mediate contact; one seems suspended above the other; both are smooth, tolerably oval, and to each a chord is attached.* The history of the case is this: whilst a very young child a nursemaid had, in play, crushed the testicle with a pair of tongs, and on recovery from the injury it was found that the testicle was divided, and has ever remained so since; gradually increasing in bulk with the growth of the person, who is an athletic man, the father of a fine family of children.

As you have added some observations to the case of Dr. Macann I have sent the above statement, thinking it may prove a solution to some others recorded as examples of supernumerary testicles.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PRANKERD, Surgeon.

Langport, Somerset, Nov. 8, 1842.

ON THE MORTALITY OF CHILDREN AT THE

MILITARY ASYLUM, SOUTHAMPTON.

By J. HENNEN, M.D.,

Late of the Royal Military Asylum, Southampton.

The following facts, abridged from official returns of the number and cause of deaths among the children of the late Royal Military Asylum, Southampton, are not without interest to those engaged in statistical inquiries, and with that view I forward them for insertion in the "Provincial Medical Journal."

The Royal Military Asylum was founded for the reception of the orphans of soldiers, and the branch at Southampton was opened in October, 1817, for the reception of the younger male children of the parent institution. In 1825, the boys were removed to head quarters, and the institution at Southampton was exclusively appropriated to girls and to boys under seven years of age. In 1835, the admissions were greatly restricted, with a view to the ultimate abolition of that branch of the asylum, and the few remaining children were ultimately removed to Chelsea in November, 1840.

For a period of eighteen years, from October, 1817, to October, 1835, there were admitted 5,427 children, and during that period there occurred in all 39 deaths—viz, from tuberculous disease, 14; measles, 11; hydrocephalus, 4; convulsions, 4; whooping cough, 3; fever, 2; diarrhoea, 1—Total, 39. A fraction more than one-third of the whole died of tuberculous disease, and one-half of these before the fifth year, the other half between the ninth and sixteenth—corroborating the opinion of Andral, who, from his extensive experience, remarks that tubercles are most prevalent from the first to the fifth year; that they appear in much greater quantities, and in a greater number of organs at once; and that more than one-fourth of those who die from birth to puberty are affected with tuberculous disease. As the tendency to this disease appears to be

* It is impossible to conceive how any injury to the testicle, after birth, could cause the development of a double spermatic chord. In the case related by Mr. Prankerd, the anomaly must have been congenital; but attention was not probably directed to the state of the organ until after the occurrence of the accident.—Eds.

the consequence of imperfect assimilation, there can be no doubt that we are possessed of the means of correcting this predisposition in many instances. Of this fact I have had abundant experience among the children of the Military Asylum. Few of the children, on joining this institution, were exempt on their admission from a tendency to tuberculous disease, which may reasonably be attributed to privations of different kinds, neglect, deficient nourishment, &c. &c. The great majority of the children on their admission, and many for a long period afterwards, exhibited a strong tendency to struma, evidenced particularly by a disposition to a congestive state of the abdominal contents, impaired powers of digestion, depraved secretions, dry, harsh skin, and a tendency to eruptions, and ophthalmia (especially denominated strumous); whilst under the ordinary circumstances of children of the same class, it has been calculated that five-sixths of those affected with tuberculous disease perish; it is a gratifying and a very important fact, that by placing children under circumstances the most favorable to health, as regards food, air, clothing, and exercise, the constitution becomes so improved as to overcome this predisposition, and, as we have seen, only fourteen cases of tuberculous disease proved fatal amongst 5,427 children of all ages.

London, November 10, 1842.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1842.

The poor-law commissioners have recently published, through the medium of their secretary, Mr. Chadwick, a very elaborate report on the sanitary condition of the laboring population of Great Britain. It might fairly be asked, *in limine*, how the direction of so difficult and complex an investigation was entrusted to a gentleman completely ignorant of the subject submitted to his inquiry; how a poor-law secretary—unacquainted with the most simple laws of the human economy, and possessing not a particle of that preliminary knowledge which is essentially necessary to every one commencing a special investigation—should take upon himself to examine facts and form conclusions connected with the public health. Such, however, has been the case; and as "her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Home Department" has thought fit to select Mr. Chadwick for the purpose of inquiring into the sanitary condition of the people, we shall endeavour, as loyal subjects, to regard the selection as a fitting one, and to pay all due deference to opinions which emanate from so high an authority.

Our ideas of fitness and the promptings of common sense are, indeed, wonderfully disturbed by the appearance of Mr. Chadwick as an authority on hygiene; and the necessity of noticing his report places us in the awkward position condemned by the proverb, of