

may be disputed whether it is not a much greater advantage to have suppuration of the wound for many days after the operation rather than that simple union which the surgeon is generally so anxious to obtain."—p. 21.

Amongst the cases of cancer of the ovaries is a very interesting one of a girl under ten years of age. We believe this to be the youngest instance on record; and it is important to note that the girl was very much addicted to masturbation. It is to be feared that the great frequency of diseases of the female generative organs is in some way connected with this evil habit, as it undoubtedly is with excessive sexual indulgence. The subject is of vast importance; and, though undoubtedly presenting many and great difficulties, requires a thorough investigation. Dr. Tanner does not mention the subject except with reference to carcinoma of the uterus; and here he altogether disputes the proposition. Nevertheless, our experience on the general question, not with special reference to cancer, is in favour of the view expressed above.

Details of no less than 92 cases of cancer of the uterus are given. Of these, 80 were unmarried, 10 were widows, 1 was single but had borne a child, 1 only was really single, and in her case the deposit was secondary. Only 12 of the whole number had never been pregnant; while the rest had each averaged $6\frac{1}{2}$ pregnancies, which, as the author remarks, is above the average, and "seems to show that childbearing predisposes in some measure to cancer of the uterus."

The pamphlet is a valuable contribution to the subject; the tables are carefully drawn up, and are very useful and easy of reference.

Introduction to Anthropology. By Dr. THEODOR WAITZ, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Marburg, &c. Edited, with numerous additions by the Author from the first volume of "Anthropologie der Naturvölker," by J. FREDERICK COLLINGWOOD, F.R.S.L., Hon. Secretary to the Anthropological Society of London. pp. 404. London: Longman and Co. 1863.

THIS new volume is the first of a series intended to be published by the Anthropological Society of London. It is also the first volume of Dr. Waitz's complete work, which has been thus early selected for presentation to the members as the continental treatise best representing such researches as tend to establish a *de facto* science of Man, and as more ably expounding the present state of anthropological science.

"The present work has rarely been noticed in this country, but in France it has been freely criticized. It has also been well received in Germany; and Dr. Waitz's foremost theoretical opponents have willingly admitted the zeal, immense research, and erudition he has shown in the collation of his materials. Neither is it written in a narrow party spirit, but the author is candid and impartial, and the whole tone of his work is characteristic of a truly philosophical mind."—p. xv.

We have no doubt that many of our readers will demur to this erection of a new science, to be called 'Anthropology.' They will ask, like ourselves—Of what is it constituted, but of the natural history of man and of the history of civilization? Others, like Dr. Waitz, will maintain that the physical part of the science of man, and the historical portion, are unconnected, save by certain obscure and complex relations, the analysis and development of which are but inadequately or often not at all worked out either by historian or biologist. To evolve these is the office of anthropology, which, according to Dr. Waitz, has assigned to it "the task of mediation between the physical and historical portions of our knowledge of man."

"It is," he says, "at the point of his transition from isolation into social life that anthropology must lay hold of man, and investigate the conditions and results of his further development."—p. 8.

What, then, is "ethnology?" some will cry out. Only a branch of anthropology, say the new-comers; that branch has for its object the investigation into the affinities of various peoples and tribes. If we are to take, the treatise of Dr.

Waitz as the best exposition of the science of anthropology, then we are forced to say that we are extremely sorry it has so few settled and substantial principles to offer us. The four hundred pages of the work teem with interesting and important facts. But what kind of facts are they? Simply those belonging to the natural history of man, with a few from the history of civilization! These appear to be, however, of so conflicting and variable a character—to be governed by general laws so little amenable to our present powers of scientific appreciation—as to lead Anthropology to confess she can settle nothing, or, at any rate, that she can only recommend us for the present to be more doubtful than positive—if, indeed, it can be allowed that she has even established herself. Nevertheless, Dr. Waitz's treatise is one which shows much research, unbiased feeling, and cautious judgment; and it contains the pith of a host of books like those of Prichard, Nott, Glidon, Latham, Lawrence, Agassiz, &c. There being an Anthropological Society, we do not know that it could do better than make Dr. Waitz its standard-bearer, than whom a more honest and cautious advocate does not exist. We confess, however, to some regret at witnessing the severance of two such bodies as the Ethnological and Anthropological Societies from each other. Is not *fraternization* a principle of the new science? If so, let it have full play in this instance, and then, perhaps, it may be said of anthropology, "Vires acquirit eundo."

TWO CASES OF SMALL-POX SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY SARRACENIA PURPUREA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to communicate some observations on the action of sarracenia purpurea in the treatment of small-pox. I have had an opportunity of giving it in one case only, another was treated by my brother in Aberdeen, who suggested its use to me; but the effects were so similar, speedy, and beneficial as to leave no doubt that they were due to the sarracenia.

I quote extracts from letters from my brother:—"I am giving a small-pox patient the sarracenia purpurea, in infusion; I commenced it yesterday. The eruption appeared four days ago, and is very abundant—a sort of semiconfluent variety, not very serious, but not by any means slight. In answer to my inquiry to-day, how he felt (I was anxious to know the immediate effects, if any, of the sarracenia), he said he was quite well in health. He is placed in very unfavourable circumstances—a miserable little place of an attic inhabited by three persons." In a note that I received a day or two later he says: "My small-pox case has quite recovered. The sarracenia seems to have some specific action, although most M.D.s say it is a hoax. I gave it to this man upon the fourth day of the eruption, up to which time the disease had progressed exactly in the ordinary manner, the vesicles containing clear lymph; but here they were arrested, they never went on to suppuration, and there was no odour perceptible. Prior to his getting the infusion he complained much of restlessness and sleeplessness at night, but after he commenced taking it he slept well. On my last visit, instead of finding symptoms of feverishness, I found him sitting by the fireside, telling me that he 'was quite well, but just not so strong.'"

To give the particulars of my own case would be to repeat a good deal of the substance of the above. The patient, aged twenty-five, was a man of a very full, plethoric habit. The symptoms were severe, and the eruption very abundant, quite of the confluent form on the face; the mouth and fauces were also covered. To extreme restlessness and sleeplessness at night was added pretty smart delirium. The patient commenced taking the infusion on the afternoon of the fifth or sixth day. Relief was almost instantaneous; he slept soundly during the succeeding night, and had no more delirium. When I inquired for him next day, he replied that "he had felt quite easy since I gave him that *stuff*," indicating the infusion. He continued rapidly to improve, and is now recovered.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. HENDERSON GRANT, M.D.

Aberdeen, Jan. 1864.