AN ACCOUNT OF A SECOND CASE
IN WHICH THE
CORPUS·CALLOSUM WAS DEFECTIVE.

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IN the forty-fourth volume of the 'Transactions' of this Society I furnished the details of a case in which there was a marked defect in the great commissural connections of the brain, associated with grave defect of the intellectual faculties. I, at the same time, compared the case under review with all others of a similar nature which I could find recorded.

Another instance having come under my notice which illustrates, in a characteristic way, this rare abnormality, I am desirous of placing it on record in the 'Transactions' of the same Society which already contains descriptions of the best-marked examples.

A. B. came under my observation in the autumn of 1858. He was the son of a clergyman, and had been submitted to the ordinary process of education with but trifling results. He had been taught to write a little, but

he never exercised the art. He had learned to read easy words, and could answer simple questions. His power of calculation was almost *nil*. He was fond of music, had slight power of imitation, and his memory, although defective, was good in relation to persons and things. He was five feet four and three quarter inches in height, and weighed ten stone one pound. His trunk was well formed, and his facial expression that of an imbecile. He was shy, undemonstrative, fond of children (some of whom he petted), while towards persons of his own age and to the opposite sex he was violent and passionate. His friends were very desirous of asserting the non-congenital nature of the mental condition, and attributed it to masturbation. The diagnosis formed, however, was that it was congenital, and that the masturbation was an accidental circumstance. This diagnosis was strengthened by reference to the other members of the family, who, although occupying good positions in the world, were manifestly not of average intellectual power. The habit of masturbation became entirely broken, and he gave himself up to simple employments, such as wheeling invalids in a Bath chair, and otherwise aiding those whom he petted.

He lived to forty years of age, when he died from pleuropneumonia. An autopsy was made thirty hours after death. The circumference of the head was $21\frac{1}{4}$ in.; the bilateral curve $11\frac{1}{2}$ in.; the antero-posterior curve 12 in.; the bilateral diameter $5\frac{8}{10}$ in.; the antero-posterior diameter $6\frac{7}{10}$ in. The calvarium was unsymmetrical and dense, shelving anteriorly; the posterior clinoid processes were converted into sharp needle-like points; the encephalon weighed 2 lb. 14 oz. On separating the two hemispheres the almost entire absence of the corpus callosum was apparent, and the velum interpositum exposed to view. A small cartilaginous-like band, $\frac{7}{24}$ in. in breadth and $\frac{1}{24}$ in. in thickness, situated opposite the corpora striata, was the only representative of the great commissure. The fornix was represented by two thin posterior pillars; the body of the fornix and its anterior pillars were absent. The right optic thalamus was very much larger than the left. The cineritious portion of the brain

was pale, the posterior cornua of the lateral ventricles were distended with straw-coloured serum, and the Pineal gland was the size of a wild cherry. The middle commissure was absent. The rarity of this abnormality may be indicated by the circumstance that it is only the second time I have met with it in the dissection of 150 brains of idiots.