

prove of interest, and that at some future time it might aid in explaining the law that governed the singular development and mode of growth of these tumours. The patient was a female, aged twenty-eight, who died in St. George's Hospital of typhus fever. A full record of the post-mortem appearances was given, but the contents of the pelvis relate more especially to the present subject. The vagina was healthy; the uterus was somewhat larger than natural, and its muscular wall thickened. The membrane lining its cavity was covered throughout its entire extent with a highly vascular villous membrane, resembling the decidua. The round ligaments were both healthy; the right Fallopian tube more dilatable than natural, and contained a thin bloody fluid; the right ovary was healthy; the left Fallopian tube was healthy. The left ovary was occupied as a large cyst, the size of an orange; the lining membrane of the interior of the cyst was vascular; its wall was composed of an external peritoneal layer, an inner, smooth, shining coat, devoid of epithelium. The cavity of the cyst contained a few short, light-brown hairs. The lower half of the tumour consisted of a second cyst, containing some yellowish, white, purulent-looking fluid, with some granular fatty matter of the consistence of honey, scaly epithelium and fine hairs of a brownish colour being intermixed with it. The fatty matter was found to be fluid at less than the natural temperature of the body. The hair, on being separated from the matter, was found to be attached to the wall of the cyst by distinct bulbs. A portion of the wall at the lower part of the cyst presented an appearance similar to the surface of the scalp; there was a thick layer of scaly epithelium mixed with fat covering the surface; numerous sebaceous glands were indented into this layer, and a canine tooth projected from the skin, fully formed; it was implanted into a fragment of bone, covered with periosteum. There was a third cyst situated near the fragment of bone, about the size of a walnut, the wall of which was delicately vascular, forming meshes resembling the pia mater; the contents of this cyst presented all the characters of brain. On microscopic examination, the ordinary elements of nervous matter were seen, consisting of varicose nerve tubules, intermixed with the elementary component parts of gray matter; nuclei, and nucleated vesicles containing granules. There was also a fifth cyst, the contents of which were much less like brain matter than the contiguous one. So far as the author had been able to ascertain, he believed that nervous matter had not been previously described as forming a portion of the contents of these ovarian cysts.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

It had been our intention to publish a lengthened account of the proceedings of the above Association, but on perusing our report we found so little that was generally interesting, that we have thought it necessary to publish only the following summary. The Medical Reform resolution was inserted last week.

The meeting was held at Swansea on the 10th and 11th of August, Dr. Gwynne Bird in the chair. The President having briefly addressed the meeting, the Report of the Council of the Association was read. It stated that there had been a considerable increase in the number of members since the last meeting, and that a metropolitan branch of the Association had been formed. With regard to the financial condition of the Association, the subject of the journal was first mentioned. From this it appears that from the increased expense entailed on the Association by the publication of a weekly journal, the *Transactions* for the future "would in all probability not be continued." The gross expense of the journal for the last six months had been £1327 1s. 4½d., £828 14s. 6d. of this being contributed from the subscriptions of members. The subject of Medical Reform was then entered upon, and shown to be progressing very favourably. The Benevolent Fund had great calls upon its resources, but members were urged to contribute to it. The Report was adopted. The Report of the Journal Committee was then read, and after some discussion received and adopted. A vote of thanks was then proposed to Dr. Ogle, the President of the past year, and carried unanimously. Dr. Ogle returned thanks. Some conversation followed respecting the disagreement between Mr. Syme and Mr. Hester, which ended eventually in the following resolution being proposed and carried:—"That the Association regrets that there should be any misunderstanding between Mr. Syme and Mr. Hester; but that the Association does not hold itself responsible for the sentiments expressed in the papers which

may be published in the *Transactions*, and recommended for publication on account of their general merits." The Address on Surgery was then delivered by Mr. Augustin Prichard, of Bristol. A *conversazione* took place in the evening at the National School Rooms.

The proceedings on Thursday commenced with a public breakfast at the Mackworth Arms. Dr. Charles Radcliffe Hall then delivered the Address on Medicine. It was then arranged that the next Anniversary Meeting should be held at Manchester, and that Mr. W. J. Wilson should be President elect. Dr. Radford was appointed to deliver the Address in Midwifery, and Dr. Conolly the Address in Medicine. Several papers were then read. About 100 members dined together afterwards at the Assembly Rooms.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

DR. AYRE ON MALIGNANT CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The threatened return to this country of the malignant cholera, and the still questionable state of public opinion in reference to its appropriate treatment, will be accepted, I trust, as my apology for the application which I am about to make to my professional brethren to favour me with communications on the results of that particular mode of treatment which, as its author and earnest advocate, has become in some manner associated with my name, and which consists in the giving of one or two grains of calomel every ten or fifteen minutes during the whole period of the stage of collapse, and still smaller doses, and at still wider intervals, in its premonitory stage of diarrhoea, with the tenth or twelfth of a grain of opium with each pill, as the circumstances of the case may require.

In the reports which I would be here considered as emphatically soliciting, I wish to have comprised the following particulars:—

1st. The degree and previous duration of the collapse when the treatment began.

2ndly. The dose of the calomel, the times of its repetition, and the whole quantity taken.

3rdly. What auxiliary means were used along with it.

4thly. What the result in a given number of cases; and where the issue was unfavourable in any particular case, what were the circumstances which appeared to produce it.

In making the foregoing application to my professional friends, I fear that I may be thought to have trespassed unduly on their indulgence, and I must therefore entreat them to remember how much that is important to society is involved in the whole question of the mode of treating this disease. The hope, indeed, has long been cherished by me, that the Board of Health, in connexion with its other useful labours, would ere this have applied itself to this subject. This, however, is still unattempted; and it is in the absence of such an inquiry, and, to a limited extent, in correction of it, that I have made this appeal in relation to the method pursued by me in its treatment. Should my appeal be responded to, I can fearlessly commit myself to the declaration that the result will confirm all that I and others have asserted of its success, and that the report which I shall thence be enabled to make will, as I devoutly believe, set the question of the value of the calomel treatment at rest for ever.*

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Hull, August, 1853.

JOSEPH AYRE, M.D.

GRATUITOUS ADVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The system of gratuitous advice, so ably exposed by yourself and correspondents, is, indeed, an evil of the first magnitude to the character and interests of the profession. That the labourer is worthy of his hire, and that charity should

* The following extract from a letter from the United States, addressed to THE LANCET, and printed in that journal in February, 1850, will serve to show the extent to which the treatment by calomel was followed, and the vast success which resulted from it:—

"In twenty cases," says Dr. Kelso, "of average severity, occurring in my practice, calomel, singly, or in combination with acetate of morphine, as the exigency of the case demanded, proved a mine of almost unfailing success. That similar results followed the labours of many of my professional brethren who pursued this course in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, is undoubted; and I take pleasure, indeed, in recording the fact, that more than three-fourths of the active practitioners in those states, and, indeed, of the union, followed the system of Dr. Ayre, or a practice very closely allied to it, with very general success."—Extracted from a Letter by J. S. KELSO, Esq., M.D., of Oak Springs, Wisconsin, United States.