

to visit, I left: having explained to the attendants what I considered to be the nature of the case, ordered a mixture with acid. sulph. d., etc., to be taken regularly, and nappkins soaked in vinegar and water to be applied if necessary; and having given strict charges that the woman should be kept perfectly quiet, and that I should be sent for the moment any discharge or pains occurred.

About 11 o'clock, a messenger came to say that the flooding had returned, and that the woman was dying. When I arrived, I found her almost deluged with blood. She was extremely low, her countenance pallid, and the pulse at the wrist a mere flutter. A few and slight pains, I was told, had accompanied the discharge, and the woman had fainted away once or twice. I administered brandy freely; and as soon as she had rallied a little I proceeded to deliver. The vagina was full of clotted blood, and the os uteri, over the centre of which the placenta was implanted, was dilated to the size of half a crown. I easily dilated the os uteri, insinuated my hand between the placenta and the neck of the uterus, ruptured the membranes, got hold of the feet without any difficulty, and in a few minutes delivered the child, which was, of course, dead. I then reintroduced my hand, brought away the placenta and a quantity of clots, and firmly bandaged the abdomen. The woman was extremely weak, and it was only by frequent and copious draughts of brandy during, and subsequent to, the delivery, that she rallied. Between four and five o'clock, I considered it safe to leave her. She continued during the night to take a mixture with the sesquicarbonate of ammonia every hour. The following day, she was as well as could be expected; and although she remained weak for some time, yet by care, nutritious diet, and the administration of iron, etc., she properly recovered, and was able to get out in about a month.

When I first saw her, as the hæmorrhage had ceased, the pulse was good, and all immediate danger appeared to be over; and as, moreover, the woman supposed she was a fortnight from her confinement, and as there were no pains, and the os uteri was so little dilated, I did not think it proper to interfere. When called to her again, the necessity for interference was urgent; and had not the woman been promptly delivered she must have speedily sunk.

In these cases it has been recommended by some, to remove the placenta first. Now, I do not presume to say that the removal of the placenta may not be good practice in certain cases, but in this case, I am certain, that the removal of the placenta first would have been more difficult, than to turn the child: and even supposing it had been removed, and the hæmorrhage had ceased, the woman might have sunk before the child had been delivered.

This is the only case of complete placenta prævia I have had in upwards of 900 cases. A partial presentation of the placenta, which I once before had in a primipara, required instrumental assistance, not on account of hæmorrhage—which ceased after the rupture of the membranes—but on account of the impediment it caused to the passage of the head.

## Reviews and Notices.

A NARRATIVE OF THE SIEGE OF KARS. By HUMPHRY SANDWICH, M.D., Chief of the Medical Staff. pp. 348. London: John Murray. 1856.

It is singular that the first account of one of the most important sieges of the war has been given to the public by a member of our own profession. Dr. SANDWICH, whose appointment in 1854, under the now renowned General Williams, as head of the medical staff, gave him an admirable opportunity of witnessing a defence which will take its place among the most celebrated sieges in history, has given us in this volume a graphic account of the manner in which the Turks can fight under European leaders, notwithstanding the neglect of their own and allied govern-

ments. If English officers, medical as well as military, have been cramped in their exertions and defamed in the eyes of their countrymen through the imbecility of the Horse Guards, they have shown, on every occasion on which they have adventurously sought the enemy without the plan of operations of the Royal Army, that they are capable of covering themselves with renown. Silistria and Kars will keep bright the British laurel, however much it may have been dimmed by the bungling of the heads of departments in the Crimea; and with the names of Nasmyth, Butler, Williams, Lake, and Teesdale, that of Dr. Sandwith must go down to posterity, as having done his duty with the pluck, intelligence, and endurance of an Englishman. Of our author, indeed, we hear but little in the volume before us, but his good deeds have been blazoned forth by the enemy rather than by himself. He alone, of all the superior officers who surrendered to the cries of a starving city rather than to the arms of a defeated army, was liberated by the chivalrous Mouravieff, *on account of his eminently humane services to the Russian wounded*. He brings home no star upon his breast, but this bright action will shine through his future life more brilliantly than the brightest decoration.

The major portion of the volume before us is dedicated to a history of the government, peoples, and country, of that portion of Asia Minor which has formed the centre of the late operations. It cannot be said that Dr. Sandwith's estimate of Turkish rule is a flattering one. Oppression and disease have reduced the fairest provinces in the world to a state of beggary, and his pictures of the sanitary condition of both Erzeroum and Kars will no doubt make the hair of Mr. Simon stand on end.

The author accounts for the absence of scientific observations in his volume by the fact that his papers were all lost in the snow storm he experienced on the Allah Akbar Mountains. These will be the less missed by the public on account of the exciting nature of his diary, kept whilst either under the Russian fire or amid the outcries of a city and garrison perishing from starvation.

Our extracts from this interesting volume will necessarily be confined to matter which more immediately pertains to our own science. Enough of this, however, can be gleaned to give a fair idea of the nature of the volume. If the reader wishes to know the manner in which Christians are treated by their Mussulman conquerors in this part of the world, notwithstanding the order of the Sultan that all his subjects shall be treated alike, let us quote the following unique permit of burial, given by the Cadi of Marden to a Christian who applied for it in the behalf of a defunct Ghiaour.

"We certify to the priest of the church of Mary, that the impure, putrid, stinking carcase of Saideh, damned this day, may be concealed underground.

"Sealed, EL SAID MEHEMED FAIZI.

"A. H. 1271. Rejib. 11. (March-29th, A.D. 1855.)"

Dr. Sandwith testifies to the good qualities of Turkish surgeons in a manner which does credit to his love of justice.

"And here let me testify to the unremitting self-devotion of the noble little band of ill-paid and ill-treated Turkish surgeons. I do not mean to say that their education equalled that of their brethren of the West, but their love for their profession, and their industrious attention to the wounded soldiers, both Turkish and Russian, in the midst of our crowded hospitals, and in the face of frightful difficulties (such as those only can know who have gone through a siege in an Asiatic town), have never been surpassed. These gentlemen at once adopted any improved modes of treatment pointed out to them; and to their ready acquiescence in the hygienic means which I have before mentioned, I ascribe our escape from any visitation of hospital gangrene, or epidemic of typhus. And yet these men were never rewarded by promotion or decoration, while every other grade of officer received some mark of the gratitude of government. Their usefulness was unquestionable, and the dangers and hardships they passed through far exceeded those endured by the military officers.

"It is an undoubted fact that the medical men of Turkey,

few and imperfectly educated as they are, take the lead in the civilisation of their country. Amongst them you will find men whose enlightened views and freedom from fanaticism would do honour to any nation; and did their means ever allow them to free themselves from the trammels of a despised and unappreciated calling, they might be of inestimable benefit to their country."

The peccation and frauds committed by the Turkish Commissariat officers are feelingly dwelt upon by Dr. Sandwith. In the midst of pestilence, when stimulating diet and medicines were imperatively called for, he found nothing in the medicine chest but perfumes and croton oil! In the place of surgical instruments to succour the shattered soldiers, he found—what, in the name of Æsculapius, does the reader think?—boxes full of *breast-pumps*! All the old and worthless instruments which Constantinople could afford were, in fact, bought up the Turkish contractors, and forwarded to the miserable army of Kars, totally irrespective of its absolute wants. In the place of the usual nourishing food and condiments, the English doctor was obliged to substitute a curious but, as it appeared, an effective substitute. For instance, under date November 10th, we find the following entry:—

"About 100 men die in the hospitals during the twenty-four hours. Still no epidemic of typhus, which is the usual accompaniment of cold and starvation. The men are still brought by scores to the hospital, many of whom are recovered by horse-broth, but many die."

Did not the report of Colonel Tulloch prove that, in the year 1854-5, an English army lost at least 35 per cent. of its numbers through the culpable negligence, gross ignorance, and brutal apathy of the heads of departments, we should feel inclined to dwell upon the enormous crime committed by the dishonest Turkish government in allowing the key to Asia Minor to pass into the hands of the enemy through the roguery of its officers; but what can be said when we find that, in the very bosom of civilisation, we more than match the absurdities, knaveries, and heartless indifference of despised and degenerate Asiatics!

## Association Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 1856.

### THE SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS OF MEDICINE.

THE scientific bearings of medicine have lately received a most lucid exposition from Sir J. P. Kay Shuttleworth, in an address delivered by him to the students of the Chatham Street School of Medicine in Manchester, and published in abstract at p. 117 of our present number.

Most thoroughly do we coincide with him when he says, that "the art of medicine is affected by everything which promotes the progress of the sciences". And one may go even farther than the orator; for whereas—perhaps more from necessary limitation of his subject than from non-recognition of the facts—he has principally confined his remarks to the light which modern discoveries in chemistry have shed, and are shedding, on the healing art, it is no less true that there is scarcely one, probably not one department of science, the well tested and ascertained facts of which may not in some way be brought to bear usefully on medicine. Natural history, mathematics, natural philosophy, astronomy, ethnology, geography, geology—for instance—occur to us at once. Who, that is observant in the

medical profession, does not recognise their bearings? After all, this statement is but a partial expression of a general truth—that *all science is one and indivisible*.

To the student of history, the influence of general scientific progress, and of the mental constitution of the age, on medicine, is a familiar phenomenon. In our own age, this is too obvious to require further exposition than has been given by the learned man whose address has given rise to these comments. But let us go back into past ages; and there we shall see the same truth brought out. What so rife, four or five centuries ago, in the scientific world—scientific in *intention*—as astrology, and the search for the philosopher's stone? Yet these, with all their absurdities, were but the embryonic stages of sciences of which the importance is recognised in the present day. And with all the absurdities—all the fungous growths, so to speak—of these embryonic sciences, we find medicine thoroughly imbued; but as soon as some inquiring mind, even though retaining much of the dross, has lighted upon a few grains of the precious metal of pure science, so soon does medicine begin to advance out of the darkness in which she had been shrouded. Thus Browning, in his beautiful poem, *Paracelsus*, makes his hero say:

"'Tis in the advance of individual minds  
That the slow crowd should ground their expectation  
Eventually to follow—as the sea  
Waits ages in its bed, 'til some one wave  
Out of the multitude aspires, extends  
The empire of the whole, some feet perhaps,  
Over the strip of sand which could confine  
Its fellows so long time: thenceforth the rest,  
Even to the meanest, hurry in at once,  
And so much is clear gained."

We are all familiar with the name of Paracelsus, and we have been taught to attach to it the stigma of quackery. But what was he really? This is not the place to enter on an examination of his character and works; but this may be said, that—notwithstanding the outrageous absurdities with which his works abound, notwithstanding the intolerant arrogance which led him (merely following the fashion of his age) to consign to the flames the works of those whose doctrines he was labouring to change—gleams of true scientific light emanated from him; and that from him dates the enunciation of those chemical doctrines of which we now so much recognise the value. What an anticipation of chemical pathology there is in his treatise on diseases *ex tartaro*; in which he asserts the fact that "the nutriment being attracted to its proper place, each part of the body acts as its own stomach, and separates that which is not good and suitable"; and further, that the retention of this *tartarus*, or excrementitious matter, in any part, gives rise to disease. Here, and elsewhere, in the writings of Paracelsus, we have the outlines of a true pathology; and with him and his age chemistry begins to go beyond the search for the philosopher's stone. And from this period dates an advance in medicine.

In proportion as science is imperfect, medicine must de-