

WITHIN THE WARDS.

WRY-NECK.

WRY-NECK is not a very uncommon deformity. It is decidedly unsightly in children, and must be a source of real distress of mind to grown-up persons. It does not seem to be generally known that the cure of it by surgical operation is, as a rule, quite easy; so easy indeed that every wry-necked child or adult ought at least to be examined by a surgeon, and treated if he decides in favour of an operation. The case of a little girl reported from the Southport Infirmary will make clear to non-professional readers the simple history and value of an operation for wry-neck. The child was eight years old when seen by the surgeon, and had been wry-necked from birth. As she grew older the deformity increased very greatly. When taken to the infirmary the head was drawn down and turned much to the right; the mouth and eyelids were also drawn down, and gave an altered expression to the face, which was raised, and a spinal curvature had begun to show itself. Here was a series of deformities and disabilities of a very grave character, sufficient to make that little girl, if left alone, not only unlovely and singular, but unhappy and dissatisfied for the rest of her life. The infirmary surgeon decided upon an operation. It is not necessary to describe what he did. Professional readers will know, and lay readers would not understand. He did, however, operate by cutting, and did not tinker with collars and other mechanical appliances, which, in most serious cases, are as useless as physic would be. But the result is well worth describing. Immediately after the cutting of the faulty muscle, the head became suddenly straight. Then the wound healed, and afterwards massage was performed upon the neck and face, with a view to restoring the natural appearance of the mouth and eyes. A weight was frequently carried in the hand to draw the shoulder down. Finally a complete cure was effected. The head and face are now perfectly straight, and the spinal curvature has entirely disappeared. If, after reading an account of this kind, any parent or guardian who may be responsible for a wry-necked child should fail to entrust him to a competent surgeon, will not the child, on growing up, have reason to say that his parent or guardian behaved towards him in childhood with a negligence both reprehensible and criminal?

FOOTBALL EAR.

"FOOTBALL" ear is by no means uncommon among those who play the "Rugby" game. It consists of an effusion of blood into the auricle, the upper and prominent part of the ear. Many observers have noticed the circumstance in football players—among the rest, the late James Hinton. Some surgeons have considered it to be due to hard blows on the ear with the ball, received in the course of the game. The real cause, however, seems to be the "scrimmage," into which some boys and men enter with such fierce determination. During this tussle the "forward" players often have the head bent down and to one side, and the arms of the opposed "forward" players press with great force upon that part of the ear which is most prominent. At the same time the desperate struggling of contending sides causes not seldom a decided congestion of the vessels of the head and neck. Granted these two conditions—a marked congestion of the head and neck, which, of course, spreads to the ears, and great pressure upon a prominent part like the auricle, it is easily seen that blood may be extravasated in considerable quantities. The injury has become so common among those who play the "Rugby" game that many "forward" players now wear tightly-fitting caps, with lateral flaps, for the purpose of protecting the ears. In many cases the injury is slight, and the effects pass away in a few days. Not seldom, however, the extravasated blood, passing through the crushed and ruptured blood-vessels and mingling with the products of exudation, gives rise to a mass of fibroid tissue, causing a

true hæmatoma or blood tumour. This, in course of time, undergoes contraction, and gives to the ear a peculiarly shrivelled-up appearance, which is very unsightly. A case of this kind was reported not very long ago. The patient was a strong and healthy young fellow, twenty years of age. About six months before his appearance in the surgeon's consulting-room he had played "forwards" in a keenly-contested game, in which the "scrimmages" had been very determined. The same evening he noticed that the upper part of his left ear was much swollen in front, and that the swelling was of a dark blue colour. A medical man, to whom the swelling was shown, opened it, and let out a small quantity of fluid blood. During the following month the young man played again several times, and each time the ear was swollen as on the first occasion. At last inflammation was set up, and pus was formed. A second time an opening was made, and the pus was discharged. Afterwards the inflamed parts shrank, and became contracted until they assumed the unsightly appearance of a shrunken and diseased ear. The surgeon, to whom application was made, cut through the skin and dissected out an irregular mass of dense fibroid tissue. The wound healed rapidly, and the ear, although not restored to its natural shape and appearance, was very much improved. That cases of this kind are decidedly common among "forward" players is shown by the fact that this particular patient told the surgeon he knew of six others in his own or neighbouring clubs who had suffered in the same way as he had. A similar experience is said to be not uncommon among Cumberland wrestlers, whose attitude in wrestling is familiar to north countrymen. Pugilists also, who have had conferred upon them the posthumous honour of statues, are said to frequently show the same kind of deformed ear.

A HUMAN "BRUTE."

MEDICAL SCIENCE, in its largest sense, has much to teach both moralists and legists. Human creatures, when they have attained a sufficient age, are justly held responsible for their actions both in law and in social life. But the degree of responsibility in different persons varies almost infinitely, and no class of men are so well able to understand and account for these varying degrees of responsibility as medical men of philosophic mind. In a lecture recently delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson recalled to the memory of his hearers the skeleton of a dwarf which is the property of the Norwich Museum. This skeleton has limbs which in certain important particulars more nearly resemble those of an animal than those of a man. The humerus and femur—that is, the long bones of the arm and leg—are like those of a bear. The collar bones are joined to the breast bone in an entirely different way from what is usual, and seem as if they were intended to move more or less freely on the articulating surfaces. The appearance of the whole skeleton is most striking and peculiar. The head, however, which is generally held to give the most significant indications of character, is not unusually small, although it is ill-formed and narrow. This man, who was so brute-like in his limbs, appears to have corresponded in character to his physical formation. He attempted to murder both his wife and child by poison, and was executed for his crime. He displayed an utter want of anything like human understanding or feeling. He was entirely callous to the last, showing neither fear nor remorse. The peculiarity in this case was that the characteristics of an animal nature showed themselves so much more markedly in the limbs than in the head. This skeleton well illustrates a whole series of cases in which there seems in human beings a falling below the typical human level, and the manifestation of characteristics proper to the lower animals. It is impossible to deny the kinship between human beings and the lower animals; and it is very necessary to constantly recognise the fact for the sake of both animals and men.