similar mental hallucination occurred in his last two attacks.

Feb. 3. Three a.m. Since midnight I have not been able to pacify or get him to take anything. At last, however, I managed to administer fifteen grains of the *Ant. Tart.* in toast-and-water, and in less than four minutes fifteen grains more, which tranquillized him until nine p.m., but he was without sleep. He now became worse, and eighteen grains more were given without any effect. Will have some spirit and water, which I would not permit, but in spite of all resistance he procured a very large glass of rum, which he drank at a draught. This made him as bad, or worse than ever, if possible.

Eleven p.m. I now succeeded in giving him three scruple doses of *Antim. Tart.*, one every five minutes. The last made him very sleepy and powerless, and he declared that if I would only let him have a glass of gin-and-water he would go to bed. (This he said in a more sensible and collected manner than has distinguished his words since the commencement of the attack.) This I allowed, with another scruple dose of the medicine, in the space of three minutes after the third dose had been given. He then stripped, went to bed, and slept soundly until

Feb. 4, eleven a.m., when every bad symptom had subsided, and on

Feb. 5, he began to follow his occupations as usual.

CASE OF
HORN EXCRESCENCE,
GROWING FROM THE
HEAD OF A WOMAN.

By W. C. WORTHINGTON, Esq., Surgeon,
Lowestoft.

EXCRESCENCES of a horny nature have occasionally, though rarely, been observed growing from the human head. It has fallen to the lot of but few medical practitioners to witness preternatural growths of this description, judging from the very small number of well-attested cases to be met with on record.

Doctor Pensa of Naples, *Journal de Prag.*, relates the case of a man with a horny excrescence over the uppermost portion of the right parietal bone. It was of the size of a goat's horn, being about six inches in length, and of a spiral form; the person was seventy-five years of age. Its substance was very hard, and its nature rather oily. It was of a yellow colour and a fibrous texture. The extirpation of it was performed without

difficulty. Six weeks after the operation two small horns began to sprout from the cicatrix, but afterwards spontaneously disappeared.

An extract from an American journal went the round of the newspapers in 1827, concerning a horn which had grown from the head of a woman of that country, and was spoken of as an extraordinarily rare occurrence.

But perhaps one of the most remarkable and best authenticated cases of this sort upon record, occurred in the practice of Dr. William Roots, of Kingston-upon-Thames, who, in February 1811, amputated a horny excrescence from the head of a man, between fifty and sixty years of age, exactly resembling a ram's horn, a drawing of which, in its growing state, as well as the horn itself, was presented by him to the collection of Sir Astley Cooper. The account given of this case is, that John Kennedy, in the year 1796, had a tumour growing from the superior part of the occiput, which was taken off with the knife by the Doctor's father, in about three years from its commencement. Soon after its removal, a horny substance made its appearance on the same place, which continued growing for four years, until it accidentally fell off in a most unexampled manner, leaving the surface of the part from which it grew perfectly smooth, resembling the superficies of the stag's head when his horns have recently dropped. In a short time afterwards, a new horny sprout shot forth, which, as it grew, took on the exact form and figure of a ram's horn. It continued to increase for a period of seven years, without any disposition to fall off, to the great annoyance of the poor man. He consented at length to its removal, in the performance of which, from the parts underneath being vascular, a considerable hemorrhage ensued.

A very remarkable case, illustrative of this playful freak of nature, came under my own immediate notice, a short time since, presenting, however, some modification of character from that of Dr. Roots, inasmuch as the horny excrescence had never shown any disposition spontaneously to exfoliate. A woman, nearly seventy years of age, residing in the parish of Rushmere, five miles distant from Lowestoft, perceived, as far back as thirty years ago, a hard substance, like horn, growing from the integuments of the head, just over the parietal bone, to the right of the sagittal suture. It continued progressively increasing until it arched over the os frontale, presenting a very singular appearance, and producing no other inconvenience than that of becoming sometimes entangled in the hair. Several medical gentlemen had, during its growth, visited this woman, and proposed its excision, but a great natural aversion existed in her mind against any operation. She at last, however,

consented, by the entreaties of her husband and friends. Its removal was accomplished by Mr. Primrose, of Wrentham, and myself, by means of a metacarpal saw. The excrescence was easily divided, scarcely producing any pain. A minute quantity of blood exuded from the divided surfaces, sufficient to demonstrate a vascular organization, the vessels entering from the scalp. It measured, when detached, eight inches and a half, approximating in figure to that of a ram's horn. Its texture was hard and laminated, and it was of an albumino-gelatinous quality. A fragment, when submitted to the action of heat, eliminated the same strong odour as that produced by the same agency upon horn. Henry Collins, Esq., who has been long engaged in the pursuit of comparative anatomy, kindly assisted me in the analysis, and perfectly coincided with me in ascribing to it all those physical qualities which are usually met with in substances of a horny nature.

The above sketch conveys a tolerably adequate idea of the manner in which it grew, together with its form.

Lowestoft, Norfolk, March 31, 1836.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OF LIGATURES TO
BLEEDING VESSELS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR: Your correspondent, Mr. Neligan, who has published a letter in your number of the 12th of March, might have carried his investigations still further, and have found "Gabelhover" in the back ground, as the following extracts on the subject will prove. They were furnished me by an old and valued friend, and, I think, will prove

interesting to your readers. I am, Sir, yours, &c.

W. T. ILIFF.

Canterbury-row, Newington,
March 23, 1836.

"Ex arteria quando effluit sanguis, non esse possibile, ut sistatur fluxus quando arteria magna est, nisi uno ex quatuor modis: scilicet, cauterio ut diximus, vel divisione illius quando non divisa fuerat (etenim quando dividitur, contrahantur extremitates ejus et sanguis abrumptur) vel firma filo ligatione, vel applicatione medicinarum styptica virtute præditurum," &c. &c.—*Albucasis cura Johannis Channing*, lib. 1, sect. 56. "*De Ustione in Sanguinis profluvio, et arteria scissa ex-orto.*"

Mesne de *Ægreditudinibus Oculorum*, lib. 2, cap 3, "*De Ophthalmia*," after directing the temporal artery to be opened, &c., adds—"*Si autem fuerit ex magnis liga eam cum filo de serico forti in duobus locis, ut sit inter duas ligaturas distantia sicut pollicis,*" &c.

Ætius, "*De Re Medica*," lib. xv, *De Aneurismate*:—"Sed adversus aneurisma quod in cubiti cavitare contingit, ita enitemur; primo arteriam desuper ab axilla ad cubitum per interiorē brachii partem delatam signamus, deinde in eadem interiori brachii parte simplicem sectionem tribus aut quatuor digitis inferiorē axilla per longitudinem ducimus, ubi maxime tactui occurrit arteria; qua paulatim denudata deinceps adjacentia corpora sensim exoriamus et separamus, ipsamque arteriam cæca volsella subinde attrahentes duobus fili vinctulis exquisitissime constringimus, medianque inter duo vincula abscindimus," &c. &c.

Celsus, in this fifth book, chap. 26, says—"Quod si illa quoque profluvio vincuntur, venæ, quæ sanguinem fundunt apprehendendæ, circaque id quod ictum est duobus locis deligandæ intercidendæque sunt," &c.

MIDWIFERY INSTITUTION AT
VIENNA.

REPORTS OF CASES FROM NOV. 1831, TO
JAN. 1835.

IN the last LANCET, page 111, we gave at considerable length an analysis of a great portion of some very interesting documents issued from the Midwifery Institution at Vienna. Want of space prevented us from quite concluding the paper, although we designed to add but very little to the information then extracted from the reports. We seize therefore the first opportunity of completing our intention, and resume the