

by which its contractions are prevented, is, he admits, supported by the experiments of Nysten with the different gases, but he says it does not explain those cases where the death is so frightfully sudden, as if the patient had been struck by lightning, and which resembles the immediate effect of a poisonous dose of prussic acid. In these cases there must be, he thinks, some toxic agent, and then arises the question, what is that agent? Hitherto to this there has not been offered any reply, but M. Marchal thinks he has found the answer, by discovering the presence of carbonic acid gas in the heart, which he is of opinion is disengaged every time air is introduced into it through the venous system. In this he is supported by the appearance of the blood in the pulmonary cavities of the heart, which, instead of being black, is red, it having been decarbonised by the contact with the atmospheric air, the oxygen of which has combined with its carbon, and formed the carbonic acid gas, to the action of which M. Marchal refers the death of the patient; and again, if, in performing experiments on this subject, the operator breathe through the tube into the vein, instead of injecting the purer air around him, the fatal effect will be much more rapidly induced, there being carbonic acid gas already generated in the injected fluid. The experiments of Nysten, however, with carbonic acid gas and oxide of carbon do not support this hypothesis.

EVENTRATION.

M. Wolfgram, of Berlinchen, was called to a boy, eleven years of age, employed as a swineherd, who had been attacked by a boar, and seriously injured. On his arrival, M. Wolfgram ascertained that the abdominal parietes had been torn open, so that the stomach, the lacerated omentum, the colon, and small intestines escaped externally, the boy being obliged to support them with his hands. The wound, which was on the left side of the abdomen, rather more than an inch from the umbilicus, was from seven to eight inches long externally, and from four and a half to five and a half only internally. There was in addition a wound seven inches long on the outside of the left thigh, penetrating to the bone, with another, a circular one, near it, as large as a franc piece.

The wounds and prolapsed viscera were carefully washed with warm water; the latter then were replaced gradually into the cavity of the abdomen, and the edges of the wound were brought together and maintained in situ by five points of suture, with intermediate slips of adhesive plaster, and a proper compressive bandage. The wound in the thigh, on account of its great depth, was also united by suture. Cold applications were had recourse to; small doses of calomel were given every two hours, and leeches applied the next day to the abdomen. Some slight abdominal pains and fever followed, but were soon subdued. The sutures were removed on the sixth day, and by the fifteenth the cure was complete. The patient was then permitted to walk, the abdomen

being supported by a bandage.—*Caspar's Wochenschrift.*

M. BOULLAUD.

M. Bouillaud has been elected, for the third time, member of the Chamber of Deputies, for Angouleme. The two previous elections had been declared void through informality.

DR. HOPE AND M. LIEBIG.

The "Gateshead Observer" mentions a report that Dr. Hope will retire from the chair of chemistry in the University of Edinburgh at the close of the present session, and be succeeded by Professor Liebig.

BRISTOL INFIRMARY.

Mr. Clarke has been elected surgeon to this institution, in the place of Mr. Smith, deceased.

INSPECTORSHIP OF PRISONS.

Mr. J. G. Perry, secretary to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, has been appointed to this office, vacant by the death of Dr. Shortt.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, March 10, 1843.

P. Walsh, G. W. Bagg, R. Lee, W. Mitchell, W. B. Francis, J. Arthur, J. Ness, J. O. Goodridge, T. J. Austin, F. P. Smith.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Flood's work on *Phthisis* has just come to hand. *Mr. Mayo*.—We regret to say that it is perfectly true that this gentleman has taken to the water system in Germany. His only excuse can be, "Necessitas non habet leges." The hospital surgeons of London should have subscribed something for him, and saved the profession from this scandal.

ERRATUM.

By an error of our printer's, Mr. Bennett Lucas' last clinical lecture was dated as having been delivered on "January 27," instead of *Friday, February 24.*

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