

ing its various convolutions, at the same time, of the hardness of marble. Also the breast of a woman. That this last preparation has undergone any change, cannot be told by the eye alone, touch is necessary to ascertain its truth.

I have mentioned a few of the more interesting objects in Segato's collection. Their number and variety are too extensive for a detailed account.

There is also shown a table composed of 214 pieces, which at first appears like "*pietra dura*," comprising various parts of the human body, such as liver, muscle, heart, brain, kidney, artery, placenta, &c. These have all the external characters of stone, and resemble various kinds of jasper, agate, and breccia.

These specimens of Mr. Segato appeared to me particularly interesting, for by the same process morbid appearances could be preserved in a state in which much more knowledge could be acquired than in the present imperfect preservation, by means of spirit.

From the few morbid specimens in Segato's collection, the value of the discovery, and the misfortune of its loss, is at the same time demonstrated. But to natural history would appertain the greatest benefit from its re-discovery. By this process every species of animal could be preserved in their truth and nature, the most delicate appendages of even insects not being injured. The hope that these few remarks may induce a further investigation, and that the re-discovery may take place in our own country, has induced me to make this communication.

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*Case of Prolapsus Ani.* By SAMUEL JACKSON, M. D.—The following is a brief history of the case of prolapsus ani, which some time ago you requested for the use of the Journal.

Some years since I was requested to visit Philip Haupt, of Irish Valley, twelve miles south of Northumberland. On arriving at the house, I was surprised to find that he had gone about half a mile to visit a sick neighbour. Thither I pursued him, and found him labouring under a prolapsus ani with the whole circumference of the intestine in a state of mortification.

He informed me that he had been subject to this malady for some years, that a few days before he had been unable to return it as usual; that he had suffered great pain, and that he was suffering much when he had sent for me; that when the pain had gradually subsided under the use of some poultice, he had felt himself so well as to be able to visit his sick neighbour.

A poultice of bread and milk, with a strong decoction of the bark of *quercus alba*, a remedy which was most convenient, was directed, and the patient was well in a few days. The whole protruded part sloughed off and left no vestige of itself.

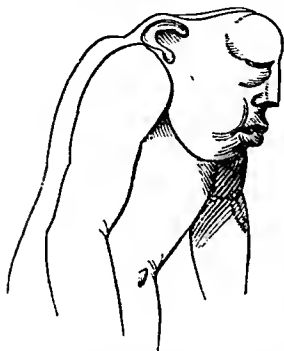
The prolapsus had not once returned when I last saw him, at least ten years after the cure was effected; nor had he during that long time been the least incommoded by any disease or disorganization in the region of the rectum.

I forbear the making of any observations on this case, since the relation in which it stands to the operations which have been performed for the cure of this grievous malady, are sufficiently evident. We would refer, however, to the cases of abscission, by J. W. Heustis, M. D., recorded in the tenth and twenty-second numbers of this Journal; not because we consider either his or nature's method as preferable to Dupuytren's, or even Hey's, but merely that the reader may consider the cases in relation to each other. Here are four methods by which this loathsome and debilitating affliction may be radically cured: where is the patient who would not gladly submit to either of them?

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*Account of an Anencephalus, or Human Monstrosity, without a brain and spinal marrow.* By ALEXANDER Y. NICOLL, M. D., and RICHARD D. ARNOLD, M. D., of Savannah. Read before the Medical Society of Georgia, on the 6th May, 1837.—On the 12th February, 1837, we were requested to examine a female negro child,

which had the night previous been prematurely born at the eighth month, to give our opinions whether violence had been used or not, which in consequence of the singular appearance it presented, was supposed by those who attended at the delivery. Upon a superficial examination, we pronounced that no violence had been used to destroy the child, but that it was a monster of an interesting character, and requested that it might be given to us for a more minute examination, which was readily granted. We have, with the assistance of Dr. Lewis F. Nicoll, of New York, made as careful an examination of this case, as our means and experience would allow us, and believe it is important in determining the question of the evolution of the brain and nervous system;—not so much, however, from the deductions which we ourselves have drawn from the dissection, as from its affording additional facts to those which have already been presented to the profession on this subject, by older and abler heads than ours.



A front view of the child exhibited to us the eyelids as two round bodies placed upon the top of the head, which, previous to the dissection, we considered as deformities in themselves. In this view, the chin was resting upon the chest, bringing the head so low down, that the ears not only touched, but were actually turned up by the shoulders. Upon looking at the head laterally, [see accompanying figure] it appeared as if cut off by a plane which intersected it just above the nose; thence passing down to the top of the ears, and there exhibiting a slight prominence, occasioned by the sponginess of the membrane, hereafter to be mentioned, the plane then passing down at a greater angle to the shoulder.

Looking at the head posteriorly, it appeared as if the whole scalp had been removed, with the exception of a small portion just back of the eyes, which passed down on each side close to the ears, and terminated directly upon the shoulders, upon the whole of which hair had been formed. The central portion, instead of the convexity usually observed, presented a very irregular appearance, dark and bloody, as if violence had been used. This central portion was covered by a thin membrane, which we believed to be the dura mater. Upon pressing this with the finger, it appeared to be in direct contact with the bones beneath, with the exception of a small part in the centre, which felt spongy to the touch, but at the same time of very little thickness.

Proceeding to the dissection, and removing the scalp behind the eyes, we were surprised to find not the least rudiment of the frontal bone, except a portion of the orbital plates, which was attached to a confused mass of bone, hereafter to be mentioned. Upon dissecting the membrane from the central portion, we found it closely adherent to the basis of the cranium, if we may call it so, (with the exception of the spongy central portion that appeared to contain blood,) and traced it down to the spinal canal from which it appeared to emanate. Underneath this membrane was a confused mass of bone, very solid, without any marks of the usual divisions of the bones of the cranium. Continuing on, we found no trace of the parietal, the occipital, or the squamous portion of the temporal bone. After an attentive examination, we could not discover the least portion of the cerebrum or cerebellum. That portion of the *foramen magnum*, which is formed by the sphenoid bone, and which is usually, more or less, round, was in this case angular, the angle being formed by the junction of the bases of two triangular plane faces, the vertices of which terminated behind the ears, and there formed something like the mastoid process; which, however, instead of being round, presented a sharp edge looking outwards and backwards. Believing that something might be contained in the confused mass of bone which formed what might be considered the base of the skull, we sawed through it, but found it perfectly solid. In examining the cervical portion of the vertebral column, we could not discover the

atlas; and found that it was composed of four, instead of seven, vertebrae. On opening the spinal column, there was no trace of the spinal marrow; but the membranes were present from about the 2nd dorsal vertebra. From the position and great prominence of the eyes, we doubt if there could be any antrum maxillare; which, upon dissection, we found to be the case. The eye had made itself a socket in that portion of the upper maxilla, commonly occupied by the antrum. In our dissection, we were particularly struck with the quantity of adipose matter we met with, as also the abundance of hair, which, in this particular case, covered the cheeks, the shoulders, the outside of the arms and fore-arms, the back down to the nates, and the outside of the thighs and legs.

We next dissected down, to ascertain the appearance of the axillary and popliteal nerves, and found them large and well developed. We also dissected the neck to ascertain the comparative size of the internal and external carotid; but regret that we were unable to determine this, in consequence of our wanting the means of injecting them; and the common carotid was so small, and not being injected, we lost all trace of the artery in a mass of caseous matter, behind the angle of the lower maxilla. With the exception of the head and neck, every other part of the child, externally, was remarkably well formed and plump.

From the foregoing description, it will be at once perceived, that the monstrosity described answers exactly to that known as an Anencephalus; as that term has been reserved to designate such as have the brain partially or completely absent, "with a corresponding defect of the parts by which it is protected." In this case the external organs of the senses were present.

Our object in bringing this subject before the Society, is not merely that a "*lusus nature*" might be brought to the cognizance of our medical brethren, and not be buried in obscurity. But, in contemplating it, it cannot fail to strike every observer as being pregnant with interest, in a philosophical point of view. In the few observations which follow, it is more our object to elicit research than to provoke criticism. In the article Anencephalus, in that excellent work "*the Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine and Surgery*," Dr. Geddings, of Baltimore, has the following observations:—

"In that variety of anencephalous monsters in which the defect is most considerable, there is a total absence of both brain and spinal marrow: the peripheral portion of the nervous system exists and is well formed; but the nervous centre, or cerebro-spinal axis, is altogether defective. *This is by far the rarest form of this species of abnormal deviation, and is the only one to which the term anencephalus can be properly applied. So seldom indeed does it occur, that only a few cases are to be found on record.*"

In this, as in the case reported by Morgagni, and cited in that article, the *cerebrum*, *cerebellum*, and *medulla spinalis* were absent; and like that reported by Van-horne, "the deformed bones of the cranium were so thick and closely grouped together, that no cavity existed; but the membranes of the *medulla spinalis* were developed.

The membrane lying over the bones of the cranium was undoubtedly dura mater; because, after lifting it up, the periosteum was found adhering to the bones, and moreover the membrane was continuous from the cavity of the spine. In relation to the peripheral nerves, there are some facts worthy of attentive consideration. All the nerves of the periphery were not present. To obviate misapprehension, we beg leave to state, that in nerves of the periphery, we include those which establish a communication between the brain and spinal marrow and the organs of the external senses.

1st. *Of the Nerves to the orbit of the Eye.*—In the normal state, no single organ is so well provided with nerves as this. Anatomists reckon no less than six, viz: the optic; the 4th pair, or pathetic, (the respiratory of Bell;) a branch of the 5th, or trigeminus; the 3d, or general motor of the eye; the 6th, or external motor; and a branch of the sympathetic, which joins it on entering the orbit. It will be recollected, that the ball of the eye rested on the upper maxilla, and had formed a fossa for itself in that part usually occupied by the antrum maxillare. A careful and minute examination failed to reveal to us a single nervous filament about the ball of the eye, or in its vicinity. The foramen by which the optic nerve passes through the sclerotic, did not exist; and although every other part of the eye was

satisfactorily apparent, the *retina* (if it had existence) could not be perceived by us. The six muscles of the eye-ball were also deficient.

2nd. *The Nerves to the Nares.*—In the normal state, the nares are supplied from two sources, the olfactory and the trigeminus. There was no trace of a single filament of either.

3d. *Of the Ear.*—There was no cavity in the mass of bone which might be said to represent the petrous portion of the temporal bone. Of course all the auditory apparatus usually contained in it, must have been wanting. The external ear was present, and a small depression represented the *meatus auditorius externus*. As might be inferred from there being no cavity in which to pursue its usual course through the petrous bone, the facial nerve was entirely wanting. Indeed, the space behind the angle of the inferior maxillary bone, was filled with a kind of caseous matter, in which no muscular fibres nor nervous filaments could be found—not the least interesting thing in this dissection, was the anatomy of the nerves going to the tongue and down the front of the neck. As all the nerves of the encephalon which we had looked for, and which should have come through foramina in the cranium, had proved deficient, it was with no little curiosity that we commenced a careful examination of that part. The pneumo-gastric, the hypoglossal, and the glosso-pharyngeal, equally with the portio-dura, trigeminus, patheticus, and motor-oculi, are, in the normal state, involved in foramina in the cranium; and analogy would have led us to infer their absence. But, although from the shortness and imperfection of the neck, and the small development of the muscles in its front, a little more than ordinary care was required in the dissection, the pneumo-gastric, the hypoglossal, with its descending ramus, and the glosso-pharyngeal, were distinctly visible. The preparation now before the Society will make it apparent to every one. But they were lost above in the caseous matter which we mentioned as existing behind the angle of the inferior maxilla. The common carotid and the internal jugular were also apparent, though small, and they were insensibly lost in the same matter.

As all the other parts of the body, save the head, were well formed, it remained to be seen what was the condition of the nerves distributed in them. It was not deemed necessary to examine more than one for each extremity. For the arm, the median nerve was cut down to and exposed. It was of a full and natural size. The popliteal nerve was exposed in the same manner and with a similar result.

What the nature of the energy of the nerves is, will probably always remain a matter of speculation. We can appreciate the powers of life only by their effects. But let not uncertainty be hence attributed to our profession, above others. Who has ever approximated to the real nature of that wonderful law by which the planets are made to revolve in their respective orbits, and the harmony of worlds preserved? Yet, from a careful examination of its effects, laws have been deduced and made the basis of unerring calculations—so the diligent observer of nature at the bedside and in the dissecting room, cannot fail to arrive at a knowledge of the laws of life that will be of inestimable value to him in the investigation of disease, which is a departure from their natural course.

In this case, there could be no dispute as to the priority of development, between the brain and spinal marrow. Is it not then improper to speak of one taking its origin from the other; and is not this case a confirmation of Haller's opinion that there is an evolution of the parts of the fœtus without the addition of any new part?

With the exception of the head, all the parts were well nourished. Certainly they did not depend on nervous energy derived from the cerebro-spinal axis, for their nutrition. We must then look to the arteries as the source of nutrition; and as the cause of the development of such nerves as did exist. It is evident that the arteries which exist in the normal state, could not exist in the confused mass of bone constituting the cranium in this instance; hence a deficiency in evolution of the nervous, muscular and bony matter of that part.

The nerves that were developed must have had an energy independent of the brain and spinal marrow.

The result of the researches of Tiedemann on the development of the brain in the fœtus, is that the spinal marrow is the part of the nervous system first formed, and most distinct in its early months. The case before us, proves that the defi-

ciency of the spinal marrow did not prevent the formation of most of the peripheral portion of that system; and that such formation is not dependent in any way upon that of the spinal marrow.

A few observations on monsters will close what we have to say on the subject. Like the majority of monsters on record, this was of the female sex. The observations of Meckel have proved the "genital organs of the two sexes are formed primitively in the same model, and that they should be considered only as a modification of the same fundamental type;" and that the embryo is, *in all cases, primarily of the female sex*. The imperfect formation thus occurring more frequently in females, has been supposed by Georget to be owing to a feebler energy of the formative or organic powers in the female than in the male! Why a deficiency should exist in one part in preference to another, must remain a matter of speculation.

The history of the mother affords no clue in this case. She is a woman about 30 years of age, well formed, and has been the mother of eight children, all of whom, with the exception of two, have been delivered at the regular time; and her deliveries have generally been easy, and her recovery rapid. There had been nothing peculiar during this pregnancy. In the delivery, there was nothing to lead to a suspicion of any thing unusual, and it was not until the child was fairly exposed to the light, that it was discovered to be a monster. There was said to be a larger quantity than usual of the liquor amnii; but this we are inclined to attribute to the birth being premature. The child showed no sign of life after birth. It had moved, sensibly, when in utero.

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*Medical College of the State of South Carolina.*—The number of medical students in this school during the past session, (1837-38,) was one hundred and forty-one.

The medical faculty consist of, J. Edwards Holbrook, M. D., Professor of Anatomy; John Wagner, M. D., Professor of Surgery; S. Henry Dickson, M. D., Professor of the Institutes and Practice; James Moultrie, M. D., Professor of Physiology; Thomas G. Prioleau, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics; C. U. Shepherd, M. D., Professor of Chemistry; Henry R. Frost, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica; E. Geddings, M. D., Professor of Pathological Anatomy and Medical Jurisprudence; F. Wurdeman, M. D., Demonstrator.

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*Louisville Medical Institute.*—The number of medical students in this school during the past (the first) session, was eighty.

The medical faculty consist of, Jedediah Cobb, M. D., Professor of Anatomy; Charles Caldwell, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Clinical Medicine, and Medical Jurisprudence; John Estlin Cooke, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine; Joshua Flint, M. D., Professor of Surgery; Henry Miller, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children; Lunsford Potts Yandell, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica, Lecturer on Chemistry, and Dean of the Medical Faculty; William H. Doone, M. D., Demonstrator of Anatomy; Stephen Cooke, M. D., Librarian.

The summer session commences on the second Monday in May, and continues until the last of September, with a recess during the month of August. Tickets to the entire course \$70.

At the public commencement on the 2nd of March, 1838, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on twenty-four students.

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*Medical College of South Carolina.*—The number of students in this institution the past session, (1837-8) was twenty-nine.

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**NECROLOGY.**—We have the painful office to perform of announcing the death of our collaborator, Dr. ANSEL W. IVES. Dr. Ives was born in Woodbury, Connecticut, on the 31st of August, 1787. His father was a respectable farmer of that place, who, having a large family, and very limited means, was unable to give his children even an ordinary education; and the third child at the early age of nine years, was bound apprentice to a farmer until his nineteenth year; his time was spent in agricultural employment, except a few months in