

not of simply presenting petitions, but of taking steps to draw up a short Bill, to which no class in this country could possibly object, and which might, with the sanction of the profession, be easily passed through Parliament in the next session.

We earnestly and confidently hope that Dr. Toogood will undertake to carry through the task which he has so well commenced, and that he will be cordially assisted by those members of the Association whom he may call upon to assist him in developing the plan which may be necessary to prosecute his benevolent intention.

Reviews.

Portraits of Diseases of the Skin. By ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S. London: Churchill. Fasciculus V.

Portraits of the Diseases of the Scalp, with the safest and most efficient modes of Treatment. By WALTER COOPER DENDY, Senior Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary for Children. London: S. Highley. Number I.

Eruptions of the Face, Head, and Hands, with the latest improvements in the Treatment of Diseases of the Skin, illustrated with Coloured Plates. By T. H. BURGESS, M.D., Editor and Translator of "Cazenave's Manual of Diseases of the Skin." London: H. Renshaw. 8vo, pp. 254.

The attention which diseases of the skin are now receiving from the profession generally, would lead us to hope, that such a splendid work as that at the head of our list will continue to receive that encouragement which it so justly deserves. Nothing can exceed the fidelity of the drawing and colouring of these truly wonderful portraits of diseases of the skin, except their beauty, as specimens of modern art. The present Fasciculus is even more faultless than its predecessors, the representations of Xeroderma, Ichthyoides, and Psoriasis Vulgaris, being so true to nature as to defy the actual comparison with the living structures. To all those who can afford the outlay we would say, if your knowledge of diseases of the skin is incomplete, you cannot possibly supply the deficiency so well as by the careful examination of these plates as they severally appear.

With regard to Mr. Dendy's work, which is confined to diseases of the scalp, we wish we could speak in terms of equal commendation; but it is no very severe censure to complain that his portraits do not bear comparison with the results of the combined efforts of Bagg, Hulmandel, and Sherwin, when directed by a surgeon in the person of Mr. Erasmus Wilson.

The third on our list is a work of a very different character to either of those above-mentioned, and will prove of great service to those who have already

attained some knowledge of diseases of the skin, but not of that accurate kind which modern researches have afforded. It is an attempt, and a very successful one, to facilitate the study of cutaneous pathology, and to render our information on that proverbially perplexing subject more precise, by describing diseases of the skin in groups or *regions*, in the same manner as regional anatomy is taught. The various modifications in the structure of the skin in different portions of the body justify this division. Thus, those parts covered with hair are differently affected to those which are free from that appendage. The same is seen in those parts freely supplied with the sebaceous follicles, and where the mucous membrane merges in the skin, as in the eyelids, lips, anus, and vulva.

To the young student in this department of our art Dr. Burgess's work will be especially useful, as he will be enabled at once, when a disease, of the scalp for instance, presents itself, to form a correct diagnosis on the principles and by the method of elimination, so well laid down by the author. We would recommend to all such the careful study of the introduction, which explains these principles most clearly, and, indeed, in a manner which entitles Dr. Burgess to our warmest praise.

The treatment recommended is that chiefly introduced by the French, but which has now become almost naturalized in this country. There is also a valuable list of prescriptions, making it a complete manual, so far as it goes, to the young practitioner, who may desire to attain, what we are sorry to believe is seldom possessed, a complete knowledge of this difficult subject.

DR. RANKING'S INQUIRIES.

ON COD-LIVER OIL IN PHTHISIS.

By Dr. CLARK, of Colchester.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the Suffolk Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, Friday, the 15th of June, 1849.)

In answer to the call of Dr. Ranking, of Norwich, upon the Members of our Association, for their experience in the use of cod-liver oil, I gladly embrace the opportunity of our meeting at Hadleigh, to assist, (I am afraid imperfectly, and to a limited extent,) the inquiries set forth by Dr. Ranking in the Journal. A laborious practice must be my excuse for not giving the minute details asked for. I have been using cod-liver oil extensively, both in public and private practice, for the last four years, and I do not hesitate to confess my confidence in it has not decreased, but rather strengthened in persevering in its use, and even extending it to other diseases. I have principally used it in phtthisis in its various stages, scrofulous diseases of the joints, and mesenteric affections of children. Far be it from me to vaunt it forth as a specific, for I would expunge such a word from medical nomenclature; but I would strongly urge upon my medical brethren

present to give it a fair trial, and to those who have used it to let us know whether their experience at all coincides with my own. All of us who have been in the profession for some years, are well aware that ever and anon we have some favourite medicine trumpeted forth, which has its trial, and not unlikely serves the trumpeter's ends; but in a year or two no more is heard of it. But in looking into the history of the use of cod-liver oil, we find it rather slow in its progress, but steadily gaining in the estimation of many distinguished medical men. Cod-liver oil (*Oleum Jecoris Aselli*) has been long known in many parts as a remedy in gout and chronic rheumatism. In this country it has been long used, in the northern parts of Scotland, and Shetland, and also in the midland counties of England, during the last century, where the names of Drs. Percival, Bradsley, and others, stand prominently forward in its praise, but little more is heard of it until Dr. Hughes Bennett published a clever *brochure* in 1841, detailing its successful use in the northern parts of Europe, and particularly Germany, where it still continues in extensive use. Since 1841, we have year after year, the leading practitioners giving it their approbation; need I mention Mr. Chalk, of Margate, Drs. Toogood and Madden, of Torquay, and a number of others. We have lately, Dr. C. B. Williams, of London, giving his unreserved sanction in the first number of the *London Monthly Journal*. The latest chemical analysis we have is that of Dr. De Jongh, an account of which appears in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* for February, with valuable remarks from Dr. Jonathan Pereira. From an inspection of its constituent parts, it appears to consist principally of oleate and margarite of glycerine, but it also contains batyric and acetic acids, the principal constituents of bile, and not quite one per cent. of salts containing iodine, chlorine, and traces of bromine. This is to be noted, as its more early advocates ascribed much of its success in scrofula to its iodine and bromine. We have three varieties of cod-liver oil in the English market,—first, the pale straw-coloured; second, a pale brown; and third, a very dark brown. Dr. Pereira considers that which is most devoid of colour, odour, and flavour, to be the finest, and discountenances the opinion which was at one time prevalent, that the brown oil was superior, as a therapeutical agent, to the pale oil. Acting upon this, I at one time, in union practice, attempted the use of the dark; but in every case I was forced to give it up, it was so disgusting that the patients invariably refused to take it. Dr. De Jongh states sulphuric acid to be a test for cod-liver oil, giving out a fine violet colour, which soon passes to a yellowish or brownish red; it would appear, however, to be only a test to distinguish the oil from the liver, from that of other parts of the fish. I have often remarked, that after rubbing a little on my fingers, the cod-fish flavour remained for some hours, and that after repeated washing. Some samples I have had would not produce this.

Its Therapeutic Action and Mode of Administration.—Its therapeutic action is slow and progressive, generally some weeks before any marked effect; the *modus operandi* is supposed to consist in stimulating the lymphatic glands and vessels, and by these means increasing the activity of the capillary system. Dr. Williams ascribes its success to a highly nutrient material having a beneficial influence on the chylopo-

ctic viscera chiefly due to some biliary principle, and in this I think he is borne out by the chemical analysis of Dr. De Jongh. Sure it is, that in every case I have continued the use of it for weeks, it has invariably shown the property of increasing the quantity of the adipose tissue. The dose generally given is from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful and a half, or more. I have lately preferred beginning with a small dose, even a teaspoonful, to an adult, and increasing it gradually, sometimes giving it alone, or mixed in milk or coffee, and I cannot help remarking the very few cases, after its commencement, where it has disagreed. Some have recommended it to be given in emulsions and other elegant forms; but I think the more unmixed the better plan, at the same time, there can be no objection, for fastidious palates, to combine it with an infusion of orange-peel, or peppermint, or cinnamon-waters. I have not found any difficulty in persuading patients to take it, and after the first few days, no objection is ever given to continue the use of it. I order the dose about an hour after the usual meals. If there is congestion of any organ, or dyspeptic symptoms, it ought not to be given. I have at present a female under my charge, who has received the most marked benefit from its use in scrofulous ulcerations of joints and cervical glands; from great emaciation, she has now become fat and plump, but invariably when she now takes the oil, it produces congestion of the liver. I have never found it acting on the bowels or disagreeing with the stomach in diseases of a low marked character in which I have generally ordered it.

The diseases in which the cod-liver oil has been used are various, such as gout, chronic rheumatism, scrofula in its various forms, phthisis pulmonalis, and caries of the bones, &c. In a short practical paper of this kind, I shall confine myself to the disease in which I have had experience of its use; these are tabes mesenterica, scrofulous ulcerations and caries of the bones, morbus coxarius, and phthisis pulmonalis.

Tabes Mesenterica.—Having the charge of two Union Houses, my experience in this disease is rather extensive. I have put it at the head of the list, as in no disease are the beneficial effects of cod-liver oil more marked and satisfactory than in this. In phthisis and morbus coxarius, the benefit received may be only of a temporary nature, as in most cases we have extensive organic disease; but here it is different. Infants or children are constantly brought in a starved condition, extreme emaciation, enormous abdomens, with pinched up features; in a few weeks, under its use, the abdomen lessens and becomes soft, the skin relaxes, and the general condition improves. I have no notes of cases by me at present, but have had many instances of young children during the last three years, whose health has been restored by the use of this medicine. In morbus coxarius, caries, and scrofulous ulcerations, I have seen great benefit derived from it, although a cure is not accomplished. I know of no medicine, not even iodine, (a medicine I have often been disappointed in) where greater benefit is apparent. I append to this some cases in point.

Phthisis Pulmonalis.—At present the profession looks on with great interest, whether the praise which has been lately given to cod-liver oil by Dr. Williams, of London, and Dr. Madden, of Torquay, is justly due, and when the former gentleman affirms that we

now wield a remedial power, if not to cure this scourge of humanity, at least we can retard and ameliorate the condition of our patient. I think we would not be justified in refusing to aid, by our daily experience, in proving whether the same success crowns our endeavours; my own experience, so far as it has gone, has been much in its favour. In the early and primary stage of the deposition of tubercle, I have no doubt it proves a valuable adjuvant, the only thing forbidding its use is any inflammatory process going on. Auscultation here proves invaluable in forming our diagnosis. It may be used in all its stages: if not a cure, a permanent benefit may be looked for in the first and second. I cannot say much for the last. I am afraid little can be expected from any remedial power in this stage. In a few cases I have fancied that it kept the progress of the disease at bay. In cases of tuberculous cachexia, so well and ably described by my friend Sir James Clarke, and in which this country abounds, I believe no medicine has equal power to cod-liver oil; of course, due attention should be paid to other matters, as we cannot look upon this or any other medicine to act as a specific.

CASES.

I have had under my charge for the last two years, two young gentlemen of most delicate constitutions, having lost five brothers and sisters with pulmonary consumption. The eldest, aged 20, about six feet in height, light complexion. During the last three years has had frequent attacks of severe cough, mucopurulent expectoration, with night perspirations, and loss of strength. The physical signs have been (and to a great extent still continue) dulness in both upper regions of the chest under the clavicles; respiratory murmur scarcely audible, and in parts quite so; complete resonance in right side. Conjoined with other suitable treatment, he has been several times put under the use of cod-liver oil, which has hitherto had the desired effect of restoring him to as much health as might be possibly expected.

His brother, aged 18, of the same height and appearance, accompanied with slight curvature of spine, first came under my charge about two years and a half ago, with an acute attack of bronchitis, which, after the usual treatment, was subdued, leaving him much emaciated, with cough, and extensive mucopurulent expectoration. He was put under the use of the cod-liver oil, and the improvement was both marked and rapid. He continued for six months, and with slight intermission, remains in good health.

Jane Orrin, aged 29, slight stature, and dark complexion; has been ill for three years, with cough and expectoration; has had several attacks of hæmoptysis, and was treated at the Consumption Hospital at Brompton, and sent from there incurable, to the Colchester Union Infirmary. She was then emaciated; severe cough; mucopurulent expectoration; laryngeal hoarseness; under left clavicle distinct pectoriloquy, with dulness on percussion on both sides; respiratory murmur inaudible in places. She was immediately put under the use of cod-liver oil, and has continued it since, with the intermission of two attacks of hæmoptysis, after suitable treatment for which, the oil was again commenced. She is now

become quite fat; little or no cough; expectoration lessened; laryngeal hoarseness much improved; the physical signs, however, continue, with pectoriloquy on both sides.

Thomas Vaughan, aged 16, slight stature; light complexion; belongs to a phthisical family. About two years ago, whilst resident at Hadleigh, was attacked with pain in the chest, cough and copious expectoration. After some months' treatment, he was removed to the Colchester Hospital, where he remained some months under my friend Dr. Chambers, now of London, and while there, he was suffering from chronic rheumatism and pleuritis of the right lung and pleura. Dr. Chambers states that there was considerable contraction of the right side, and the heart was drawn much to the right of its normal position. He came under my care in the Colchester Union Infirmary about a twelvemonth ago, he was then much emaciated, with hectic, and profuse perspirations, and muco-purulent expectoration. The physical signs were, general dulness on percussion, with large crepitation, and increased vocal resonance; immediately to the left of the spine, and between it and the scapula, a slight curvature of the upper dorsal vertebræ was perceived. He was put under the use of cod-liver oil, and rapid improvement took place. About six months ago he coughed up a small disk of bone, of a spongy texture; and twice since small pieces of bone, of a similar nature, have been coughed up. Dr. Duncan, who has closely watched the case with me, writes me to the following effect:—"I saw him on the 12th of this month, his curvature, owing to the absorption of more or less of the body of the diseased vertebræ, has increased; dulness on percussion; bruits in a very modified degree; there is no pectoriloquy; no mucous râles, these are replaced by very weak vesicular murmur; and slight tubular breathing. The boy has improved in every respect."

Mary Ann Pitchell, aged 38, single, has been an invalid six years. About three years ago suffered from extensive scrofulous ulcerations of the left knee-joint, also left elbow-joint, and enlargement of cervical glands, with ulcers. Was discharged from the Colchester hospital two years ago, when she came under my charge at the Union Infirmary; she was then much emaciated, appetite bad, colligative sweats, with profuse discharge from ulcerations. Ordered the use of cod-liver oil, with suitable local treatment. She has continued the use of it until within the last six months, with great improvement to her general health. Ulcerations quite healed, but remains a cripple from ankylosed knee and elbow-joints.

Robert Scott, aged 8, has been suffering for the last four years from morbus coxarius. He is constantly taking the cod-liver oil, which keeps him in good health. About a twelvemonth ago had a large gluteal abscess burst, which confined him to bed for some months, from which, after suitable treatment, he recovered, and recommenced his old friend. He is now quite well, with the exception of shortening and contraction of the left leg.

William Last, aged 11, another case of morbus coxarius at present under treatment. A large abscess burst over the great trochanter. He is now taking the cod-liver oil, with seeming benefit.

Dr. Duncan has been kind enough to send me the three following cases in which cod-liver oil was administered:—

Thomas Funnell, aged 20, ill four years; has had hæmoptysis; dulness under either clavicle; gurgling and pectoriloquy over a considerable spot in the left sub-clavicular region; tubular breathing very generally heard on the right side, above the mammæ. He took *oleum jecoris* from 30th of November, 1848, until March 5th, 1849. With the exception of one fit of purging, he remained in *statu quo*.

Mary Millar, a child half starved, December 2nd, 1848. Cough, tubular breathing, and increased vocal resonance below the right nipple; dulness below the left clavicle, and weak vesicular murmur. Blister to right side, and *oleum jecoris*. Discharged in April. Right side relieved, the state of the left lung persisting.

James Vale, 27. Hæmoptysis; gradual emaciation; pectoriloquy under left clavicle. Admitted August 12th, 1848. After some little inflammatory action, which was subdued by Antim. Pot. Tart., has been taking the oil up to the present day. He is in the same state; physical signs have not altered.

Proceedings of Societies.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH MEETING.

The Thirteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire (late Newton) Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, was held at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, June 28th, 1849. SIR ARNOLD KNIGHT, M.D., of Liverpool, in the Chair.

A Council meeting was held at eleven o'clock, when the new rules of the Branch, as recommended by the Committee, were approved, and the following gentlemen belonging to the Parent Association enrolled members of the Branch:—Mr. Robert Rigge, of Woolton, near Liverpool; H. H. Broughton, M.D., F.L.S., of Preston, (late of Dobcross); Mr. Richard Flint, of Stockport; Mr. Henry Halkyard, of Mossley, near Lees; Mr. Thomas Dorrington, of Manchester; Mr. John Brooke, of Stockport.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Garstang, of Bolton; Mr. Stott, of Manchester; Mr. Welsby, of Prescot; Mr. Dumville, of Manchester; and Dr. Swift, of Liverpool; had retired from the Branch Association during the past year, and that Dr. Carson, of Liverpool, had died during the same period.

At twelve o'clock the general meeting took place, when Sir Arnold Knight, M.D., was called to the chair, and expressed his regret that the President of the year, Mr. Thorpe, of Manchester, was prevented attending in consequence of his continued indisposition.

The following members, or gentlemen introduced as visitors, were present:—Dr. Lyon, Dr. M. A. Eason Wilkinson, Dr. Radford, Dr. Pincoffs, Dr. Black, Dr. Bell, Mr. Turner, Mr. Hatton, Mr. W. C. Williamson, Mr. Dorrington, Mr. James Whitehead, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Lund, Mr. Crompton, Mr. R. H. M'Keand, Mr.

Kirkman, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Winterbottom, and Mr. Bowring, of Manchester; Dr. Macrorie, Dr. Watson, Dr. Dickinson, and Mr. Burrows, of Liverpool; Mr. J. A. Pearson, and Mr. Robert Rigge, of Woolton; Mr. Richard Flint and Mr. Brooke, of Stockport; Mr. Sharpe, Warrington; Mr. Wilson, Runcorn; Mr. Fawsit, Oldham; Dr. Broughton, Preston; Dr. Welsh, Eccles; Mr. Halkyard, Mossley; Mr. Manley, Tyldesley; Mr. Pegge and Mr. Inge, Newton Heath; and Dr. Darcus, 30th Regt.

The Secretary then read the following

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

It is customary for the retiring Council to present to the Annual Meeting some report of the proceedings of the past year. In conformity with this obligation your Council would offer the following brief remarks upon the events and objects of the year now past; wherein, if all has not been done which might have been expected, or hoped;—if much has even been left undone, and little in fact accomplished;—yet they trust that what has been attended to in endeavours to further the objects of the Branch Association, will meet with the approbation of this meeting, and may eventually prove of real service to the end which all have in view,—by inducing a large proportion of the able practitioners, scattered throughout Lancashire and Cheshire, to give their active co-operation in promoting the scientific and material interests of the profession, in combination with friendly social intercourse amongst its members.

There has been for several years a growing conviction that some change in the constitution of this Association, including a change in the place of meeting, might be found conducive to the more complete realization of those objects aimed at by the early and estimable founders of our Branch. And it will be remembered, that at the last annual meeting a Special Committee was appointed, for the purpose of considering this question, and reporting upon it at the present meeting. The result of the deliberations of that Committee has been already circulated amongst the members of our Association, in the form of rules proposed for its future government, in which it seems to have been the study of the Committee to deviate no farther from the original rules than the change of circumstances rendered necessary. The Council request members to observe, that the principal alterations consist in,—1st, a change of name; 2nd, a variable place of meeting, which has been found very advantageous in other districts; 3rd, a limited number of members of Council, admitting of annual renovation; and 4th, the appointment of only one principal secretary, which, it is believed, will very much facilitate the prompt transaction of business. With these few remarks your Council recommend the adoption of the proposed rules, subject to such alterations, verbal or otherwise, as to the members present may seem expedient.

Your Council have, on former occasions, adverted with pain to the great accumulation of arrears due from several members of this Branch, and have now to regret their inability to report any improvement in this department of finance. In their opinion the time is arrived when it will be necessary to adopt some conclusive determination with regard to these arrears.

Subjoined is a general statement of the accounts for the past year:—