extremely small, having suffered gradual compression during the increase of the tumour.

The tumour I sent to a pupil studying at King's College, and it was examined by Mr. Bowman of that Institution, who pronounced it to be a decidedly fungoid growth. In some portions the blood-vessels had given way, constituting fungus hæmatodes, and other parts presented the character of medullary sarcoma. A section examined under the microscope presented a number of healthy nucleated cells, interspersed with some that were diseased; the latter were larger than the former, and contained within them smaller cells. In the substance of the tumour numerous fibrous bands might be discerned with the naked eye. The tumour was highly organized, and very vascular. Mr. Bowman thought the case extremely interesting from the unusual size of the tumour, the slowness of its growth, (ten years,) and the absence of any disturbance in the functions of the brain. This last circumstance is perhaps the chief peculiarity connected with this case, and when we think that for a considerable time, nearly the whole of the left hemisphere of the brain was obliterated, and occupied by a malignant tumour, without interfering with the operations of the mind, the fact seems explicable only on the views of Forville and Wigan,—that the two hemispheres constitute two distinct brains, (connected, it is true,) but each, individually, capable of carrying on the various mental operations independently of the other, just as we see in the eyes, ears, &c.

In addition to the analogies presented by the special senses in support of the theory of the duality of the mind, numerous facts, hitherto inexplicable in health, but more especially in disease, point to this source for an explanation. The phenomena of insanity, which have occupied the thoughts of the profoundest minds, and are still involved in mystery, afford many instances corroborative of Dr. Wigan's views. He considers each brain as a perfect whole, in thought, sentiment, and volition; and also, that when one of them is destroyed, the other can perform all the functions of the mind. Each brain carries on its own processes independently, and, like the two strings of a piano-forte, producing only one note. In both cases, it is only when they are out of harmony that the fact is observed, that that which is apparently one is really an harmonious combination of two distinct actions. A discrepancy in the action of the two brains,—a mixture of two trains of thought produces confusion, incoherence, and ultimately, when both brains become disordered, insanity. That two processes of thought seem constantly to be going on in the insane has been observed by many persons conversant with them. The ready explanation of the phenomena of dreams also seems naturally to suggest itself as illustrative of these views—that one brain may be in repose whilst the other is in a state of greater or less activity. With respect to the assertion that one brain is capable of carrying on all the mental operations, I may adduce an instance from a pamphlet of Dr. Wigan's, which he mentions as coming under his own observation:—

“When the disordered feelings, thoughts, reasoning powers, sentiments, and volitions of one brain have, by their incessant obtrusion, overpowered the same impulses, reasoning powers, and volitions of the other, and thus produced insanity,—if the further progress of

disease in the organ pass on to its utter destruction, the patient is immediately restored to reason; apoplexy in the disordered brain, for example, producing hemiplegia, by liberating the healthy organ from the suggestions of the other, will in a few moments enable the patient to use the sound brain as fully as if it had never been in abeyance.”

The same writer also brings forward a very amusing poetical letter, written by the late Stewart Rose, long after he had entirely lost one brain.

I might adduce many facts which would support this theory, but I should prefer referring you to Dr. Wigan's work; and I have no intention, neither am I prepared to enter into the discussion of this interesting question; indeed, it is far too complicated and extended, and I have only made this case the occasion of a few remarks on the subject in the hope that it may direct attention to this important branch of inquiry. I do not profess to be a convert to the theory that Dr. Wigan has advocated in his work on “The Duality of the Mind”; but as it affords a not unphilosophical explanation of many parts hitherto inexplicable, I think it demands from us at the least a calm and unbiassed investigation.

CASE OF GENERAL ANASARCA, WITH ALBUMINOUS URINE, IN AN INFANT TEN WEEKS OLD.

By W. BIRD HERAPATH, M.B., Surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital, Bristol.

March 17, 1848. Mrs. Penfold brought her infant to me, complaining that it had “swollen very much all over.” This state came on gradually about a fortnight ago, and she could assign no cause for its appearance. It was a male infant about ten weeks old; the whole surface had a peculiar anæmic aspect; the eyelids were transparent and swollen from oedema; the face was also somewhat anasarcaous. The inferior extremities and the hands showed this condition the most; they were at least double the usual size, and pitted deeply upon pressure. The child's health did not appear to be otherwise disordered; it ate its food well, and took the breast also; it was by no means a restless child, for she had generally “very good nights” with it. The mucous membranes all appeared in good order; there was no bronchitis nor other symptoms of catarrh. It generally made plenty of water, and appeared to thrive very well until this came on. At a subsequent period I obtained a small quantity of the urine, it was clear, but high coloured, and deposited abundance of albumen, with nitric acid, and heat.

These symptoms gradually became worse, in spite of all treatment; occasionally all the swelling disappeared, but it soon returned. I saw the child frequently, but never found the albumen to decrease in the urine. Its food appeared to do it no good; the nutritive function was decidedly interfered with.

About the latter end of April the infant became drowsy and comatose, and the anasarca was at this time worse than ever; convulsions ensued, and rapidly carried it off. The infant died twenty-four hours after

their first appearance; it was then four months and a fortnight old.

Post-mortem examination, May 1st, 1848. A most careful examination was instituted. The whole thoracic and abdominal organs were perfectly healthy in structure; the kidneys had not the slightest approach to granular disease, and no structural cause was elicited for the death of the little patient. All the organs were remarkably anæmic and pale; I never saw an instance in which there was so great a deficiency of colouring matter. Had the patient been slowly bled to death, it could not have been more bloodless and pallid; the liver alone had any appearance of blood in its tissues. It was in a slight degree congested in the hepatic venous system.

Remarks.—The treatment consisted at first of diaphoretics. Antimony and nitric æther, combined with small doses of tincture of digitalis, were first administered, and a warm bath every other night during five minutes. Some little benefit was derived from this mode of treatment, but eventually it was of no service. The nitro-hydrochloric acid was then tried, and the mother fancied more benefit was obtained from it than from the other attempts. This was continued for about three weeks, but after this I saw no more of the child until called upon to give a certificate of its death, when I of course demanded an examination of the body. Anæmia appears to have been the cause of the general anasarca, but the mal-assimilation of its nutriment was probably the primary cause of the albuminuria and anæmia consequent upon it.

OBSERVATIONS ON HERNIA.

By JOHN ALLAN, Esq., Surgeon, Epsom.

The usual progress of hernia is from bad to worse; it seems, therefore, worth while to record two cases, in one of which gradual reduction took place, long after all attempts at reduction had been abandoned as impracticable; while in the other, not only reduction, but a permanent radical cure, has been obtained.

William West, aged 64, had had hernia of the right groin for upwards of twenty years, for which he had worn a truss very constantly, though not without occasional omissions, when, from the heat of summer or other causes, he felt it inconvenient. About six months ago I was requested to see him, when I found him engaged in his usual duties as an under-gardener. At this time the hernia was as large as a goose's egg, extending half way down the scrotum, tense and hard, but not painful, nor tender. He had not been able for three weeks to effect its reduction, which he had been in the habit of doing without difficulty. He had broken the spring of his truss, but, binding it tighter, he had continued wearing it for several weeks, till the broken end of the spring having at length worn a hole through the leathern sheath, had begun to gall his back. A person to whom he mentioned the circumstances, gave him a second-hand truss, which, though much too wide to fit him, he had worn for a week, although the hernia protruded every day while the truss

was on. At length he found that he could not reduce the hernia at all, and went to the Society's house in Hatton Garden, where he got a new truss of a size to fit him. The surgeon then attempted without success to reduce the hernia, and advised him to remain at rest, and to purge his bowels well, and that then he might succeed in reducing the hernia. When I first saw him it had been un-reduced for three weeks, and was increasing in size.

I ordered him to be confined in the supine posture in bed, and to apply constantly cold astringent lotions to the tumour, while he took opium in one grain doses every hour, till he was narcotized by it. Day after day the taxis was carefully tried, after the fullest expirations, but only with very partial success. The hernia appeared to consist chiefly of omentum, but the gurgling sound of air under the hand showed that the intestine was also concerned. His bowels were not obstructed, and were freely purged with castor oil and croton oil, and the use of opium was renewed at intervals for six days. The tumour was now reduced to the size of a hen's egg, and was soft and free from tension or tenderness, but would not admit of being replaced within the abdomen, after repeated and long continued manipulation.

Under these circumstances, it seemed reasonable to conclude that adhesion of part of the contents to the sac must have taken place, and that any further reduction of the hernia was not to be expected. A truss, with a cupped pad to receive and fit the tumour, was now made for him, and, with this fitted on, he left his bed and resumed his usual occupation. After a day or two the cup of the pad seeming larger than necessary, two or three folds of linen were placed between it and the tumour. From time to time the quantity of linen was increased, and every night, while in bed, he made careful attempts to reduce the hernia, which, at the end of a fortnight, he effectually accomplished. Ever since then he has worn the ordinary truss, which he received from the Truss Society, and has not again allowed the hernia to protrude in the slightest degree.

It is probable that, in this case, partial absorption of the bulk of protruded omentum had taken place under the pressure of the truss, till at length it became so far lessened as to slip through the ring. I confess that this result was to me quite a surprise, for I had no doubt that adhesions must have been formed between the sac and its contents, which would render the total reduction of the hernia impracticable.

The other case which I have to describe, I consider still more remarkable, and I am not aware that there is any case parallel to it on record.

William Puttock, 34 years of age, had had a rupture of the right groin while a boy, which he used to reduce at pleasure. At the age of fourteen it would sometimes come down to the size of two fists. About this time he was in the service of a coal-dealer, and found that the frequent lifting of sacks of coals caused the rupture to increase in size. One day, on moving a number of sacks, the tumour suddenly enlarged to the size of his head, and became hot and painful, and of a deep-red