

observation which these institutions afford will ever be made available in advancing the healing art, for the good of the community at large."

To these useful aphorisms we may append the

SUGGESTION OF A PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.

The following idea, suggested by Mr. HUNT, at a meeting of the Ashford Branch Provincial Association, is not a bad one. On many occasions useful knowledge has thus been gleaned; and a well-arranged system for bringing forth the experience of the provincial practitioners would open a mine rich indeed in facts, and every fact worth loads of opinions:—

"It has occurred to me, that our [a?] weekly periodical might be made the medium of certain definite inquiries, addressed to all our members on any given question, and the statistical results of their replies might be published in our annual volume of *Transactions*, and there collated and compared with whatever practical information on the same subject might be gleaned from the periodicals during the last year or seven years; and thus we might settle some disputed point, or discover some new principle. This would be a beginning, and by degrees, the system might be extended over the whole profession, through some respected medium."—*Provincial Journal*.

FUNGOID DISEASE OF THE KIDNEY IN A CHILD.

Dr. FLETCHER presented, at a recent meeting of the Birmingham Pathological Society, the right kidney taken from an infant aged fifteen months. It weighed two pounds and a quarter, and the following history was given with the case:—

"A few days before his death, he was seen as a patient at the General Dispensary, and a large tumour was found situated in the right side of the abdomen, extending downwards from the right hypochondrium, very much in the situation of the spleen, an enlargement of which it was thought most probable, but that it had not that abrupt termination internally by which enlargements of that organ are usually characterized. The child was very much emaciated, and evidently could not live many days. It died, and a post-mortem examination of the body was made.

The capacity of the chest was very much diminished by the pressure of the enlarged contents of the abdomen upwards against the diaphragm; the contents healthy. Abdomen: A tumour was found, consisting of the right kidney, in a fungoid state of disease, which pressed upwards the liver, stomach, and spleen, and pushed forwards the pancreas and colon, the descending portion of which passed down in front of it: it filled up all the right side of the abdomen from the right hypochondrium down to the pelvis, below the pancreas and arch of the colon; within the descending colon the small intestines lay upon it, and posteriorly it passed as far as the spine. The other kidney, and all other organs of abdomen and pelvis, healthy."—*Idem*.

PECTORAL ABSCESS FOLLOWING RHEUMATISM

is an equally rare complication. A seaman, twenty-five years of age, was admitted, with a large abscess occupying the right pectoral and axillary regions. He suffered from symptoms of inflammatory fever, and gave the following

"*History*.—Caught cold ten days ago, whilst at sea, and two days afterwards was seized with general articular rheumatism, especially of the right shoulder, which he has not since been able to move without the most excruciating pain; had severe rigors five days ago, upon which the pains and swellings left the other joints, and became augmented in the shoulder. A deep incision near to the sternum was required to open the abscess, when a pint of thick pus flowed slowly, and gave great relief."

The patient recovered, and Mr. Greenhow remarks that

"The cause of the abscess in this case was obscure, but would seem to have been from the participation of the surrounding tissues in the rheumatic inflammation of the joint, and if such, is a thing of most uncommon occurrence; the disease, however, appeared to have expended itself in the production of it, for as soon as the rigors denoted its formation, the attack on every other part ceased, and the diathesis, as it concentrated in the abscess, kept pace with its progress.

AMMONIA AS A VESICANT.

The stronger solution of ammonia has been much employed on the Continent, particularly in France, for some years back, as a speedy blistering agent, but has been very little used hitherto in this country. Various directions are given as to the mode in which it ought to be employed, but Dr. Gondret's ointment is the preparation in most general use, and is that one most highly spoken of. As prepared according to the formula originally published by him, it has been found in many instances not to act satisfactorily. The inventor of it, in consequence, recently made public the following formula for its preparation:—Take of axunge, one ounce; oil of sweet almonds, half an ounce; melt together with a gentle heat; pour the mixture, while still liquid, into a wide-mouthed glass vessel; then add, solution of caustic ammonia, five ounces, and mix with constant agitation till cold. Particular care must be taken that the axunge be merely melted; if it be too fluid, or too warm, some of the ammonia will be vaporized, and the resulting ointment too weak. The ammoniacal ointment, thus prepared, retains its properties for many months if kept in stoppered glass bottles in a cool place. Gondret's blistering ointment produces vesication in about ten minutes; it is applied, by spreading it on the skin, and covering the part with a compress. The French use it most frequently for blistering the temples in diseases of the eyes. The rapidity and certainty of its action, however, renders this vesicant of great value in many diseases.—*Dublin Journal*.

LARGE PECTORAL ABSCESS FOLLOWING THE REDUCTION OF A DISLOCATION.

This is a rare form of complication in such an injury; and the case which illustrates it is from the practice of Mr. GREENHOW. The dislocation being unreduced for a week, and the man continuing his work, the lacerated parts were deprived of that rest which was necessary for their healthy union. The principal facts are the following:—

"A stout, healthy-looking man, aged twenty-six, admitted, with a very extensive diffused abscess in the left pectoral region; the whole of that part greatly swollen, red, hot, and exceedingly painful on the slightest pressure; distinct fluctuation throughout, particularly at the lower part of the origin of the great pectoral muscle, and the axillary space felt like a bladder tensely filled with fluid, the movement of the arm giving great pain; had intolerable thirst, and high febrile commotion. The history was, that he travelled with a menagerie, and three weeks before, whilst lifting a heavy weight, lost his grasp, and felt something in his left shoulder give way; after this, he had all the symptoms of dislocation into the axilla, but owing to the nature of his employment, he was unable to get it reduced until a week had elapsed, when, continuing his work, (which he had never intermitted,) a violent throbbing pain set in, and was soon followed by the other symptoms of an abscess."

He was treated in the usual way, and, after much suffering, recovered, the shoulder-joint being still stiff.

TRICKS IN THE BOOK TRADE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Princes-street, 28th July, 1846.

SIR,—A further illustration of the "deception" exposed by Dr. Bostock, both in *THE LANCET* and *Gazette* of July 18th, is made apparent in the following note, addressed to Mr. Henry G. Bohn, and to which that gentleman has not thought proper to reply.

The profession ought to be informed of this feature, in the "New, valuable, and most important Books in Medicine," &c. &c.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN CHURCHILL.

Princes-street, 14th July, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—By a letter received this day, my attention has been directed to what the writer designates a most unjust proceeding, your having purchased vol. i. of "Taylor's Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," published in 1836, substituting a new title-page, and affixing the date of 1843, thus leading the public to purchase an incomplete and obsolete book, for the work published by me, of the same date, 1843. Surely you could not have sanctioned a proceeding so deceptive to the public, and unjust, both to the author and myself. Waiting your reply,—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Mr. Henry G. Bohn.

JOHN CHURCHILL.