ARTICLE VII.—*On Supernumerary Fingers and Toes.* By ROBERT CRAWFORD, M.D., Ratho.

THE following facts are worthy of being put upon record. They are curious and interesting in a physiological point of view, as illustrating the *paternal* influence on the *physical* conformation of the offspring, and afford an example of the rare occurrence, that a man may have by different women children with the same malformation, as observed by Luber and Meckel, and, what is more rare still, that a deformity of the *father* may be transmitted to his children, as remarked by Burdoch and Osiander,—nay, even to his children's children, disproving the notion frequently entertained, that monstrosities are dependent on the imagination of the mother, frights, &c. &c., and, I may add, are independent of any *original* malformation of the germ, which has been assigned as a cause of these aberrations of nature.

Mrs T., after a safe and speedy labour, was delivered of her second child, a strong, healthy male, on 19th ult. The infant had two supernumerary fingers, one attached by a pellicle to the external aspect of the metacarpo-phalangeal articulation of each little finger. They were well formed, with nails and three phalanges each, but the tendons were in a very rudimentary state. Mr Craig informs me that his former assistant, Dr Legat, now in extensive practice at South Shields, attended Mrs T. in her first labour, and removed from the baby (a female) two supernumerary fingers similarly situated. I have ascertained also from Mr T., that he had two fingers removed in infancy from the same parts of the hands as his children had, the cicatrices of which he showed me. He has, besides, six toes on each foot. The supernumerary toes project from the dorsum of the middle metatarsal bones. All Mr T.'s brothers and sisters had more than the natural number of fingers or toes,—some both. His father, who had six toes on each foot, by a second marriage had a son and three daughters. There was nothing peculiar about the latter, but the son has the proximal extremity of both great toes single. They appear to bifurcate about the centre,—or rather, each forms, *from the centre*, two toes surrounded by one continuous skin, terminating at the distal extremity by two nails each. A sister of Mr T.'s, married, had four children, of whom one (a daughter) has six toes on each foot.

On the authority of a respected clerical friend, I also state the following facts, which he can personally verify, and which occurred in a parish where he at one time held the *cure*:—

A female relative (either a sister or aunt) of A. B., had a child with a supernumerary finger or toe on each extremity. A. B. married, he had eight children, two of whom had six fingers or toes on each extremity. A young woman in the neighbourhood accused A. B. of being the father of a child with which she was pregnant ;

but this he strenuously denied. The woman brought forth twins, and each had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot,—certainly a remarkable coincidence, if the woman's accusation was false; but more probably a strong presumptive proof of the paternity of the offspring. I may add an instructive medico-legal fact, which occurred in the same locality, and which I state on the same authority. A theft was committed, and the authorities, while investigating the matter, detected the impression of a foot on the soil; it presented the appearance of *six toes*, and was traced to the son of A. B. without any difficulty.

Ludgate Lodge, Ratho, August 10, 1851.

Part Second.

REVIEWS.

On Enlargements of the Spleen, observed during an Epidemic of Intermittent Fever, which attacked the 18th Regiment, Madras Native Infantry, in Goomsoor, in 1847-48. By G. SMITH, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, Madras Medical Service. Contained in Medical Reports selected by the Medical Board from the Records of their office, and published under the sanction of Government. Madras, 1850.

THE Medical Board of the East India Company's Service in Madras have from time to time published valuable reports by the medical officers of that establishment, on important subjects connected with the pathology and treatment of the diseases of hot climates, and on the utility of various new remedies. In the series contained in the volume now before us, there are several interesting documents on the health of various corps in the Madras Presidency, and on the medical topography of some of its districts. One of the most interesting, however, of the whole is the paper of which the title is given in detail at the head of this article. It is important in several respects, but more especially at the present time, as supplying impartial evidence for testing the theory which has been for some time supported by M. Piorry and his followers, regarding the pathology of intermittent fever.

According to Piorry, intermittent and remittent fever own a distinct anatomical cause, as they depend on an enlarged condition of the spleen. He maintains, that in all distinct cases of intermittent fever the spleen is more or less enlarged in volume; that he