

trative case of this kind, under smart labour, was delivered by the lever, with no small violence, according to her own report; and when the child's head was liberated from the pelvis, the perineum was torn, and a copious gush of the water issued, and from this she laboured under incontinence; the water issuing continually, and the parts becoming excoriated, inflamed, and swelled. A friend of mine, a very excellent accoucheur, being called at length to see this case, he found her with the urine still flowing, and labouring under a great deal of excoriation and irritation in the vagina and parts adjacent, and, led by these circumstances, he instituted an examination, when he perceived an aperture in the bladder, which he requested me also to investigate, when I plainly found a rupture of length sufficient to have admitted two or three fingers at once. This woman I subsequently examined with more care, for I was subpoenaed to give evidence respecting the case, as it became the subject of legal investigation; and some time after I had made the first examination I saw her again, and, on making further examination, I found the neck of the bladder was completely closed, and the woman could then retain her urine sufficiently well, though not with the same power as before the accident occurred. Now here is a case which, after considerable experience, I examined with more than ordinary attention, and where, though at first two or three fingers were introduced through the opening in the neck of the bladder, a complete closure was at last accomplished. The cure was obtained in the manner recommended, by introducing a catheter and keeping it there, a bottle being affixed to its inferior extremity, and the urine being in this manner withdrawn continually by the natural canal. Of course the general health was made the subject of attention.

making an incision into any part of the lungs was observed, on the least pressure, to ooze out from their tissue. The stomach did not contain the least particle of the fluid. In two bodies, which two days after death were placed in the mixture for about forty minutes, it had entered the trachea as far as its division, and no trace of it could be found in the stomach. Two important conclusions appear to result from these experiments:

1. The presence of water in the bronchia and tissue of the lungs, is no sufficient proof of the body's having, during life, been immersed in water, as is asserted by several writers on forensic medicine.

2. The fluid does not penetrate after death into the stomach, and its presence in this organ affords considerable ground of suspicion of the body's having been during life immersed under water, provided there be no reason to believe that it was swallowed before, or injected after the immersion.—*Journ. de Chim. Médic.*

ON THE DISEASES TO WHICH THE WORKMEN IN TOBACCO MANUFACTORIES ARE SUBJECT.

By M. POINTE OF LYONS.

This little treatise may be considered as a valuable supplement to Rammazini's celebrated work on the casual relation which exists between different trades and occupations and several diseases. We presume that a brief account of it will be of interest to our readers.

The number of workmen who were the subject of M. Pointe's observations, amounted to five hundred; they were employed at one manufactory, and, although occupied in different ways, were all of them in continual contact with tobacco. The affections to which they seemed subject, were principally pulmonary consumption, inflammation of the eyes, anthrax, and furuncles, the two latter of which generally appeared on the trunk, were extremely tedious, and unless the occupation of the patient was changed, hardly ever admitted of a permanent cure; but the affection which seemed to prevail most was purpura hæmorrhagica, and a disposition to scurvy. On the other hand, it is worthy of remark, that tobacco manufacturers, in some degree, appear to be exempt from certain affections, viz. intermittents and scrofula, which are very common among the inhabitants of Lyons, the latter being remarkably prevalent in other manufactories, especially in those of silk. Itch, against which tobacco has often been asserted to possess prophylactic powers, was very frequent; but trembling and nervous affections, to which persons who are much

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

ON ASPHYXIA FROM SUBMERSION.

By M. ORFILA.

THE latest experiments of M. Orfila on this subject, seem to prove that after death the liquid penetrates into the smallest ramifications of the bronchia. In a body, which thirty-six hours after death had for six hours and a half been placed in a bathing-tub, filled with water, with which eight pounds of powdered animal charcoal had been mixed, the coloured fluid was found in the extreme bronchial ramifications, and on

in contact with narcotics are said to be very liable, was in no instance observed as the effect of continued employment in the manufactory in question.

METHOD OF OBTAINING PURE CRYSTALS OF CARBON.

In the sitting of the Académie des Sciences, on the 3d of November, M. Gannal gave an account of his researches on a method of obtaining crystals of carbon, by means of the action of phosphorus on the carburet of sulphur. The latter substance being placed in a retort, and covered with a small quantity of water, a few pieces of phosphorus were introduced, and brought into contact with the carburet; the phosphorus immediately melted, and was precipitated in a liquid state, so that the contents of the retort were separated into three strata; the fluid being now shaken became of a milk colour, but when left quiet, soon separated into two strata, the uppermost of which was water, the lower phosphuret of sulphur; and these on a closer examination were found to be divided by a thin layer of white powdery substance, which, when exposed to the rays of the sun, produced the colours of the prism. Encouraged by the success of this experiment, M. Gannal repeated it on a larger scale; the quantity of water, phosphorus, and carburet of sulphur, used in the second experiment, was eight ounces of each; the three substances having separated were left at rest, and after twenty-four hours a very thin pellicle, consisting of a white powder, formed between the water and the carburet of sulphur, and presented several centres of crystallization. After some days this pellicle had considerably enlarged, at the same time the separation of the two lower strata became less marked, and at the expiration of three months they appeared to form one mass. The crystallized substance was removed from the phosphuret of sulphur with some difficulty on account of the great inflammability of the two substances. The crystals were found to produce the colours of the prism, and the largest of them, which were the size of a millet seed, when shown to M. Champigny, a jeweller of great experience, appeared to him to be real diamonds.

In the sitting of the Académie Royale on the 24th of November, M. Thenard gave the results of his chemical examinations of these supposed diamonds, which he found to consist entirely of silica, and when brought into contact with oxygen and submitted to the action of a voltaic pile, to afford no carbonic acid. M. Arago stated also, that light was polarised under a very different angle from that observed in the diamond.

LIGATURE OF THE UPPER THYROID ARTERY, AND THE COMMON CAROTID IN BRONCHOCELE.

Fred. Gerecht, ætat. 29, of a strong constitution, had been from his fourteenth year affected with bronchocele; and this having latterly attained such a size, as to render any exertion impossible, he applied to M. Laugenbeck, of Göttingen, with the hope of being freed from his deformity by a surgical operation. The whole gland was considerably enlarged, and had a strong pulsation, particularly over the right upper thyroid artery, which was very superficial, and was as large as the common carotid; the left thyroid artery was less enlarged, and more deep seated; from both vessels numerous branches ran over, and entered the enlarged gland. The tumour was very tense, and its temperature considerably augmented; the voice of the patient was hoarse, and respiration was rendered extremely difficult by the least exertion. In order to prevent the further growth of the tumour, M. Laugenbeck determined upon tying, first, the upper thyroid artery of the right side; and in case this should not have the expected effect, upon subsequently performing the same operation on the left side. A few days after the operation, which, from the superficial situation of the vessel, presented no difficulty, the patient was able to leave his bed; the pulsation and tension of the tumour had somewhat subsided, but its size was unchanged. On the eleventh day a considerable hæmorrhage took place from the wound, which, though soon arrested by means of cold water and compression, returned within two days with such violence, as to throw the patient into a state of the greatest exhaustion; so that on its recurrence a third time, M. Laugenbeck resolved upon immediately tying the common carotid above the omohyoid muscle; the hæmorrhage was instantly stopped, and the patient, who had borne the operation with great firmness, was, (apparently in a favourable state, removed to his bed,) where he, however, within a short time, fell into a state of stupor; his countenance was pale, the eyes were closed, and the pupils immoveable; he seemed deaf, and it was only by frequently repeating the question, that any answer could be elicited; all motory powers, except those of the involuntary muscles, appeared extinct; respiration was natural; the pulse very small; the stools and urine were passed involuntarily. The comatose state of the patient gradually increased, and he died thirty-four hours after the operation.

On examination, the right cerebral hemisphere was covered with lymph; its vessels were of natural size; those of the left side,