old-fashioned canula or the more modern rubber tubing with small holes cut in it at intervals. A T-shaped wire, silver or nickle plated, is used (see diagram); the part A being inserted into the opening in the chest, while the wire is retained in its place by means of strips of adhesive plaster passed through the parts marked B. The wire keeps the opening from closing, and is not liable to cause necrosis of the rib, an objection the canula is open to. It does not require to be changed every few days, as is the case with the rubber tubing. When the latter is used, if the fluid is at all purulent, it adheres to the sides, soon decomposes and sets up a very offensive odor, and so necessitates the frequent washing or renewal of the tube. The part B (see Fig. 1) being bent at right angles to A, lies, when *in situ*, perfectly flat against the wall of the chest, and consequently does not cause the patient any inconvenience whatever. I am unable to state whether or not the contrivance is original with Dr. Dickinson.

JOINED TWINS AND OTHER DEVIATIONS FROM NATURE.

By JAMES O. WHITNEY, M.D., of Pawtucket, R. I.

APPROPOS of the interest now occasioned by the death of the Siamese twins, I will mention that when I was a student at the Berkshire Medical College, there was in the museum of the institution a dried specimen of twins joined at their backs. If I was correctly informed, they were born still, Prof. H. H. Childs having been the obstetrician at the birth. The bond of union was short, not over one inch in length. No doubt some of the readers of the JOURNAL can give full particulars of this case.

Some thirty-five years since, there was born in Attleboro', Mass., a child destitute of extremities, a human being consisting of a head and trunk. It lived until two and a half years of age. It had intelligence, and a comely face. I suppose, from what I was told by the parents a few years after its death, that it was not deficient in anything or in any respect other than as stated. One shoulder was rounded off, and the other supported a mere rudiment of an arm; and, as the mother described it, "the body came to a point." Therefore, not the vestige of thighs existed. The sex of the child, if told, I cannot recall, but I think it was a female. After it acquired strength in the spine, a socket was constructed, into which it was placed, and in this way it maintained the erect posture, taking an interest in surrounding events, "seeming as pleased when familiar faces entered the room as any child" of like age. The parents of the child (the mother is still living) were educated, well-to-do people; they had had children, notably intelligent and beautiful. A fine male child was born to them after this one.

Recently (March, 1874), I attended at the birth of a male child, the right foot of which is destitute of the four outer phalangeal and metatarsal bones; the foot consists of little more than a finger, the heel being more pointed than normal. The right hand wants a thumb, the index and large finger coalesce and are shorter than the third finger, which is singularly lengthened. On the left hand, the thumb is partially wanting; three fingers coalesce, and the little finger is the longest.