

tribution of the cutaneous branches of the sciatic in the thigh and the musculo-cutaneous in the leg. There were no vesicles, but crops of papules with marked pigmentation, accompanied by itchiness of the parts affected.—Dr. MACKIE WHYTE showed Two Hearts, the one with clots in the superior vena cava and left subclavian vein, the other with a large left auricle. In both there was mitral stenosis; in the latter during life there was a diastolic thrill at the pulmonary area.—Dr. GUILD read a paper on Nasal Obstruction. He pointed out how the condition affected the upper part of the respiratory system, and that hypertrophy of adenoid tissue would recur after removal if an anterior cause of obstruction were not removed. He described the symptoms produced by hypertrophies of the inferior turbinate bones, which were the commonest causes of nasal obstruction. Other causes of nasal obstruction were considered. Removal of the cause was indicated where there was deafness from impaction of the Eustachian tubes, chronic bronchial or asthmatic symptoms. He advocated cocaine and the electric cautery as most efficient in treatment.—Dr. MACVICAR read notes of a case of Visual Aphasia and Amnesia Verbalis occurring in a young man, a painter by trade, whose head was struck forcibly against the edge of a dresser on December 27th, 1897, the injury being over the right parietal eminence. He suffered from symptoms of concussion, and after recovery from this was unable to read. He gradually improved, and could read simple sentences in fourteen days and numerals in nineteen days after the injury. The lesion was supposed to be of the nature of a hæmorrhage due to *contre-coup* over the left angular gyrus, and possibly affecting the supramarginal and posterior part of the third temporo-sphenoidal convolutions. Dr. WHYTE and Dr. STEELE MOON made remarks.—Dr. KYNOCH read notes on a case of Labour complicated by Ovarian Tumour, subsequently removed by operation. The patient was aged 37, and had had seven children. The last two labours were complicated by an ovarian tumour, which, on account of the softness of its contents, became flattened out between the head and posterior pelvic wall, allowing delivery to be completed by forceps. Ovariectomy was performed a few months after the last confinement, the tumour proving to be a dermoid cyst.—Dr. MACKIE WHYTE showed a case of Congenital Diplegia and read notes of the case. The patient was a man, aged 48, and 4 ft. 5 in. in height. The trunk was short, measuring 21 inches from the top of the sternum to the symphysis pubis, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches round the chest. The ribs on both sides were close to the iliac crest. The patient was unable to feed himself. The movements of the arms were chiefly adduction of arms across the body at the shoulder-joint. The arms were small, both rotated inwards, and the hands were in a state of pronation. The lower extremities were poorly developed, the feet were in the position of talipes equino-varus. The joints were all freely movable. There was a scoliosis of the spine most marked in lower dorsal vertebrae. The patient was quite intelligent. Dr. Whyte stated that Dr. Sarah Macnutt had shown a meningeal hæmorrhage at birth to be the cause of this disease.

SHEFFIELD MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting on February 3rd, Dr. SINCLAIR WHITE (President) in the chair, Mr. SNELL showed recent Specimens Mounted in Formol (Priestley Smith's method) of three cases of Sarcoma of the Choroid, one being a leucosarcoma and glioma of retina. Photographs of Fibroma of the Upper Eyelid were shown with Stereoscopes, together with Microscopic Slides of the Sarcomata.—Mr. ARCHIBALD CUFF showed a Boy, who had fallen over a broken bottle in June, 1897, opening the left elbow-joint from side to side, cutting off the olecranon process and severing the ulnar nerve. The treatment consisted in thoroughly cleansing the parts, suturing the bone ends with chromic catgut periosteal sutures, and suturing the cut ulnar nerve. The wound, which was extensive, healed by primary union. There was now perfect movement; the bony fragments were united by bone, and there was almost complete return of the functions of the cut nerve. Mr. Cuff also showed a case of Circular Ulcer of the leg of seventeen years' standing now perfectly healed. The treatment consisted in ligation of the saphenous vein, cleansing of the ulcer, and the application of lead plates to its surface.—A discussion on Efficient

Vaccination was introduced by Mr. DALE JAMES and Mr. WILLIAM SKINNER; the President, Mr. KILHAM, Mr. LONG-BOTTOM, Mr. SNELL, Dr. GILES, Mr. GALE, Dr. RICHARDS, and Dr. KEELING made remarks.

ERRATUM.—In the report of Dr. Dawson's paper read before the Hunterian Society on January 26th, which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 5th, p. 376, line 33, the sentence, "In 19 fatal consecutive cases where a necropsy showed malignant disease of the fundus, no tumour was felt," should read, "No tumour was felt in one half."

REVIEWS.

ENGLISH SANITARY INSTITUTIONS. By Sir JOHN SIMON, K.C.B. Second Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1897. (Demy 8vo, pp. 536. 18s.)

WE welcome this second edition of a book which has described so graphically for us the growth of our present sanitary system. Little altered, save here and there in the addition of a line to the tablet of a fellow worker gone, this new issue affords opportunity to a new generation of health officers of learning the history of the Acts they have to administer. A couple of appendices rescue from ephemeral form two charmingly written essays of permanent and lasting value. Of these, the first, reprinted from the *Nineteenth Century*, deals with the ethical relations of early man, the other with the more urgently modern question of the disabilities imposed by the Mortmain Acts on the willing of property for charitable purposes. This latter, which appeared in the columns of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 1st, 1890, led to important legislation in the direction indicated.

For the benefit of those who cannot readily refer to the full notice of the first edition, which appeared in the JOURNAL when the first edition was published, we may shortly indicate the nature of the contents of the volume before us. Dealing briefly but thoughtfully in the first chapter with the *Juventus Mundi*, the writer passes in the second to Roman Institutions, and, through Post-Roman Anarchy in the third, to the subject of Mediæval Philanthropy. He tells us how Francis of Assisi, "taking Poverty to be his Bride..... adopted all her kindred as his own, and, vowing himself to that wedlock.....vowed himself the Servant of the Poor." Part II, Post-Mediæval England, depicts the growth of the medical profession in Tudor times, tells of the Act of Henry VIII, instituting Commissions of Sewers, and of the Poor-law Acts, by which the State undertook functions formerly left to the monk. In the sixth chapter we find a sketch of what London was, sanitarily, in Elizabethan times.

But it is Part III, *New Momenta*, which is most interesting to those who care to know the forces which brought about our Victorian sanitary legislation. Touching lightly, but with reverent pen, on the fathers of Modern Preventive Medicine, he points out how the growth of "humanity" became a factor in social politics, and goes on, in Chapter IX, to relate some of the moral effects of the first visit of Asiatic cholera to Europe. This leads naturally to the beginnings of the Public Health legislation of 1848. Sir Edwin Chadwick (who died at the age of 90, the year the first edition came out). Dr. Southwood Smith, Dr. Neil Arnott, Dr. James Phillips Kay (afterwards Sir J. P. Kay-Shuttleworth) and their work are not forgotten. Each receives his graceful, if brief, tribute. The various Commissions and Committees of the Forties, their work and their impotences, are fully set forth. The various Clauses Consolidation Acts, which preceded the great sanitary charter of 1848, are described. Then comes the history of the Board of Health, and we are glad to see the footnote is retained to Chapter XI, giving Dr. Ramsey's little joke about the two lords and a barrister appointed to care for the health of the living, and how, after two years of doubtful success, a physician was called in to bury the dead.

The remaining half of the book deals with our health history since 1848, and the whole work brings out clearly the beneficial influence of cholera and other conspicuous plagues in saving life. The book is one which all who wish to understand how our present system of Public Health administra-