number to form immediately a very respectable Society, which, in the course of time, by the zeal and energy of its members, might be made to rival, and without much difficulty to excel in utility, the concern in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. The formation of such a Society, with ample funds immediately to form a library and museum, would be an easy matter. Professorships might be established and lectures given, the profits of which, at first, should be devoted to the benefit of the institution. Such a Society, well managed, would soon attract the attention of the public. Subscriptions might be solicited for the foundation of a hospital, and it would be no very sanguine expectation to suppose, that we might enjoy the pleasure of seeing our efforts crowned by the foundation of a complete Academy of Medicine and Surgery.

February 8th, 1826.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

JOURNAL DER CHIRURGIE UND AUGEN-HEILKUNDE.

Graefe and Walther's Surgical and Ophthalmological Journal.

On the Antiquity of Diseases of the Bones.
By PH. V. WALTHER.

In examining an extensive collection of fossil bones, the remains of an extinct species of bear, Prof. Walther's surprise was not a little aroused by the quantity which he observed to be diseased. Among the number is,

1. A very perfect specimen of internal necrosis of the right thigh bone: the head, neck, both trochanters and articulating surfaces of the knee are healthy, all the rest of the bone is spongy and swollen; there are three principal entrances into the cloaca, in which the sequestrum still remains firmly fixed.

2. Two dorsal vertebræ ankylosed.

3. A lumbar vertebra, affected with caries.

4. Several lower jaw bones in a state of caries.

5. A radius, covered with exostoses; in short, examples of all the ordinary

forms of disease which attack bone. So that the bears, at least, of an antediluvian world, would seem to have suffered from necrosis, inflammation of the bones, tooth-achis, ending in caries of the alveolar processes, and diseases of the joints, followed by ankylosis, and doubtless, if their bones suffered, their soft parts did not escape. Dulce est socios habuisse malorum. We suppose, at intervals, that we discover hitherto unendured maladies; but nature, even in departing from her beneficence, appears to be governed by invariable laws. Here we have evidence of the same diseases that now occur, having afflicted the beings of creation which existed many thousand years ago, which probably inhabited the earth before man had asserted his supremacy.

Remarkable Cases in Medicine and Surgery. By C. A. BONA.

Dr. Bona, in a preceding number of this Journal, gives the history of many successful cases of amputation performed in the ordinary way, and in the present number, of the same operations done at articulations, principally of the tarsus and carpus.

Of twenty-five amputations of the thigh, nine in the upper third, sixteen in the middle and lower third, only two proved unsuccessful. These operations were all performed from three to six months after the receipt of the injuries, which rendered them indispensable. The method of operating pursued was by flaps in the upper third of the thigh, and by Mr. Alanson's, or the double circular incision, when the limb was removed lower down. In performing the flap operation, the knife was always passed through the limb on the inner side of the thigh bone, and the innermost flap formed first.

Of thirty-three amputations below the knee, only one had an unfortunate result. Four or five of these operations were done above the calf of the leg, one of them, indeed, so high, as to expose the articulating surfaces of the fibula and tibia. The operation, nevertheless, was eminently successful. The flap plan of operating was that which was for the most part followed. The limb was pierced immediately behind the tibia and fibula, and the flap formed by carrying the knife first directly downwards, and then slantingly outwards.

Several of the complications and accidents generally set down in elementary works on surgery, as contra-indicating the operation, are entirely disregarded by Dr. Bona and his colleague Dr. Klein.