a state of suspension globules of fatty matter or butter. Alcohol and ether dissolve the fatty or milky globules, but have no action on the caseum. A watery solution of iodine colours the caseum yellow, but has no action on the milky globules. These facts prove that the caseum forms no part of the milky globules, and that it does not exist in a concrete form in the milk.

All the milky globules are retained by the filter, and the liquid which passes through it is transparent as water, and deposits the caseum on the addition of an acid. This fact proves that the caseum is in a state of solution, and also that the white colour of the milk is owing to the presence of the milky or fatty globules which are suspended in it. Milk may, therefore, be considered as an emulsion.

When milk is allowed to stand, the cream ascends to the surface. The caseum is only the separation of the milky globules on account of their lighter specific gravity; and if the milk be examined in a transparent vessel, it will be seen that the layer next the cream is the whitest, whilst that at the bottom of the vessel is of a greenish hue, and semitransparent. This difference of hue is owing to the greater or lesser proportion of milky globules in the different parts of the fluid.

When it is allowed to stand some time longer it becomes acid, though it was alkaline when first drawn. The cream gradually thickens, the caseum becomes consolidated, gaseous matters are disengaged, a strong odour of rotten cheese is perceived, and the microscope discovers a multitude of animalcules and infusory vegetables. If the milky globules be previously separated, they are found to become rapidly acid; whilst the watery portions holding in solution the caseum undergo the alkaline or putrefactive decomposition.

The infusory vegetables in milk are not observable till long after it has undergone the acid change. It cannot, therefore, be considered as the cause of the acetous fermentation, as is remarked in vegetable infusions, which undergo the alcoholic fermentation. The infusory animalcules exist equally in the acid as in the alkaline part of the milk during these changes.

M. Donn has remarked, that there is a fixed relation between the secretion of the colostrum in the breast before delivery, and the secretion of the milk after that process; and he thinks that women may be in this respect divided into three classes. The *first* class includes those in whom there is scarcely any milky secretion till delivery is over. In them the colostrum consists of a viscous liquid containing a very few milky globules mixed with granular bodies. In these circumstances the milk after delivery is always poor, and in small quantity. In the *second* class the colostrum is more or less abundant, but is poor in milky globules, which are small and ill-formed. Besides the granular bodies, mucous globules are detected in the colostrum. After delivery, the milk is more or less abundant, but is poor and serous. In the *third* class, the colostrum is rich in regularly-formed milky globules, and is only mixed with the usual granular bodies. The milk which is secreted after delivery is abundant, rich, and of good quality. It is this class of women who ought always to be preferred as nurses.—*Ed. M. and S. Journ. from Compt Rendu de l'Acad. des Sci.*, Sept. 1839.

MISCELLANEOUS.

50. SIR JAMES CLARK's *Statement of the Case of the late Lady Flora Hastings*.—So long as the accusations brought against me, in reference to the case of the late Lady Flora Hastings, continued to be either anonymous or unauthorised, I felt it right to submit in silence to every species of provocation, rather than bring before the public circumstances of a very delicate nature, which came within my knowledge in the implied confidence of professional intercourse. The publication, however, of the Marquis of Hastings, the nearest relative of Lady Flora Hastings, made me doubt seriously whether, in regard to myself, as well as the profession, I was justified in not laying before the public an account of the case

so far as I was concerned. The renewed attacks which have followed that publication permit me no longer to hesitate; although, even now, it is with the utmost reluctance I bring myself to enter into details which, I am of opinion, ought never to have been made the subject of public discussion.

On the 10th of January last, I was consulted by Lady Flora Hastings, who had that day arrived from Scotland, and had come into waiting on Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. She had derangement of the bowels, and of the general health, and she complained of pain low in the left side. There was also considerable enlargement of the lower part of the abdomen.

Under the use of some very simple remedies the derangement of the bowels and the pain in the side gradually abated, and ultimately ceased; and Lady Flora complained only of weakness.

The size of the abdomen, however, continued undiminished; and Lady Flora's appearance became the subject of remark in the palace. About the 1st of February, as nearly as I am able to fix the date, I was sent for by Lord Melbourne; and, on going to him, his Lordship informed me that a communication had been made to him by Lady Tavistock, respecting Lady Flora Hastings, whose appearance had given rise to a suspicion in the palace that she might be privately married: his lordship asked my opinion on the subject. I stated, in reply, that while I thought such suspicions ought not to be readily listened to, I was, at the same time, bound to admit to him that the appearance of Lady Flora in some degree countenanced them. I added that, without more ample means of observation, I could not venture to give an opinion on the subject; and his lordship agreed with me that no step should then be taken in the matter.

From this time the condition of Lady Flora Hastings caused me considerable anxiety. The only source, besides pregnancy, from which the size and peculiar form of the abdomen could proceed was disease; but the probability of disease being the sole cause, in Lady Flora's case, was diminished by the circumstance that the enlargement was accompanied by very little general derangement of health. In fact, Lady Flora continued to perform her usual duties with apparently little inconvenience to herself.

I continued to visit Lady Flora about twice a week, from the 10th of January to the 16th of February, and on several occasions examined the state of the abdomen over her dress; but being unable, in this way, to satisfy myself as to the nature of the enlargement, I, at length, expressed to her my uneasiness respecting her size, and requested that, at my next visit, I might be permitted to lay my hand upon her abdomen with her stays removed. To this Lady Flora declined to accede.

Matters remained in this state until the 16th February. On that day I found it had been determined that I should acquaint Lady Flora with the suspicions which existed in the palace, and should suggest her calling another physician into consultation with me. Before visiting Lady Flora, I asked Lady Portman, the lady in waiting, if I might use her name to Lady Flora, as one of the ladies who entertained the suspicion respecting her. To this, Lady Portman at once assented. Her Ladyship then described the peculiarities in Lady Flora's form and carriage, which had produced the impression in regard to her state. To the question as to what my opinion on the subject was, I replied that the appearances were certainly suspicious, but that even to medical men such appearances were often deceptive. Lady Portman concluded by observing, that for the sake of Lady Flora Hastings herself, as well as of the court, it was necessary that the matter should be cleared up. Immediately after this interview with Lady Portman, I went to Lady Flora for the purpose of making to her this very unpleasant communication; and I need hardly add that I made it in the most delicate terms which I could employ. After a few remarks on the state of her health, I told her that her size had attracted the attention of the ladies, and that it was now my painful duty to acquaint her ladyship that they had, in consequence, been led to suspect that she must be privately married. This was the mode, and these were the words in which the painful communication was made.

I urged Lady Flora, for obvious reasons, if there were grounds for this sus-

pieion, to acknowledge the fact, and if not, to see another physician at once, to put an end to the rumour. Lady Flora denied that there were any grounds whatever for the suspicion, and named Sir Charles Clark, who, she said, had known her from her childhood, as the physician she would wish to be called in; but she declined, notwithstanding my earnest entreaties, to see him on that day. This refusal, after the reasons which I had given, lessened very considerably the effect upon my mind of her ladyship's denial.

After the interview with Lady Flora it remained for me to communicate what had passed to her royal highness the Duchess of Kent. I, therefore, informed Lady Flora that I was going to her royal highness for that purpose; to the propriety of this Lady Flora immediately assented. I accordingly went to the Duchess of Kent, and stated the nature of the interview I had had with Lady Flora. Her Royal Highness immediately expressed her entire disbelief of anything injurious to Lady Flora's character, and she asked me my opinion. However reluctant I felt to express any doubts on the subject after Lady Flora's declaration, I could not decline giving a conscientious reply to her royal highness's question; and I answered to the effect that the suspicions I previously entertained were not removed.

In the course of the evening of the day on which I made the communication to Lady Flora Hastings, I received a note from her ladyship, of which the following is a copy:

"Saturday.

"SIR—Although I think you perfectly understood me this morning, that I did not wish you to take any steps without hearing from me, it is perhaps better, to obviate the possibility of any mistake, that I should distinctly say so. I shall be governed entirely by her royal highness's wishes and orders.

"Yours sincerely,

FLORA ELIZ. HASTINGS."

I heard nothing more on the subject till the afternoon of the following day, (Sunday, February 17th,) when I received another note from Lady Flora, of which the following is a copy:

"SIR—By her royal highness's command I have written to ask Sir Charles Clarke to name an hour this afternoon to come to me. He has answered my note by coming, and is now here. Could you come and meet him?

"Yours sincerely,

F. E. HASTINGS."

On receiving this note I immediately went to Lady Flora, and found Sir Charles Clarke with her ladyship. He stated to me, in Lady Flora's presence, as part of the conversation he had had with her, that he urged her, if there were any grounds for the suspicions entertained, to admit the fact now, as after the examination it would be too late.

After this conversation, Lady Flora requested that Lady Portman might be called in. On her arrival, Lady Flora retired to her chamber, where her maid was in attendance. After Sir Charles Clarke had made an examination, he returned with me to the sitting-room, and stated as the result, that there could be no pregnancy; but at the same time he expressed a wish that I also should make an examination. This I at first declined, stating it to be unnecessary; but, on his earnestly urging me to do so, I felt that a further refusal might be construed into a desire to shrink from a share of the responsibility, and I accordingly yielded. After finally consulting, we gave the following certificate.

(*Copy of Certificate.*)

"BUCKINGHAM PALACE, February 17, 1839.

"We have examined with great care the state of Lady Flora Hastings, with a view to determine the existence or non-existence of pregnancy, and it is our opinion, although there is an enlargement of the stomach, that there are no grounds for suspicion that pregnancy does exist, or ever did exist.

(Signed,)

"CHARLES M. CLARKE, M. D.

"JAMES CLARKE, M. D."

Before parting with Lady Flora, both Sir Charles Clarke and myself pressed upon her ladyship the expediency of her appearing on that day at table as usual.

Such is a plain statement of the leading facts of this unfortunate case, so far

as I am concerned. That I was unable to ascertain the true nature of Lady Flora's state, I at once admit, and most deeply regret: but when the difficulties which frequently occur in cases of this description, even where every facility is afforded for investigation, are considered, it can scarcely be made a matter of reproach to me that, amidst the disadvantages under which I laboured, I was unable to affirm that Lady Flora's change of appearance was the result of disease, and of disease alone. If even Sir Charles Clarke did not venture to express a positive opinion until after a careful examination, it will be readily conceded that no other person could have done so without recurring to some similar proceeding. And if any thing further were required to establish the difficulties of this very peculiar case, and the heavy responsibility attaching to a decision on it, Sir Charles Clarke knows that there are other facts connected with it which prove, in the most unequivocal manner, both the one and the other—facts which do not throw the slightest shade of doubt on the purity of Lady Flora, nor are matter of blame to any one, but which it is not necessary to bring before the public.

The *post-mortem* examination established the fact, that the death of Lady Flora Hastings was occasioned by extensive disease, dating its origin "at some former and distant period of time;" and yet such was the obscurity of the symptoms which, during life, accompanied the disease, that its nature became evident a few weeks only before Lady Flora's death; and the fact of its having involved every organ within the abdomen was revealed only on the *post-mortem* examination.

I think it right to notice, in this place, a part of my conduct which may at first sight appear censurable. I allude to the admission of my suspicion, that Lady Flora might be pregnant, before I had been permitted more fully to examine into her state. Under almost any other circumstances it would have been highly improper for me to have answered an inquiry on such a subject; but as I could not authoritatively remove suspicions founded upon appearances, which, taken alone, would, in a great majority of cases, indicate what was feared and not the singular state of disease revealed after the death of Lady Flora, I felt it my duty, considering the very peculiar responsibility which attached to me, to confide the doubt which was in my own mind to those who had a right to demand my real opinion, and who, I felt assured, could not use it in a manner unfriendly to Lady Flora.

[We have inserted the preceding statement, as the event which it records has excited great attention, and to gratify some of our correspondents who have requested information relative to it. That this occurrence should have ever been made public is one of the evil fruits of the virulent party spirit of the present times. It was seized on by a party, who, for the promotion of political purposes, have not hesitated to invade the sanctities of private life, outrage female delicacy, and expose to public gaze a circumstance which should never have been known beyond the precincts of the palace. Whilst every one must have felt the deepest sympathy for the unfortunate position of Lady Flora, it must be admitted to have been necessary for the moral character of the court of the youthful Queen, that suspicion should be set entirely at rest respecting the condition of an unmarried lady whose appearance led the ladies of the court to suspect that she was pregnant.]

That a physician officially called upon, under such circumstances, should, merely on the faith of the high character of the lady, the only certain means of ascertaining her condition being denied him, decline to testify to her not being pregnant, is what might have been expected; indeed, is the only course which a proper prudence and regard for his own character would justify. Sir James Clarke's statement is, in fact, the most thorough vindication of his own course in this unfortunate transaction. This distinguished physician is well known in this country by his writings, and is highly respected for the soundness of his views, and the extent of his acquirements; and his professional and private character, by the concurrent testimony of all who enjoy his acquaintance, stand on the loftiest eminence.]