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hospital of St. Louis. They state that that very common and dreadful disease, which was formerly considered as incurable, and, by a rigorous rule, subjected its sufferers to exclusion from the hospitals, may now be cured; that it is not merely cases in their first stage, but those that were exceedingly advanced (scrofulous consumptions), that were cured. Where the glands, organs, articulations, and bones had suffered greatly, still a month sufficed to cure the patients. M. Lugol has operated only in the worst cases; such as, having no hope, came to the establishments to die. 'M. Lugol does not claim the discovery of the utility of iodine in scrofula, but, by the great number of cures which he has effected by his zeal and perseverance, and by the light he has thrown upon the internal and external application of iodine, in various states of preparation, M. Lugol has advanced medical science an important step.' The Academy approved the report*.

In 17 months, 109 scrofulous patients had been treated with iodine only. At the end of 1828, 39 were still under the physicians' hands, 30 had left the hospital much improved: with 4 the application had been useless; 36 were perfectly cured †.

6. On the Use of the Secale Cornutum.

The following general results, obtained by Dr. Villeneuve in 720 cases, are quoted by Dr. Armour in a paper upon this subject:—i. In 600 the success was complete in cases of labour, properly so called, *i. e.* for the expulsion of the fœtus alone, living or dead, at the term or otherwise, the pregnancy being simple or of twins. ii. Five cases of success of expulsion of the placenta. iii. Five cases of success in flooding after delivery. iv. Sixteen cases of incomplete success, which consisted of cases in which the ergot excited the expulsive powers for a certain time only, the delivery not being terminated naturally till several hours after the employment of the medicine, or of cases in which, after having advanced the labour to a certain degree, the application of instruments became possible, and was made. v. Eighty-two cases of complete failure, in which the ergot had no sensible effect, producing no return of uterine action, whatever doses were given. vi. Twelve disagreeable or fatal results, either for the mother or child, attributed by different authors to the immediate action, or to the secondary effects of the ergot. This proportion of seven and a half of success to one of failure, is seldom furnished by other therapeutical agents employed to combat any morbid state ‡.

7. On the Holotures and particularly of the Holothuria physalis.—(*Linn.*)

This species of molluscæ, vulgarly *galère* in French, and in Eng-

* Revue Ency. xlix. 239. † Recueil Industrielle, xv. 229.
‡ Med. Phys. Journal, 1831, 462.

lish, 'Portuguese man-of-war,' so rare in collections, so difficult to preserve, so incompletely described by naturalists, and, it must be owned, so little worthy of observation when deprived of life, is, perhaps, one of the most curious inhabitants of the equatorial seas. There are few navigators who have not sought to ascertain some of the habits of life of these singular animals, whose extraordinary form, brilliant colours, and habit of remaining floating on the surface of the water during calm weather, has attracted the attention of all navigators. These habits are the origin of the vulgar names given to them by the sailors. The body of the smallest of these creatures which we have been able to observe, was about 2 centimètres (0.8 of inch) long, and that of the largest was 17 centimètres (6.7 inches). Their form, which it is impossible to compare to that of any other animal living, rather resembles a small bladder stretched and filled with air, of an azure blue, slightly streaked with deeper tints and green; their body, almost cylindrical, is surmounted by a crest, which is in plaits, very moveable, and edged by the most lively tints of purple and rose-colour. This little crest serves the animal for a sail, and by the disposition which it gives it, regulates its movement in nearly the same manner as a ship. According to the strength of the wind, it spreads, rests, or compresses its sail, and in heavy weather, it allows itself to float, by means of a respiratory apparatus of a peculiar construction. The lightness of its body is such, that it appears resting on the water, and when plunged in alcohol it floats again to the surface of that fluid. The lower and middle part of the animal is armed, at different lengths, with tubes, papillæ, and retractile feelers, some of which are from sixteen to eighteen feet long, disposed spirally or in chaplets of the most beautiful blue, and most delicate rose-colour, and serve at once as organs of absorption, defence, and locomotion. These tubes, papillæ, and fibres, contain a viscous matter, which produces pustules on the human skin, and occasions a pain similar to that of a large but superficial burn. This property is not easily got rid of; vessels in which one of these animals has been plunged, must be washed several times in water, and carefully scoured before they can be used without inconvenience; and linen, which had merely been rinsed in soap and water, had this quality of irritation fifteen days after it had been used in making observations on these animals. Cutting these feelers does not produce death, at least for a considerable time; and incisions made transversely in the body with scissors do not deprive the animal of life. The membranous crest appears to have more irritability than the other appendages, and the animal appears to contract itself, and to suffer more when tormented there than in any other part. Naturalists suppose that the *holothurus* feeds on animals of all kinds, occasionally on some of a very considerable relative size, and that they have a very strong and active digestion. They, in their turn, serve as food to species of the scombri and *medusæ*, against which their weapons of defence are unavailing