of cases merely sympathetic with, and symptomatic of, visceral derangement. Thus, if a careful inquiry be instituted, prurigo podicis will be found to depend on hæmorrhoids, prolapsus ani, fistula or fissure of the rectum, on accumulation of feces in the sigmoid flexure, dysentery, intestinal worms, or the presence of some other irritating cause in some portion of the intestine. Prurigo pudendi muliebris—a no less distressing and inveterate affection—is similarly symptomatic of some abnormal condition of the vagina or uterus; while prurigo scroti is occasioned either by psoriasis or eczema of the part in the great majority of instances.”—*Brit. Med. Journ.*, Sept. 2, 1865.

17. *Degeneracy of Vaccine Lymph by Frequent Transmission.*—On this subject the most contradictory opinions have been expressed. Mr. T. M. HARDING has fairly discussed the question in an article in the *Medical Times and Gazette* (Sept. 23, 1865).

He shows that the constitutional manifestations produced by vaccination, either direct from the cow or after a few transmissions as described by the early vaccinators, were much more severe than are observed at the present day from vaccine matter now employed. Hence he thinks it “a fair conclusion that the constitutional symptoms produced by inoculation with matter derived directly from the cow or from persons who have casually derived the disease from the cow are much severer than those produced by the current lymph of the present day.”

Mr. H. then inquires whether the protective efficacy of vaccination has diminished?

He states that when vaccination was first introduced by Jenner, that, to demonstrate its efficacy, the vaccinated were exposed to smallpox infection and inoculated with variolous matter, without taking the latter disease. He observes: “If it had been possible in the first few years after 1798 to find one fatal case of smallpox after vaccination, would the operation ever have made way with the public? Yet now it would be easy to find not one, or ten, or a hundred, but thousands of deaths after vaccination. What explanation more rational or more probable can be offered, than that the vaccine virus has undergone some change during its repeated transmissions that has in some way diminished its power, especially when we consider that the local manifestations and constitutional symptoms are also modified, and, in fact, diminished? There is another reason why we should have expected *à priori* that this would occur. Inoculation of smallpox itself is known to be followed by a gradual diminution of intensity, so that in time the matter is no longer capable of producing the disease.”

Mr. H. advocates a renewal of the lymph. “I do not recommend,” he says, “the general and indiscriminate employment of primary lymph; its effects upon some constitutions are too violent, it requires to be passed through some constitutions properly selected by competent judges before it acquires sufficient mildness to be appropriated for general use. I think that many repeated renewals of lymph could be effected in this way, so as in a short time to completely supersede the lymph now employed, and such a recourse to the parent stock for renewal of lymph may be had periodically, so as to maintain the action of the lymph to the standard of Dr. Jenner. Such a course would materially improve the condition of the people of this kingdom, so far as their immunity from smallpox is concerned; but, after all the care, cases of post-vaccinal smallpox will occur. Let it be remembered, then, that vaccination does not confer an absolute, but a relative, immunity from smallpox, and the more complete the vaccination—that is, as regards the purity and strength of the virus and the number of punctures—the more complete the immunity.”

18. *Assimilation of Fat in Consumption.*—Dr. HORACE DOBELL, in his “third report of cases treated with Pancreatic Emulsion” (*Lancet*, Nov. 11 and 18, 1865), offers the following explanation of the frequent failure of our attempts to keep up that favourable change which so often occurs in consumptive cases when cod-liver oil is first administered:—

“We all know how constantly it happens that a consumptive patient makes