

disease, when a tumour of the melanosis kind, weighing forty pounds, was found in the abdomen. This tumour had been possibly growing from the first, but for a period of eight or ten years was not suspected, and could not have been of a very malignant character, or it would have shown its effects earlier. In the present case, the man was in King's College Hospital, under Mr. Fergusson's care, five years ago. He then complained of excessive pain. A small vascular tumour appeared near the umbilicus, and was removed by ligature. The tumour, which put on much of the appearance of aneurism by anastomosis, subsequently grew again, and was then melanotic, but was removed by the knife; it now appeared cured; but soon after a tumour began also to grow in the groin. The more usual way of explaining these tumours, Mr. Fergusson observed, was, that they degenerated into cancer. He also stated a curious circumstance, that veterinary surgeons found melanosis the most common form of tumour in horses, and that they were much more common in those in which there was a want of pigment in the hairs and skin—in other words, grey horses. This point is not without interest, as bearing on another recently urged by Rokitsansky and others, that the blackness of melanosis arises from altered or dissolved hæmatine, and is pure carbon, not unlike the pigment in the negro, but certainly only accidental, there being, in fact, no such class of tumours at all, in a strictly pathological point of view, as "melanosis." An abundance of pigment occurs in non-malignant melanosis of the skin, appearing to arise, curiously enough, in the corium, or part coloured in the negro. Where the black deposit is found in cancer growths, it (in the vast majority of cases) selects encephaloid, and gives a peculiar feature, like hæmatoid to fungus hæmatodes, to that special form of cancer. Here the prognosis of the surgeon must be very unfavourable indeed, and a few months may terminate a case, not differing very materially, in outward appearance, or sensible signs of blackness, from a tumour that may be merely recurrent, or even non-malignant. Encephaloid, Mr. Fergusson observed, in its tendency to infiltrate adjoining parts, to affect the glands, to reproduce similar growths in other parts of the body, and to return after removal, or, as more commonly known, by the term medullary sarcoma, is, with or without this accidental development of black pigment, the most formidable and fearfully malignant disease with which the surgeon has to deal.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

FIBROUS TUMOUR OF THE BREAST; OPERATION; RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. COULSON.)

We have recently, on more than one occasion, (vide "Mirror," vol. i., 1855, p. 314,) directed attention to the "chronic mammary" tumours, or adenoid tumour of the breast, so liable to be mistaken for malignant disease of that organ. The following case is one of another variety of hard indolent growths in the female mammary gland very likely to come under the notice of the surgeon, and, as such, requiring attention. A good deal has been said of late of the beneficial effects of Kreuznach water or bitter in causing the disappearance of fibroid tumours of the uterus, not very different in pathological characters, perhaps, from such tumours of the breast as the following, while the facilities afforded by the application of ice externally, or the use of chloroform in their early removal, seems another obvious advantage in the modern system of treating them. According to Mr. Birkett, the so-called fibrous tumours of the breast do not differ very much from those termed "chronic mammary," as he generally finds in place of a preponderance of hypertrophied fibrous tissue as one from their hardness might sometimes expect, that the elementary gland tissue is rarely absent. Sometimes such tumours as the present have been found as hard as cartilage; and this excessive hardness must put the younger surgeon on his guard not to mistake such cases, in the consultation room, for scirrhus. Women affected with tumours of the fibrous or "chronic mammary" description, are more amenable to common treatment, and will be found very often coming for advice, and, in the first instance, require much attention from the practitioner; he will be less often consulted about tubercle of the breast, or relative to cancer, which forms almost a "speciality" by itself. The following case, though not presenting any peculiarity of a very marked kind of an operative character, interested us very much at the time, as at first men of experience found it difficult to give the tumour a name; it was almost homogeneous, white, like intervertebral cartilage, but became red by keeping, and horny. The microscope, how-

ever, determined its composition. In one of its physical characters—viz., its hardness, it resembled scirrhus. The history of the progress and growth of the tumour, the age of the patient, and other circumstances, however, set aside this idea. The regularity of the menstrual flux, and the healthy character of the uterine functions, excluded the supposition that the existence of the tumour in the breast was connected in any way with the uterus; in addition to which, the history of the case was also decidedly against this view of the question. The examination of the tumour, after removal from the breast, proved it to consist of ordinary fibrous structure, with some cells, and granular matter.

Ann L.—, aged seventeen, a general servant, residing at Long Ditton, was admitted into St. Mary's Hospital, as a patient of Mr. Coulson, July 27th, 1855. She is a fair, healthy-looking girl; has always enjoyed good health. The catamenial discharge commenced at the age of fourteen, since which period there has been no irregularity of any kind observed with respect to it. Ever since she was a child she recollects having a lump in the right breast. The precise date at which it first appeared she does not know. Its growth has been very slow; it has never been the seat of severe pain, and the most that she has had to complain of has been an occasional aching of the right arm. No treatment has been made use of for the purpose of removing it. At the upper part of the right breast, (which is well developed,) and situate rather in the substance of the gland than close to the skin, is a rounded, hard, resisting tumour, about the size of a walnut; it is not painful on pressure. The breast appears quite healthy, and the nipple has a natural appearance; the skin is not adherent to the tumour. The glands in the axilla are unaffected in any way. The diagnosis made by Mr. Coulson was that given above.

On the 1st of August Mr. Coulson made a lengthened incision over the tumour, cut through the fat which covered it, and dissected it out. The tumour was disconnected from the gland without difficulty. The bleeding vessels were then ligatured, and the edges of the wound brought together with sutures in the usual manner. The tumour was found to be lobed on the surface, and to be enclosed in a capsule, thin, and rather more firmly attached than is sometimes found to be the case. The tumour was hard, somewhat resembling intervertebral cartilage in appearance, though not in texture. Under the microscope it was found to be composed, as we have already said, of interlaced fibres, with a few nuclei scattered about. The patient made a very good recovery, and on August 15th all parts of the wound had cicatrized.

Medical Societies.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 1855.

DR. SNOW, PRESIDENT.

THIS was a special meeting of the Society, to consider an alteration of the laws proposed by the Council, having reference to the election of office-bearers in the Society. The propositions, which were to the following effect, were eventually carried by a majority of twenty-six to twenty-two, subject to an appeal to the Council respecting the meaning of one of the laws of the Society, the question involved being, whether a bare majority would carry the propositions, or whether it required two-thirds of the fellows present. The President ruled that the former was sufficient:—

"I.—That on the last Saturday in January, between the hours of eight and half-past eight P.M., the fellows of the Society shall elect by ballot seven members of the Council, to constitute a Committee to prepare a list of those fellows of the Society, who, in their opinion, are most eligible to fill the several offices to be declared vacant at the next general election of officers.

"II.—That this Committee shall, in weighing the claims of the fellows proposed for office, take special cognizance of—1st, Seniority; 2nd, Services rendered to the Society; 3rd, Number and quality of the papers read to the Society; 4th, Position, or standing in the profession.

"III.—That this Committee shall submit to the Council at its meeting, to be holden on the first Friday in February in each year, a list, containing double the number of names of