that it is necessary that the colluvies to be discharged, should be determined from every quarter of the circulation to the emulgent locality.

"Galvanic action, in decomposing an alkaline sulphate in solution, determines its acid base to the positive, and its alkaline to the negative pole; and the acid may even be made to pass through an alkaline medium without the usual chemical combination resulting.

"If, therefore, the speculation I have ventured to propound be admitted, viz., that the excretory function of the enteric mucous membrane is effected by the mesenteric veins, and if the above illustration be apposite, a retrograde current in the portal veins would not be indispensable."

We have not space to notice the author's views on the nervous system, and many other points which are touched on. He has expressed opinions, some uncommon, on a great variety of topics, in very small compass, and has brought them forward in a very entertaining manner; but his practical deductions as regards treatment, in many instances, are opposed to the carefully recorded experience of the physicians in this city. He is an advocate for venesection in cholera, and also for the injection of saline solutions into the veins, both of which had a fair trial here; but though, in some instances, recovery took place, the experience of the former epidemics was so decided, that, in the visitation which has just now left us, neither method was had recourse to. As before stated, we consider the author's treatment of erysipelas, and his explanation of it, the most intelligible and useful part of his researches.

S. A.

III. *Anatomical and Physiological Observations.* By JOHN STRUTHERS, M.D. Edinburgh: Sutherland & Knox. 1854. Pp. 239.

THE nature of this book does not adapt it for critical review, consisting, as it does, of a collection of papers, published in various medical periodicals, with some notes added. There is no prevalent subject, but a series of isolated researches on physiological matters of considerable interest. In no instance does the author build a fanciful hypothesis on one or two observations, the favourite mode of what is called generalizing, in the present day; and this is the chief value of the work as a record of faithfully observed facts. Not a few points of anatomy, about which some obscurity existed, have been cleared up by the dissection and observations of our author. He has made good use of his opportunities as a dissector, and though his researches are not likely to be extensively read by the great body of the profession, they will prove valuable for reference, and also by being embodied in the future editions of systematic treatises. Probably, the paper of most practical importance, and on a subject of great interest, is that on diverticula from the small intestine, in which a number of these abnormal states are described; and then they are patho-

logically considered—first, as a cause of strangulation of the bowels; second, as the contents of a hernial sac; third, as predisposing to the accumulation of foreign matter; and fourth, as a part liable to disease. They are of peculiar interest in connection with the subject of internal hernia and ileus. We are glad to acknowledge Dr. Struthers' production, as a collection of valuable and useful facts, although we confess that, having been so recently before the profession—some of them not later than last year—in the pages of a periodical, we cannot see the necessity of having them served up so soon again in the shape of a book, unless as an announcement of the author's temporary position last winter.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

1. Proceedings of the Glasgow Medical Society, Session 1854-55.—3d Oct., 1854.—Dr. Alex. Macdowall, Glasgow, was admitted an ordinary member of the Society.

Some conversation followed a proposal made by Dr. Cowan, to the effect that an attempt be made to unite the Glasgow Pathological with this Society; but the matter was allowed to drop.

Dr. Cowan drew the attention of the meeting to a case in which an infant recently born had a hair-lip with cleft palate—the father and son having exhibited the same congenital deformity. Some conversation ensued as to the propriety of immediate operation or delay in such a case.

October 17.—The following gentlemen were, in the usual way, elected office-bearers for the Session 1854-55. Dr. Wilson, President; William Lyon, Esq., Dr. James Adams, Vice-Presidents; Dr. Bell, Treasurer; Dr. Cowan, Secretary. Dr. Adams read the history of a case, to which he had alluded at former meetings, of caries of the temporal bone terminating fatally.

Dr. Wilson mentioned the case of a lady suffering from dyspnoea, swelling of abdomen, and anasarca of left arm and lower extremities, and in a very critical state. Diuretics had been given without success. The swelling increasing, he punctured the limbs with a small needle. There was a profuse discharge of fluid, followed by a rapid diminution of swelling, both of limbs and abdomen. Dr. Bell detailed a case in which permanent benefit was derived from the same practice, and several members made remarks on the subject.

Dr. Wilson narrated the particulars of a case of congenital abscess, which he had seen in an infant seven weeks old, and which he had presumed to be hernia of the left lung. The child died of erysipelas, and inspection revealed a large purulent cyst. The mother, when five months pregnant, had sustained a severe fall.

Dr. Bell described a case of ascites, in which he had intended to tap, when profuse salivation commencing, the ascites disappeared.

Nov. 7th.—Dr. George H. B. Macleod was elected an ordinary member of the Society.

Dr. John Macewan, Jun., read a paper on the "Physiology and Pathology of Non-Vascular Tissues, with especial reference to those of the Eye," (published in Monthly Journal for Nov. 1854.) A lengthened discussion ensued.

Nov. 21st.—Dr. Alex. M. Smith, Govan, was elected an ordinary member of the Society.

Dr. Gray narrated a case of spontaneous evolution, which had occurred in his practice. After the birth of a first child, suspecting twins, he made an examina-