7. *Case of Secretion of Air from the Human Skin.* By SIR FRANCIS SMITH.—An hypochondriac gentleman, 35 years of age, informed Sir F. Smith that he was liable to immense disengagements of gas from the stomach; that he also occasionally discharged air from the urinary bladder; and had observed an escape of air from the surface of his body when under water in the bath. Little attention was paid to the last of these statements till the 15th of May, 1840, when Sir F. Smith was hastily summoned to the bath to see the phenomenon of the disengagement of air from the skin of his patient. He was found in a bath at 79°, and his chest, abdomen, shoulders, and hands were literally covered with small air bubbles. When he removed his hands from the bath, the bubbles disappeared, but when he replaced them below the water, the air bubbles were observed to make their reappearance, at first very minute, but gradually increased in size till the palms of his hands became again coated with them. He frequently wiped away the bubbles from his hands and chest, but in every case they were soon replaced by others. The bubbles of air ran together, when pushed with the finger, like globules of mercury, without quitting the skin, or becoming loose in the water. This circumstance was observed for twenty minutes by Sir F. Smith, and towards the end of that time the margins of the upper end of the bath opposite where the shoulders had been, were coated all round for a depth of about two inches, with minute bubbles of air.—*Ibid*, from *Dublin Journ. of Med. Sci.*, Jan. 1841.

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8. *Ergot.*—"MR. WRIGHT inclines to the opinion which ascribes the formation of the excrecence to the combined influence of atmospheric warmth, and moisture. He is the more inclined to this belief, from the circumstance of the ergot being much more common in the district of Sologne than elsewhere, this district being possessed of those properties which favour such a conclusion, viz. moist rich soil, atmospheric warmth, and sheltered situation. Grains also occur, only one half of which are ergotted, the other half being healthy; an insuperable objection to the opinion, that ergot is produced by the growth of a fungus, which would equally attack all parts of the grain. Besides, from his own experiments, he found that ergot in powder or substance, sowed with rye, failed to produce the disease on the growing plant, nor did it even succeed, when he watered freely and daily, the growing plants with water, in which ergot had been steeped. The application of the powder of ergot to the growing ears of rye, likewise failed to produce ergotted grains. The excrecences remarked at the upper extremity of the grains he regarded as the stigmata altered by disease. Mr. Wright's conclusions were further confirmed by the fact of his discovery, that ergot contained a considerable quantity of fecula, 26 per cent., a substance which could not have been expected, if the disease were produced by a fungus, and which Mr. Wright has the merit of discovering, no previous analyst of the substance making mention of it.—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, January, 1841.

9. *Formulae used in the Treatment of Tinea Capitis.*—The following are the formulæ commonly employed by M. CASENAVE in the treatment of this disease at the hospital of St. Louis:—

Ioduret of Sulphur Ointment.—Ioduret of sulphur, 1 scruple; lard, 30 scruples.
Depilatory Ointment.—Subcarbonate of soda, 8 scruples; lime, 4 scruples; lard, 30 scruples.

Pitch Ointment.—Citrine ointment, 15 scruples; pitch ointment, 30 scruples.—Or, powdered pepper, 2 to 4 scruples; lard, 30 scruples.

The ointment is applied every evening; in the morning the head is washed with the following lotion:—Subcarbonate of potash, 8 scruples; distilled water, 500 scruples.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, August 14, 1841, from *Journ. de Med. Pract.*