

pint of thick gelatinous matter came away. Mr. Wells succeeded in removing it through an incision only four inches long, by opening it (after separating some adhesions to the parietes and to a portion of omentum) and breaking down the small cysts one after another with his hand, the cyst being withdrawn as it was emptied. The lady had gone on in a most satisfactory manner since the operation.

V.—A COMPOUND OVARIAN CYST REMOVED BY OVARIOTOMY,

just a week before the meeting, from a lady, thirty-seven years of age, who had died four days after the operation. The walls of the principal cyst, which had contained nine pints of thick fluid, were very dense; and this had led to some difficulty in diagnosis, especially as there was a very thick layer of fat in the abdominal parietes. The tumour was closely connected to the right side of the uterus, and a firm band of adhesion to the cæcum had to be tied and divided before the clamp could be applied. Scarcely any blood was lost, and the patient went on well until the third day, when bilious vomiting and excessive distension of the intestines with gas, became very urgent, and she died of exhaustion. Mr. Wells added that he had removed nine ovarian tumours since the last session of the Society. He promised to exhibit the others at some early meeting, as he thought that, in the present unsettled state of professional opinion with regard to ovariectomy, it was the duty of an operator to bring forward the whole of his cases, and not keep in the background any which had terminated unsuccessfully.

Mr. NUNN exhibited a specimen of

ATROPHY OF THE BLADDER AND VESICO-VAGINAL FISTULA.

The coats of the bladder were reduced to the thickness of parchment, the capacity of the organ being at the same time much diminished. The fistulous opening was of large size, extending from the neck of the bladder to the orifices of the ureters; the orifice of the left ureter being in the margin of the aperture, and that of the right ureter only just within the vesical area.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY.

THURSDAY, OCT. 20TH, 1859.

EDWARD HART VINEN, M.D., F.L.S., PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

DR. VINEN, after a few preliminary remarks, said—"In entering upon this the twenty-ninth year of our associated existence, we may look back upon the past history of the Harveian Society, and, tracing its progress upwards from its first humble commencement in 1831 to its present state of development, find abundant reason for congratulation in the permanent vigour it has acquired, and the high reputation it has obtained amongst the kindred institutions of the metropolis.

'Great men have been amongst us, hands that penned
And tongues that uttered wisdom.'

The Society has to lament the loss of two of its members during the past year: George James Squibb, a former president, and one of our oldest and most valued members; and Robert Driver Kidd, who was but little known to us, having only become a member during the past year: we can but regret that in him 'life's early promise' should have been 'nipped in the bud' by premature death. Meeting for the first time in our new home, it may not be out of place to urge the present members to use their endeavours to promote and increase its general usefulness by a regular attendance at its meetings, by frequent communications of the results of their daily observations and experience, by joining freely in the discussions, and by making its advantages known to their friends and inducing them to enroll themselves as members. How many are there amongst us whose lives are absorbed in one continued routine of active professional duties, but who find in the entire occupation of their time, and the consequent exhaustion of their mental and bodily energies, neither leisure for abstract thought nor inclination for literary pursuits; yet such individuals, although possessing, perhaps, the observant and reflecting mind, the intellectual power, and the kindred feeling which prompts them to use all for our common object—the advancement and promotion of medical science,—would fail to make themselves heard, and the results of their professional experience known to others, but for such societies as this. At no period of social history have those societies whose object it is to promote and cultivate scientific pursuits, been so numerous and so powerful for good as at the present time. The connexion between poli-

tical strife and the cultivation and advancement of literature would seem to be slight indeed, but it is an interesting psychological question into which it is not now my province to enter. Yet at such a period, amidst the fierce contending passions of revolutionary strife, were produced such men as Hobbes, Boyle, Dryden, Cowley, Milton, with a host of others, and last and greatest of them all, our own illustrious Harvey, who was one of those great men whom God, in virtue of his eternal laws, bids to appear on earth from time to time to enlighten and ennoble mankind." The President here traced Harvey's career to his death, and then said—"I would here take the opportunity of suggesting that it would be a graceful act on the part of the members of the Harveian Society to take such measures in their corporate capacity as might lead to the removal of the reproach that there exists no statue or other memorial of his greatness. Tardy honour has been paid to Jenner; the remains of John Hunter have just found a fitting resting-place; but the ashes of Harvey are still neglected, and, according to a recent visitor to his tomb, his coffin is shaken up to prove by the rattle of its contents the genuineness of the exhibition. Speaking individually, I should be happy to co-operate with others in endeavouring to secure the remains of Harvey from further desecration.—Amongst the subjects which have an immediate bearing upon the prosperity of nations and the well-being of mankind, none have been so productive of important results as sanitary science. The members of our profession (and I would here allude especially to one of our body, Dr. Headlam Greenhow), in the spirit of purest and largest philanthropy, are foremost amongst those who labour in this field of usefulness. But nothing has more distinguished the modern school of medicine in England than the improved treatment of insanity. In this country the philanthropic labours of Charlesworth, Hill, and Conolly have effected the total abolition of restraint for one of kindness and sympathy. Latterly a portion of the press has entered into a crusade against private asylums, in articles, some of them most untruthful, and all of the most prejudicial and unfair character. Cheap penny publications have detailed fictions of horror as having been perpetrated in asylums, which find no parallel in the present day, except in the excited brains of their authors. Let us hope that the Legislature may be well advised in this matter, and that the result of their labours may be advantageous to the lunatic and also to society at large. Although the public mind is occasionally shocked by some isolated act of brutality, it forms no part of the modern treatment of insanity, but is the fault of the individual who is justly held up to public reprobation. A recent Act of legislation is likely to effect great good for the medical profession, and may be taken as the earnest of better things yet in store for us. But there is one evil which no legislative enactment can ever reach, that of quackery within our own ranks, the chief form of which is homœopathy. It is our bounden duty to combat this imposture and empiricism in every form. The life of the medical man is one of labour and anxiety, to which advancing age and inactivity are the only limits; his rewards and emoluments are few; the prospect of worldly honour and legislative functions is not within his reach; and the portals of rank and power, while they are open to the members of the other learned professions, are for ever closed against him. What has been the reward of Harvey? What has been the reward of Jenner for preserving millions from hideous disfigurement or premature death by a loathsome disease? Alas! nothing but cold neglect. It is true a statue has recently been erected to his memory in one of the public places; but the site was granted in a niggardly spirit, and even now a journal devoted to the purposes of art, in its issue of this month, says impertinently, with reference to this statue—"The question is not how it came where it is, but when will it be removed?" The writer perhaps feared lest the memories of those whose statues stand hard by should acquire too much lustre by being in such goodly company. It is a matter of the highest importance that we take an exalted and dignified view of our calling, and of the responsibilities it involves, and with pride may we turn to the annals of literature, every branch of which has been graced and enriched by gifted members of our body. Let the golden advice of the immortal Sydenham be our rule of conduct, and animate us in our daily practice. Thus shall we best assert the dignity of our profession—thus best maintain its honour; and we shall go forth in the exercise of its practical duties, our calling hallowed, and our mission blest."

GREAT YARMOUTH HOSPITAL.—The appointment of a physician to this hospital—*vice* Dr. Dunne, retired—will not, it is expected, be made at present.