

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

December 4th.—The Secretary read several interesting Extracts from the Annual Report of the Natural History Society of the Mauritius for 1833, of which an abstract was ordered to be prepared and published.

Dr. MURRAY laid upon the table a detailed account of a case of Femoral Aneurism that had lately been treated by Surgeons Bailey, Abercrombie, and himself, and which he stated he considered of such interest as to deserve publication in Europe. It originated from a blow upon the artery below the origin of the Profunda, and had attained a great size before the patient arrived in town. The principal artery which carries the blood to the limb, was tied in the groin, with a view of arresting the circulation in the vessel, but upon the separation of the ligature on the 15th day after the operation, a most violent bleeding took place, which very nearly proved fatal. In consequence, the external Iliac artery was immediately tied (*for the first time in this colony*), and thereby the bleeding was completely restrained for another fifteen days. At the end of that period it returned in an equally alarming degree, and *from the same place as before*, which, it is stated, was very unexpected, as the wound was granulating kindly. On this occasion the application of a compress and bandage effectually checked the discharge of blood, and the patient is at present walking about and doing well, notwithstanding he had nearly twice lost his life from the suddenness and violence of the bleeding. In the details of the case, several interesting Physiological, Pathological, and Practical facts are mentioned, amongst others—the dependence of the nervous energy of a part upon a due supply of blood,—the greater tendency to and frequency of secondary Aneurismal Hæmorrhage from the distal than from the cardiac end of the vessel,—and the danger of tying the crural artery, and the preference which ought to be given to the operation of tying the external Iliac in all cases of Femoral Aneurism. In the general remarks which are subjoined to the case, Dr. MURRAY gives an instructive exposition of the cause of the untoward occurrences, from which he has elicited some important information that will doubtless render his paper very acceptable and highly useful to the Profession.

Dr. SMITH stated, that he had lately discovered that the little animal described by him in the Epitome of African Zoology,* under the name of *Macromerus typicus*, had been named and described in February last by Mr. BENNET, Secretary to the Zoological Society of London, under the title of *Propithecus Diadema*, and that, consequently, the latter must be considered its proper designation.

* South African Quarterly Journal, New Series, No. 1, Part 2. p. 49.