"Fourteen weeks after the accident, the vision became dim, a mist or fog appeared before it, and there was slight pain in the eye and forehead; but on this occasion there was not external redness. I again placed myself under treatment at the —— Institution; a consultation was held, and, as I thought, an unfavourable opinion entertained regarding my case; and, consequently, I attended no more. The dimness of sight gradually increased up to March 1851, when it became stationary, the same as it is now, namely, incapable of determining colours, the number or form of a person's fingers, but cognisant of moving bodies of size."

REMARKS. There cannot be a doubt, I conceive, that the peculiar disease that has taken place in the right lens of this patient is due to a subacute posterior internal ophthalmia, which gradually involved the whole of the internal structures.

The concussion sustained by the eyeball three years previously was in great measure recovered from at the end of twenty-one days' treatment; but the presence of a fixed musca afforded unequivocal evidence of insensibility of part of the retina. Moreover, we find the choroid and retina, which were probably, prior to the accident, the weaker textures (for, in gun-lock filing, the right eye would be more subject to overwork and to consequent congestion), had become so susceptible of disorder that, in fourteen weeks after the accident, symptoms of subacute posterior internal ophthalmia were manifested, and proceeded by slow but unerring gradations to the annihilation of useful vision.

Of the period at which the lens became affected we have no facts for the formation of an opinion.

A peculiarity in the present case, distinguishing it from all others of the kind that have been recorded, with one exception,* is, that the transparency of the front of the lens permitted the particles of cholesterin (such I shall presently prove to be their nature) to be observed in the exact position in which they originally were formed.

I have found in the public journals notes of seven cases in which shining bodies, resembling those I have described, were observed in the human eye; my own case will make eight.

In five instances they were noticed in the aqueous, and once in the vitreous, after an operation upon a lenticular, or a capsular cataract.

In six cases, the patient was amaurotic.

In two, the vision was good, but muscæ volitantes were experienced; and in them the vitreous was the seat of the brilliant bodies. The lens was transparent in one of these last, in the other, depression had been performed seven years before, and followed by a capsular cataract; it was three weeks after the removal of the latter that the particles of cholesterin were descried moving up and down in the vitreous when the eye-ball was suddenly moved,† constituting the disease known as *synchysis étincelant*, or sparkling synchysis.

The rare opportunity of having one of this kind of cataracts analysed fell to the lot of Mr. Wilde. Professor Aldridge, who conducted the chemical examination, says, in a letter to that gentleman, "The crystals referred to, when examined by the microscope, appeared under the form of rhombic plates. They were soluble in ether, and hot alcohol, from the latter of which they recrystallized in cooling, and were insoluble in a solution of potash, which, however, removed their colour. . . . . I think there can be no doubt but that the crystals were chiefly composed of *cholesterine*."‡

Cholesterin cataract resists absorption much longer than the ordinary form of lenticular opacity. In an instance reported by Sichel, some of the particles were seen three years after their first observation.

Birmingham, May 1855.

* A case by Parfait Landraw, in the "Revue Médicale", tome iv, p. 203. Paris: 1828.

† Desmarre, case in the "Annales d'Oculistique", Nov. 1845, p. 220.

‡ Dublin Quarterly Journal of Med. Science, vol. v, p. 497.

ON DIGITALIS IN NEURALGIA.

By JUNIUS HARDWICKE, Esq.

AMONGST all the remedies which have been suggested for the cure of neuralgia, I can find no mention made of *digitalis*, except by Dr. Toogood Downing. This author, in his admirable prize essay on neuralgia, does name this drug, though, strange to say, he gives it a place last on the list of those which are to be tried in his new method of fumigating the part affected. He says, when speaking of this plan, "The plants I have chiefly employed have been various mixtures of belladonna, henbane, cocculus Indicus, tobacco, hops, aconite, stramonium, hemlock, *digitalis*," etc.

Now, the result of my experience during the last four or five years is the conclusion that digitalis given internally is a most successful remedy in such cases, as I have *not yet* met with a single instance of its failure.

Several years ago, having been completely beaten by the case of a parish patient (and not knowing where to look next for some means of giving relief to the sufferer) who had just entered my surgery in the greatest agony, his eye watering, his cheek hot, pulse excited, etc.,—I was induced to try some digitalis powder, which I had carefully prepared according to Pereira's directions, to subdue the increased nervous and arterial action of the part. He took half a grain in the form of pill every three hours, and came next day expressing great delight at his improvement, and begging some more of the pills, which he continued until he was cured.

Since this time, I have always used powdered digitalis in such cases with the happiest results, and have even prescribed it in cases where there was much debility, and where I much feared its depressing effects, without any dangerous symptoms. I have, however, more than once thought it prudent to suspend its use for a time before the pain was completely removed; and frequently I have found it necessary to produce a decided impression on the heart; but, in most instances, relief was obtained without using it so freely. The pills have obtained such repute amongst my patients that they often apply to me for my "*tic pills*".

I have used this medicine in a great many cases of spasmodic and rheumatic neuralgia of the face; and, during the late spring, the many cases of this kind which have occurred have given a very fair trial of its efficacy. In the case of neuralgia of the arm, I tried it with decided benefit.

Rotherham, Yorkshire, May 1855.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION IN QUALITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS. By Dr. C. REMIGIUS FRESENIUS, Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Wiesbaden. Fourth Edition, edited by J. LLOYD BULLOCK, F.C.S. pp. 310. London: 1855.

AT the very close of last year, it was our duty—and our duty is very pleasing in such instances, in spite of the quantum which may cling to our own selves, of the inbred malignity people are taught to believe to be the attribute of our craft—to pronounce no high-flown, but a well-weighed and favourable judgment on the *Quantitative Analysis* of Professor FRESENIUS—a book which had been most carefully and creditably clothed in an English dress by Mr. LLOYD BULLOCK.

A few months have elapsed, and this latter gentleman has completed his task by placing in our hands a translation of the same professor's *Instructions in Qualitative Chemical Analysis*, from the last, the eighth German edition of this excellent treatise; and has thus merited praise for industry at the least, which praise, we are pleased to state, has not been won at the expense of accuracy. We have looked *very carefully* through many of the pages of this book, in order to detect an error; and we have the rare