Dr. Fletcher, "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Dr. Booth for his kindness in taking the chair, and for his great attention to the business of the evening." Carried unanimously.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

Feb. 5, 1842.

BOYEN VAUX, Esq., in the Chair.

Dr. MELSON brought before the notice of the society, a specimen of

Narrowing of the Left Auriculo-Ventricular Orifice, with Rigidity of the Mitral Valve, and Hypertrophy of the Right Side of the Heart,

which he thought highly illustrative of Dr. Watson's position with reference to the dependence of dropsical effusion and pulmonary hæmorrhage upon such a condition of disease. In this patient there was prominence and increased space of dulness in the region of the heart; dyspnœa on the least exertion; the countenance congested, and the lips violet; and a loud *bruit de rape* was audible on the left side and lower part of the region of the heart, in its greatest intensity. The general symptoms of the disease were those of impediment of circulation through the lungs and heart. No cause could be assigned to this disease; the patient was only 15 years of age, and his parents firmly stated that he had never suffered from rheumatism.

Dr. FLETCHER then exhibited to the society

A Piece of Fungoid, Lardaceous Tumour, and Lung with its Bronchus and Blood-vessels,

by which was shown the nature of the tumour, the effects of compression caused by it upon the lung, and the manner in which it had dissected that viscus from its bronchus and blood-vessels, which passed through the substance of the tumour in their course to and from the lung; to show this clearly, worsteds of different colours had been passed through the different blood-vessels and bronchi. The descending vena cava also was seen passing through, and very much compressed by the tumour, which had caused œdema of the head, face, and upper extremities, during life. This case (Dr. Fletcher said) was very remarkable for the many points of similarity it bore to empyema; in its history it exactly corresponded to a case of pleuritis, which had terminated in effusion. Until he had been exposed to cold and damp, the patient was quite in health; pain in the side, fever, thirst, and difficulty of breathing supervened upon this, and had, more or less, continued ever since. On examination, one side of the chest was found dull on percussion, and void of respiratory sounds; this side was, however, contracted, and the patient could not lie on the side affected; the latter point being one which is not noted in cases of effusion of fluid into one of the cavities of the pleura, Dr. Fletcher thought sufficient to distinguish empyema from disease of the lung, or tumour developed in the cavity of the pleura.

Dr. FLETCHER then brought forward a specimen of

Stricture of the Inferior Portion of the Ilium,

a loop of which had passed through a foramen situated in a band which extended from the root of the mesentery to the right internal inguinal ring, connected in its formation in some way with the descent of the testicle. In the loop, as well as in the whole course of the intestine above the stricture, and about four inches below, the intestine was much dilated; below which, as well as in the cœcum and colon, it was much contracted. In the inferior portion of the loop of intestines, and in the dilated portion below the stricture, there were several contractions, and hard imperfect septa by which the canal of the intestine was contracted in its capacity, and rendered very tortuous and irregular; and so, by twisting about, was in its course about three times as long as the intestine measured externally.

The septa appeared to have been formed by the intestines having been strictured in those situations at some time previous. The cavity of the tunica vaginalis extended up the anterior part of the band before the foramen, through which the loop of intestine had passed. The vessels of the cord, and the vas deferens pass behind this foramen.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PARIS.

March 7.

M. DONNÉ ON THE BLOOD GLOBULES.

M. Donné read a memoir on this subject, of which the following are the conclusions:—

The blood contains three species of globules; 1st, the red or blood globules, properly so called; 2nd, the white globules; and 3rd, the globules of chyle.

The red globules are flat in the blood of all animals; in mammalia they are circular; in birds, fishes, and reptiles they are elliptical. The latter are the only ones in which we can demonstrate the existence of a solid central point; the circular globules do not contain any neucleus. When the blood globules are placed in contact with water they assume the spherical form, and this accounts for the ancient ideas relative to their shape. In mammalia the globules are soluble in acetic acid, and leave no residue; in the other classes of animals they are only partially soluble in this acid, for the neucleus resists its action; but every species of globule is soluble in ammonia and insoluble in nitric acid.

The anomaly pointed out with respect to the blood of the female camel is apparent, not real; it affects the form only, and not the structure, which latter is exactly the same as that of the globules in other mammalia.

The white globules are colourless, spherical, slightly fimbriated all round, and, as it were, granular; they exist in the blood of all animals, and may be seen circulating with that fluid in the vessels; they are much more numerous than has been thought, are broken up in water, and dissolved by ammonia; they contract under the action of nitric acid, and seem to be formed by a vesicle containing three or four solid granules.

The chyle globules are small granular bodies analogous to those of the chyle, and having a diameter not exceeding the three-hundredth part of a millimetre.

Of the origin, formation, and use of the globules, M. Donné gives the following account:—

They are not all identically the same, nor at the same degree of development; they are not all acted on in the same way by chemical reagents, and the different properties which they possess indicate various degrees of formation.

The chyle globules are merely the globules of chyle which have passed from the absorbent into the circulating system. They unite in groups of three or four, and as they circulate become enveloped in a layer of albumen; they now become changed into white globules. The latter, once formed, gradually change in appearance; they become flat, coloured, and the internal neucleus is either dissolved, or assumes a homogeneous appearance; thus they insensibly change into red globules. The red globules themselves have only a fleeting existence; after a certain time they become dissolved in the general mass, and constitute the liquor sanguinis (*fluide sanguine*), properly so called.

Certain substances are capable of being changed immediately into blood globules, by contact with the blood. Milk possesses this property in a high degree. On injecting milk, in certain proportions, into the blood of animals, we can follow them through the circulating system and observe the changes which they undergo. Now experiments show that the globules of milk injected into the vessels are transformed into blood globules, in the same way that the chyle glo-

bules are changed into white globules, and the latter transformed into red. The spleen seems to be the organ in which this change takes place; at least, it is in the spleen that we find the greatest number of globules, in every stage of development. On examining the circulation in the most vascular organs, it is impossible to discover any trace of blood globules, exuding from their vessels, to combine with the organs or organic elements; but the fluid part of the blood transudes through the walls of the vessels, and this is probably the fluid which is essentially connected with organisation.

Finally, young animals nourished with any other substance than their mother's milk, grow up less perfectly than those which are, and an imperfect nutriment may be carried so far as to alter sensibly the form and nature of the blood globules.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

March 8.

CROUP IN THE ADULT.

M. Huguier presented the larynx, &c., of a female who had died of croup. The woman was 24 years of age, and the disease was unaccompanied by the cough peculiar to croup; the only symptoms present were aphonia and the hissing respiratory sound. The patient died suddenly in forty hours from the commencement of the attack, without any signs of asphyxia, suffocation, or lividity of the countenance.

On examination, after death, false membranes were found lining the amygdalæ, the pharynx, larynx, trachea, and upper divisions of the bronchi. The right cavities of the heart contained fibrous clots, which adhered firmly to the walls of the heart, and sent off various prolongations between the carneæ columnæ and into the pulmonary artery. The author seems inclined to attribute the sudden death of the patient to the coagulation of blood in the heart.

CHRONIC GLANDERS IN THE HUMAN SUBJECT.

M. Ambroise Tardieu, hospital intern, exhibited the nasal fossæ of a man who died at la Charité from chronic glanders. The man had exercised the profession of farrier during the last eleven years, and was also employed in a veterinary surgeon's establishment. In the latter capacity he had occasion to dress a horse affected with a foul ulcer, and ascertained to be labouring under chronic glanders. Towards the end of December, 1840, numerous abscesses formed on various parts of the man's body; he was constantly affected with diarrhœa, and gradually lost flesh; these were the only symptoms noticed during the fourteen months that he remained in the hospital. The abscesses healed up once, and the patient, about a year ago, thinking himself cured, left the hospital. But fresh abscesses soon formed, the patient sunk gradually, and died in a state of marasmus on the 5th March, 1842. He never complained of any pain in the nares; purulent discharge and fetid odour were equally absent. After death various collections of pus were found in the subcutaneous cellular tissue, the muscles, the right wrist, and the left ancle joint; in the nasal fossæ the septum was perforated by an opening as large as a ten sous piece; this was surrounded by a red, elevated circle, and at the posterior part of the septum and turbinated bones there were numerous ulcerations. The lungs presented a great number of ecchymosed spots, and contained several metastatic abscesses. The mucous membrane of the larynx, trachea, and bronchi was healthy. This is the first instance, according to the author, in which chronic glanders has been observed in the nasal fossæ of the human subject. In all the cases hitherto related the disease was of an acute character, and the recent lesions masked those of a chronic date.

PRESCRIBING DRUGGISTS.

ANOTHER CHILD KILLED BY AN OVER DOSE OF NARCOTIC POISON.

On Monday an inquest was held before P. F. Curry, Esq., coroner for this borough, on view of the body of Emma Cain, an infant of three months old.

Jane Cain, wife of Matthew Cain, and mother of the deceased, said, they lived in Gillon-place, Duckenfield-street. On Thursday last the deceased was not very well, and had been so for a week, her bowels being a little disordered; and she went to the shop of Mr. O'Gorman, a druggist, in Brownlow-hill, and asked for a pennyworth of paregoric, which he gave her. She asked him what quantity she should give, and told him the child's age. He said she might give her ten drops, or from that to twenty. She gave her about half a teaspoonful, which she put into a cup. She did not drop it, but poured it out. Next day the deceased did not appear to be any better, and remained so up to Saturday night, when she gave her the remainder of the paregoric, and she fell asleep. She slept a little more than an hour, and when she awoke she gave her the breast. She fell asleep again, and about eight the same night witness observed a change in the deceased, and became alarmed, and took her to Mr. King, who keeps a druggist's shop in Brownlow-hill, who gave her some medicine, but she gradually got worse until seven o'clock on Sunday morning, when she died. Mr. Burrows was called to the deceased, and remained with her about three hours before she died, and used such means to recover her as he considered proper, but without avail. The deceased was a healthy child.

Mr. John Burrows, surgeon, said he was called to deceased on Sunday morning, and found her labouring under stertorous breathing, and evidently suffering from some narcotic. He used every means to restore her, but without avail, and she died the same morning, he had no doubt from the effects of narcotic. He considered twenty drops of narcotic too strong for a child of the age of the deceased, but did not think that quantity would produce death. He thought a large dose must have been given.

Thomas Dobson Walker, an apprentice to Mr. O'Gorman, said he had been about two years and a half with him. He remembered the mother coming to the shop, and asking for a pennyworth of paregoric. Miss O'Gorman served her. The paregoric was put into a cup. He was asked what quantity was to be given to the child, and he told her from ten to twenty drops. There was about two drachms given to her.

The coroner, in addressing the jury, said it was a lamentable fact that a great number of children lost their lives by druggists taking upon themselves to prescribe for them. If children were ill, as in this case, with griping, it would be well for mothers in the first instance to give a little castor oil, and, if that had not the desired effect, to call in a medical man. If they had not the means of paying, they might readily find professional assistance gratuitously at one or other of the charities; besides which, there were many private practitioners always willing to give their aid to the necessitous. He knew of no means of putting a stop to the practice of druggists prescribing dangerous medicines, but the efforts of the press in cautioning them not to do so themselves or through their servants. They had, indeed, no more right to do so than any one present in that room. He then alluded to several cases of fatality which had fallen within his jurisdiction, and particularly to a recent one in which a person had called at a Mr. Sheldon's, a druggist, and Mrs. Sheldon had prescribed sixty drops of laudanum for a child! Druggists were authorised to sell medicines, but not to prescribe the quantity to be given, which few of them understood. There could be no doubt but death was in this instance caused by