that it overcame the firmness he so remarkably possessed. He lay for some time in great agonies, but when the surgeons arrived, and discovered with certainty that the bone was broken, he was perfectly resigned, and never afterwards asked a question about the event. A fever soon ensued; on Tuesday he became lethargic, and continued so till about five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, when he expired with great calmness in the 75th year of his age.

On examination, the thigh-bone was found to be carious about four inches in length, and at nearly the same distance from its head. The disease took its rise from the internal part of the bone, and had so entirely destroyed its substance, that nothing remained at the part where it was broken but a portion of its outward integument; and even this had many perforations, one of which was large enough to admit two fingers, and was filled up with a fungous substance, arising from within the bone. There was no appearance of matter about the caries, and the surrounding parts were in a sound state. It was apparent that the torture which his grace underwent during the gradual corrosion of this bone, must have been inexpressibly great. Out of tenderness to his family he seldom made any complaint to them, but to his physicians he frequently declared his pains were so excruciating, that unless some relief could be procured he thought it would be impossible for human nature to support them long; yet he bore them for upwards of six months with astonishing patience and fortitude, sat up generally the greater part of the day, admitted his particular friends to see him, mixed with his family at the usual hours, sometimes with his usual cheerfulness, and except some very slight defects of memory, retained all his faculties and senses in their full vigour till within a few days of his death."

In the second part of the 15th vol. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, two cases of fracture of the thigh-bone taking place, without any violence, in connection with cancer, are related by Mr. Salter, of Poole, in one of which an examination was afforded after death, and his description of the condition of the bone corresponds very much with that of the preceding case. I regret that no examination could be obtained in the case of James Pople's wife.

DISLOCATION OF THE HIP, WITH FRACTURE OF THE ACETABULUM.

By Mr. Toogood.

Thomas Rich, a sawyer, aged thirty, fell into a saw-pit from a piece of timber, and received a violent blow on the hip from the heavy body which followed him. The head of the thigh-bone was thrown on the dorsum of the ilium, and the dislocation was reduced in the usual way without much difficulty. On the following evening it was evident that the head of the bone was not in its proper situation; the limb was shortened and somewhat inverted, presenting just the appearance of a dislocation into the ischiatic notch. Moderate extension, however, easily brought the leg of equal length with the other, and the whole limb to a natural state. He had retention of urine. The next day the limb was found again shortened, and although there was great swelling from the violent contusion which

so heavy a body had occasioned, an accurate examination satisfied me that the head of the bone was still lying on the dorsum of the ilium. I was not present when the dislocation was reduced, but the surgeons who attended the patient were positive that they heard the bone return to its socket, and their opinion was confirmed by the patient and the bystanders. A careful examination was again made, when a fracture of the acetabulum was detected, which allowed the head of the bone to escape, and explained at once the cause of the limb presenting such different appearances. There was not the slightest difficulty in returning the bone to its natural position, but it was no easy matter to keep it there. This, however, was effected by fixing the pelvis, and keeping up permanent extension by means of a pulley. By persevering in this plan for several weeks the patient perfectly recovered the use of the limb.

I have frequently employed permanent extension by the pulley, in cases of very oblique or complicated fractures of the thigh, with the best effects, and particularly in one I attended about a year since, in which the shaft of the bone was broken in three different places, so that it was impossible to keep the limb right in any other way. The patient has an excellent limb, without any deformity.

Bridgwater, June, 1842.

ARTIFICIAL PREMATURE LABOR.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you think any useful hints will be given, or any practical suggestions offered to the profession, by republishing a case in which Dr. Lee induced abortion, together with a case which lately occurred in my own practice, I will trouble you to give them a place in your Journal.

Yours, &c.,
W. ALLISON.

In the "*Lancet*," June 18, 1842, at page 413, a case is related in which the membranes of the ovum were punctured in the fourth month of pregnancy, to arrest fever, epigastric pain, and incessant vomiting; immediately after which the fever and pain subsided and the vomiting ceased, though the fœtus was not expelled until after several weeks.

CASE.—Mrs. J., of Retford, a delicate woman, aged 33, miscarried (about the sixth week) towards the end of 1841. In January, 1842, she became pregnant of her fourth child; I first saw her on that occasion on the 10th of January, on account of a colored discharge, with debility. The hæmorrhage returned frequently until the 7th of June, when it became so copious (in the fifth month) as to justify my endeavour to procure abortion. I passed a thick probe through the os uteri and the membranes, until I felt my fingers wetted with the liquor amnii; after which she had a few pains. From that time there was scarcely any colored discharge—merely a frequent oozing of water, with occasional pains. On the 20th, as she became anxious to be relieved from suspense, I passed the probe again without finding that I had increased the watery discharge. On the morning of the 26th, at five o'clock,

a.m., I was sent for, on account of very acute spasmodic pains, which had been almost incessant during the preceding night, when I found the os uteri closed, but so dilatable as to gradually admit of the insinuation of my finger until I felt the child's head; I then introduced a male catheter, and when the end of it came in contact with the head of the child, I passed it round the head and pushed it suddenly and forcibly through the membranes. About a pint of fluid passed off through the catheter, having the appearance of dark-colored and very thick muddy water; I suppose the probe had, on its first or second introduction, occasioned some hæmorrhage into the membranes. About two hours afterwards (at half-past seven o'clock), the whole (living fœtus and placenta) was expelled—nineteen days after the first introduction of the probe.

REMARKS.

I think that, when I had introduced the probe, instead of withdrawing it as soon as I felt a little water on my fingers, I ought to have first made a rent in the membranes.

The similarity, with respect to relief afforded on rupturing the membranes, in Dr. Lee's case, from vomiting, &c., and in my own, from hæmorrhage, appeared to me remarkable; and although I should not often expect the same results, yet these cases show that very great and immediate benefit may be sometimes obtained by artificial interference, and that probably death may be occasionally prevented.

To-day (a week since the miscarriage), Mrs. J. is recovering very satisfactorily.

East Retford, July 4, 1842.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PARIS.

June 27.

URINARY ORGANS OF BIRDS.

Dr. Mayer, of Bonn, presented a memoir on the urinary organs of birds. The object of the author is to show that in the gallinacæ, for a certain period after birth, there exists a well-developed bladder, which gradually becomes united to and confounded with the cloaca.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, PARIS.

June 28.

ANEURISMS.

M. Laugier presented two patients whom he had treated successfully for popliteal aneurism, by the usual method of ligature of the femoral artery. The author asks if it may not be better practice to tie the artery at an early stage of the disease than to wait until the collateral circulation has been established.

ARTIFICIAL PUPIL.

M. Robert presented a medical student, twenty-three years of age, on whom he had successfully operated for artificial pupil. Some years previously he had been wounded in the left eye by a foil; sympathetic inflammation attacked the right eye, and produced atresia of the pupil. Vision was completely destroyed in the left eye, and in the right almost completely gone.

M. Robert, having made an incision, about three lines long, at the outer side of the cornea, with Beer's lance-shaped knife, introduced a very fine hooked forceps, seized the membrane which obstructed the pupil, and, having torn it at the edge, drew it out through the incision, and excised a portion of it. The black circle of the pupil, somewhat elongated transversely, was now seen, with the transparent lens behind it. In four days the wound of the cornea was healed, and in eighteen days the functions of the eye were completely restored. Eighteen months have elapsed since the operation, without any unfavorable change.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

March 17, 1842.

Contributions to the Chemical History of the Compounds of Palladium and Platinum. By ROBERT KANE, M.D.

The author states it to be his object, in this and in some subsequent papers, to examine specially the composition and properties of the compounds of palladium, platinum, and gold; and to ascertain how far they agree, and in what they differ, as to the laws of combination to which these compounds are subjected. He commences with the investigation of the compounds of palladium, employing for that purpose a portion of that metal with which he was furnished by the Royal Society out of the quantity bequeathed to the Society by the late Dr. Wollaston. He describes the mode of obtaining the protoxide of palladium, and enters into the analysis of the hydrated oxide, the black suboxide, and the true basic carbonate of that metal; detailing their properties and the formulæ which express their mode of composition. The chlorides of palladium form the next subject of inquiry; and the author concludes from his experiments that the loss of chlorine which the protochloride undergoes, when kept for some time in a state of fusion at a red heat, is perfectly definite; and also that the loss represents one half of the chlorine which the salt contains. But in the double salts formed by the protochloride of palladium with the chlorides of the alkaline metals, he finds that the similarity of constitution usually occurring between the compounds of ammonium and potassium is violated. From his analysis of the oxychloride of palladium the author concludes that it is quite analogous to the ordinary oxychloride of copper. He then examines a variety of products derived from the action of a solution of caustic potash on solutions of ammonia-chlorides of potassium. Their properties he finds to indicate analogies between palladium and other metals, whose laws of combination are better known. The sulphate, the ammonia-sulphates, the nitrates, and the ammonia-nitrates of palladium, and lastly, the double oxalate of palladium and ammonium, are, in like manner, subjected to examination in a detailed series of experiments.

The second section of the paper relates to the compounds of platinum, and comprehends researches on the composition of the protochloride of platinum; on the action of ammonia on biniodide of platinum; and on the action of ammonia on the perchloride of platinum; in which the properties of these substances are