

NOTE ON A VARIATION IN THE COURSE OF THE POPLITEAL ARTERY.—By T. P. ANDERSON STUART, *Student of Medicine, University of Edinburgh.*

IN May of last year, I was requested by Professor Spence to make for him a preparation of the popliteal space of the limb of a man aged 64, who had had to submit to amputation on account of gangrene of the foot, resulting from a very large popliteal aneurism. As the dissection proceeded a most striking abnormality in the course of the artery came to light, and, so far as I have been able to ascertain, it is now put on record for the first time.

The popliteal artery, after passing through the opening in the adductor magnus, instead of, as it usually does, coursing downwards and outwards towards the middle of the popliteal space, so as to lie between the two heads of the gastrocnemius muscle, passes almost vertically downwards internally to the inner head of the gastrocnemius. It reaches the bottom of the space by turning round the inner border of that head, and then passes downwards and outwards beneath it—between it and the lower end of the shaft of the femur. The inner head of the gastrocnemius arises much higher up than usual, namely, from the inner division of the linea aspera about an inch and a half above the condyle, thus leaving a considerable space between it and the condyle, over which space the artery passes. The other structures are normal. The preparation is now in the possession of Mr Spence.