products. And we know it to be the peculiar property of cancer to conform itself to the natural character of the structures in which it germinates. The omentum being more fibrous than the hepatic parenchyma, the heterology of these bodies acquired a modification; they inclined more to scirrhus than the hepatic tubera. They did not exemplify that reckless tendency to augmentation of volume which marks the progress of encephaloma; and in proportion as the blastema has the fibroid proclivity, relatively will the growth be tardy. When these tumours are largely or numerous formed in the abdominal organs, death is, in a great measure, produced by pressure upon the chylopoietic and assistant chylopoietic viscera.

THE PIECEMEAL EXCISION OF NÆVI.

By FURNEAUX JORDAN, F.R.C.S.,

Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, and Professor of Surgery in Queen's College, Birmingham.

THE operation which I have devised for the removal of nævi, and which I first performed in 1863, I have hitherto so imperfectly described, that I have determined to bring it before the profession with more completeness, though still with all possible brevity. I am the more induced to do this, because I am frequently interrogated touching the details of the method, and because of its increasing adoption in hospital and private practice.

The operation is performed as follows. An incision is made through the superjacent skin and through the nævus, so as to completely divide it into two halves. Hæmorrhage is prevented by pressure on the adjacent arterial trunks. In the face, for instance, where the operation is most useful, pressure on the facial or temporal or supraorbital, one or two or all, arrests the bleeding. If pressure on the main trunks do not perfectly arrest all hæmorrhage, one or two points of pressure (with a director) near or even within the incision will. I have often been surprised to find that one or two points of pressure alone sufficed to secure a bloodless condition of a nævoid section. The next step is with clawed forceps and scissors (curved on the flat) to remove each half

piecemeal, beginning at the centre, as in the diagram, and proceeding to the periphery. There is not the least difficulty in distinguishing the nævoid (capillary, venous, or arterial) from the healthy tissue. The removal of one half should be completed before that of the other is begun. When the nævus is completely removed, there is no hæmorrhage on relaxing the pressure. As a rule, it is quite unnecessary to remove any skin; even if involved, it recovers after the excision of the subjacent nævus. If very much implicated, an elliptical portion of skin may be taken away, so that the edges of the wound can be so brought together as still to leave only a line of cicatrix. Whether any skin be removed or not, the edges of the wound should be brought together with silver wire, and moderate pressure effected by means of a pad of dry lint and a bandage.

I believe piecemeal excision to be the best operation in all cases where it is desirable to save the skin; and these are the great majority of cases. Where it is not desirable to save the skin, as in very pedunculated nævi, or where the skin is extremely implicated over the whole

tumour, the *écraseur*, or the ligature, or bodily excision, may be preferable. In using the *écraseur* or the ligature, I find that the circular incision to receive the chain or ligature is most easily and evenly and rapidly made with sharp-pointed scissors, one point being first thrust through the skin.

Piecemeal excision from the centre is applicable in the larger number of cases, and especially in the face and eyelids. It is immediate, complete, safe, and leaves only a linear cicatrix. It removes the nævus, all the nævus, and nothing but the nævus.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY'S HUNTERIAN LECTURES ON THE ANATOMY OF THE VERTEBRATA.

Delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

LECTURE XIV.

THE Brain of Osseous Fishes has given rise to very much discussion, and various interpretations of its homological relations have been suggested. Nevertheless, the true nature of its parts is to be made out prettily readily, as the Professor proceeded to demonstrate, selecting, as his type, the brain of the Cod. Here we have what is on all hands admitted to be the medulla oblongata surmounted at its anterior end by a backwardly projecting azygos structure, in front of which are two rounded bodies a little separated by a slight median longitudinal groove. In front of these, again, are two solid globular parts whence two long crura proceed, each crus having a swollen distal end. These swollen ends of these crura are the olfactory lobes, and the solid globular parts from which they proceed are the cerebral hemispheres. This homology is proved by the fact that the pineal gland is rooted immediately behind them, while the pituitary body (which always indicates the third ventricle) springs from beneath them towards their hinder margin, and indicates the under part of the hinder portion of the fore brain. The cerebral hemispheres are united together by a transverse band of fibres, which constitute the "anterior commissure." The imperfectly separated bodies immediately behind have been supposed to be the cerebral hemispheres; because, on separating them, parts were found which were supposed to represent the corpus callosum and the fornix. It would, however, have been startling indeed to find such mammalian structures, considering that all the other oviparous forms are utterly destitute of a corpus callosum, and, indeed, such interpretations are quite erroneous. The parts in question represent the optic lobes—or midbrain, and the transverse commissural fibres, which connect them together anteriorly, answer to the posterior commissure of higher animals. Beneath the optic lobes, on the base of the brain, are two prominences termed *lobi inferiores*. The median azygos part behind the optic lobes is the cerebellum.

Reptiles present us with two types of brain; one in which the cerebral hemispheres are small, as is the case in Lizards, Chelonians, and Snakes; the other, in which the same parts are large, as is the case in the Crocodilia.

In Birds, the olfactory lobes are small, the cavity of each cerebral hemisphere is occupied by a great corpus striatum. There is no trace of a corpus callosum, but there is a rudiment of a fornix. The optic lobes, in birds, are very exceptional in position, being singularly lateral and depressed.

In ascending from Birds to Mammals we pass over a gulf, for in the former the anterior commissure is always small, while mammals, with very imperfect brains, have it largely developed. This, perhaps, may depend on the sense of smell.

The lowest form of mammalian brain is, strange to say, not to be found in the lowest mammals (*e.g.*, in the Ecidna), but in such animals as the hedgehog and the armadillo.

The Professor here illustrated by a chalk diagram the principal changes as to form and proportions which would be necessary in order to transform the brain of an armadillo into that of a man. The prodigious expansion of the cerebral hemispheres was shown to change the position of the so-called olfactory nerves from the anterior end, to the under surface of the cerebrum, while the expansion and bending downwards of the posterior end of the cerebrum covers the cerebellum and produces the temporal lobe and Sylvian fissures on each side.

The optic lobes are constantly divided in mammals, into the four parts absurdly named "nates" and "testes." No explanation of this structure has been given, and the existence of the transverse division has been denied in the echidna, but its presence has been demonstrated by Mr. W. H. Flower.

The corpora mammillaria are placed a little behind the pituitary body