upper part of the calf of the leg; it is lobulated, bulging out on the outer or fibular side, where it feels very elastic to the touch; it also projects on the inner or tibial side, and here there is distinct fluctuation on pressure; the skin is of a natural colour, but bright, shining, and tense; there are numerous veins meandering under the skin, and numerous patches of prettily injected arterial capillaries; the circumference of the tumour at the upper part is eleven inches, at the lower part nine inches and a half; the circumference of the calf of the right leg is six inches and three quarters; a gland can be felt enlarged in the left groin; the child is very fair, with light hair and eyes, but does not look unhealthy; the bowels have been affected with diarrhoea for six weeks, and the stools are not healthy. Pressure had been applied to the swelling in the early stage, and latterly fomentations and poultices. Some alterative powders were prescribed, and an evaporating lotion.

29. The child has had better nights, and the evacuations from the bowels are more healthy; tumour in the same state. There could be little doubt as to the real nature of the disease, but, before proposing amputation, I recommended a consultation.

30. My friend, Dr. Cammack, saw the child with me to day. I punctured the most fluctuating part of the swelling with a grooved needle; a few drachms of brownish coloured serum escaped, this fluid coagulated on the application of heat; on puncturing the tumour with a lancet just above the outer ancle, a few drops of blood only escaped. Dr. Cammack expressed himself fully satisfied as to the true nature of the disease. Amputation was recommended but the parents refused to accede to an operation.

June 10. The tumour has considerably increased in size, and now measures eighteen inches in circumference; this afternoon the skin gave way at three points on the inner side of the swelling, and very copious hæmorrhage took place; the child is much altered, looks deadly pale, and has a very rapid pulse.

12. Yesterday the skin gave way for about three inches on the inner side of the swelling, and from this opening a fungus the size of a goose's egg has sprouted forth; hæmorrhage takes place from time to time.

14. Died this morning.

15. *Inspectio Cadaveris*.—The tumour consisted, in great part, of a substance in appearance much resembling brain, with some cavities containing serum; and on each side there was softening of its substance; the bones of the leg were much flattened and distorted, but not otherwise affected. The viscera of the chest and abdomen were remarkably pale; but in other respects appeared perfectly healthy. What is the usual result of operations in such cases?

SCROFULOUS DISEASE OF THE JOINTS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If, in the following short history of the elbow joint, and amputation of the extremity, any observation be found worthy of a place on your pages, I shall feel obliged by its insertion, and

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Liverpool, Dec. 15, 1841. J. NOTTINGHAM.

John Beech, aged forty, a tall and slender man, was formerly a file-cutter, but left this occupation at the age of twenty years for the army, in which he served nearly twenty years; the first four in England and Ireland, the next nine years in the Mediterranean (Malta, Corfu, &c.), and the remainder of the time at Sydney, New Holland. These localities are mentioned for the purpose of directing attention to his mode of life, and to the nature of the climates alluded to, for during the twenty years of service as a soldier he en-

joyed the "most perfect health," but after he left the army and returned to England, change of climate and the effects of poverty, seem to have favoured the production of the disease we have here to notice.

Having left Sydney for England, he arrived in Chatham, May, 1840, and in December of the same year, came, in good health, to Liverpool for the purpose of seeking employment.

Without any known cause, early in the month of May, 1841, his right elbow became painful on motion, and the joint "gradually swelled." During the day, the pain was considerable; but he remarks that it was very much increased in the night, and that he was frequently started out of his sleep by it. In the month of August last, when he became my patient, the expression of his countenance was very anxious, he was considerably emaciated, but without any cough, or other symptom of internal visceral disease. He at once expressed a desire to have the arm removed, which was acceded to as soon as it appeared that no favourable rebuts could be expected from excision of the joint, or any palliative mode of treatment.

The right elbow measured in its circumference some inches more than that of the opposite side, the integument had a glossy aspect, marked by meandering veins, and was very sensitive to the touch; the lancet, he says, had twice been used for the purpose of "letting out matter." It did not appear that these punctures had been followed by any considerable discharge.

Aug. 29. The arm was removed by the flap operation, a little above the middle of the humerus. The parts afterwards united by the first intention in a very favourable manner.

On examination, the disease of the joint was found to be very extensive, the cartilages of the three bones ulcerated, and the synovial membrane converted into a sort of gelatinous material, with about an ounce of pus in the cavity of the articulation. The bones were softened to a considerable distance from their articular extremities.

After the operation, the general health of the patient was somewhat improved, and he went on favourably during about two months, but at the end of this time began to complain of some uneasiness in the right knee, which was found to be considerably swollen. There was great pain on pressure over the ligamentum patellæ, the head of the tibia was very sensitive, also the corresponding part of the femur, but in a less degree; he had not yet experienced any nocturnal disturbance from this cause, but was very lame in walking.

Nov. 1. He was directed to refrain from walking, or any other motion which should increase the pain in the articulation—to cover the joint with a piece of flannel, and apply a moderately tight roller around it.

Dec. 10. The precautions taken with regard to the knee joint have been followed by considerable improvement; the swelling is reduced, the pain much lessened, and the patient now walks, complaining only of a little stiffness; it is not, however, improbable that the knee joint may be more seriously affected by scrofulous disease at no distant period. In the family of this patient there appeared to have been what we may be allowed to call a disposition to scrofulous disease of joints; one of his brothers "died of white swelling" of the right knee at the age of thirteen years, but from his account it does not seem that any of them have suffered from pulmonary affections.

In this, as in all cases for operation, the necessity was very evident, not only of attending to the state of the internal organs and general health, but, perhaps, we should not be going too far to say that the condition at the same time of the larger joints, as yet not known to be affected by disease, might be regarded as worthy of our attention, to say nothing of metastasis in complaints of this kind, a subject with which we are hitherto so imperfectly acquainted.