

conclusions on physical subjects, than a blind man can judge of colors, or a deaf man of music. It is doubtful, whether, with scalpel in hand, he would have patience to dissect an "organ," so prone would he be to speculate on its functions—he would rather prefer to consider *what life is*, than to investigate its phenomena. Having been taught to believe that the mind is simple, he infers that its seat in the brain is simple, and accordingly locates it in the *corpora olivaria*; the very idea of a plurality of organs for the different mental faculties, seems heretical, for it is contrary to anything taught by Locke, Malbranche, Reid or Stewart! Everything claiming to be new must be false, because it is new; he cannot believe that anything more is known of the philosophy of the mind, than what he taught when president of Williams and Mary. As to the brain, it may be "the material instrument of thought," but then "we are profoundly ignorant on the subject," and indeed, "knowledge on this point is not attainable at all." Gall is "a visionary," his system "a creation of the fancy." Such is the opinion of a metaphysician in relation to a system, built up exclusively by a rigid induction of facts, to the exclusion of everything not founded in nature—a system which appeals constantly to observation to confirm its doctrines, and sustain its deductions. How overwhelming to the lover of truth to find such a system, weighed in the scales of metaphysical abstraction, and absolute spiritualism, and then condemned authoritatively, because the bird's-eye dogmatist, wrapped in the conceit of his wire-drawn speculations, is unable to understand *how* the different fundamental qualities can act through material organs!*

CANDIDUS.

ANEURISM BY ANASTOMOSIS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MRS. GRANT HOISINGTON, of Ellisburgh, Jefferson Co., N. Y., applied to me on the 1st of Sept., 1840, for advice in relation to a pulsating tumor which occupied the situation of the right orbit. It commenced at the lower margin of the eye, and extended down to the nose, crowding that member to the opposite side, and producing great deformity. It had been about one year progressing when I first saw it, and of late had grown very rapidly and caused much pain. I gave my opinion, and advised the operation of applying a ligature to the common carotid artery, as the only means of doing any good. On the 10th of Sept. I was requested to visit Ellisburgh and perform the operation, which I did in the presence of Drs. Eastman, Sen. and Jun., Jones and others, assisted by Dr. John Binsse, of Watertown. Mrs. H. was 60 years of age, and though of a nervous temperament, bore the operation with great firmness. The wound was dressed in the usual manner, and the patient left with

* "If any whim can be conceived, beyond the pale of a sane imagination, it must be the idea that a diminutive mass of cerebral matter, four-fifths water, and as simple in construction, as small in quantity, can *per se*, and in virtue solely of its position, produce all the results, physiological and mental, which I have enumerated" (p. 135.) Is it any more easy to conceive how the whole brain can be the instrument of the mind, than how a smaller portion of it may be the organ of a particular faculty?

Dr. Eastman. Extensive erysipelatous inflammation occurred on the following day, but was soon overcome, and the patient continued to do well, with ordinary attention. On the 39th day I removed the ligature, without any bad consequences following, and discharged her cured, she being then able to sit up and having a good appetite.

P. S.—In March, 1841, Mrs. H. died of confirmed phthisis.

Boston, July 3d, 1841.

F. A. CADWELL, M.D.

MILK-SICKNESS.

THE "*Mill Stone Knob*," in Sumner county, Tenn., is one of the localities which have been famed, since the settlement of the country, for giving rise to milk-sickness. It is now generally called the "*poison knob*." Yet domestic animals of every description may be seen, at this season, feeding upon the grass which grows luxuriantly on its sides wherever the sun has gained admission to the soil, and it is understood that they may continue to range it with safety until about the commencement of winter. In a hasty excursion which we made to the knob, a few weeks since, we saw, every now and then, a spot where a fire had been kindled to consume the carcass of some animal which had perished of the poison. Such occurrences, we learned, were still not uncommon in the neighborhood, yet owing to the caution of the people in keeping their milch-cows upon pastures which have been cultivated, a case of poisoning in the human subject has not occurred for three years. The country around the knob is thickly settled, and families are found living on the sides of the hill. They feel safe so long as they abstain from the flesh and milk of animals that have been ranging the "*poison knob*," or, in other words, while they confine their stock to their own cultivated grounds. This knob is one of the most fertile spots to be seen in that fertile region of country, and has a black, rich soil to its very summit, which is now covered with a luxuriant growth of cane. So fine is the pasture upon it, in winter, that persons drive their young cattle to it to pass that season. A few die of the poison, but they feel themselves indemnified in the saving of forage and labor that would be necessary to take the survivors through the winter. I need hardly add that the cause of this singular disease has not been discovered. The *remedy* for it is *prevention*, and this consists in bringing the soil under the dominion of the plough. One year's cultivation effectually eradicates the poison, and forever afterwards the lands infected by it, if sowed in grass, may be depastured with impunity. It is a fact attested by all with whom I conversed, that hogs and buzzards, as well as hens and turkeys, are poisoned by the flesh of animals that have died from this cause. Dr. Graffe, it may be known to some of the readers of this Journal, came to a contrary conclusion after some experiments upon the hog, as related in a late No. of the Medical Examiner.—*Western Jour. of Med. and Surg.*