ceeded in forming a book of reference for practitioners, and a solid and easy guide for students. The engravings are by Mr. Adlard, after drawings by Bagg. Looking at the contents of the volume, and its remarkably low price, only twenty-two shillings, we have no hesitation in saying that it has no parallel in the history of publishing.

Memoir on the Radical Cure of Stuttering, by a Surgical Operation. By J. F. DIEFFENBACH. Translated from the German, by JOSEPH TRAVERS. London: Highley. 1841. 8vo. Pp. 26.

ALTHOUGH, with the assistance of a "translator's preface," and of Mr. Highley's "syllabus" prefixed and affixed, this makes a respectable volume, the whole of it was contained in three pages of the last number of the *PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL*. Our translation was derived from the memoir which M. Dieffenbach presented to the Institute of France; that of Mr. Travers is taken from the German; but they are identically the same. We do not make this remark for the purpose of depreciating in any way the merits of Mr. Travers' translation, but simply of recording one of the many advantages presented by a medical periodical. We should not omit to mention that Mr. Travers' pamphlet contains three plates, illustrative of the operation, and of the instruments employed by Dieffenbach.

ROYAL MEDICAL & CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday, March 9, 1841.

Dr. WILLIAMS in the Chair.

READ, A CASE OF SLOW PULSE, WITH FAINTING FITS, WHICH FIRST CAME ON TWO YEARS AFTER AN INJURY OF THE NECK FROM A FALL, AND PROVED FATAL FIVE YEARS AND THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ACCIDENT. BY T. H. HOLLERTON, OF HAMPTON, SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

THE subject of this case was a gentleman 64 years of age, who received an obscure injury to the neck from a fall from his horse in December, 1834. From this injury he slowly recovered, and at the end of a year complained only of some difficulty in moving his head. Nothing further was remarked respecting this gentleman until January, 1837, when he had a fainting fit, and Mr. Jackson, of Stamford, then observed for the first time, that his pulse beat only 20 in a minute.

From this time he had similar attacks at irregular intervals and from various causes; one in the spring of the same year from excitement at a horse-race and long fasting; and another in the following June, from a somewhat similar cause. In the latter instance his pulse was 25 in the minute. When the author first saw him, in March, 1837, his ordinary pulse was 33, but it was easily altered. Mental excitement usually increased it, and in general this was followed by a corresponding slowness of the pulse, and often by a fainting fit. The general characters of the pulse when the patient felt well were firmness, fulness, and freedom; generally, it was regular, but sometimes intermittent. An overloaded state of the stomach was an occasional cause of these attacks, and in June, 1838, when the patient suffered from a severe and alarming succession of fits, the pulse fell to 12, 10, 9, 8, and at three or four different times was counted as low as 7½ in a minute. One of these attacks ended in the death of the patient in April, 1840. The examination of the body was made by Mr. Liston, from whose report the following is extracted:—"The medulla oblongata was small in size, and extremely firm in consistence. The foramen magnum was altered in shape, the antero-posterior diameter being

much diminished. The superior part of the odontoid process of the axis appeared to have been pushed back, and somewhat raised above its usual situation. The antero-posterior diameter was so much narrowed, that it would not admit of the little finger. The dura mater and ligament covering the posterior part of the body of the axis were very much thickened. The atlas was in its usual situation, but the articular cavities were firmly ossified to the condyles of the occipital bone, and permitted no motion whatever between the atlas and skull." The patient never had paralysis, nor alkaliescent urine, neither did he suffer from pain in the back after the first few weeks from the accident.

A discussion of some length followed the reading of the paper, in which several questions were put to the author, with the view of further elucidating the cause of the symptoms under which the patient laboured. Unfortunately the previous history of the patient was but imperfectly known; although it was stated, that previous to the occurrence of the accident, nothing had been noticed remarkable in the state of his circulation; the state of the respiration during the time that the pulse was so remarkably lowered was not observed, and the condition of the vertebral arteries not examined into. The question arose then how far the accident and the state of the circulation stood in the relation of cause and effect, or how far they were merely coincidental. Some members considered that the *post-mortem* examination, had it been made with sufficient accuracy, would have given evidence of pressure upon the vertebral arteries; the consequence of which would be the disturbance of the circulation within the cranium, and the probable explanation of the phenomena observed in the patient. It was suggested also that the fact of the fits seeming to be dependent greatly upon the condition of the stopach, would lead to the suspicion that the pneumo-gastric nerves had become involved by the accident.

It was argued, on the other hand, that the length of time which had elapsed between the receipt of the injury and the occurrence of the fits, the absence of all symptoms of pressure or of fracture, would lead to the inference that the state of circulation was not dependent in any way upon the accident.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

DRY GANGRENE OF THE HAND—AMPUTATION.

SAMUEL HARLOW, æt. 18, short in stature, but well proportioned, having dark curling hair and dark complexion, was admitted Oct. 6th into Guy's Hospital, under the care of Mr. B. Cooper, labouring under progressing mortification of the right hand. He states that during the last seven or eight years his health has been very good, with the exception of an occasional slight cough, which occurred more especially during the previous winter, and which was then accompanied by expectoration mixed with blood. He did not suffer from difficulty of breathing. On further inquiry, it appears that his nose bled frequently about this time, so that the mucous membrane of that organ was in all probability the source of the discoloration of the sputa. These symptoms, he states, would continue for two or three days and then subside, but generally recurred whenever he caught cold. His mother says that he never was very stout; nor did she think him strong during the past summer, although he all along declared his health to be exceedingly good. He has been accustomed to eat meat and to take a pint of porter daily. About three weeks since, whilst planing a piece of wood, he struck with much force the nail of the ring finger of his right hand against a heavy mass of lead, which was placed upon the wood for the purpose of steadying it. The blow caused severe pain at the root of the nail, and upwards along the arm, but after a short time it subsided, and he proceeded with his work. On the following day the root of the nail, and the integument for about a quarter of an inch above, had a bruised