I have encountered objects from the organic and inorganic world,—in fact, animal, vegetable, and mineral substances of various kinds, some one or two of each of which I should like to show you.

Of *vegetable tissues* there have been specimens of wood, in the form of chips, imbedded in the cornea, or under the lid; or minute pieces of bark, which have flown from the edge of the hatchet; portions of nut-shell, seeds, and grass. One specimen of hard woody structure shows the separate wood-cells very distinctly, but from what plant it comes I have not been able to determine.*

The *animal bodies* which I have had occasion to remove from the eye, have been minute flies, of various kinds, more or less entire, and the wing cases of insects,—that is, the hardened case or shell, in which are folded the inner or real wings of the coleopterous tribe of insects. They are concave on one side, and convex upon the other, and adhere very firmly to the cornea, in all probability with the action of the leather sucker by which boys raise stones,—i.e., by atmospheric pressure. An instance occurred in the year 1839, when the patient presented himself, after suffering pain and inflammation of the eye for ten months, and the removal of the wing-case relieved all the symptoms. There is sometimes a little difficulty in detaching them from the surface of the eye. Many of them are very pretty objects for microscopic examination, they are very minute, and I have removed several in an entire state.

Metallic substances.—Pieces of percussion caps,—of iron, brass, or copper, retain their metallic appearance, if they are *entirely* imbedded in the substance of the cornea, and are thus removed from the action of air and moisture, so that after removal they have the glistening appearance of a metallic surface; and in the case of iron, it is attracted by the magnet. Portions of percussion cap are generally more or less imbedded in the eyes, as the accident is always accompanied with considerable force. Pieces of lime and stone will adhere for some time to the cornea.

One of the most remarkable facts connected with these metallic bodies in the eye, is seen when a piece of iron is driven upon the surface of the cornea, and does not penetrate deeply, but is subjected at once to the double force of friction by the eyelid, and oxidation by exposure to the air and tears. If it remains a few days in the eye, an extraordinary change takes place in its form, for it assumes the shape of a minute iron ring, with a clear central hole. Of this curious fact I have numberless proofs in the shape of specimens, which I

have myself removed from the eye, and which I shall be happy to show you. Now, this ring is formed in two ways,—the small piece of iron adheres to the cornea, and the prominent part is gradually rubbed away by the lid until it becomes transparent in the centre, much as an optician grinds a concave lens; the other method is when the circumference of the minute piece of iron adheres as before, to the cornea, and the prominent centre is gradually loosened, and removed *en masse* by nature or art. Of the former of these methods—i.e., the gradual thinning of the minute point, I have proof in specimens showing all the stages until a clear ring is formed; and as to the latter, I have frequently removed with the silver curette, a central point, leaving a ring behind, which I have detached at once, or after a few days. These rings are frequently only oxide of iron, and not metallic iron, the occasional transparency showing that they are then no longer in the purely metallic state. I do not yet understand clearly why these pieces of iron are so generally circular as is the case; they either fly off from before the hammer hot and fused by the violence of the blow, or they are ground of a circular form between the lids and the globe of the eye.

IPECACUANHA AS A RESTORATIVE.

By JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM, F.R.S.

I AM induced to make some observations on the use of emetics, from what has been written on the case of the late lamented Duke of Wellington, in the last number of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, page 516. It is there stated:—"Instead of a *depressing potion, such as an emetic*, to void a stomach which, at the utmost, could have little more than gas within it, stimulants, antacids, and sedatives, such as brandy, ammonia, castor, valerian, and opium, with mustard poultices and other rubefacients, or even vesicants externally, were indicated."

For many years I have been in the practice of prescribing an ipecacuanha emetic as a powerful restorative in some cases of exhaustion and sinking, and I read a paper on that subject, before the Nottingham Medical-Chirurgical Society, which was published in the *Lancet* for June 28, 1845.

I prescribe ipecacuanha in preference to any other emetic; for if given in a sufficient dose, as half a drachm of the powder, it produces full vomiting both safely and quickly; it has also the power of raising the system to its normal condition, without producing any unnatural excitement.

I have long discontinued in such cases the use of brandy, ammonia, and opium, considering them only as palliatives. I give the ipecacuanha if I know the stomach is empty, being convinced that the stimulus of vomiting rouses the sinking powers by producing a considerable effect upon the nervous system; that it equalizes the circulation of the blood, removes the

* One piece of vegetable cellular tissue went through a somewhat circuitous route, before it finally rested as one of my microscopic objects. A man presented himself with an acutely-inflamed eye, with puriform discharge, and on everting his upper lid, a foreign substance was seen, and removed, which turned out to be the cellular membrane of some vegetable. The history was this:—A few days before, he met and entered into conversation with a friend, (a butcher's boy,) carrying a *bullock's paunch* in his hand; from words they came to blows, and my patient was brought down by a heavy flap in the face from his adversary's disagreeable weapon. His eye was painful, and intolerant of light, from that time until the substance was removed, when it speedily recovered. The portion of vegetable matter, having escaped in the process of rumination and digestion, found its way thus abruptly into the man's eye, and thence into my possession.

vitiated secretions, and promotes the healthy secretions of the various organs of the body.

If ipecacuanha would have acted as an emetic in such a case as that of the late Mr. Huskinson, where the nervous system had maintained so great a shock, it might probably have had the effect of restoring the vital powers sufficiently to have admitted the operation of amputation. I consider the ipecacuanha so safe a remedy as an emetic, that I have given it in valvular disease of the heart, when the patient was suffering from indigestion.

Nottingham, October 7, 1852.

Proceedings of Societies.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

A special general meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the Association summoned in compliance with the unanimous resolution of the Council, was held at the Royal Western Hotel, Bristol, on Tuesday evening, October 27th, for the purpose of considering if any and what steps should be taken in consequence of the verdict given on the trial of *Bourn v. Cox*.

Mr. Norman, of Bath, presided on the occasion, and there were also present from the Bath District, Messrs. Bagshawe, John Barrett, Bartrum, Bush, Church, Cox, Cowan, James Crang, Finlater Crang, Davies, M.D., Evans, Mason, John Soden, Skeate, Stone, Tunstall, M.D., and Vicary; from the Bristol district Messrs. Coe, Colthurst, Clark, Cross, Budd, M.D., Bryant, Estlin, Godfrey, Green, Hinton, Lancaster, Leonard, Macey, Mayor, Morgan, O'Brien, M.D., Prichard, Sawyer, Smerdon, Symonds, M.D., Swayne, M.D., and H. Swayne. Messrs. Sugden of Westown, Field and Lawrence of Bath, attended as visitors.

Some preliminary objections taken by Mr. Cox, as to the presence of a reporter and the attendance of some gentlemen not members of the Association, having been satisfactorily disposed of,

Mr. COLTHURST, Honorary Secretary of the Bristol Branch, read the minutes of the quarterly meeting, held on the 7th of October.

The PRESIDENT then said,—Gentlemen, you have been called together at this special meeting, as the notice which has been addressed to you states, to consider if any and what steps should be taken in consequence of the verdict given on the trial, *Bourn v. Cox*; and also to consider the propriety of publishing such a letter on medical subjects as was recently done by Mr. John Barrett, in the case of *Bourn v. Cox*. The circumstances which have led to the calling of this meeting, as you are all aware, have arisen out of one of our members being concerned in a lawsuit, which was noticed in our *Journal*, and an invitation given to Mr. Cox to make some explanation about it. In the *Journal* of the 13th of September a letter was published from Mr. Cox,

and the Editor made some strong observations upon it, saying that this branch ought to take some steps in reference to the matter. Accordingly, one of our oldest members wrote to the Bristol Secretary, and suggested the calling together of the Council. They have met, and after a long and anxious consideration they thought the best step would be to call the whole branch together, well knowing that at such a meeting there would be that cool judgment and proper feeling of justice towards a fellow-member which, while it would uphold the honour and dignity of the profession, would also do justice to the gentleman concerned.

Mr. Cox: Mr. President, before the question is gone into, I would beg to make a few remarks. My letter has already been before every member of this Association, through the *Journal*; but I would beg in addition to add, if it were not sufficiently expressed in that letter, that I acknowledge that in my conduct in the affair against my patient Bourn, I was indiscreet and hasty in my proceedings. I appeal to those present whether I had not much provocation thereto. Further than this I am not prepared to acknowledge. I am come here to night, and if any man has to charge me with anything else, I am here prepared to answer it. I am not aware, that in this affair—indeed I know that I have done nothing that I am ashamed to look any man in the face for. I have already said that I have been indiscreet, and if I have done anything that ought to incur the censure of the profession, I know that here I shall have a fair tribunal before which to answer any charge. I know that I shall have fair play; I ask for no undue favour. I know that I may rely on fair play and good feeling from every member, and with that feeling I leave the case in the hands of this Association, and whatever sentence they may pronounce, I am ready to submit to it.

Mr. J. B. ESTLIN, of Bristol, said he felt bound to state briefly the reasons which induced him, unsolicited, and without consulting any one, to take the initiatory step which had led to the summoning of that meeting. He confessed that he felt in some degree disarmed, by the observations which had fallen from Mr. Cox, and hoped that nothing would be said by him out of that spirit of fairness which Mr. Cox had claimed. Having, however, received Mr. Cox's letter, and feeling that one of the members of the Association, in a court of justice, had been accused criminally, he might say, (because the accusation, though not one of perjury, was that of having procured a malicious arrest,) he felt that it was a matter which ought to be brought before this Society. He had heard from various quarters, that it was the desire of many of the members that the matter should be so brought forward, and this desire was expressed not only by those who took a view of the matter adverse to Mr. Cox, but also by those who thought he had been hardly used. He (the speaker) thought it was the duty of some one not belonging to the Bath Branch, to bring the matter forward, and have it canvassed, and therefore being one of the senior—he believed almost the oldest—member of the Bristol Branch, and feeling strongly the duty, as he advanced in life, to uphold the