out in other directions, would lead to the utter subversion of all philosophy." A very sweeping assertion, entirely unsupported by any example adduced, and I am left to conjecture whether or not it refers to the point I am now going to notice.

The reviewer says "that there is something too specific in the character, if not in the appearance of pus-globules, for him to adopt the conclusion that they are altered colourless blood corpuscles." I ask what this specific character is, and the reviewer refers me to a series of objects which have specific vital properties, and experience specific vital transformations, leaving his readers to infer that the specific character which he means as distinctive between pus-globules and the colourless blood-cells is a specific vital character.

Now this is exceedingly improper and very unfair, because any one reading my researches must have known that the whole of my reasoning is based upon the fact that the colourless blood-corpuscles are alive, and in the page but one preceding that from which the reviewer has taken his extract, (p. xvii), I very clearly state my belief that pus-globules are dead; that is, the former have specific vital properties, and undergo specific vital changes, while the latter (from having lost these properties) do not experience these changes. But I also believe, (and have so stated,*) that these dead cells are mingled with a great many others, which have been hurried through the stages of nutrition, and thrown out of the sphere of their specific transformations, and therefore that the fluid called pus contains a mingled variety of dead and dying cells.

Again, the reviewer says that pus-globules have a specific character. I ask what it is; and am referred to the living cells of a zoophyte, an oyster and an insect; to epithelium and cancer cells. Now all these microscopic cells have without doubt a specific character (a principle of life) which cannot be seen by the microscope, and therefore perfectly distinct from an appearance. But, (and this is the point to which I ask the reader's attention,) pus-globules are usually allowed to have degenerated from *this* character. (So stated indeed by the reviewer himself, p. 105, of the article. July.)

I will now put the argument in a form more in accordance perhaps with the philosophical taste of the reviewer,—syllogistically,—and I shall frame it so as to embrace those extraneous matters concerning living cells which have really nothing whatever to do with the original question, but which he has chosen to complicate it with.

Major Proposition:—All bodies that are invisible to the unassisted eye, and which never do become visible by growth or vital transformation, cannot present a sensible character except through the medium of the microscope.

Minor Proposition:—A pus-globule is a body invisible to the unassisted eye; it never does become visible by growth or vital transformation.

Conclusion:—Therefore "it is impossible to separate as regards these minute objects a character from an appearance."

If the reviewer still contends that a pus-globule has a sensible character distinguishing it from all the

forms, (and they are various,) assumed by living colourless blood-cells, (that is the point at issue,) then why not tell us what it is, shortly and succinctly, rather than enter into an argument upon other things which have no relation to the question; an argument on points I never for a moment doubted.

Future investigation and experiment, and a careful observance of the phenomena of vicarious secretions and metastasis, (important subjects having an intimate relation to my theory of nutrition, but entirely excluded from the review of my researches,) will ere long determine the remaining points of difference between me and those who differ from me.

Whether the colourless blood-cells are or are not individually and bodily incorporated with the tissues: whether the secreting cells are or are not ulterior transformations of the colourless blood-cells; and whether pus-cells or pus-globules are or are not dead and dying colourless blood-cells, arrested in the process of transformation, are all questions of fact, and the web of the living frog, and the tongue of the same useful creature are the parts in which these questions may in some degree be determined.

I remain, Sir,

Yours very obediently,

W. ADDISON.

Great Malvern, July 9, 1844.

CASE OF PHTHISIS.

By B. DANIEL, Esq., Kirby Moorside.

Hannah Collier, aged 26, a maid servant, residing in Farndale, a perfectly healthy agricultural district, as evinced by the general robust appearance of its inhabitants, came under the care of Mr. Richard Chapman, on the 30th of November, 1843.

She is of small stature, spare form, and of anæmic appearance. Her father, who had been a soldier, and was of intemperate habits, died of phthisis at the age of fifty. At the present time, the patient complains of a slight cough, which she has had for some months, accompanied latterly with the expectoration of a rather tenacious mucus. For the last two years she has occasionally hawked up mucus streaked with blood. There is frequent pain just above the spine of the right scapula, and a little dyspnoea. Her menstruation is scanty, and at long intervals. Her appetite is, on the whole, good. There is a very mild form of hectic, and the pulse is small and stands at 120.

The physical signs are very apparent. On inspecting the comparative mobility of both sides of the thorax, that of the right is observed to be materially impeded; there is a very evident falling-in of the right infra-clavicular region, and throughout the whole of this space, and along the clavicle, percussion gives an exceedingly dull sound; on the contrary, on the left side, the corresponding part appears abnormally prominent, the sound on percussion is unusually clear, and the respiration puerile. On applying the stethoscope to the right supra-scapular, supra-clavicular, and infra-clavicular regions, the respiratory murmur cannot be distinguished. There is a *loud bellows sound*, and a *strong pulsation* synchronous with the heart's action in the *right* infra-clavicular region, which is *not present* in the left; and we cannot positively say whether the

* Vide Provincial Medical Journal, of March 9, 1844.

vesicular murmur is really absent, or whether it is obscured by the loudness of the bellows sound. The voice is unusually resonant over the affected side. Over the right inter-scapular space, the sound of both inspiration and expiration may be distinctly heard; the latter being as clear and as continuous as the former, in this respect differing from the opposite corresponding space where it is hardly distinguishable.

April 30, 1844. Five months have elapsed since the last report, and the patient has been gradually merging into the second and third stages. She is not so weak as the progress of the disease in the lung would lead us to expect, being yet able to sit up nearly the whole of the day. Neither the heat of the skin nor the night sweats are excessive. The pulse ranges from 120 to 130. Her tongue is redder than natural, there is no epigastric tenderness; she, however, frequently vomits, which she attributes to the violence of the cough, and the nauseous character of the expectoration. She is much distressed with tenesmus and hæmorrhoids, and has occasionally had a severe attack of diarrhoea, which so far has always been relieved by a dose of chalk and morphia. Her cough is materially aggravated, and attended with a copious muco-purulent expectoration. An affection of the larynx has just supervened, which prevents her speaking in anything more than a loud whisper.

On applying the stethoscope to the right infra-clavicular region, we find that the pulsation and bellows sound have *entirely disappeared*, and are replaced by the humid, crackling, or clicking sounds. Bronchophony is very loud over the same space. The respiratory murmur is very obscure in the right mammary region, and a pulsation is communicated to it from the heart.

June 16th. This morning, which is now near seven months since our attendance upon this case commenced, the patient arose, as usual, about 11 o'clock, without any alarming symptom. She had had a bad night, her cough had harassed her very much. Two or three times in the night she had noticed small dark clots of blood in the expectoration. She ate her dinner as usual, but about 4 p.m., being seated on a stool by the fire, she suddenly sprang to her feet in great alarm, and blood flowed from her mouth and nostrils, probably to the extent of eight or ten ounces; she would have fallen, but was immediately carried to bed, where she expired in a quarter of an hour.

In the preceeding case there are two points deserving of notice:—the first, the distinctness of the expiratory sound in the inter-scapular space; the second, the sound of the subclavian artery heard in the right infra-clavicular region *during* the period of consolidation, and its *disappearance* in the stage of softening.

The expiratory murmur was noticed by Laennec, but its variation in intensity, duration, and special character, was more particularly investigated by Dr. Jackson, of Boston, who states this abnormal alteration of sound to be one of the earliest symptoms of tubercles. His views are supported by Louis, Cowan, Fournet, &c. Professor Walshe considers that its utility as a diagnostic mark of tubercle has been exaggerated, for the following reasons:—1st, that in a state of health, it is louder and more prolonged in some individuals than in others; 2nd, that consolidation or obstruction

to the egress of the air, from *any* cause, will occasion these particular changes in its character.

The fact of the existence of an evident bellows-sound and pulsation under the right clavicle, synchronous with the impulse of the heart, and its *non-existence* on the left, together with the immobility of the affected side, the depression under the clavicle, and the concomitant dulness, leave no doubt of its being the vascular *bruit* of the subclavian artery, caused and transmitted by the apex of the lung consolidated by tubercle.

This symptom was first noticed and explained by Dr. Stokes, who also describes the same local pulsation to arise from sympathetic irritation, without any disease of the lung.

When this symptom is dependant upon a consolidated state of the lung, it must in all cases, as in the present instance, *depart*, when the density of the lung is diminished by the process of softening. In this case, an exceedingly fluid state of the blood may have been a predisposing cause of the production of the murmur, as the patient had been long suffering from the amenorrhœa, but the cause of its presence, only under the right clavicle, must have been the local impediment to the circulation.

Kirby Moorside, July 1, 1844.

PROVINCIAL Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1844.

In another column will be found a letter from a Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association proposing the formation of a Branch Association, to include Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Worcester. The proposition is one which well deserves the consideration of the members residing in those towns, and the neighbouring and intervening country, as well for the sake of the friendly intercourse to which the establishment of such a branch would lead, as from the mutual benefit to be derived from the interchange of communications and ideas. Man is a gregarious and social animal. He is not destined to depend upon self alone, but thrives best both in his physical and intellectual relations when brought into close contact with his fellows. We will not say that he is essentially an imitative being, but he needs the stimulus of example and the assistance of others, engaged in like pursuits, to induce and enable him to employ his powers with steadiness and effect.

To apply these remarks to our present purpose, we may point to the formation and progress of the Provincial Association, and observe how, from a small beginning ten or twelve years back, it has grown to its present prosperous condition; how a small number of individuals banded together for the attainment of a few plain, intelligible and useful objects, have not only effected