consider hydrochloric acid as the sole agent of solution for azotised alimentary substances. Thus, while the acid merely causes fibrin to swell out to a very great extent, but does not dissolve it, complete solution is obtained by adding a few drops of yeast; and this proves that hydrochloric acid is not the only solvent in gastric juice.

We should also, perhaps, take into account the animal substance called *pepsine*, and which MM. Schwann and Deschamps have found in the stomach.

The experiments of the authors, likewise, render it highly probable that when the neutral azotised substances are dissolved in the stomach they pass directly into the veins; gluten is taken up in the same way. Starch and feculent substances are wholly, or in part, converted into lactic acid and thus absorbed.

Fatty substances evidently resist the action of the stomach and pass on into the intestinal canal. The authors regard fat as containing the chief ingredients necessary for the production of chyle.

Feb. 6, 1843.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

The candidates for the place vacant in the section of medicine by the death of M. Double, were MM. Andral, Poiseuille, Cruveilhier, Guerin, and Bourguery. On the first ballot, and of 55 voters, M. Andral obtained 42 votes; M. Guerin, 5; M. Cruveilhier, 4; M. Poiseuille, 4. M. Andral was, therefore, declared member of the Academy; and, we need not add, that the election could not have fallen on one more likely to sustain the reputation of that illustrious body.

ENTOZOA IN THE BLOOD OF A DOG.

MM. Gruby and Delafond forwarded some details relative to an entozoon which they had discovered in the blood of a dog. It was found in every portion of the blood of the animal, but the circumstance seems to be accidental, for the authors have since examined the blood of fifteen dogs without finding any trace of the animalculi.

TREATMENT OF CANCER.

In relation to the mode of action of arsenic on cancerous tumors, &c., M. Manec infers from his experiments that the arsenic acts on the cancerous matter by a kind of poisoning, and on the surrounding tissues merely by exciting in them common inflammation. When the cancer sends prolongations into the deep seated parts, these roots are destroyed by the arsenical paste, while the adjacent tissues were merely the seat of suppurative inflammation.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, PARIS.

Feb. 7, 1843.

SPECULUM UTERI.

M. Recamier read a note on a new speculum which he had made after various modifications.

TRANSMISSION OF GLANDERS.

M. Renault transmitted several morbid preparations taken from a glandered horse. The following is the history of this curious case, which seems to show that the blood of a glandered horse is capable of communicating the disease to a sound animal.

A man, laboring under glanders, recently died in one of the hospitals. Some pus, taken from the pus-

tules, was employed in the inoculation of a horse, which took the disease and died in fifteen days. During the course of the disease M. Renault conceived the idea of injecting the blood of this horse into the veins of another one. Some blood was first drawn from the jugular vein; on examining it under the microscope, and with different agents, it was not found to differ in any discoverable manner from healthy blood.

About half a pint of blood taken from the affected animal was now injected into the jugular vein of a horse in perfect health; this was done on the 10th of January, and three days afterwards the horse was attacked by glanders.

As the subject of this experiment, however, had been kept in the same quarter with infected animals, it was thought right to repeat it in a more careful manner. Some blood taken from the last mentioned horse was thrown into the jugular vein of another healthy and vigorous horse, which was kept in a stable with sound animals. Still, in three days the horse was attacked and had to be killed. The morbid specimens taken from the horse proved, in a clear manner, that the animal had labored under glanders.

IMPERFORATE ANUS.

M. Amussat showed several children on whom he had performed the lumbar operation for imperforate anus. Some of these cases we have noticed already. One of the children operated on by M. Amussat is now eight and a half years of age, and healthy.

At the last meeting of the Academy, M. Dumas was elected member in the section of physics, by a very large majority.

SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SOCIETY.

January 26, 1843.

W. OVEREND, Esq., the President, in the Chair.

TUBERCULAR PHTHISIS.

Dr. Favell exhibited the left lung of a young man of color, a native of Jamaica. He was twenty-three years of age, and had been resident in this country for about four years. He was admitted into the Infirmary laboring under phthisis in an advanced stage. The lung was excessively tubercular throughout, and a large cavity occupied nearly the whole of the anterior portion.

NECROPSY OF A GRINDER.

Mr. Porter then related the following case:—

William Batty, aged forty-four, of steady habits, had worked at his trade as a fork grinder from the age of thirteen to thirty-one, when he relinquished it from its prejudicial effect upon his health. For eleven years he worked at the making-up of scissors, when he was much exposed to cold, to which he attributes his present state. (Sept. 9, 1842.) When he gave up fork grinding, now thirteen years ago, he suffered a good deal from a short, dry cough, not attended with much pain, and at first with little expectoration, but spitting of blood soon came on; subsequently the expectoration became very copious, occasionally of a black color.

When first seen by Mr. Porter he was extremely attenuated; cough very troublesome, particularly at night; expectoration very copious, generally of a black color, sometimes yellow, and he experienced great

difficulty in raising it; profuse night sweats; bowels regular; urine passed freely; occasionally a pain in the left side, increased by inspiration; voice reduced to a whisper; breathing hurried after any exertion, but he was able to walk to the poor-house, the distance of a mile. The action of the chest confined to the left side, the right being apparently inactive.

On percussion, extensive dulness was found over the whole surface of the chest, rather more strongly marked on the right side; respiration bronchial on both sides; a very slight gurgling towards the apex of the right lung.

The expectoration increased and became more difficult; breathing more laborious; and he died October 9th.

Inspection Twenty-Six Hours after Death.

Body extremely emaciated; abdomen flat and contracted.

Chest narrow, but moderately deep in the antero-posterior direction.

Extremities exceedingly attenuated.

On opening the chest, extensive adhesions existed between the right lung and the pleura costalis on the right side, especially in its upper half.

The lungs did not collapse; their whole surface was covered with black spots about the size of currants, and similar ones were found throughout the whole pulmonary tissue; slightly crepitant, except in the upper portion of the right lung, in which was found a very large cavity, and in a small portion of the left, which was indurated and firmer than the liver. On incising the substance of the lungs a frothy matter exuded; there were no tubercles found.

Besides the small black bodies before mentioned, others were found in various parts of the lungs four or five times as large.

Both kinds were quite black within, and the larger ones of so firm a texture that it was difficult to cut through them, and the scalpel was arrested by a gritty substance. Other bodies, about four times as large as a horse-bean, of a similar character, were found close to the bifurcation of the trachea.

The mucous membrane of trachea was thickened, but no points of ulceration were observed in any part of it.

The air tubes were much dilated, and towards the inferior lobes many were as large as a quill. The most striking lesion was an enormous cavity occupying about one fourth part of the right lung towards its apex; this was a complete sac. No bronchial tubes opened into it. It contained a small portion of the debris of the lungs.

Heart of a natural size; valves healthy; parietes of right ventricle remarkably thin, and it was dilated; aorta excessively pallid.

Nothing peculiar in the abdominal viscera.

This case was one of very considerable interest from the circumstance that the post-mortem inspection of a grinder has been hitherto of most rare occurrence. When they have been admitted into the infirmary, they have very rarely died in the house, as even at the risk of dying on the road home they have almost invariably been removed by their friends—so great has been the prejudice of this class of men against inspection. No reasoning could prevail with them, although

they well know that the nature of their work is such as to lead to a very early death, for they very rarely reach the age of fifty. Cases have of course occasionally occurred, but these have been exceptions to the general rule. The subject has engaged the attention of the medical men of the town, but the want of pathological data has been seriously felt in its investigation. In the "North of England Medical and Surgical Journal," 1830, Sir Arnold Knight published an account of the disease, together with the statistics of the grinders—which appears to be the only treatise on the subject—although, from his account, the same symptoms are produced amongst the leather-dressers of Worcester, according to Dr. Hastings.

ROYAL MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

February 8, 1843.

Earl STANHOPE, President, in the Chair.

ON THE ARTEMESIA ABSINTHIUM.

By Dr. Houlton.

The *artemesia absinthium*, or common wormwood, has been held in estimation as a medicinal plant from the earliest period of medico-botanical history; and although it enters into many official preparations of the continental pharmacopœias, it has no such place in our own, nor has it had since the year 1788; yet it has never been rejected from the *materia medica* of the Royal College of Physicians. It is but little employed at the present time in the regular medical practice of this country. It is a well-known perennial plant, grows in various parts of Europe, the Crimea, Bombay, and Newfoundland. We have several other indigenous species of the same genus; the only one likely to be mistaken for it is the *A. vulgaris*, or mugwort. The stem of this is of a dark purplish color, whilst that of the wormwood has a white, heavy appearance. The mugwort is but slightly bitter; the wormwood is intensely so, with some pungency, and a very strong fragrant odor. The flavor and odor of this plant are very disagreeable to some persons, but not so to others. Dr. Murray, in the "Apparatus Medicaminum," says that, in all cases, the more grateful bitters should be preferred in practice. Other writers have objected to the plant as a medicine, on account of its nauseous flavor, but none have disputed its virtues. It has had numerous medicinal properties attributed to it, the chief of which are antiseptic, anthelmintic, deobstruent, tonic, and stomachic. It has been employed with success in jaundice, dropsy, gout, worms, dyspepsia, intermittent fevers, and various kinds of cachectic diseases. It has been said by some to have a narcotic property; Linnæus asserts he never observed any narcotic effects from its employment. Some have asserted that it will render bitter the flesh and milk of animals that take it, and that infants at the breast have been affected by the milk of the mothers who have taken the extract.

The forms in which this plant has been employed are powder, extract, conserve, tincture, wine, distilled water, and essential oil. The doses ordered in works on *materia medica* appear to be too strong; for instance, half a drachm of the powder, or an ounce and a half or two ounces of an infusion, made with six