

tractions, and then an interval of rest, perfectly isochronous with that remarked in the pulse. On further auscultation and percussion, nothing otherwise abnormal could be detected about the heart and vessels, nothing at all to explain the intermittence. The man stated that this peculiar condition of his pulse was also remarked by the medical man who attended him in his only illness when a boy. From that time up to the period of his decease, lately—i. e., for twenty years—M. Bidard has frequently marked the constancy of this anomalous circulation, as also have many other physicians. Death followed at the age of eighty-four, apparently as a consequence of old age, without any well characterized malady, but with a gradual failing of sight, hearing, and of the vital powers generally, and with the supervention of extreme anorexia.

After death, the lungs were found healthy, with a few pleural adhesions; the pericardium contained but little serum; the ascending and descending aorta, and the venæ cavæ, preserved their integrity; the heart was of a proportionate volume with the other viscera, and without any apparent anatomical lesion; the vessels were normal in their distribution; so also were the nerves.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, from *Gaz. Méd.*, Sept. 4.

[Similar cases are not uncommon. We have seen one case in which the pulse is always intermittent, except under the excitement of febrile action.]

6. *Vulvo-Vaginal Gland*.—M. HUGUIER has given a description of a gland situated at each side of the junction of the vulva to the vagina. It was discovered by Gaspard Bartholin, and was generally described by older anatomists; but of late its existence has been almost forgotten. According to M. Huguier, this gland is about the size and form of an apricot kernel, and is provided with an excretory duct, about seven or eight lines in length, the external aperture of which is situated in the angle between the vulva and the border of the hymen. This gland is small until puberty, when it is developed with the other organs of generation; it becomes turgid during sexual excitement, and secretes a quantity of clear mucus-looking fluid, which it is said to ejaculate with some force. M. Huguier agrees with former anatomists in regarding this gland as closely analogous to Cowper's gland in the male subject; for it is situated in about the same part of the perineum as this latter is, and presents the same anatomical relations and connections. It is an appendage to the vulvo-vaginal cavity, a part which is analogous to the urethra in the male; it receives the materials for its nutrition, and its sensation from the same vascular and nervous sources as does Cowper's gland; it presents also many varieties in form, size, and situation, and it may be absent on one or both sides, as is often the case with Cowper's gland.—*Monthly Journ. Med. Sci.*, Oct. 1847, from *Archives d'Anatomie*.

7. *Variations in the Quantity of Fat in the Human Lungs*.—M. NATALIS GAILLOT, having examined the chemical composition of the lungs under various circumstances, especially of disease, finds, among other points, that the pulmonary tissue of the *lætus* contains a much larger quantity of fatty matter before than after birth: the amount begins to diminish with the first commencement of respiration. At the end of intra-uterine life, and just before the respiratory functions commence, the quantity of fatty matter in the tissues of dried lung may amount to 10, 12, 15, or 18 parts in 100: but when respiration has commenced, the proportionate quantity rapidly falls, and seldom exceeds 6 per cent. He finds, also, that in all affections of the chest, the consequence of which is a temporary or permanent obstruction to the respiratory functions over a greater or less extent of the pulmonary surface, the proportion of fatty matters increases in those parts which have become impermeable to air. The quantity of fatty matter may, in such cases, amount to 15, 20, 30, 40, or even 50 parts, in 100; while the healthy portions of the same organs usually do not contain more than about 10 per cent. This is observed at all periods of life, from the earliest infancy to extreme old age.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 1847, from *Comptes Rendus*, July 12th, 1847.

8. *Congenital Deficiency of the Gall-Bladder*.—An example of this malformation is recorded by Mr. E. CANTON, Demonstrator of Anatomy, in the *Lancet*, Oct. 16. He met with it in examining the abdomen of a female, aged sixty-five, who had