

strange combination of features is at the first glance idiotic, but the impression of idiocy is soon removed by the bright intelligence which sparkles in the large eyes, and by a restless curiosity, which is visible in every gesture of the little creatures.

"The sight of a new type of humanity only three feet high, without the deformities of ordinary dwarfs, is of itself highly curious; but these children are rendered still more remarkable by an historical theory which is connected with them. The region whence they are brought is said to have been the place of refuge chosen by the Aztecs when driven from Mexico by the conquering sword of Cortes, and it is supposed that they are among the last surviving relics of that ill-starred race, with whom we have recently been made familiar by the researches of Mr. Prescott and Mr. Stevens. The children bear the strongest resemblance to sculptured figures unquestionably of Aztec origin; and on one occasion, when an ancient Mexican idol was brought to them, they recognised it, and embraced it at once. It seems that while they were at New York (where they created a great sensation) this idol was accidentally broken, and that the boy burst into an agony of grief at the calamity. The smallness of the children's stature is accounted for by a well known cause of degeneracy—namely, a prohibition against marriage with strangers or members of an inferior caste. It is to the sacerdotal caste, which would rank like that of the Brahmins in India, that the children are assigned; and so rare have the individuals of this race become, that it is said they have been advanced from the position of priests to that of gods—no very difficult advance under a system of theocracy. The fact that when the children sit down they fall into a posture which is general among Mexican idols, and which would be extremely difficult if it were not the result of early training, is in favour of this supposition.

"Having given the chief particulars of internal evidence that the children are really Aztecs, we now subjoin the external evidence in the shape of a statement furnished by the exhibitors:—

"In 1848 Mr. Huertis, of Baltimore, and Mr. Hammond, of Canada, attempted to explore Central America. They had read Stevens's account in his *Central America* of a conversation between himself and a priest residing at Santa Cruz del Quiche, relative to an unexplored city on the other side of the Great Sierra range, the glittering domes and minarets of which the priest averred having seen from the summit of the Sierra. The people, manners, and customs of this city were supposed to be precisely the same as in the days of Montezuma. Messrs. Huertis and Hammond arrived at Belize in the autumn of 1848, and, turning south-west, arrived at Coban on Christmas Day. They were there joined by Pedro Velasquez of San Salvador, a Spaniard. From Coban they proceeded in search of the mysterious city. From Velasquez alone is any account of their travels to be obtained. Huertis and Hammond have never returned to tell their tale. According to the statement of Velasquez, on the 19th of May they reached the summit of the Sierra, at an altitude of 9,500 feet in lat. 15° 48' N., and beheld in the distance the domes and minarets of a large city, apparently of an Egyptian character, and about 25 leagues from Ocosingo, in the same latitude, and in the direct course of the River Usumacinta. This city they eventually reached. Velasquez describes it to be of vast proportions, with heavy walls and battlements, full of temples, gigantic statues, and pagan paraphernalia; the people having Peruvian manners combined with Assyrian magnificence, and bound to remain within the walls, seeking no intercourse with the world around. The name of the city is Iximaya. The travellers were informed that white men had previously entered it, but that no white man had ever returned. Hammond and Huertis were both slain—the former in entering the city, the latter in endeavouring to make his escape.

"Velasquez being more wary, lulled his captors into security, and not only escaped himself, but brought with him two children belonging to the priests—the two now in England."

THE ABORTION CASE, to which we referred at p. 410 of the number for May 13th, was tried on Wednesday, 6th July. Cunningham, the principal party implicated, was convicted and sentenced to fifteen years transportation. In the indictment he was designated "a surgeon"; but so far as we can learn he had no right to be so described. In the present state of the law, it appears that any miscreant may with impunity assume a medical or surgical title as a cloak for iniquitous practices.

APPOINTMENTS.

[*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

- GIBBON, Septimus, M.D., elected Assistant-Physician to the London Hospital.
GUTHRIE, G. J., Esq., F.R.S., elected Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.
*HAILEY, Alexander, M.D., elected Physician to the Blenheim Street Dispensary.
LAWRENCE, William, Esq., F.R.S., elected Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons.
LUKE, James, Esq., Surgeon to the London Hospital, elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

OBITUARY.

[*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of those who at the time of their decease were Members of the Association.]

- DEAKINS, R. P., Esq., Staff Assistant Surgeon of Her Majesty's Forces, at Antigua, of yellow fever, aged 27, in June last.
FORBES, William D., Esq., Surgeon, at Comrie, Perthshire, on June 28th.
GREEN, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, at the Oven Diggings, Melbourne, South Australia, aged 44, lately.
JERROLD, Thomas, M.D., at Greenhill Street, Manchester, aged 84, on June 24th.
LANE, J. HUNTER, M.D., of Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, at Brighton, on June 23rd. Dr. Lane was for some years a practitioner in Liverpool and Lancaster; and the author of many works on medical science.
O'FLAHERTY, Dennis, M.D., at Croom, County Limerick, Ireland, on June 20th.
*OUTLAW, A. M., Esq., Surgeon, at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, aged 87, on June 4th.
WAINHOUSE, Alfred, Esq., Surgeon, at Halifax, on June 29.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

- *ALLEN, P., M.D. DEAFNESS AND DISEASES OF THE EAR ARISING FROM SMALL POX, SCARLET FEVER, AND MEASLES. 8vo. pp. 70. London: 1853.
*BALCOMBE, H. S., M.D. ESSAYS. [Printed for private circulation.] 12mo. pp. 52. York: 1853.
*BLACK, C., M.D. PATHOLOGY OF THE BRONCHIO-PULMONARY MUCOUS MEMBRANE. 8vo. Edinburgh: 1853.
*BRAITHWAITE, W. RETROSPECT OF MEDICINE. Vol. xxvii. January—June 1853. 12mo. pp. 464. London: 1853.
FAMILY ECONOMIST. Volume Fifth. 12mo. pp. 236. London: 1853.
*GOODSIR, John, F.R.S.E., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh. ANNALS OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY. No. III. [This number is devoted to Bibliography. It embraces papers and separate works published from 1849 to the end of 1852.] Royal 8vo. pp. 146. Edinburgh: 1853.
LYONS, Robert D. RESEARCHES ON THE PRIMARY STAGES OF HISTOGENESIS AND HISTOLYSIS. Pamphlet, pp. 16. Dublin: 1853.
MARTIN, Wm., Esq. ON BRONCHOTOMY. 8vo. pp. 22. Calcutta: 1853.
*RANKING, Wm., M.D.; and *RADCLIFFE, C. B., M.D. HALF-YEARLY ABSTRACT OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES. Vol. xvii. January—June 1853. 12mo. pp. 370. London: 1853.
VAN OVEN, Barnard, M.D. ON THE DECLINE OF LIFE IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. pp. 300. London: 1853.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EDITOR may be sent to the Editor's residence, Essex House, Putney, London: or to the office of the Journal. Letters requiring immediate attention and revised proofs ought invariably to be sent to Putney.

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London: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO. Edinburgh: SUTHERLAND & KNOX.

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