

intended a blister and three grains of calomel every four hours; this dose was regularly repeated for two days. On the 17th, the oleum ricini was tried, a few doses of which appeared to sit easy on the stomach, but it was as ineffective as all the other remedies. From this day to the 21st, common saline draughts, mild nutritious drinks, with wine and water occasionally, were all retained; in the afternoon of the latter day, much anxiety and uneasiness prevailing, one grain of opium, with three of calomel, was given every six hours, which allayed the irritation for a considerable time; and he continued much in the same state till Monday the 24th, when he became more uneasy from increased distention, accompanied with great thirst; the anxiety to allay which brought on vomiting, and he expired about ten in the evening, having lived three weeks from the time of requesting my advice, and two weeks from the commencement of urgent symptoms. Dr. Maton did not repeat his visits after the 13th. A considerable quantity of yeast was given after the failure of other medicines, which seemed grateful to him. The pulse, during the progress of the disease, varied from 100 to 130. The patient seemed to suffer more from extreme flatulency throughout his illness than from excessive pain, which latter symptom occurred only at intervals. Sir A. Cooper having considered it a case of intus-susception, advised the constitution to be moderately supported, under the idea that the invaginated portion of the intestine might slough, and thus a favourable termination be produced. It may, perhaps, be right to observe, that the vomiting, which was constant from Tuesday the 11th till the evening of Thursday the 13th, did not recur until within a few hours prior to his dissolution, and that the head was never affected during the illness. It was most distressing to observe a patient perfectly tranquil in mind, without the slightest prospect of overcoming the disease.

The body was opened by my son, in the presence of Sir A. Cooper, Mr. Callaway, and myself, when the following appearances presented themselves:—

On opening the abdomen, all the intestines excepting the rectum, were found exceedingly diseased with an inflammation that it was very difficult to cut through without wounding without doing injury to the intestines. The intestines were in contact with each other, and adhered from the adhesive inflammation, marked their disposition to unite. The disengagement which produced death was situated at the upper part of the rectum; the sigmoid flexure immediately above it was much distended, and the sigmoid enormously enlarged. At the termination of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, and at the beginning of the rectum, a stricture was found completely encircling and obliterating the intestine, which was very much augmented. It was the cause, and the sole cause of the impediment to the passage of his motions, and of the fatal issue of the case.

The inner coat of the intestine was thin, thickened, and had a carcinomatous appearance.

No general cavity of the peritoneum was discovered, except in the small intestines, where a small quantity of fluid adhered to the inner coat. The whole of the intestines, except the rectum, was so beset with a carcinomatous growth of tumour matter, that it would have been impossible to separate the particular carcinomatous growths, were it not that, in order to arrive at any certain conclusion respecting the quantity of that substance actually contained in the different portions of the intestinal tube.

Obit. Nov. 24, 1825.

ART. XIII. On Angioplasty. By Robert C. Chubbill, Esq. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

When I published my first volume on angioplasty, I expected to be questioned about it by individuals, who

London Med. Directory, May, 1825.

were too polite to tell me that I had asserted what was not true; at the same time that their countenances clearly indicated the incredulity with which they viewed it. Still I persisted; and the value of the remedy has been most satisfactorily ascertained and confirmed in the practice of several individuals, who are willing that nothing shall be left untried which appears likely to relieve that painful disease for which it is more particularly recommended. I say, "for which it is more particularly recommended," because many valuable remedies are lost sight of, from being injudiciously employed by those who are too fond of *analogical deductions*.

Its success has now been so conspicuous, that I can assume an air of triumph, and dare any one to express his disbelief in what I have asserted respecting it. I am continually hearing of successful cases from respectable members of the profession; and expect soon to lay a body of evidence before the public, which shall dissipate the most obstinate scepticism. In the meantime, from my own practice, I select the subjoined cases for the perusal of your readers, that they may be induced to practise an operation that is so simple, so painless, and so convincingly efficacious; and it will afford me much satisfaction to receive succinct accounts of its effects from any gentleman who may feel inclined to employ it.

Case 1st.—George Jackson, a labouring gardener, about fifty years of age, became the subject of rheumatism three or four years ago, in consequence of exposure to wet and cold. The neck, shoulders, back, and hips, were occasionally the seat of the disease. Guaiacum and opium were usually had recourse to upon an attack taking place, and generally with decisive benefit. At the beginning of the year, however, his disease lost its erratic character, and fixed itself upon the deltoid and the greater pectoral muscles of the left side. The remedies accustomed to relieve him now failed of their former beneficial effect; and though cupping and blistering, with external irritants, were con-

joined, the disease remained unsubdued. I counselled that this was a fair case for acupuncture; and, accordingly, performed the operation in the following manner:—A needle was introduced about mid-way between the point of the shoulder and the insertion of the deltoid muscle, which pierced through the belly of this muscle until its whole length (one inch) had passed. The patient, in consequence of relief before the needle had reached more than two-thirds its whole depth, and when it had completed its greatest depth, he observed that the pain of this point had entirely left him; it was allowed to remain five minutes when, at his request, I withdrew it, and introduced it at the side of the chest, about three inches below the clavicle, intending to pierce the fibres of the pectoralis major. The pain of this part, which had now been much affected by the first operation, ceased as soon as the needle had passed two or three minutes; and after it had remained *vide*, I withdrew it, leaving the patient entirely free from pain. Previously to the operation, he had been incapable of lifting the left arm, and had been obliged to feed himself with the right hand alone, from the inability of carrying his left to his mouth. He now reached his hat from a peg, which standing at the height of his arm's length, and replaced it on his head, without experiencing the least sufficient assistance in the arm or shoulder; and though upon raising his occupation, he found his efforts impeded by a sensation of debility in the parts about the shoulder, yet it was neither sufficient to interrupt his daily exertions, nor his freedom to seek for any further medical assistance, and it is a week or two he feels no remains of the disease.

Case 2d.—In February last, Thomas Field, aged forty-five, residing at Norfolk, Richmond, came to me with such an intense pain in his back, induced by working in a damp cellar, that he walked with great difficulty; he could not raise himself into the erect position, and one of his legs dragged after him, almost useless. He had been subjected to many several times before, and had been treated for it by

various medical men with the usual medicines; but his recovery had been, in every instance, slow and protracted. I introduced two needles, two inches in depth, into the sinuities of the loins, which in some degree lessened the violence of the pain in a minute or two. Finding that the disease was not removed, but mitigated, I passed a *third* needle, and a *fourth*, into the lumbar mass of muscles; and a few minutes having elapsed, I inquired how he was? he replied, that he "felt no pain." But he was sceptical as to its having removed the disorder; for his first attempt to move after the needles were withdrawn was made with the greatest caution; and when he found that he was really freed from the disease, he could not divest himself of the fear that it would immediately recur. I heard nothing of him for two days, when his daughter called on me, and informed me that her father was quite well, and had resumed his employment as a wine-merchant's cellar-man.

Case 3d.—William Webb, ætat. forty-eight, of No. 2, Richmond-street, applied to me for assistance for a violent pain in the lumbar region, with which he awaked at four o'clock in the morning. It extended to the intercostal spaces on both sides, and was so intense, that he had been in a continued state of profuse sweat. *Flexion* of the body and coughing much aggravated his suffering, but his general health, which is never good, was not rendered worse. In the presence of Mr. Fernie, jun., of Kimbolton, I introduced a needle on each side of the spine, when he instantaneously complained of the pain shifting to the upper part of the sacrum. Having invariably found this to be a favourable occurrence, I was encouraged to introduce a needle into each of these parts; and on removing them at the end of five minutes, my patient was enabled to put the body into many different positions, without feeling any pain in the *back*; and the only inconvenience he experienced in the *intercostal* muscles, was a sense of constriction when he attempted violently to bend the body. I prescribed four grains of Dover's powder to be taken every four hours, and desired to see him

the next morning; when he stated that he had remained free from suffering for several hours, but then had a slight attack situated about three inches above the sacrum. On introducing a needle to this part, he suddenly started, and stated that the pain had *flows* to the intercostal muscles of the *neck* and *cleventh* ribs, (to use his own words,) "as if a green-iron the inside, had bobbed his finger against the post." I now withdrew the needle, and inserted it there, which effected perfect relief, as he has continued well ever since.

13, Prince's-street, Leicester Square, April 4, 1833.

APP. XIV. *Case of Tetanic Affection, in which the Osæum*
was the seat of the disease, and the patient was cured by the
use of the needles of the Royal College of Surgeons.

HAVING lately read a description of a case of tetanus induced by the osæum being burnt, recorded in a late number of your valuable Journal, I am induced to trouble you with this communication.

Suzanna Sanderon, a young woman, residing in this town, about twenty years of age, had been for a considerable time past the subject of attacks of epilepsy, the exciting cause of which was attributed to fright. On being called to attend her, I perceived the convulsion of the head, and her intercostal spaces had been much affected, which I supposed was induced by the osæum being burnt. As she was subject to. Scarcely a week passed out without her being attacked with the most violent convulsions. After they had subsided, she remained in a state of stupor for a considerable time, and appeared perfectly incapable of what had taken place. The patient being of a full plethoric habit of body, and considering the symptoms indicated a determination of blood to the head, she was bled freely from

some minutes to the vivid rays of the sun during its greatest splendour." The author speaks very highly of *dry cupping* as a remedy in chronic amaurosis.

"I must now introduce to the notice of my readers a mechanical remedy which has not, I suspect, been adopted for the cure of amaurosis: namely, *dry-cupping* applied to the ball of the eye, and its appendages. By carefully fitting a well-adapted strong glass fitted with an exhausting syringe upon the edges of the orbit, the instrument may be made capable of exerting a more or less powerful influence upon the organ of vision, in proportion to the extent to which the atmospheric air contained in the cupping-glass is exhausted. The effect of its application is to occasion a great redness and tumefaction of the eye-lids, an immediate distention of the vessels of the conjunctiva, and a bulging forward, or protrusion of the whole globe of the eye; the obvious tendency of which must be to relieve the deep-seated vessels by attracting the blood to the superficial order, and thus to produce a manifest and rapid alteration in the whole circulating system of the organ. I am informed by the gentleman who first named the remedy to me, that in one instance it was had recourse to with the happiest success, the patient being perfectly restored to sight, although a variety of means had been previously adopted without the smallest perceptible benefit.

"A pauper, twelve months deprived of sight by an attack of amaurosis, lately called to solicit my advice and assistance. The case appearing a fair object for experiment, I determined to try the effect of dry-cupping. The patient complained of a sense of uneasiness in the eye and around the orbit, vision was completely extinguished, and the pupil remained fully and immovably dilated, when exposed even to the strongest light. A nobleman who happened to be with me witnessed the result of the operation. To our mutual surprise, immediately after the apparatus was removed, when the organ exhibited the appearances above described, the poor man exclaimed with delight, 'Sir, I can now see your fingers moving!' The pupil instantly recovered its power of contraction, and the pain, of which he had before complained, wholly subsided. The extraordinary and very decided effects of the remedy just alluded to in the instance under consideration, added to what I have heard on the subject, are sufficient to convince me, that dry-cupping, used in the manner directed, constitutes a very efficient agent in the treatment of amaurosis; and as such I do not hesitate to recommend it to my professional brethren, as fully entitled to their serious attention and future trials." P. 216.

He does not speak favourably of electricity as a remedy in this disease. He says, that in all instances which he has known it resorted to, he has found it to aggravate the symptoms of the complaint. Chronic amaurosis being often unequivocally connected

with visceral obstructions, much benefit may be derived in such cases, by the judicious employment of mercury. "For, no fact in pathology is better established, than that an interrupted circulation through the system of the vena portarum is productive of cerebral plethora, occasionally terminating in that species of apoplexy which, in reference to its origin, has by nosologists been termed apoplexia hepatica."

Little value is attached by our author to the various internal remedies that have been supposed to possess peculiar remedial powers against this complaint, such as arnica, valerian, euphrasia, camphor, &c.

In the short appendix, which is added to this volume, several very interesting cases of gutta serena are related, illustrative of the author's pathology and treatment of this disease. We have not room, however, to continue our analysis. Enough, it is presumed, has been given, to afford the reader a sufficiently extensive view of the leading sentiments contained in this book. F.

ART. XVII. *A treatise on Acupuncture; being a description of a Surgical Operation, originally peculiar to the Japanese and Chinese, and by them denominated Zin-King, now introduced into European practice, with directions for its performance, and cases illustrating its success.* By JAMES MORRIS CHURCHILL, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London. 12mo. p. 86.

THE author of this little work observes, very truly, that, "if a rational theory, built on sound logical reasoning, be the only evidence to which any value can be attached, then will his labours be unavailing and fruitless." For it must be admitted, that it would be impossible to find any thing in medicine more inexplicable, than the effects which are said to be produced by "*acupuncture*." If, however, the consequences alluded to, do result from this operation, it matters very little, in point of practical, and, therefore, real importance, whether we can reason satisfactorily upon the circumstances, or not. We have heard one of our most intelligent friends at once to declare his disbelief in the extraordinary effects ascribed to *acupuncture*, on the grounds of its being impossible

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to offer any rational explanation of it, or of perceiving any relation whatever, between the cause and its supposed effects. If we reflect, however, but for a moment, on the consequences which follow the application of some of our most approved medicinal agents, we may be readily convinced, that in relation to their modus operandi, we are just as much in the dark, as we are with regard to that of the operation in question.

Acupuncture is an operation which, as its name implies, is performed by piercing different parts of the body, according to the seat of the pain which it is intended to remove, by means of a very delicate needle-shaped instrument, a few inches in length, and about the thickness of a common sewing needle. This operation "is of Asiatic origin, and China and Japan peculiarly claim it as their own." "My attention," says the author, "was lately directed to it by my friend Mr. Scott, of Westminster, who, as far as my knowledge goes, was the first who performed it in England, and some successful cases which I witnessed in his practice, assured me of its efficacy, and led me to its adoption. *The success of my own subsequent practice warrants recommendation of it, in almost any terms I could give it.*"

Mr. Berlioz, of Paris, who has written an excellent memoir upon this subject, and who appears to have employed acupuncture pretty extensively, speaks in the highest terms of its effects. "The practice of the operation," he says, "is attended with but little pain, and the success of it is so prompt, that the disease is alleviated, or entirely ceases, as soon as the needle has been introduced the depth of a few lines. In the space of one or two minutes, a patient, whose sufferings drew from him tears, exclaims he is quite cured."

The instrument which our author employs, is nothing more than a common sewing needle, adapted to an ivory handle. The mode of performing the operation, is thus described. "The handle of the needle being held between the thumb and fore finger, and its point brought into contact with the skin, it is pressed gently, whilst a rotatory motion is given it by the fingers and thumb, which gradually insinuates it into the part, and by continuing this rolling, the needle penetrates to any depth with facility. The operator should now and then stop to ask if the patient be relieved, and the needle should always be allowed to remain five or six minutes, before it is withdrawn." It is rarely necessary, our author observes, to introduce more than one needle.

By the Asiatics, acupuncture is confined almost entirely to the diseases of the abdominal cavity, such as colic, tympany, &c. The Indians apply it much more extensively. "They puncture the head in all cases of cephalalgia, in comatose affections, ophthalmia, &c. They puncture the chest, back, and abdomen, not only to relieve pain of those parts, but as a cure for dysentery, anorexia, hysteria, colera morbus, iliac passion, &c. Local diseases of the muscular and fibrous structures of the body, also often afford them occasions for its performance, and it is for diseases of this class only, that I have hitherto practiced it, and for which I would expressly recommend it." It does not appear, however, that this operation is calculated to do any good in diseases of an inflammatory character. It would seem to be particularly applicable for the removal of painful affections of a rheumatic character, unattended either with any obvious local inflammation, or great general excitement of the vascular system. "This circumstance," says our author, "must be ever in view, and if it be not fully impressed on the mind, I doubt not, that many who may be induced to try the effect of the operation, may be disappointed in it, viz: *That acupuncturation does no good, nor does it produce even a temporary alleviation, when the disease for which it is used is of an inflammatory character.*"

We will now extract some of the cases given in this work, which will convey a better idea of the nature and consequences of the operation, than any general descriptions.

The following cases are reported, among others of a similar kind, by Mr. Haime, in the *Journal Universel des Sciences Medicales*.

"Antoinette Boulard, 38 years of age, had experienced, in April 1818, a severe attack of rheumatism, which fixed on the inferior part of the left side of the chest; it gave way in 48 hours to the use of some sedatives, the tepid bath, and the application of a blister to the part in pain.

"Six weeks afterwards I was called to see this woman, who had fallen again into the same state. I found her with the trunk in a state of inability of action, the motion of the respiratory muscles extremely difficult, and the plaintive tone of voice indicated the violence of the pain, which drew from her cries on the least motion. The pulse was small and concentrated, but without sensible acceleration; the body was covered with cold sweats; and the unhappy patient, altogether, was in a state of inexpressible anguish. I thought it right to have recourse to the same remedies which had been successful on former occasions; but my hopes were deceived. Three days were passed in this state, and Antoinette obtained no relief: I determined, therefore, to practice acupuncturation. I in-

roduced a needle* at the inferior margin of the cartilages of the false ribs. The instrument had hardly passed the depth of a few lines, when the patient said the pain had changed its seat, and was descended into the abdomen, at the same time that it had lost much of its violence. I continued the introduction to the depth of an inch; by this means the pain was driven from the abdomen, and permitted the patient to breathe freely: however, I maintained the needle in its place for five minutes, and then made a second puncture, and successively a third, in the place where the disease had taken refuge. This third puncture made the pain totally disappear, and the patient cried out that I had restored her to life. Sleep of eight hours duration, and a state of perfect calmness, succeeded this operation.

"However, Antoinette sent for me on the following day, saying her sufferings had returned, but with less violence, and entreated me with much earnestness that I would repeat the operation, 'seeing,' she said, 'that it was only the sound,' (for so she named the needle) 'which gave her relief.' The operation was this time still more successful. The treatment was now continued for four days, and the last puncture so entirely relieved the pain, that it has not since returned."

"A woman had suffered for several days with wandering rheumatic pains, which continued daily to increase in violence; there were, however, at all times, fixed pains in the shoulder and in the right arm, which required such a degree of intensity by intervals, that the patient could not refrain from crying out. She was in this state when she came to consult me: finding, however, neither alteration in the pulse, nor increase of heat, nor redness of the skin, nor tension, nor swelling in the part affected, I considered the case to be simple rheumatism, and passed the needle to the middle of the arm, between the fibres of the triceps brachialis muscle; the place designated by the patient as the seat of the pain. The pain was driven into the fore-arm, and the second puncture caused it to descend into the hand, and a third being made in this part, caused it totally to disappear, and the patient said with delight and astonishment, she was cured; and was so satisfied with this treatment, that she spoke of it to every body."

The following cases are given as having occurred in our author's own practice.

GEORGE McLAUGHLIN, about 30 years of age, a bricklayer by employment, came to my house in November last, supporting himself by a stick in one hand, and resting the other against the wall, as he proceeded. The body was bent at nearly right angles with

* Une Aiguille d'Acier, conique, aigüe, longue d'environ trois pouces, et garnie de cire d'Espagne vers son œil, pour tenir lieu de tête.

the thighs, and his countenance indicated acute suffering. He had been attacked, he said, three days before, with darting excruciating pains in the loins and hips; every motion of the body produced an acute spasmodic pain, resembling an electric shock; and the attempt to raise the body to an upright position was attended by such insupportable agony, as obliged him to continue in this state of flexion rather than encounter it by altering his position. There was no more constitutional disturbance than was to be expected from three days and nights of constant pain; the pulse was a little quickened, and the tongue white, but I attributed this derangement to the irritation set up by the pain and loss of rest. I directed him to place himself across a chair for support during the operation, and I immediately introduced a needle of an inch and a half in length into the lumbar mass on the right side of the spine; in two minutes time I observed that he seemed to rest the weight of his body more on his limbs, and in the next instant, without any inquiry being made, he observed, that he felt his limbs stronger from the 'pain having left his hips.' He next plainly indicated that the pain was lessened, by raising his body; from which he only desisted, by being desired to remain at rest, through fear of the needle being broken. The instrument having remained in its place about six minutes, the patient declared he felt no pain, and could, if he were permitted, raise himself upright; it was then withdrawn; the man arose, adjusted his dress, expressed his astonishment and delight at the sudden removal of his disease, and having made the most grateful acknowledgements, left the house with a facility as though he had never been afflicted. The relief was no doubt permanent, as he did not return, which he would most probably have done, had he suffered a relapse.

WILLIAM MORGAN, a young man in the employment of a timber merchant, felt a violent pain suddenly attack the loins whilst in the act of lifting a very heavy piece of mahogany. The weight fell from his hands, and he found he was incapable of raising himself. He was immediately cupped and blistered on the part; but two days had passed and he was still labouring under considerable pain, augmented violently by every motion of the body. On the third day the operation of acupuncture* was performed upon the part of the loins pointed out as the seat of the injury, which, as in the former case, dissipated the pains in five or six minutes, and restored the motions of the back. He returned, however, the next day, with the same symptoms as at first, but in a mitigated degree. A needle was now passed to the depth of an inch on each side of the spine, which, as I expected, terminated the disease in a few minutes, and it was with pleasure that I understood the next morning, that the man had gone to his usual employment.

* By a needle of an inch and a half in length.

This case illustrates the observations of the French physicians before cited, as to the efficacy of the remedy in injuries of this description: it is true, that in my own practice, it is a solitary example; but so decisive was the benefit derived from it, that the case proves a powerful corroboration of both Mr. Berlioz's theory and practice.

HANNAH HOWARD, (a female servant in my house) aged 25 years, became in September last the subject of rheumatism. The shoulders, arms, back, and hips, were the parts selected by the disease for its wandering peregrinations. Antimonials, opium, guaiacum, hyosciamus, &c. relieved her occasionally, but at the end of three months, metastasis to the heart suddenly took place. I was called hastily to her at this time; she had fainted, and when recovered from the syncope, complained of violent pain about the region of the heart, which she informed me had troubled her more or less for several hours. Her pulse was hard, and beat somewhat about 106 in a minute; but from its extreme irregularity, it could not be measured with exactness; nor if it might, would it have been found, I believe, to have preserved an uniformity within any two given periods; as both its intermissions and its actions of rapid velocity were produced at uncertain and variable intervals. Copious bleeding, blistering, cupping, with the use of digitalis and colchicum, at length removed the disease; and in three weeks she was able to leave London, to try the effect of country air in restoring her health and strength. She returned to town after a short time, perfectly recovered; and continued so, until an exposure to wet brought on another attack of rheumatism; which, after variously shifting its seat for several days, now fixed itself on the left side. The remedies which had formerly been of service, were now taken without relief; and the colchicum* (which, in most cases of rheumatism will be found, after bleeding, more valuable than any other article of the materia medica) was totally inert. The pain had now acquired such a degree of violence, that the slightest motion of the body gave the most exquisite agony; and so intense was this state of suffering, that the patient could not be urged to speak in a tone loud enough to be conveniently heard, through the fear of exciting an exacerbation of pain, which even such light motions occasioned. I now had recourse to acupuncture; having introduced a needle through the integuments covering the interstice of the 8th and 9th ribs, at the part corresponding to the junction, with their cartilaginous epiphyses. I continued to press it gently forward, by rolling it freely between my fingers. When it had penetrated to about

* I have every reason to believe, the wine impregnated with this plant, is of the most medicinal value, when the infusion has been made with the seeds, rather than the roots, as lately recommended by Dr. Williams, of Ipswich. It is the preparation which I have found most beneficial, and upon which I could place the greatest reliance.

two-thirds its whole depth, (an inch) I inquired if she experienced either pain from the puncture, or relief from the disease; she replied, "she scarcely felt the instrument, but that her rheumatism had suddenly abated of its violence;" and to my surprise, this reply was expressed in her natural tone of voice. She added, "that she could now speak and breathe freely," so that I now found her former taciturnity, which I had attributed to moroseness, was banished. I continued the introduction of the needle, and in a few minutes the disease was dislodged, and fled to the back of the chest, near the angle of the ribs. The motions of the shoulder were now restored to their utmost freedom, and I withdrew the needle, and inserted it into the part which had now become the seat of the pain, about two inches from the spinal column. The disease soon began to dissipate itself totally; the patient said she was free from uneasiness, and could make a deep inspiration without pain. The instrument having been retained in its place five or six minutes, was withdrawn; the chest had regained its full liberty of action, and the utmost variety of flexion of the body could be used, not the slightest inconvenience ensuing. The next day, however, the pain again visited the anterior part of the chest, and I again had recourse to the needle. The operation was completely successful; for, excepting a slight darting pain, which occasionally troubled her for a few days afterwards, no symptoms of the disorder remained, and she continues at this time to attend to the duties of her station in my family.

Whilst occupied with the preceding pages, I received the following communication from my friend, Mr. Jukes; which I subjoin, as the strongest corroborative evidence of the efficacy of the practice under our consideration.

"Great Peter-Street, Westminster, Feb. 27, 1821.

MY DEAR SIR,

"In compliance with your request, I send you an account of the effect of acupuncture on our friend Mr. Scott.* I received an urgent message on the morning of the 18th inst. from that gentleman, requesting I would visit him instantly. I found him in bed; and, with a countenance expressive of much anguish, he informed me, that for three days he had been suffering severely from pain in the loins, which he attributed to leaving a warm room during one of the late foggy nights. Within the last 12 hours it had acquired such a degree of violence, that even respiration was insupportable, except the body were fixed in such positions as permitted the least possible motion. An attempt to resume the erect posture, produced violent spasmodic action of the muscles of the back, which appeared to be communicated by sympathy to those of the abdomen and chest, impeding respiration with a convulsive effort;

* Mr. Scott first introduced the operation into England.

ner could any motion of the body be made without producing this distressing effect. Neither fever nor general derangement was present; the secreting organs of the body properly performing their functions, proved the external locality of the disease. In this state of things, acupuncture produced itself to us as likely to afford relief, and it was, therefore, immediately resorted to.

"I applied an exhausted cupping glass upon the integuments, opposite to the second lumbar vertebra, and midway between this bone and the edge of the latissimus dorsi muscle, which was the part referred to as the most concentrated spot of the disease. As soon as a needle had penetrated to the depth of an inch, a sensation arose, apparently from the point of the instrument, which the patient described as resembling that which is produced by the passage of the electric aura, when elicited to a metallic point, diffusing itself at first to some distance around the part, and then extending itself up the side to the axilla. This sensation continued to be felt for the space of a minute, when a violent pain struck into the right iliac region, immediately above, and corresponding with the line of the crista of the ilium. No pain was now felt in the back, except a dull aching of about two inches in breadth, on the right side of the spine, extending from the lower part of the neck to the sacrum; corresponding with the situation and course of the latissimus dorsi muscle. The pain above the hip now began to subside, and in the space of three minutes from its commencement, had ceased altogether.

"The uneasiness along the course of the spine still remaining, a needle was introduced about an inch from one of the upper dorsal vertebrae. The pain in the right side was in a few minutes entirely dissipated, and the patient arose, declaring, that, except a slight degree of uneasiness on the posterior part of the chest, near the angles of the inferior ribs, he was completely relieved from the disease. He, however, requested I would pass a needle in this last situation; on effecting which, the pain soon left its last refuge, and the patient dressed himself, and left his house in the most perfect health. I have this day seen him, and he assures me, that he has not experienced any return of the affection."

E.

ART. XVIII.—*Remarks on a Paper entitled "Reflections on the Treatment of Fracture of the Thigh, with an account of a new Apparatus."* By WILLIAM GIBSON, M. D. Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania."*

THAT considerable difficulty is experienced by surgeons in the management of oblique fractures of the thigh, has often been acknowledged; and that patients are sometimes dismissed with shortened limbs and other less serious inconveniences, we are not disposed to deny. Had Dr. Gibson been content with fairly stating these circumstances, and with simply describing the utility and method of applying his new apparatus, he would certainly have escaped our censure, if he could not have merited applause. But, unfortunately, it has happened, that in his paper every inconvenience of the common methods of treatment is generally exaggerated, and that very unfair statements respecting the apparatus of Bell, of Cooper, and of his own new modification of Hagedorn are detailed. As this article, in common with many others in the Philadelphia Journal of Medical Science has been honoured with a highly complimentary review in the columns of the National Gazette, the general public has become interested; but from motives of delicacy we shall confine our remarks to professional readers. Our author's habit of voluminous writing having extended the interesting details of his subject to the painful length of twenty-two closely printed pages, necessarily prevents us from entering into a minute examination of all his positions. We have already, however, from a very cursory perusal, detected so many unfortunate mistakes in the doctor's notions, that it has become quite disagreeable to pronounce our opinion of his performance. But we shall be wanting in our duty if we suffer any thing which has not the strict sanction of truth, to be imposed upon our readers. However unpleasant, therefore, the task of correcting one of the most elevated among our brethren may prove, we must undertake to hold up the standard of good doctrine to the profession.

After a sufficiently long exordium, our author commences his

* See No. 6. Philad. Jour. Med. and Phys. Sciences.

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latter he found to require three minutes longer to freeze than the former, in a freezing mixture prepared for the purpose. From this he drew his inference, that the vitality of the hen's egg resisted the frost the length of time stated. I believe it to be a hasty inference, and not a correct one: for, to prove the accuracy of the inference, he should have given us the specific gravity of each egg, and also the bulk or quantity of matter contained in each egg. I suspect that he has erred in this experiment, in the same manner as he did respecting the vitality of the tree resisting the cold, and keeping the thermometer three degrees higher than the air surrounding the tree. It is known to most men that a hen's egg is usually bigger than a pullet's; and it must be obvious to every person, that, the greater the quantity of matter to be frozen in a freezing mixture, the greater length of time it will take to freeze: and it is thus that I account for the hen's egg taking three minutes longer to freeze than the pullet's, and I believe that vitality had nothing to do with it."

Lond. Med. & Phys. Journal, No. 271, p. 265.

Secretion of Urine.

PROFESSOR KRIMER, of Bonn, has published a very interesting experimental inquiry, on the subject of the *secretion of urine*. From some experiments detailed by this physiologist it would appear that, "the gastric vessels are the vessels which absorb the substances contained in the stomach, carrying them to the lungs in the first instance, thence to the heart, and lastly to the kidneys."

Phosphorescent appearance of Wounds.

It is known that light is emitted from organized bodies when putrefaction takes place, under certain circumstances: the same phenomenon sometimes occurs in wounds, and doubtless a greater number of instances would be recorded were they often dressed in the dark. Baron Percy, who, during twenty-five years of wars, has had under his care more than a million wounded, has often been deprived of the advantage of light. It was thus that he observed, in a young soldier, the phosphorescence of a slight wound in the leg for more than fifteen days. In this case it might, perhaps, be attributed to the man's having applied compresses dipped in urine to the wound: but some time afterwards, at the siege of Mannheim, a vivid light, a true ignis fatuus, existed for more than six days over the wound of an officer, who had been dressed with compresses wetted with pure water only. Baron Percy has since had frequent opportunities of observing similar facts.—(*Analyse des Travaux de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris, pour 1819. Par M. le Baron Cuvier, sec. perpét.*)

Electro-Magnetism.

IN our department of COLLECTANEAE we have given a short abstract history of this new science. In continuation of it, we are happy to relate some new experiments. M. le Chevalier Yelin, a learned Bavarian, discovered, some time ago, that needles of steel become magnetic when placed in a glass tube surrounded with a metallic spiral, and when electrical sparks, or the charge of a Leyden battery, were transmitted along the spiral. When the spiral was turned from left to right, and the sparks taken from the positive conductor, the end of the needle which points to it becomes a south pole, and the other the north pole, and *vice versa*. If a third needle, reckoning from its middle, is surrounded in a spiral manner with waxed taffetas, then the poles appear at the points where the spiral begins and ends. If, instead of a spiral wire, a rod of metal is extended along the glass tube, the steel needle, placed

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within, becomes feebly magnetic after several strong electrical discharges. The poles of a magnetic needle were entirely reversed by several electrical discharges along the spiral.—*New M. Mag.*

A case of Twins in which the Cæsarian Operation was performed with success, both to the mother and the two children. By DAS. HORN, sen. and jun.

THIS is a very remarkable case, both as to the cause which led to the necessity of the operation, and the happy manner in which it terminated. The woman, aged about 34 years, was of a very weak and hysterical habit of body, and had been delivered of a dead child, thirteen years before, from which she suffered much, in consequence of improper obstetrical assistance. Three years after this first delivery, she called on Dr. Horn for medical advice; and related to him the circumstances of her case. On examination, he found that the vagina was firmly closed, to within an inch of the os externum; on the left side of the vagina an opening, scarcely large enough to admit a fine probe, passed obliquely upwards about one-fourth of an inch; through this small opening the menstrual fluid (which had hitherto returned pretty regularly) passed very slowly, and in small quantities. The patient refused to submit to any operation, for the purpose of dilating the cicatrized vagina. The Dr. heard no more of her until ten years afterwards, when she again presented herself before him for advice, in what was supposed an hysterical affection. Various remedies were given her, with but little advantage, until finally it was discovered that, notwithstanding the obstruction which existed to what was thought an adequate *inmissio penis* for successful copulation, she was in a state of pregnancy. Under these circumstances, the forebodings of Dr. H. were but gloomy. After weighing every thing for and against the only two operations which could be resorted to, in this unpromising case: namely, cutting through the adhesions of the vagina, or performing the cesarian operation, they determined in favour of the latter. This operation was accordingly performed, on the 27th of January, and in six weeks the patient was able to be out of bed. The two children were remarkably strong, and did exceedingly well.—*Hufeland's Journal*, June, 1821.

Scale Corinthus.

MORE than thirty years ago, an edict was published in the upper Palatinate, prohibiting midwives from employing *secule corinthus*.

Pitschaft in Hufeland's Journal, June, 1821.

On Vertiginous Indigestion in the Horse.

IN the course of the year 1817, the abdominal vertigo, commonly termed simply *vertigo*, (*staggers*,) made great ravages amongst horses in the departments of the Moselle and the Meuse. Mr. Mangin, having had occasion to treat a great number of these animals, was soon led to recognise the insufficiency of the remedies commonly employed. He was called to a horse affected with well characterized vertiginous indigestion; this animal had neither eaten nor drunk for twelve hours. He gave him two drachms of tartar emetic, with four ounces of sulphate of magnesia in a pint of warm water. This potion was repeated thrice in the space of fifteen hours. He placed a seton in each thigh, and had the limbs rubbed with oil of turpentine. The animal died on the ensuing day. He treated a second and a third horse in the same way, with similar results. A neighbouring veterinary surgeon, who employed similar means, had no better success, having had four horses die under his