symptoms) will enable us to apply remedial means, with a probability of achieving the same advantages as in the treatment of diseases of the organs.” I hope the cases related here may contribute some little to enable us to make the diagnosis of disease in so important an organ at that early stage when the diagnosis can be practicably useful.

The accompanying plate represents the disease. A is the portion diseased round the mouth of the aorta: the lining membrane being crimson red, turgid, and swoln out by an effusion of lymph behind it. B represents a portion of the lining membrane of the ventricle, thickened, opaque, and milky, having evidently undergone a similar diseased action, but of longer duration.

This latter affection or endocarditis, and its influence on the muscular action and tissue of the heart, will, I hope, when I shall have accumulated sufficient materials, form the subject of another communication.

ART. XV.—Observations on the Nature of Neuralgia, and on the Principles, according to which the Treatment of it ought to be conducted. By Jonathan Osborne, M.D., Fellow of the King and Queen’s College of Physicians; Physician to Sir Patrick Dun’s and Mercer’s Hospitals, &c.

Neuralgia is a painful affection of a nerve, existing independently of any morbid condition of the surrounding parts. That all pain is received through the medium of the nerves, is proved by the fact, that where they do not exist, there is no sensation; by sensation in the healthy state, being very much in proportion to the supply of nerves sent to any given part, and also by the pain attending inflammation of certain parts, being generally in the same proportion while other circumstances are similar. The nerves, then, being the organs of sensation, and consequently of pain, every painful affection may be said to be neuralgie.
The term is now, however, by common consent, restricted to those cases in which there is no visible disease in the seat of the pain, and in which, for want of any better explanation, a primary affection of the nerves, as the organs of sensation, is supposed to exist.

It may very justly be reproached to physiologists, that when perplexed to account for any of the phenomena of the living body, they refer it to the nerves, in the same manner as chemists, when in a similar predicament, fall back on electricity or galvanism. In the present instance the painful affection has been generally described, not only as an affection of the nerves, but as arising from irritation. Its history may be reviewed very briefly. It appears to have been first noticed by Andre, a surgeon of Versailles, in 1756, who related some cases of tic douloureux at the end of his treatise on the urethra, but they, from the unsuitable manner in which they were introduced, appear to have been quite neglected. In Dr. White's work on Nervous Diseases, published in 1765, painful affections in the direction of the nerves are very plainly pointed out, but are ascribed to irregular forms of gout or rheumatism. From Dr. Fothergill's paper, published in 1775, (vol. v. Med. Obs. and Enq.) we are to date the distinct recognition of tic douloureux as an affection of the nerve. Chaussier and Halliday, in France, Meglin in Germany, and several observers in England traced the same affections in other nerves besides those of the face, and in the last edition of Dr. Mason Good's System, neuralgia of the face, the foot, and the breast, is distinctly recognized. The cause of the disease was suspected by Fothergill to lie in a cancerous diathesis. Dr. Trevor, of America, held it to be an inflammation of the periosteum of the part affected, while Courtugni, having found an infiltration under the neurilema of the sciatic nerve in one case, and others having said that the nerves suffering from it had been found red and swollen, it was for a time thought to be caused by inflammation of the neurilema.

After a due consideration of the recorded facts, and a comparison of them with the cases under my own observation, I have