owing as I think, to the existence of a peculiar disposition in some constitutions to take it, which conquers the protecting power of both vaccine and variolous inoculation. A writer in the Gentleman's Magazine, for 1737, *nearly a century ago*, says of small-pox inoculation, "The objection of a *return after inoculation* is nothing, for *so it does sometimes after the natural way*; however, *the second invasion* is found to be *more favourable*." At the starting of small-pox inoculation, such statements as this, were hushed up for policy. I have been much gratified by these communications. I wish the SCIENTIFIC SURGEONS IN GENERAL PRACTICE could be brought out more, for they are the men who have the practice and the *real knowledge* of the profession.

JOHN FOSBROKE.

June 6th, 1830.

Sudeley Place, Cheltenham.

EXCISION OF THE PROXIMATE NERVE AFTER THE BITE OF A RABID ANIMAL.

I HAVE not yet heard any satisfactory physiological reason, why the absorption of the rabid virus should take so long a time in its progress; all other animal poisons operate very quickly; indeed it cannot be referred to either lymphatic or sanguineous absorption, the latter almost instantaneous, and the former consuming no long period.

I will, therefore, assume as my postulatam, that there is another absorption, namely, by the nerves, and that it is peculiarly slow in its progress; it would not be difficult to produce arguments in support of this opinion, as, for instance, workers in white lead, who are afflicted with diseases, confessedly nervous, yet not produced until a considerable lapse of time after they have been engaged in their pernicious occupation.

An instance of hydrophobia occurred in my own practice, and is recorded in THE LANCET, of July 12, 1828, in which the patient did not exhibit hydrophobic symptoms until nine months after he had been bitten by a rabid animal; in this case it was found that the wound had been inflicted immediately upon the saphena nerve.

I think I have a fair right to assume, in the absence of a better theory, that the success of cauterization or excision after the bite of suspected animals, depends upon the destruction of the proximate nerve.

Now, as I should consider any observations upon this disease impertinent, which did not lead to some practical result, I would propose, as a consequence of my hypothesis, that in all cases of bites inflicted by suspected animals, the nearest large nerve to the wound should be divided, or a portion

excised above the part, so as to intercept its communication with its origin.

Nay, more: granting me the postulatam I solicited in the beginning, that the nervous absorption is peculiarly tedious, stealing, as it were, inch by inch, I would advise, even weeks after the bite, the excision of the nerve, *but nearer to its origin in the proportion to the lapse of time*.

C. E. JENKINS.

Great Prescott Street, June 28th, 1830.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW.

On Canine Madness; comprising the symptoms, post-mortem appearances, nature, origin, and treatment of Rabies in the Dog and other domestic animals. By W. Youatt, V.S. and F.Z.S. London, 1830. Longman, pp. 52.

A Treatise on the Horse, its diseases, lameness, and improvement; with the proper method of shoeing the different kinds of Feet; the Art and Practice of Farriery; and on the Breeds of Horses. By Wm. Osmer, V.S. Fifth Edition, with additions. By J. Hinds, V.S. London, Sherwood and Co. 1830. pp. 268.

To No. 6 of Mr. Underwood's Translation of Celsus.

A Supplement to the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Pharmacopœias, containing a view of the doctrine of definite proportions, an account of the New French Medicines, and observations on the *modus operandi* of medicines in general, &c. By D. Spillan, M.D. Dublin. Hodges and Smith, 1830. pp. 227.

Two Lectures on some of the physical signs of diseases of the chest: delivered before the Members of the Portsmouth Philosophical Society, in January 1829. By John Forbes, M.D., Chichester. Winchester, reprinted from a dead periodical, 1830. pp. 26.

A Letter on the Non-contagious Nature of the Yellow Fever, &c. 1818. An Address on the means of preserving the Health of Children. 1829. Observations on the Ligation of Arteries, Secondary Hemorrhage, and Amputation at the Hip-Joint. 1824. By James Veitch, M.D.

Report of the Managing Committee of the House of Recovery and Fever Hospital, Dublin, for one year, ending 4th January, 1830. Dublin, R. D. Webb, 1830. pp. 112.