

another, placed apart in the vitreous tissue, and had everywhere the same appearance and size. Mingled with them, however, were several smaller, more granular, and irregular particles, which might be in process of development. I could perceive no appearance indicating a multiplication of the particles by splitting or division. In the central part of the vitreous humour there were none of the nucleated particles, but in the neighbourhood of the optic foramen and yellow spot, and particularly within the ciliary processes of the vitreous (or the zone of Zinn), at the border of the lens, and near its posterior surface, they were so abundant as to render the vitreous humour perfectly opaque and yellow: yet even here they only differed in number from those found elsewhere.

71. *Melanosis*.—Mr. HOLMES COOTE, in an interesting paper on melanosis, (*Lancet*, Aug. 8th, 1846.) expresses his conviction that this disease cannot be radically removed by operation, an opinion in the correctness of which we fully concur.

"It has been commonly stated," he remarks, "that by the early and complete removal of a melanotic tumour the patient is afforded a good chance of permanent cure. This opinion has been recently supported by Dr. Argyle Robertson, in a short pamphlet upon melanosis. My own observations lead me to a totally opposite conclusion. Thoroughly convinced of the inefficacy of any operation in radically removing the disease, I doubt much whether we can affirm that it even prolongs life. Patients may fairly be recommended to submit to the removal of superficial tumours, which, by their position or size, produce inconvenience; but the more serious operation of extirpation of the eye ought never to be undertaken, except at the patient's express desire, and after he has been fairly made acquainted with the circumstances of the case. I shall conclude with a table of fifteen cases, watched for a period of at least four years. This table shows the average duration of human life, after the primary tumour has been successfully removed, to be about thirteen months.

"Table of cases in which the observations have been extended over a period of above three years from the date of the operation.

Name of the Operator.	Case.	Result.	Cause of death.
Mr. Lawrence*.....	1	Died.	Eighteen months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Ditto.....	2	Died.	Six months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Ditto.....	3	Died.	A few days after the operation.
Mr. Fawdington†.....	4	Died.	Seven months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Mr. A. Burns‡.....	5	Died.	Three months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Dr. Holschen§.....	6	Died.	One year after operation; secondary melanosis.
Cullen and Carswell	7	Died.	Thirteen months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Mr. Wilson.....	8	Died.	Two years after operation; secondary melanosis.
Mr. Langstaff¶.....	9	Died.	Five months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Dr. D. Williams**....	10	Died.	Twelve months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Mr. Montgomery.....	11	Died.	Five months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Dr. A. Robertson.....	12	Died.	Two years after operation; disease of heart?
Ditto.....	13	Died.	Three years after operation; melanosis of sacrum and pelvis.
Ditto.....	14	Died.	Ten months after operation; secondary melanosis.
Ditto.....	15	Died.	Two years after operation; disease of the liver.

Total number of months, 200.

Average duration of life after the operation, 13½ months."

\* Lawrence on Diseases of the Eye, and Clinical Lectures, *Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 3, 1844.

† Fawdington: Case of Melanosis.

‡ A. Burns: Anatomy of Head.

§ Holschen: Hanover Ophthal. Observ.

|| Carswell and Cullen: Ed. Med. and Surg. Transactions.

¶ Langstaff: Med. and Chir. Trans., vol. iii.

\*\* Dr. D. Williams, Prov. Med. and Surg. Transactions, vol. i.