effect was produced on ten cows; the eleventh he inoculated with the most perfect success. He described the progress of the disease as follows:—On the second, third, and fourth days, nothing was observed in the points where the matter had been introduced; on the fifth day, however, a small red point formed over each; on the sixth, a small transparent vesicle; on the seventh, the vesicle was converted into a bulla (*blase*), which was surrounded with a reddish circle on the eighth and ninth days; on the tenth day, the whole of the bulla was of a bluish pearl colour, and the lymph was, on this day, taken from it. On the eleventh, the udder was swollen, febrile symptoms set in and continued to the twelfth, when the tumefaction of the udder abated; the pustule was now of a whitish colour. On the thirteenth, the animal began to eat, and there was a depression in the middle of the pustule, which turned into a yellow crust on the fourteenth. From the fifteenth to the sixteenth, the crust became brown, then darker, and remained on to the twenty-eighth day.

Dr. Gassner vaccinated with the lymph several children in the rectory-house at Riedheim, and from them, seventeen others at Schönenberg. The appearances of the pock were perfect.

These circumstances were examined into by the commission of inquiry, who came to the conclusion that the facts averred by Dr. Gassner were a pure fiction.

On the other hand, Professor Heim inquired minutely into all the circumstances of the case, and says he is convinced of the variolation of the cow, and of the transmission from her of a disease similar to vaccinia.

In addition to the evidence collected from the surviving children of the curate, vaccinated by Dr. Gassner, of a contemporary witness, the schoolmaster Nübling, Professor Heim cites a letter addressed by Dr. Gassner to Dr. V. Ehrhart, and published in his "*Sammlung von Beobachtungen*, I. B I. H Nürnberg, 1803, s. 94." The following is an extract from this letter:—"I have endeavoured to ascertain by experiment the nature of the vaccine lymph. The report that I have inoculated several cows with small-pox is true; the result on the eleventh cow was perfect, and fully bore out the ideas which I had formed from analogy; I vaccinated with the lymph obtained from this cow the four children of a curate at Riedheim, and a beautiful cow-pock was produced. The matter with which I succeeded in producing the disease in the cow was taken from a child labouring under malignant small-pox at Zügen." The letter bears date, Günzburg, April 26, 1802.

UTERINE HYDATIDS SIMULATING PREGNANCY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now been practising midwifery for nearly half a century, and never having met with a similar case to the one I now send you, perhaps you will deem it worthy a place in your Journal.

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS POPE, SURGEON.

Clebury Mortimer, Salop,
May 7, 1842.

On Thursday evening, the 21st ult., Jane, the wife of William Perkins, stone-mason, of this town, aged about 35, and mother of six children now living, with difficulty came to my house for advice. On inquiry, I found that in December last she thought herself pregnant, as her usual time of menstruating had just passed by; on the 14th of January last, severe uterine hæmorrhage took place, which continued uninterruptedly, attended with uterine pain and gradual enlargement of the hypogastric region, up to the time she came to me. She was greatly emaciated; pulse quick and weak; with thirst and anorexia. I agreed with her as to the fact of pregnancy; told her that I thought the placenta was near the cervix uteri, and that she ought to have had assistance earlier, and that nothing but the removal of the contents of the uterus would give her the least chance of recovery; I also blamed her for not applying sooner. She said that her husband had been out of work during the greater part of the winter, and that she had not the means of properly supporting her family. I desired her to go home, to confine herself to bed; ordered her diet and medicine suitable for hæmorrhage, and promised to see her in the morning.

On Friday morning she thought herself better; however, I examined the state of the uterus, per vaginam, and found the os uteri only sufficiently dilated to admit a finger, but with some force, I introduced the middle finger also, and dilated them as much as I could for two or three minutes. I saw her three or four times during the day; she had little loss of blood, and something like labour pains at night, when I examined again, and found things in the same state. I ordered her husband to call me if she got worse during the night.

On Saturday morning I found she had passed a restless night, with considerable labour pains, and was much reduced in strength, with a scarcely perceptible pulse, though no hæmorrhage had ensued. On examination, there was no trace of os or cervix uteri, but the whole uterus seemed quite patulous with something of a peculiar and soft feel; no fœtus or placenta could be discovered; I grasped a handful of something, and brought away what proved to be hydatids, varying in size from a pin's head to that of a hen's egg, and of an amber colour; I emptied the uterus of at least five or six quarts of these hydatids, which adhered to every part of the uterus, and also to each other. At their point of union with the uterus there appeared to be a net-work with a thin and soft substance, similar to linen, forming the threads of the net. The uterus appeared to be very thin, and was very sensitive. After the lapse of thirty or forty minutes, I examined and found the uterus much contracted, the cervix formed, and the os tinæ collapsed. I gave the patient an opiate, which procured sleep, but she gradually sank, and died early on Monday morning. I did all I could to obtain an examination of the body, but in vain. Much may be said on this interesting subject. Had the scanty and impoverished diet of the patient anything to do with the production of the hydatids? From her sallow and jaundiced appearance, with the clay, black, and green-coloured stools, and constantly bitter taste in the mouth for some months, is it not probable that they also existed in the liver?