

*Autopsy.*

*Head.*—On removing the calvarium, the dura mater was found in many places strongly attached to its walls. The vessels of this membrane were also engorged with blood, and universally incrustated with a thick coating of an ossific or calcareous matter. On cutting into the substance of the brain, a distinct grit was felt under the knife, such as follows the cutting of a piece of dried sponge. The vessels at the base of the brain, and their ramifications throughout its substance, were completely covered with a calcareous deposit. This seemed to be confined to the outer layers of the arteries, the inner and lining membrane of these vessels being thickened and rugose.

On making a section of the cerebrum, through the centrum ovale majus, about the middle of the right hemisphere, a cicatrix was discovered, and the traces of the coagula, caused by the apoplectic extravasation eighteen months previous. About six lines below this was the sanguineous effusion which had occasioned her death. The substance of the brain was hard, of the consistence of putty, and when cut, its vessels produced the gritty sound I have before described. About the cicatrix of the old effusion the substance of the brain had become softened.

[*To be continued.*]

## ANIMALCULES IN THE INTESTINAL CANAL.

MM. Gruby and Delafond read a paper at the Academie des Sciences, on the 11th of December, on certain animalcules existing in great numbers in the stomach and intestines of herbivorous and carnivorous animals during digestion.

These physiologists, whilst pursuing their researches on digestion, made the discovery of numerous animalcules which are born, live, and die, in the stomachs of ruminantia—of the dog and pig, and in the large intestines of the horse. These animalcules exist in such numbers, and their presence is so constant, that they may be supposed to be of some service in the act of digestion. The following are the conclusions which may be drawn from their communication.

1. That ruminantia have four species of living animalcules in their stomachs, during the period of digestion.

2. That the horse has seven species of living animalcules in the cæcum and dilated portion of the colon.

3. That the dog has two species of monads in the stomach.

4. The pig has only one species of animalcule in his stomach.

5. The animalcules of digestion are born, live, and swim in the acid liquid contained in the stomach.

The great number of these animalcules in the two first stomachs of ruminantia, the presence of their empty exuvie in the third and fourth, and in the excremental matter, the considerable number of them in the cæcum and dilated colon of the horse, as also the existence of their empty exuvie in the contracted colon and rectum, lead the authors to believe that the organic matter of these animalcules is digested in the stomach of ruminantia, and that it is absorbed in the contracted portion of the colon of the horse, and that, in both cases, it furnishes an animal matter for the purposes of digestion.

The conclusion to be drawn from these facts seems to be that, since in a state of nature herbivorous animals receive only vegetable matter into their stomachs, a fifth part at least is destined to give birth to a great quantity of animals of an inferior development, who, digested in their turn, furnish animal matter for the general nourishment of herbivorous animals. This conclusion seems the more reasonable, as in the dog and pig, which are fed on animal and vegetable substances; the animalcules are smaller, less numerous, and of only one or two species.—*Gaz. Médicale*, Dec. 16.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

*Members admitted Friday, December 29, 1843.*

T. W. Houchen, T. Coulson, B. Baker, A. Gosden, B. Kemp, J. B. Bridick, J. H. Brown, E. Wadams, H. L. Hogg, T. T. Chadwick, H. J. Stokes, W. Crofton.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

*A Practical Chart of Diseases of the Skin.* By George Alfred Walker, Surgeon. London: Longmans, 1843.—[To those who are in the habit of referring to charts, in order to refresh their memories, or to obtain a succinct account of the leading facts connected with any subject, we can recommend the chart before us. It is exceedingly cheap, printed in a miraculously clear type, and when mounted and varnished forms an appropriate ornament to the walls of the pupil's room.]

*A Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery; being a Half-yearly Journal, containing a Retrospective View of every Discovery and Practical Improvement in the Medical Sciences.* Edited by W. Braithwaite, Surgeon to the Leeds General Eye and Ear Infirmary, &c. &c. Vol. VIII.; July—December, 1843. London: Simpkin, 1844.—[This volume appears to be well filled with the medical novelties of the last six months, collected from the journals, and contains besides copious extracts from many new books, including Dr. Pereira and Dr. Davidson on Diet, Dr. Wilson on Spasm, and Mr. Curling on the Testes, &c.]

## 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.*

Papers have been received from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Whitcombe, Dr. Hennen, and Dr. Morris.

We are compelled to postpone one or two over due communications till 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.