of removing the whole organ, introduced his lancet, and a quantity of scirrhus pus was discharged. All parties were now satisfied, and the complaint of the breast was ultimately relieved.

Deep-seated scrofulous abscesses being attended with much pain, are liable to be mistaken for scirrhus. Two cases of this kind are related, in both of which extirpation had been strenuously advised. In both, however, a deep-seated indistinct fluctuation was discovered: upon the introduction of a lancet, pus was discharged, and the breasts saved. Wherever the least doubt rests upon the mind of the surgeon, it is easy to plunge a lancet into the seat of the disease, and thus settle the question. But little additional pain is thus inflicted, even if the operation is afterwards found necessary, and the patient has the chance of escaping a severe operation, and of preserving an important organ.

Cysts sometimes form in the breast, which are totally free from any cancerous disposition. In a case of this kind Dr. P. discovered two tumors, in which there was an obscure fluctuation. Upon puncturing them with a lancet, a serous fluid escaped, and no unpleasant consequences followed.

We are liable to be deceived as to the nature of the action which sometimes takes place in the cicatrix, formed after the extirpation of a cancerous tumor. If it enlarge, thicken, assume a red color, and become tender and painful, there is reason to fear the complaint has returned. But if it become painful only, the disorder is probably purely nervous, and the use of the knife is unnecessary.

It is highly gratifying to witness the candor with which the author of this paper speaks of the inadvertencies into which he had himself fallen. It is a rare quality among medical writers, and one which might be made to contribute very much to the advancement of our art. With proper dispositions we may learn as much from cases in which we mistake or fail, as from those in which we are successful.

III.

SELECTIONS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Prevention of Uterine Hemorrhage from Idiosyncrasy. By J. G. EVANS.

IN a Lecture of Dr. Blundell upon Floodings, the following observations are made:

Some women there are, from idiosyncrasy, peculiarly liable to bleeding; and very undesirable patients they are; the probability being, that they will ultimately die under your hands. Hence it becomes a question in cases of after-floodings, whether we can use any means of prevention. Now, as I am in general called to cases in which the flooding has commenced before my arrival, I have had very little opportunity of seeing the effect of any preventive practice, and cannot, therefore, from my own experience, enlarge upon this topic.

Not long since I met with a case which, as it bears on the above remarks, may not be uninteresting. I engaged to attend a woman in her approaching labor, and, on questioning her, I found that she had been delivered of nine children; and that, imme-

diately on the birth of each child, flooding came on to such an extent, that for upwards of twelve hours she remained in a state of syncope, inducing extreme debility, from which she did not recover for many months. In the major part of her labors she was attended by one practitioner, who always remained with her twelve or fourteen hours after the delivery had been effected.

Under these circumstances, I desired her to send for me at the very commencement of her labor, which she did; and I immediately procured a quantity of ice, and immersed in it a jug of spring water. The labor proceeded naturally and rapidly; as soon as the child's head had cleared the vulva, and while the shoulders were yet undelivered, I gave my patient a tumbler full of the ice-cold liquid; the body of the child was quickly liberated: the placenta followed in about two minutes; the due contractions of the uterus were indicated by after-pains; a very moderate quantity of blood escaped; and my patient expressed much surprise and pleasure at her exemption from the usual tax. A very slight shivering was the only untoward symptom; but this I was prepared for, and did not attempt to relieve. It quickly passed, and within half an hour after the delivery I left the house, well pleased that I had apparently saved myself many hours of trouble and anxiety.

It may be necessary to state, that I endeavored to ascertain whether, in the former labors, the placenta was quickly expelled, and whether there were any after-pains; but the woman's insensibility at the time precluded the

possibility of her affording me any information on the subject, and it unfortunately happened, that a removal from the country to the metropolis obliged her to change her nurse.—*Lancet*.

Case of Dislocation of the Humerus, reduced at the expiration of five weeks after the Injury.

A stout man, 60 years of age, was admitted into Guy's Hospital on Tuesday noon, April 8th, having received severe injury to the shoulder joint, five weeks previously.

According to the patient's statement, he slipped down whilst walking, and fell upon his shoulder: he applied to a surgeon (?) who informed him that the injury was only a sprain, and prescribed liniments; but finding that he was incapacitated from using his arm at the expiration of five weeks, he applied to the Hospital.

When admitted, it was readily discovered upon examination that the humerus had suffered dislocation downwards and forwards—the head of the bone being thrown beneath the pectoral muscle. The characteristic signs of the injury were very palpable—the elbow, separated from the side, and slightly inclined backward—the prominence beneath the pectoral muscle, &c.

Tartar emetic was exhibited ad nauseam, and the pulleys were then employed, until the head of the bone was drawn below the level of the coracoid process, when the surgeon, Mr. Cooper, put his foot in the axilla, at the same time carrying the humerus forwards; by these means the reduction was effected in the space of fifteen minutes.—*lb*.

Case of Dislocation of the Femur upwards, reduced at the expiration of sixteen days.

A stout muscular Irishman applied to St. Thomas's Hospital for relief on Sunday, March 23, having received an injury to the hip joint sixteen days previously. The accident occurred in the country, from a wagon having fallen upon him; he was unable to stand or walk after the injury, and great tumefaction speedily ensued. It was discovered, two days before the man's admission, that the femur was dislocated upwards, and attempts were made to effect the reduction without success.

When the patient was admitted, and stripped for the purpose of examination, the nature of the injury was so very apparent, that it was at once decided that the femur was dislocated upwards on the dorsum of the ilium.

Tartar emetic was administered in repeated doses, until nausea was produced, and bloodletting was employed to the amount of thirty ounces; under the state of depression induced by these means, the pulleys were used, and it was not until after extension had been employed for more than an hour, that the reduction of the bone was accomplished.

The case was exclusively managed by the dresser of the week, Mr. Bean.—*Ib.*

Abscess in the Fauces.

A child, three years of age, had been attacked with a series of fits incident to children from disordered stomach or bowels, which were successfully treated by warm baths, purgatives, &c. To these succeeded an enlargement of the whole chain of glands

in the neck, which, on subsiding, ushered in the symptoms as related by Dr. Sym. Great difficulty of breathing, accompanied by a noise resembling that of croup, more particularly when the child attempted to doze or sleep, producing an agonising sense of suffocation, and attended with a copious secretion of frothy mucus. On examination, there were no particular indications of the existence of a tumor; the tonsils, uvula, and fauces, presenting but little appearance of inflammation. Leeches, blisters, emetics, &c., were employed without any alleviation. Deglutition, which at first was not at all affected, now became alarmingly impeded, breathing stertorous, the child gasping for breath, and appearing every moment likely to be suffocated. The suspicion of the existence of an abscess or tumor, became more confirmed. On attempting to pass the finger down the œsophagus, all ambiguity was at an end; a large and elastic tumor was instantly perceptible to the touch, which appeared to be situated on a level with the epiglottis; a gum lancet (a trocar not always being a pocket-case instrument) was directed by the finger, and from two to three ounces of pus let out. The result was most favorable, the child being now perfectly convalescent.—*Ib.*

Five Children at one Birth.

A woman, æt. 27, who had been married five years, of a middle stature, robust constitution, after having been delivered of twins two years before, was brought to bed of five children. She went the regular time without any thing remarkable occurring, except a

sense of weakness and an occasional loss of appetite and sleep. The first child passed out easily after the membranes had been ruptured; the others came more slowly, and the last with great difficulty. Each was inclosed in a particular bag, and immediately followed by its placenta: all came with the head presentation. The two first were boys, then a girl and a boy, and lastly a girl. They all died before the third day. Their length, in general, was from $15\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the second boy did not weigh two pounds after his death. Although regularly formed, they did not appear to have arrived at perfect maturity. In the boys, the umbilical cord was 16 inches long, and 12 in the girls; no pulsation could be felt at the time of birth. The children had an old look; their voice was tremulous, they slept continually, and their temperature was very low. The mother, although weak, soon recovered.

Hydrophobia.

Dr. Barbantini, of Lucques, relates a case of hydrophobia, which deserves being noticed. A person was bitten by his dog, at which he was very much alarmed; and the alarm was increased, by the circumstance of the dog not being afterwards seen. The disease made its appearance, and for four days the patient could neither swallow fluids nor liquids. On the ninth day, the dog returned in perfect health, when it was immediately let into the bed-chamber of its master, whom he caressed as usual. From that moment the hydrophobic symptoms gradually disappeared.

Spontaneous Artificial Anus.

A case of the above description is related in a recent number of the *Archives Gnrales*. The patient, the first time she applied for medical assistance, was upwards of fifty years of age. At the termination of a labor, which happened twenty years before, she had had an umbilical hernia, which, not being kept constantly reduced, had gradually increased; it at length acquired so considerable a size, that, in the course of ten years, the whole of the intestines appeared to be situated in a kind of pouch, which she supported by means of a bag made for the purpose. At the end of the second year, the skin became red at the lower part of this projecting mass, and small whitish vesicles made their appearance. Ulceration took place, and in a short time a round opening was established, about the size of a five-franc piece. The circumference of this opening soon healed, but the centre of it remained pervious, and discharged, at different times, pus, serum, or blood. During the ten years which had elapsed from the appearance of this ulceration to the time of her seeking medical aid, the aperture had closed and opened several times. The movement of the intestines could be seen through the base of the tumor. She was still able to continue her usual employment. Some time afterwards she perceived that a portion of food which she had taken, issued from the wound, three hours after she had swallowed it. Upon pressing the hernial sac, fecal matter escaped from the opening. In the centre of the old wound, was found an opening about the size of

a shilling. The edges of this aperture projected, and formed a kind of sphincter. It was ascertained that this opening was situated on one of the small intestines. It was round, as if it had been formed by a pair of scissors, and the borders were red and tumefied. The intestine was reduced, and fixed near the wound. Poulitices were applied, and perfect rest recommended, to facilitate the union of the parts. The stools passed in the natural way; they were soon, however, suppressed, and the wound of the integuments contracted, so that an artificial anus was completely established.

Medical Gazette.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1828.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE
COLUMBIAN COLLEGE.

To complete the organization of the Medical Department of the Columbian College, a Chair, denominated *The Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence*, has been established.

Professor RANDALL having been appointed to the newly created Chair, the vacancy occasioned by his resignation of the Professorship of Chemistry, has been filled by THOMAS P. JONES, M.D., formerly Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy in William and Mary College, and late of the Franklin Institute. By these arrangements, the scientific advantages of the Students are greatly augmented, without any material increase of expense, the graduation fee being reduced from thirty-five to twenty dollars.

During the last Course of Lectures,

the Professors occupied their new Medical College, erected during the past Summer, and the result of the Winter's experience proves that the building is well suited to the purposes for which it was designed.

It is large and commodious, consisting of three elevated stories, with a roof peculiarly constructed for the admission of light into all the apartments appropriated to anatomical purposes.

On the ground floor is the Lecture Room, Laboratory, &c. of the Professor of Chemistry.

The second story contains the rooms, public and private, of the Professors of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and of Materia Medica, and of the Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence.

In the third is the Anatomical Theatre, together with rooms occupied by the Professors of Anatomy, Surgery, and Obstetrics.

The theatre is designed from the most approved plans, and is conveniently connected with the rooms situated in the superior part of the building, which are intended for the purposes of Practical Anatomy. In relation to this particular department of the school, the professors have pleasure in saying, that care has been taken to provide space, light, and security, together with every other specific convenience that may afford to the Student facility in prosecuting to advantage this necessary part of his collegiate studies. Rooms have, also, been set apart for a Medical Library and a Museum of Anatomical Preparations.

Since the commencement of the