

lar function was greater, the sooner the heart was examined after the death of the animal ; and that if the trials were made after the lapse of a certain time, the rigidity which gradually supervened on the muscular fibres of the heart, and of the *carneæ columnæ* attached to the margins of the valves, brought them into more complete apposition and led to the accurate closing of the passage. This effect, however, was never so perfectly accomplished in the tricuspid, as in the mitral valves.

The author regards this peculiarity of structure in the tricuspid valve as an express provision against the mischiefs that might result from an excessive afflux of blood to the lungs, analogous to a safety-valve ; and as more especially advantageous in incipient diseased enlargements of the right ventricle. He adverts to the conditions of the heart during the foetal state of existence, in which the same necessity of guarding against excessive pressure does not occur, and where the structures are found to correspond to the variation of functions. A similar adjustment of the right auriculo-ventricular valve to the peculiar circumstances and habits of animals may also be traced by extending the inquiry to various classes of animals.

“ Report of a Committee for collecting Information respecting the occurrence of, and the more remarkable Phænomena connected with, the Earthquakes lately felt in the Neighbourhood of Chichester.” By J. P. Gruggen, Esq. Communicated in a letter to P. M. Roget, M.D., Sec. R.S.

This paper contains an authentic report of the shocks of earthquakes which, during the last two years, have been felt at Chichester and the surrounding country ; drawn up from accounts given by various correspondents, in answer to printed queries extensively circulated. The first shock occurred on the 18th of September, and the second on the 13th of November, 1833. Another and more severe shock was felt on the 23d of January, 1834, and in the latter end of the same year two slighter shocks were experienced, namely, one on the 27th of August, and the next on the 21st of September ; the last, which was less than any of the former, took place on the 12th of January, 1835.

The Society then adjourned over Whitsun week to meet again on the 18th instant.

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June 18, 1835.

Sir JOHN RENNIE, Knt., Vice-President, in the Chair.

June 18.—The following papers were read :

“ Discussion of Tide-Observations made at Liverpool.” By J. W. Lubbock, Esq., V.P. and Treas. R.S.

The author has here presented to the Society, by permission of the *British Association for the Advancement of Science*, a discussion by M. Dessiou of about 14,000 tide-observations made at Liverpool, on the plan similar to that adopted with regard to the London Dock observations. The first book contains the moon's transits, classified

with the moon's parallax and declination, together with the date and corresponding time and height of high water ; the height of the barometer is also added to the observations of about four years. The second book contains the same quantities, classified further according to the different calendar months, and for each minute of the moon's horizontal parallax. The third book contains a similar classification for the moon's declination. The average results are given in tables at the end.

Some remarks are subjoined on the registers of the observations taken at the London and St. Katherine's Docks; from which it appears that the tide is about five minutes earlier in the former than in the latter of these two places; and that the difference in height is about five feet.

"On the Star-fish of the genus *Comatula*, demonstrative of the *Pentacrinus Europæus* being the young of our indigenous Species." By John V. Thompson, Esq., F.L.S., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals. Communicated by Sir James Macgrigor, Bart., F.R.S.

The author states that the *Pentacrinus Europæus*, which is fixed by its stem to other bodies, and consequently deprived of the power of locomotion, is produced from the ova of the *Comatula*, and becomes in a subsequent stage of its evolution detached, assuming the form of this genus of *Asterida*, and capable of moving freely in the ocean ; at one time crawling amongst submarine plants, at others floating to and fro, or swimming in a manner similar to *Medusæ*.

"On the Ova of Women and Mammiferous Animals, as they exist in the Ovaries before Impregnation." By Thomas Wharton Jones, Esq. Communicated by Robert Lee, M.D., F.R.S.

After reviewing the accounts given by various authors of the structure of the ovaries, corpora lutea, and ova in different tribes of animals, the author proceeds to the anatomical description of the ovaries in the human species, which he finds to correspond with those of the Mammalia generally, and to consist of a *parenchyma* or *stroma*, and an envelope or *indusium*, derived from the peritoneum. The stroma immediately under the peritoneal envelope is condensed into the form of a tunic, to which the peritoneum closely adheres, and which has received the name of the *tunica albuginea*, or *indusium proprium*. The vesicles of De Graaf are imbedded in this tunic, and are situated principally near the surface of the ovary : in the human species they are about one fifth of an inch in diameter. The proper capsule of the Graafian vesicle is composed of two layers ; the outer being thin, dense, and vascular ; the inner, thicker, softer, and more opaque. The nucleus of the vesicle consists of, 1st, a granular membrane ; 2ndly, a coagulable granular fluid inclosed in the membrane ; 3rdly, a circular mass or disc of granular matter, termed by Baer the *proligerous disc*, connected with the granular membrane on the prominent side of the vesicle, and presenting in its centre, on the side towards the interior of the vesicle, a small rounded prominence, called the *cumulus*, and on the opposite side a small cup-like cavity, hollowed out of the cu-