Fever has become the most popular of his works: it appeared in 1750, and was rapidly translated into German and French. His French biographer (1822) eulogizes it in terms which will not find universal assent in this country; he asserts that it is infinitely superior to the various Treatises on Fever which have been subsequently published in England, without excepting that of Cullen. This preference seems to be founded on his having assigned an inflammatory cause to the greater part of fevers; or, in other words, on his having approximated in principle to the school of Broussais. The German historian of medicine, Sprengel, more temperately ranks his work as the best which appeared on that subject during the first half of the eighteenth century. His discrimination and description of the slow nervous fever form one of the most remarkable features. A singular distinction befel Huxham in consequence of this production. The Queen of Portugal was attacked with fever and was reduced to the last extremity, in spite of the exertions of the physicians of her country. The king at length summoned the physician attached to the British factory. This gentleman declared that he entertained some hope of her recovery, but stipulated on her being resigned to his sole direction. Under his treatment the disorder soon took a favorable turn, and her majesty rapidly convalesced. On being complimented at this successful issue, the physician replied that his only merit consisted in the application of doctrines which he had learned from the work of Huxham. The king immediately procured a translation of it to be made into the Portuguese language, which was published in a

handsome quarto, and was transmitted by him to Huxham in a rich form.

Huxham was also the author of *Observations on Anatomy*, in 1756. An antimonial wine was formerly sold under his name, and a tincture of bark still bears it. His theory and practice were considerably influenced by the old humoral pathology, but he was not a blind partisan. He differs from many practitioners of his age in the paucity of prescriptions scattered through his works, and indeed lays it down, that the physician who knows a disease, cannot be at a loss respecting the form of his remedy; an opinion in which we cannot implicitly defer to his authority. His works have always been popular in Germany and France. They were collected by Reichel, and published in three volumes octavo, at Vienna, in 1773. We believe that a new edition of them will shortly appear at Leipsic, as a portion of the Collected Latin Medical Classics, an enterprise which reflects honor on Germany—since the exhibition of such respect to the great observers of former times does not at all interfere with the pursuit of modern improvements, but is highly useful in tending to correct the prejudice, which flatters itself that every new case is a discovery.

II.

AN ACCOUNT OF A REMARKABLE CHANGE IN THE APPEARANCE OF A TAPE WORM.

By E. BARLOW, one of the Physicians of the Bath Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

THE following communication may be interesting to those whose attention has been directed to the subject of intestinal worms.

The natural history of the tænia, seems to have been hitherto but imperfectly understood. All the accounts and descriptions, apply to the worm as it appears when expelled from the body, yet there is reason to believe that the form and condition in the living state, are essentially different from what has been represented, and that this state has hitherto eluded the observation both of naturalists and physicians.

About a year ago, the following circumstance occurred to me: when about to leave the Bath united hospital, one day, one of the nurses hastened to show me a worm, just voided at stool, by a patient under discipline for acute rheumatism. It was such as I had never seen, being about five inches long, dark colored, flattened, yet with a convexity of surface; marked throughout with minute rings, gently swelling from the head to the body, and then gradually diminishing to the tail. Pressed for time, I directed it to be laid aside until the next day, and, for security, I saw it deposited in one of the bleeding porringers, covering it with water to prevent injury from desiccation, and consigning it to the special care of the apothecary's assistant.

On examining the porringer next morning, I found, to my astonishment, not the worm of the preceding day, such as I have described, but a large mass of unfolded tape worm, white, flat, jointed, and in all respects such as patients so often exhibit to their medical attendants after the successful operation of a vermifuge.

My first impression was an unpleasant feeling of my own ignorance. I could not imagine but that I must have overlooked what naturalists had recorded, for it never occurred to me that a fact such as I

witnessed, could be unknown or unnoticed. My first resolve, therefore, was to supply my own deficiency, in full confidence that I should readily find the information I wished. My research, however, was vain, for I could nowhere find descriptions or delineations of tænia, but such as applied solely to the unfolded worm. Thus disappointed, my next procedure was to make a drawing of the worm from memory, and to send this, together with a written account of the circumstance, to an intelligent friend well versed in natural history. But in this, too, I failed, for he could give me no additional information.

I would have afterwards called attention to the subject, by reporting the facts to some medical journal, but my original statement had been mislaid by the friend to whom I submitted it, and I had no leisure at the time, for drawing it up afresh. It continued to occupy my thoughts, however, and I only awaited opportunity to make further inquiries. Perceiving, subsequently, in Dr. Hodgkin's catalogue of the museum at St. Thomas's hospital, that he had paid attention to the subject of worms, it occurred to me to communicate with him, and I accordingly sent him a full and accurate account of what I had witnessed, accompanied with a drawing, and with such remarks as the occasion suggested. Of this communication I took no copy, which I now regret, as it would have saved me trouble in the present instance, and was, if I recollect, rather more full than the brief sketch which I now present. It would gratify me to introduce here the Doctor's polite and interesting reply, but as it was a private communication, I do not feel myself at liberty to make such use of it without his express con-

sent. One sentence only shall I extract, as tending to verify my statement, by showing that the same fact has been observed by another living witness.

"On mentioning the circumstance to my friend, Dr. Addison, he told me that he once took from a dead subject, a worm in the state described by thee, and that having left it, a similar transformation took place." The confirmation of the fact, supplied by Dr. Addison's evidence, is valuable, and, perhaps, two such instances, separately observed and positively attested, might suffice to establish its truth. If the fact be admitted as proved, I see not how we can conclude otherwise, than that the form I have described, exhibits the living state of the worm, and that elongation takes place only when vitality is destroyed. That the contracted and elongated states are both natural to the living worm, I cannot conceive, and my persuasion is, that once elongated, the worm could never again contract so as to recover the form which I witnessed. Bremser, as I understand, has mentioned contracted and elongated states, without noticing further distinction, from which it is clear to me, that he referred only to different degrees of elongation in the dead worm, for that which, according to my view, is the living worm, has no resemblance whatever to the dead one, and could never be confounded with it, neither could any naturalist represent it as being the elongated worm in a contracted state, unless he were, at the same time, prepared to describe the extraordinary change recorded in this paper, which Bremser has not done. The subject may appear insignificant, yet truth is always worthy of being ascertained. If the facts be as I be-

lieve, then are there many errors in the prevailing notions respecting tænia, that require to be corrected. If what I represent be true, and the conclusion, as to the living and dead states of the worm, correct, it is most extraordinary by what power of inanimate matter such complete unfolding, as I witnessed, could be effected. Simple elasticity is the only such power I know. That vital power should counteract elasticity during life, is easily conceived, but the exercise of this to such an extent after death, appears to me quite unexampled.

My object in troubling you with this crude notice, is to call attention to the fact, so as to multiply observers. It can hardly be but that opportunities of witnessing it will recur, but they must be watched, as they are peculiarly liable to be overlooked, for no one meeting with the living worm, and ignorant of its nature, could imagine it to be tænia. It might thus be thrown aside, and the transformation escape notice. In the instance which occurred to me, the change was complete in about twenty hours, but how much within that time, I am unable to say.

[In connexion with the above curious history, which we find in the *Midland Reporter*, we present, from our *Glasgow contemporary*, the following account of a new genus of acarides.]

A LADY aged about forty, who had labored under a complication of diseases for fifteen years, experienced an insupportable itching over every part of the skin, and when any part of the surface was broken by scratching, thousands of little animals of a brown color were observed, which moved about with

great vivacity. Such was the abundance of these little creatures, that it was necessary to change the patient's linen from three to six times a day. These little insects were capable of living for forty or fifty hours when removed from the patient, but did not appear to settle on any other individual, and the lady's husband experienced no annoyance from them.

On examining these little animals by means of a powerful microscope, neither eyes nor stigmata were detected. Probably the opacity of the body of the animal prevented the discovery of the stigmata, which are usually situated laterally in insects and spiders. The eyes do not exist even in a rudimentary state.

This animal belongs to the class of arachnides, and to the family of acarides. Its mouth, without distinct mandibles, consists of a kind of tube, furnished at the extremity with little hairs, and is almost concealed between two obtuse palpi, which are usually composed of two articulations. The tube and the palpi appear to form by their union a sort of head or prolongation of the anterior part of the body, placed between two shoulders, if we may give that appellation to the swelling produced by junction of the first pair of feet with the body. There is no distinct separation between the head and the body, nor between the thorax and abdomen; the animal is therefore of one piece, and without wings. The animal is furnished with eight articulated feet, furnished with hairs, and terminated by a joint longer than the others. The two anterior feet are the longest, and situated on the lower part of the body, while the remaining six are lateral.—*Annales des Sciences Naturelles*.

This is obviously a new species, and, perhaps, genus of the family of acarides; and although this is the first time the insect has been noticed, yet from the fortunate circumstance of the animal's having been examined by an able observer and zealous naturalist, the history of this parasite is much more perfect than that of the *acarus scobeii*, concerning which so much has been written. It differs sufficiently from the *acarus scobeii* which has been found in the ulcers of man, and domestic animals affected with the itch.

III.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW, CONVENIENT AND CHEAP HERNIARY TRUSS.

By GEORGE THOMSON, M.D.,
Glasgow.

HERNIA is a complaint so universally prevalent among all ranks of the community, that any improvement in the treatment of it, however slight, is of the utmost importance. Many of our greatest improvements in modern surgery have consisted in the simplification of our means of treatment. As an example, we may instance Sir Astley Cooper's bandage for fractured clavicle, where a simple bandage is substituted for the mass of cushions and bandages formerly employed. Simplicity of construction, and efficacy in practice, are the great objects to be aimed at in the improvement of any instrument, bandage, &c. &c., and these advantages this truss most unquestionably possesses.

The spring-truss commonly employed is often very difficult of adjustment, gives great uneasiness to the wearer, and is so expensive as to prevent its use by many poor people who cannot afford to pur-