

coming on during the disease of the mother, the infants often failed at a period varying from one to eight days after its birth.

4th. That it may pass through the disease during the period of its uterine life, and exhibit marks of the disease at birth. This, however, was a rare occurrence; for its extreme fatality to infants after birth also holds good in the foetal state, so that a disease capable of pitting usually destroys the child. Cases in which the child was not destroyed are recorded by Watson and Dimsdale.

5th. That the disease in the foetus was not concurrent and contemporaneous with that of the mother, but occurred many days later, a week or ten days after that of the mother; that it mostly kills the foetus, and the labour comes on from fourteen to thirty days after the first appearance of the eruption on the mother, or even later. As the natural small-pox was so fatal to the mothers, this accounted for the comparative small number of instances of children born with eruptions. Dr. Pearson had, however, collected more than twenty instances; Drs. Laird and Rayer each gave a case; Dr. Davis quoted a curious instance from the "Journal de Med. Chir." vol. x. p. 463, of a twin labour, after the recovery of the mother from the small-pox, where one child was still-born and marked with small-pox, while the other was born alive without any present or past traces of the disease. The effects on the child in cases of small-pox after vaccination, remain to be seen. In a case, for the particulars of which the author was indebted to Dr. Merriman, jun., and which occurred at the *Queen's Lying-in Hospital*, the mother was delivered the first day of the eruption; her own disease proved mitigated, but the infant took small-pox twelve days after birth, and died nine days after. Dr. Davis had recorded two cases, in which mitigated small-pox occurred in the mothers a few days after delivery, and where the children were immediately vaccinated and preserved.

He (Mr. Streeter) should conclude the subject by stating his intention of vaccinating the child of his patient, if born alive, as soon as possible.

The last subject he intended to make any remarks on, was the failure of vaccination in this case. He would rather have avoided touching on a subject on which the public mind was at that moment so peculiarly sensitive; but it was one which called for the most serious consideration of our profession. It was a circumstance which interested every one of the community. An elder sister of his patient, who was also vaccinated at the *Small-pox Hospital*, visited her sister on the 14th of December. On the 30th she had an eruption of small-pox, the next day violent hæmorrhage from the uterus and the bowels took place, the worst

petechial symptoms set in, and she died the 3rd of January. She was a patient of Mr. Fortescue, of Smithfield-bars, and he had the authority of that gentleman for saying, that he never saw a more malignant case.

During the past year, ninety-five out of the two hundred and fifty-one admissions to the *Small-pox Hospital*, have been cases after vaccination; it is, however, consolatory to remark, that only one of these has proved fatal, but many have been severe. Three seasons ago he (Mr. Streeter) had endeavoured to enforce on that Society, and through them on the profession at large, the necessity of re-vaccinating after the period of puberty; the large number of instances of small-pox after cow-pock, that he had seen in young women, after puberty, had led him to that belief. He had also seen an instance of modified variola after small-pox inoculation, after puberty. Since then he had met with other instances confirmatory of the view he had taken, and he might state, that out of the ninety-five cases in the *Small-pox Hospital*, there were of the age of fifteen and upwards, the enormous proportion of more than twelve to one; the number of those past puberty being eighty-eight,—those only fourteen years, or under, being about seven.

Dr. Addison had attended one of the patients alluded to by Mr. Streeter. This lady contracted small-pox at a period when she expected daily to be confined. She had been vaccinated. The small-pox was of a most confluent character, but she eventually recovered. Three weeks after recovery she was delivered of a child, healthy, well-formed, and without any kind of blemish. He believed the child had never suffered from any affection since.

Mr. CHINNOCK recollected two cases of measles occurring during pregnancy; in one case premature labour was brought on, but the patients both did well.

Mr. STREETER stated, that he should not feel justified in vaccinating any patient from lymph when an areola was present.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Monday, January 15, 1838.

Mr. BRYANT, President.

MORBUS PEDICULARIS.

THE PRESIDENT stated that there was, at present, a remarkable case of morbus pedicularis in *Guy's Hospital*. The subject of this terrible disease was a woman about thirty years of age, whose occupation had been that of a governess. The body was constantly covered with pediculi over its entire surface, the irritation produced by which had induced the patient to scratch herself to such an extent, that many parts

of the surface presented the appearance which is commonly observed in porrigo. On her admission she was placed in a warm bath, her clothes removed, and every precaution used to get rid of every one of the insects; but, in two hours after, being put to bed, the surface was again covered, and all attempts at removing the vermin were unsuccessful, the regeneration of them being so remarkably rapid as to set remedies at total defiance. Nothing like cysts, containing the ova of these insects, were observable.

Dr. WHITING had never heard of a case in which the insects could breed, and come to perfection in two hours, as stated in this case. He thought there must be something obscure in it. He never met with an instance in which the insects were not removed by thoroughly cleansing the body, and bathing it with a mixture of turpentine and infusion of tobacco, of a properly regulated strength. Regarding the generation of insects, much depended on the state of the constitution; at least this was the fact in regard to cattle; poor and lean animals being generally infested, while the fatter and more healthy were free.

Mr. CRISP had seen fat oxen covered with insects; perhaps resulting from their contact with poor and lean animals. A mixture of tobacco-water and urine was generally used by farmers as a successful remedy in this disease.

Mr. DENDY said the disease under consideration was a formidable one. He believed that one of the kings of England fell a victim to it, as did also, according to report, one of the late royal duchesses. No doubt everything, in the last case, was tried, but without success. He considered that there was a peculiar state of the system of persons affected with this disease. The state of their skin might be particularly favourable to the generation of these insects, in the same way as one soil is often found more congenial to the production of certain vegetables than another.

Some conversation took place regarding the means of destroying insects, which are generally found about the pubis. The President related a case in which a young gentleman used a strong infusion of tobacco for this purpose, and nearly fell a victim to the experiment. Mr. Linacre had found the best substitute for greasy substances, to be a strong solution of soda.

the President, in the chair, a cast of the head of Philip Davis, a blind traveller, was presented to the Society, and a paper, containing an account of Davis, was read by Dr. JOSEPH MOORE.

Philip Davis, aged 41, a native of Plymouth, when six years of age had severe ophthalmia, which terminated in complete staphyloma. At twelve years of age he was admitted into the Asylum for Indigent Blind Persons, at Bristol, where he remained during five years, receiving the instruction which is usually supplied to its inmates; and, finally, he learnt the art of basket-making. He then returned to Plymouth. An attempt was made soon after this to form an artificial pupil, which so far succeeded as to enable Davis to distinguish large objects when moving before him. Thus he could distinguish between a man and a horse, &c.; but an accidental blow from a stone destroyed this power about two months after. He was shortly afterwards engaged by the contractor who supplied Plymouth Dockyard with baskets. It was the custom of his fellow workmen for one of them occasionally to read aloud one of the journals, or magazines. This, with their conversations, gave him an ardent desire to visit objects and places, with which he had thus been made acquainted; and at the age of 28, he travelled on foot, and alone, to Exeter, a distance of 42 miles, and this not by the usual highway, but across Dartmoor, because it is more sequestered; and he had once before been about 20 miles on the high road. He remained at Exeter about ten days, to obtain a knowledge of the localities, and the geographical relations of the streets, which he still retains, as well as of the various roads between that city and Plymouth. Returning to Plymouth he resumed his occupation, and, during the several years of his residence there, he made frequent excursions in and around the town, to places distant five, seven, or nine miles. Whenever any discovery was made in the neighbouring quarries, or any singular occurrence took place, he rarely failed to become acquainted, by personal observation, with the various localities connected with the circumstances. The alterations in the streets, &c., he used to visit and examine at night, when all was still; and thus he has acquired a better knowledge of his native town than many who have not lost their sight. He was in the constant habit of walking across the Hoe, an extensive natural esplanade between the town and the sea, to bathe; yet no accident ever befel him; nor, though obliged to scramble among the rocks, did he miss his way, or fail to return to the spot where he had left his clothes. By this constant exercise of his powers he augmented at once the energy of his faculty of locality, and acquired experience of the influence which air, and the various objects around him, or

PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

BLIND TRAVELLER.—ORGAN OF LOCALITY.

At the second meeting of this Society for the present session, held at the Society's Rooms, 75, Newman-street, Dr. ELLIOTSON,