

these, for instance, situate just under the mucous membrane, and loosely encapsulated, the capsule being partially disintegrated by absorption. In considering the effect of any method of treatment, it is well to bear in mind that sterile fibrils may disappear after abortion or delivery. But Dr. Wilshire believes that pregnancy does not commonly happen in women who are the subjects of these growths.

[To be continued.]

RICHMOND SURGICAL HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

IMPERFORATE ANUS; OPERATION; RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. W. STOKES.)

THE notes of this case have been taken by Mr. Agnew Vevey.

William Davison, aged three days, was admitted into the Richmond Hospital, under Mr. Stokes's care, on November 5th, 1890. The nurse stated that the child was born three days previously and that, the day after his birth, there being no motion from the bowels, he had a dose of castor-oil. This not having the desired effect, she examined the anus, and discovered the malformation. That evening, the child had his first attack of vomiting. On Saturday, November 5th, he was seen by Dr. Barclay of Corkick, who sent the child to the Richmond Hospital, to be placed under Mr. Stokes's care; and he was admitted in the evening.

On admission, the patient seemed quiet. There was no fulness round the anus; no vomiting. He passed urine freely. On November 6th, he had several attacks of vomiting during the night. The skin was very yellow; the abdomen full and tense. At 12 o'clock Mr. Stokes saw the child, and determined to operate at once. The patient was accordingly placed in the lithotomy-position, and a careful and deep dissection in the perineum was made before the gut was arrived at. This was then opened, drawn down, and fixed by several points of suture to the edges of the wound. A large quantity of mucus was evacuated at the time of the operation. At 2 P.M., he was greatly improved; there was no bleeding. At 9 P.M., there was an return of the vomiting. He had passed large quantities of mucus during the day. The skin was losing its yellow appearance. The patient was in every way greatly improved. He had taken a few drops of brandy in milk.

November 10th. To-day, a slight erysipalatoous inflammation of the scrotum was observed. It was ordered to be well dressed with flax; and the patient was ordered to have two-dose doses of the solution of perchloride of iron three daily.

November 13th. The patient was much better, and the erysipalatoous inflammation had almost disappeared.

November 17th. The patient returned to the country.

In speaking of this case clinically, Mr. Stokes remarked that its chief peculiarity consisted in the great depth from the surface at which the gut lay. This circumstance rendered the operation somewhat more difficult and hazardous than is generally the case.

CASES OF CASTRATION.

(Under the care of Mr. W. STOKES.)

On Friday, the 21st ult., Mr. W. Stokes delivered a clinical lecture on some cases for which he had occasion to perform the operation of castration. One of these was a chronic hamorrhagic, another, a rapidly growing sarcomatous tumour of the testis, which probably originated in the cord; a third, a typhoid tubercular hydro-sarcoma; and a fourth, which Mr. Stokes operated on the Wednesday previous, a granular testis. The clinical history and anatomical characters of these cases were described at considerable length; and the lecturer then discussed the conditions of the testicle and its coverings that indicate the operation of castration. The various methods that are adopted by surgeons for arresting hæmorrhage from the divided vessels of the cord were mentioned—such as the ligature or suture; the deglutition of each vessel; the application of the actual cautery; torsion; compression; and, lastly, a modification of the third variety of suture, which, the lecturer stated, might be termed the compressure or suture. It consists in transfixing the cord with a strong compressure-pin, and twisting a strong but flexible piece of wire over it. The vessels are closed by the pressure of the pin behind and the loop of wire in front. One great advantage that this method possesses, besides the rapidity and facility with which it can be applied, is, that it prevents the possibility of the occurrence of the unfortunate accident of retraction of the cord into the abdomen before the hæmorrhage had been effectually arrested. This method, Mr. Stokes mentioned, he tried first in the Meath Hospital, where he believed the practice had been previously adopted by Mr. Ponner in a case where he had occasion to amputate a penis close to the penis. In all the cases in which Mr.

Stokes had tried it, the result had been most satisfactory. The lecturer concluded with a demonstration of a large number of drawings illustrative of various affections of the testicle for which the operation of castration is indicated.

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ON THE DESCENT OF MAN.

WITH our own species it is a misfortune, as far as science is concerned, that we are subject as well as objects. It is a painful necessity for man to have to dismember his own species, although the material for such research is the mere remainder of the individual subjected to this justifiable sacrifice. But man may be subjected to a greater dishonour than this: such a dishonour is done to him when he is made to be nothing else than the lucky result of material law, working unconsciously through indefinite time.

Mr. Darwin, in his book on *The Descent of Man*, is more reverent than thus to strip us of all our glory, yet he does not satisfy us; and we believe that numbers of his most affectionate and admiring disciples will make a steady, look about them, and reconsider their views, and in many cases try to see if, perchance, they can best a retreat. All recent research has an evolutionary character. Everything tends that way in the present state of our knowledge; but we are landed where we would not choose to be, and our leader has bewildered us instead of purring our minds at rest. "The whole of man"—man throughout, from top to bottom, within and without, body, soul, and spirit—is not, cannot be, included within Mr. Darwin's theories. We wish he had stuck to his pigeons and his orchids, and had let us alone; he is always, as a certain burlesque writer has it, "putting that monkey on our back"; but we do not wish what Mr. Darwin is doing to us. The most patient, the most skilled of all living animals, has failed, we think, to get hold of the proper clue; and if he be right, then we inevitably fall so deep that no arm shall reach us to give us help. Our descendants may be reached, peradventure, by the time that all gill-breathing beings have acquired eyes to their tail-feathers, by the time when the Ethiopian shall have changed his skin, and the leopard his spots. Do we, then, give up evolution? Far be it from us! No, we hold it fast; our restless minds anchor upon it; our ambitious minds build by its help a scaffolding the most perfect and the most beautiful that man has ever erected to assist him in his highest scientific researches.

Mr. Darwin evidently lays great stress upon embryological or morphological facts. Our knowledge of the morphology of the vertebrates is still in its infancy; yet we know enough to satisfy us that the whole group is essentially an unity. In respect of his embryological development, man does not appear to be better than a horse, and in the Book of Nature all his members were written, which in continuance were fashioned when as yet there was none of them. Hence the uselessness of this branch of natural science. Yet the extreme difficulty of this kind of labour has made it very little attended to; few have drunk deep at its fountain. The vertebrate "phylogen" is very much broken, even if we include all the known fossil types; else we have no doubt that the vertebrate "life-tree," if all its branches could be seen by us, would enable us to trace every culminating branch to its root. Awful and confusing as is the fact, yet man would form the highest fruited branch of this tree—that is, in his merely animal nature. Moreover, when the groups are perfect, the modifications by which allied types differ are gentle in the extreme. Look at the pinnacled birds and the filine mammals, to say nothing of various families of osseous fishes and the countless forms of the invertebrata. Morphology opens the eyes to the losses in organic forms which this planet has undergone. Let any one bethink himself of the gap between the cartilaginous fish, such as the

bag and the lamprey, and that lonely type the lancelet, worse off as to brain than the "king of men", who, according to Thersites, "had not so much brain as ear-wax". Like Mr. Darwin, we keep forgetting man in the forms that lie below him; but if we really knew how *species* have been developed (and we are not certified as to this at present), then we should have to account for many perplexing faculties and powers in our own species which would lie unconformably upon the attributes of the fundamental beast.

If the nature of man were merely that of a full-blown animal, then the opinion of Pythagoras concerning wild-fowl would not have been quite so absurd as it was; but we think nobly of that which is the absolute distinction—the soul, and no way approve of such opinions. Whether man was created separately from the rest of the "primates", or whether "in the parturient fulness of time" he took a sudden start in development, the ape-like brain undergoing a rapid but wholesome hypertrophy, we have at present no means of knowing.

We heartily wish that there were no savage races. They are in the way: they are Darwinian in their low, foul, savage, beast-likeness; but they are on the planet, and on the planet they have been for no short period. Yet Mr. Darwin must confess that they have the capacity for improvement, indefinite improvement. If he says no, then how did the higher races arise? How did we get our Darwins and Wallaces? our Lyells and Huxleys? Is not the outward form of every creature the symbol of its inward faculties and powers? Does not the "fair large front and eye sublime" proclaim the beauty and the power of the inner man, just as the "forehead villanous low" befits the mind, the temper, and the powers of an ape? There is in that beast's low mind no rudiments of even a "natural theology".

We need not distress ourselves about the matter. Mr. Darwin's book is a most delightful production; and he is welcome to keep, in extreme voluntary humility, all his curious ideas about the slow and laborious way in which Nature made him. As for ourselves, we still like to trace our lineage back to "Noah the sailor", and to the "grand old gardener and his wife"; and we like to hear of the Divine Friend of this Mosaic Adam coming to talk with him in the cool of the day. Is the unity of organic Nature absolute in itself, genetically, or is it one because of the unity of the "First Mover"?

All power must be one *ex parte principii*, however diversified *ex parte termini*; and neither the "abyss" of time during which the evolution of organic forms has been taking place, nor the multifariousness of these forms, nor the great expansion of the faculties that became possible with increased differentiation and perfection of parts, can possibly be confusing to that Being whose existence is a *nunc stans*—an eternal Now.

DIPSOMANIACS.

In a supplementary report of the York Lunatic Asylum, Dr. Needham, the medical superintendent, observes that the absence of legal provision for the care and custody of habitual drunkards has forced itself upon his attention with unusual prominence during the past two months. Numerous applications have been made to him for advice and assistance. He has, he says, unfortunately been compelled to reply that the lunacy and general law of this country in no way provides for the care of such persons, although they are clearly unable to take proper care of themselves, and although they exercise over themselves, their families, and their homes, all those devastating influences which frequently follow in the track of mental disease; but that health, reason, and property, may be alike wasted, without the State thinking it necessary to interfere. That such is the case, appears to him to be anything but conducive to the general well-being of the community. He points out that the law recognises the obligation on the part of every able-bodied man to provide for the maintenance of his family, and to abstain from attempts at the commission of suicide; and that it visits with penalties any infraction of either of these duties. It would surely, then, he argues, not be unreasonable to demand that he shall not wilfully pauperise his family, and

hand over his obligations towards them to those who already have imposed upon them similar responsibilities; and that his attempts at suicide, which are none the less determined, because they are not conducted upon ordinary principles, shall, at all events, confer upon the State the right to adopt measures for attempting their repression.

Dr. Needham expresses the hope that at no distant period the difficulty may be met by the enactment of laws having these objects, but carefully guarded so as to secure the *legitimate* liberty of the subject; and that thus a legal basis may be given for the establishment of inebriate asylums similar to those which have achieved such a marked success in America. He then refers to the Washington Home in Boston, which was opened in 1857, as a type of these institutions, and speaks of the results which have followed its operations as having been of the most satisfactory character. It is stated, upon undoubted authority, that, since it was opened, upwards of three thousand inebriates have been received, and nearly two thousand of them discharged apparently permanently cured. Similar results, according to Dr. Needham, seem to have attended the treatment in the New York State Inebriate Asylum at Binghamton. In twenty months, three hundred and ten persons were received, and fifty per cent. discharged, having, to all appearance, reformed after a single probationary trial. We have, however, recently had occasion to refer to a very different estimate of the success of this institution.

An attempt at legislation in this direction was made last session in the House of Commons by Dr. Dalrymple, but the difficulties attending some of the provisions of this Bill, and the late period of the session when it was introduced, induced him to withdraw it. It is now again before the house, and we invite for it the consideration of our associates. Dr. Needham points out that provision was indeed made by the 6th section of the Act 16 and 17 Vict., chap. 96, for the reception into licensed houses of boarders, "who being conscious of a want of power of self-control, or an addiction to intemperate habits, or fearing an attack or a recurrence of mental malady, and being free agents in all respects, are desirous of residing as voluntary boarders in an institution for the insane, with a view to medical treatment and supervision"; and that this provision was extended to asylums and hospitals by the Lunacy Acts Amendment Act of 1862. He adds, however, that not only do the previous application to the Commissioners in Lunacy, which is requisite in each case, with its consequent delay, and the fact that the applicant must have been under care as a lunatic within five years previously, interfere materially with the value of the enactment; but its purely voluntary character, which enables the boarder to discharge himself when he most urgently requires control, effectually deprives it of all value to the majority of those to whom some power of control, legally conferred upon their friends or others, would prove an invaluable benefit.

PHYSICAL MORALITY.

THERE is little room for doubt that to strike at the root of the filth, laziness, drunkenness, and disease, of great cities, we must begin with the homes of the poor. We must trust to the school-board and to the available means of regenerating their physical conditions of existence. Overcrowding means dirt, disease; moral and mental depression: these carry with them vice and drunkenness as invariable corollaries. Dr. Trench has, therefore, done wisely in calling attention, by a special publication, to the necessity of revolutionising working men's dwellings in Liverpool, as an essential preliminary to success in the efforts now being made to relieve that town of the reproach of excessive mortality and a shocking record of drunkenness. He traces the present high death-rate in no small measure to the immigration of Irish pauperism in 1846-7, when from 60,000 to 70,000 immigrants settled themselves permanently in Liverpool, occupying every nook and corner of the already overcrowded lodging and sublet houses, and even forcing themselves into the cellars (about 3,000 in number) which had been closed to habitation under the provisions of the Health Act of 1842. The question of providing dwellings for the poor is one in which philanthropy needs