exception, and this should not be passed over—viz., where such examinations have been made after reaction had taken place, and where that most fatal of all causes, cerebral congestion with consecutive fever, proved the cause of death, and where, in fact, a new disease had occurred. That the blood circulating through the liver and kidneys is altered in constitution physically and chemically, cannot be denied, and is, therefore, unfit for the purposes to which, in its healthy state, it is destined, may be safely inferred. That this explanation might in itself suffice to prove the assertion made, seems apparent; but another fact, and one of paramount weight, may be added—it is, that these organs which suffer in common with all others dependent on the ganglionic system of nerves for their integrity and power of action, are still further incapacitated for the discharge of their parts in the economy by the abstraction or subversion of such nervous influence. This will be further illustrated when we arrive at the consideration of the derangement of the nervous system.

The next point which claims attention is the extraordinary diminution of the heat of the body. This is deserving of remark on many accounts, and not least so as going far to destroy the idea of cholera being the consequence of an irritative or inflammatory state of the system. It is also to be remembered that this coldness is not confined to the surface of the body, but is even more remarkable on touching the tongue, which, so far as my experience extends, is universally cold and clammy. That this symptom depends upon some cause more immediately connected with the laws by which the generation and evolution of animal heat are governed, can hardly be a matter of doubt. Although how or in what manner such derangement is produced is involved in the greatest obscurity, and must so remain until the subject of animal heat is better understood than at present. Conceiving that nothing acts so prejudicially to the real advancement of medical science as the indulgence in hypothesis, I shall not stop to inquire into the doctrines at present entertained on this subject by either one or other party, but will rest satisfied with stating my belief that this symptom, in common with others, may be fairly attributed to the defective and disordered state of the nervous, the respiratory, and circulatory systems—on the due performance of which functions I also believe the generation of animal heat itself to be mainly dependent. If this opinion be erroneous, and the production of animal heat be referable to mere physical and chemical agency, independent of vital or nervous influence, why does not this extraordinary process continue after dissolution, when such causes are no longer interfered with, or interrupted by that principle which, during life, seems to keep them in abeyance?

The next point requiring attention is the state of the respiration. As stated in my first letter, we find it slow, feeble, and the air expired cold; the parietes of the chest scarcely moving; and, so far as my observation enables me to speak, such disordered state never accompanied by stertor. I here confess with regret that I never, during the prevalence of the disease, endeavoured to ascertain the quantity of carbonic acid emitted on expiration. This condition of the respiration I have noticed in many of the more aggravated

cases from the very commencement of the disease, which confirms me in the opinion already expressed—viz., that the blood, owing to such impaired action of the lungs, does not undergo the change in them by which it is rendered fit for the purposes of life; or, in other words, from the partial expulsion of the contaminated air in these organs, the ingress of a due proportion of fresh atmospheric air is effectually prevented; and, hence, instead of oxygenated or arterialised blood, we have a literally poisonous fluid circulating through every organ of the body, as is most abundantly demonstrated by the dark and tarry appearance of the blood, more especially of the portions first drawn by venesection, and, where this means is practised with success, the gradual improvement in appearance of that which flows subsequently. Of this it will be necessary to speak when considering the state of the circulating and nervous systems, which I shall take the earliest opportunity of doing, as by such extension of the remarks contained in my former letter, I hope to succeed in divesting them of the character of mere assertion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,
GEORGE FYFE.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
Dec. 26, 1842.

INFLUENCE OF MENTAL IMPRESSIONS ON THE FŒTUS IN UTERO.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—For the facts of the following case, which has recently occurred in my practice, I can vouch; though how far they may tend to support the opinion long controverted, but adopted by many, that the effects of maternal fright may be developed in the organisation of the fœtus in utero, I must leave to your numerous readers to decide.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
W. J. TUBBS.

Upwell, Norfolk, December 21, 1842.

In the early part of August, 1841, I was requested to attend the wife of an innkeeper, in labor with her eighth child. She was a strong, healthy woman, aged about forty-seven. The os uteri was dilated to the size of half a crown; membranes unruptured; vertex presentation. The labor being tedious, it was necessary to rupture the membranes, which, from their toughness, and not yielding to the finger nail, was effected by a quill. There was much mental excitement during the greater part of the labor. Fearing cerebral congestion, and from the rigid state of the os uteri and the perineum, it was almost decided that venesection should be had recourse to. Though repeatedly told all was right, she persisted in a contrary opinion. As her pains increased, so did her ideas, that her child was like the spotted dog by which she had been frightened in the kitchen; as it was always before her eyes, night and day. (These were the words of the patient.) She had scarcely uttered those words, when, by a powerful contraction of the uterus, a fine full-grown female child was expelled.

Before the child was taken from under the bed-clothes, the patient distinctly said these words in the presence of the nurse and a second attendant: "My child is marked like Troughton's dog (the spotted), and at the back of the neck where the black one held it." On bringing the child to the light, such was the fact; only three or four spots about the size of a sixpence on the face, the rest of the body beautifully marked with black spots varying from the size of a pea to that of a sixpence, with the exception of the back of the neck, which had a brown black appearance covered with hairs, extending about two inches and a half across the neck and shoulders, and one inch and a half down the back. It appears from the patient's statement, that about the period of her third month of pregnancy, she was crossing the kitchen with a pint of beer, when a black dog and a spotted terrier, then lying under the table, began to fight close to her feet; and in the fright turning round, she saw the black dog seize the other by the back of the neck: a chillness came over her, and she felt ill all the day. What is singular, her last two children were born marked from mental impressions made (as she believed) about the third month of each pregnancy; therefore, she was more convinced that she was to have a spotted child this time. The child is living, and very much admired. The spotted dog frequently passes my house; many persons call at the inn for a pint of beer as an excuse to see the rare spotted lass. A few days after birth the child was seized with convulsions from retention of the meconium, which symptoms were soon removed by the attention of my assistant, Mr. Fysh.

CASE OF TETANUS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

By Dr. P. J. BAUDUY, Cuba.

Manuel de Alma, aged twenty-five, a stout strongly constituted young man, a laborer, and very healthy, about twenty days ago, while propping up a post, fell in the hole which had been dug to receive it, and a small splinter three-quarters of an inch long, and as thick as a pin, was driven under the integuments of his left thigh, between the Sartorius and triceps adductor muscles. A few days afterwards he felt slight pain in the wound, and found that a small quantity of pus has collected about the splinter. He gave vent to it, but still did not extract the extraneous body. About eight days after he began to feel much uneasiness about the jaws, and this rapidly increased to rigidity and difficulty in opening them freely. He was now advised by his friends to cease working and consult a physician; but, regarding their fears as foolish, he continued at hard work for several days more, until last Sunday, October 21, fifteen days after the injury, he got on his horse and rode to the neighbouring village to consult a physician. Upon arriving there he was suddenly seized with a strong convulsive spasm of the whole body, and fell from his horse. He had to be carried home and put to bed, as the spasms continued at short intervals.

Oct. 23. His friends finding that he was growing much worse, sent for me to consult with his attending physician. The following is the state he was

in:—No fever; pulse natural; skin rather more hot and dry than natural; great rigidity of jaws, cannot open them more than an inch; great anxiety of countenance; rigidity about all the muscles, moving the jaws and larynx; great difficulty in swallowing; his bowels have not been opened since three or four days; can pass his urine only with the greatest difficulty; great rigidity of limbs; no opisthotonos visible; every two or three hours he has the shooting pain from præcordial region to spine (so characteristic of this disease), accompanied by strong spasms of all the muscles of the trunk, the extremities not being involved; belly hard and tense; dull sound on percussion, except over the sigmoid flexure of colon, where there is some tympanitis; recti muscles contracted, rigid, and very hard. His physician is treating him with antispasmodics, chiefly musk and assafœtida. I proposed a more active treatment, but as we could not agree, I thought it best to withdraw.

24. To-day the friends of the patient, as well as himself, being dissatisfied with the attending physician, and finding that the disease was fast advancing towards a fatal termination, dismissed him, and sent for me to take charge of the case. This I at first refused to do, through motives of delicacy towards a fellow practitioner, but was overruled by the strong desires and entreaties of the patient and his friends. Saw him then at five, p.m., of this day. Found all the bad symptoms increased; can no longer pass his urine; can scarcely open the jaws at all; spasms stronger and more frequent; has had no stool; considerable anxiety of countenance; can swallow, but with the greatest difficulty and suffers excruciating pain. I immediately dilated the wound freely (the splinter has been extracted only a few days before by his physician), and applied to it *the actual cautery*, and ordered hot emollient cataplasms to be kept over it. An injection of oil of sweet almonds, Castile soap, and molasses, in which a clove or two of garlic should be bruised, to be given immediately, and repeated every four hours until the morning; frictions of hot oil, with bruised garlic, over abdomen and throat, and cataplasms of tobacco over pubal region, in order to overcome the spasm of sphincter of bladder. Ordered him for next morning a pill of ten grains of the sub-nitrate of mercury—a medicine of much power much used in this country, to which I believe its use is almost entirely confined; it is powerfully emetic, cathartic, and diaphoretic; its effects in traumatic tetanus are often wonderful, and, altogether, it is a medicine possessed of such important powers as to merit much attention. It is an empirical remedy, but one that deserves to be tried by the profession. I propose, on some other occasion, to furnish the readers of your Journal with an account of its powers, and the diseases in which I have found it useful. Ordered, likewise, frictions of hot oil, in which should be dissolved nitrate of mercury, one grain to the ounce, to the abdomen, thighs, knees, neck, jaws, and inside of shoulders, to be repeated every three or four hours. Lukewarm water, with a few drops of spirit of nitrous æther, for drink.

25. Saw him about one, p.m. The nitrate of mercury produced copious vomiting and four or five large fæcal evacuations; has passed his urine without much difficulty, and in large quantities; is perspiring pretty