

otherwise healthy. The pericardium contained about six ounces of fluid.

Dr. Fletcher said that the cause of this transposition of the heart, which, during the life of the patient, he had not been able to account for, was quite clear on the examination of the body; it must have resulted from a pleurisy in very early life—so early that the parents of the patient had not been aware of its existence, and so early that the mediastinum appears to have yielded to the pressure of the viscera of the opposite side of the chest, which passed over to fill up the vacuum caused by absorption of the fluid, which in ordinary cases is effected by a contraction and sinking in of the parieties of the chest of the side affected. Indeed, it is not improbable that this pleurisy took place during the intra-uterine existence of the patient, which may, perhaps, account for the non-contraction of the parieties of the side affected, owing to their being free from the influence of atmospheric pressure.

TREATMENT OF SCIATICA BY IRRITATION OF THE FOOT.

M. Caffe, at a meeting of the Society Médicale d'Emulation, on October 3, said that M. Quadri, the celebrated professor of ophthalmology, in the University of Naples, told him that Dr. Petrini, director of the surgical clinique of Aquilla, a town of the Abruzzi, published about six years ago a memoir, in which he made known a mode of treatment for sciatica. This mode consisted in applying an olive-shaped cautery, heated to a white heat, between the little toe of the diseased limb and the one next to it. This cautery ought to be applied to that part where the nerve bifurcates to furnish its collateral branches to the two last toes; and ought to be kept there for five or six seconds. The wound should then be dressed with simple cerate, and allowed to cicatrize.

A Capuchin monk, affected with sciatica, carried with him in his travels through various towns an instrument for this purpose.

Professor Quadri has often repeated this operation at Prati, in Tuscany, with great success.

These circumstances were brought to M. Caffe's memory by reading an article on the treatment of sciatica, in which mention was made of a woman of Cassano who had a great reputation for her success in its cure. The means which she employed consisted in the application of a certain herb to the foot which produced a sore. Various physicians, astonished at the results produced, took the trouble to find out that the remedy in question was the leaves of the *ranunculus sceleratus*, which, as every one knows, is a powerful vesicant.

Dr. Fioravante has employed common blistering plaster to the same part, with the happiest results. We spoke of his treatment in the last Number of the Provincial Journal.—*Gaz. des Hop.*, Nov. 25, 1843.

DEVELOPMENT OF MALIGNANT DISEASE.

The development of malignant disease seems to depend on a perversion of nutrition. The lymph which exudes through the capillaries, either in the ordinary course of nutrition, or through some accidental inflammation, appears to have its vitality

perverted; so that instead of forming in itself the normal cells out of which the proper tissues of the body are developed, it forms the irregular abnormal cells, which constitute a malignant tissue.—*Mr. Druitt*.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL,

KEPT AT SIDMOUTH.

By W. H. CULLEN, M.D.

November, 1843.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Mean of External Thermometer at 9, a.m. | 47° 65 |
| " " " at 9, p.m. | 47° 05 |
| Maxima | 53° 34 |
| Minima | 39° 75 |
| Mean daily Range | 13° 40 |
| Extreme Highest on the 7th | 60° |
| " Lowest on the 17th | 31° 25 |
| " Range | 28° 75 |
| Mean Dew Point at 9, a.m. | 44° 06 |
| " " at 9, p.m. | 41° 95 |
| Mean of Barometer at 9, a.m. | 29° 838 |
| " " at 9, p.m. | 30° 023 |
| Extreme Highest on the 29th | 30° 500 |
| " Lowest on the 23rd | 29° 341 |
| " Range | 1° 15° |
| Number of Days Fine | 17 |
| " " on which any Rain fell | 17 |
| " " Dull, no Fogs | 8 |
| " " Variable | 0 |
| Quantity of Rain in Inches | 3.70 |

PREVAILING WINDS.

| N. | N.E. | E. | S.E. | S. | S.W. | W. | N.W. |
|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|
| 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 9 | 3 | 14 |

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

Members admitted Friday, December 1, 1843.

J. Clark, G. Orchard, C. Sutcliffe, J. Murphy, C. Watkins, A. A. Davenport, W. Hanrahan, K. Burton, A. Parr, C. Brunt, W. Spackman, A. N. Jones.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Phrenological Library: Gall on the Functions of the Brain. Parts II. and III. London: Berger.

Gonorrhœa and its Consequences; with a short Historical Sketch of the Venereal Disease. By J. B. Childs, M.R.C.S. London: Highley.

Matrimony; or, Phrenology and Physiology applied to the Selection of Partners for Life, &c. By O. G. Fowler, A.B. London: Berger.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Subscribers to this Journal are recommended to ORDER FROM THEIR BOOKSELLERS, without delay, any Numbers required to complete sets, as the first 79 are quite out of print, and but few copies remain of many of the later Numbers.

Sir John Fife's cases next week.

* * Communications, journals, and books for review, to be forwarded (carriage paid) to the Publisher, 356, Strand, London. Letters connected with the Provincial Association, to Dr. Streeten, Worcester.