affection itself. We are compelled, therefore, rather to look upon them as the result of reflex action, starting from the nerves of the blood-vessels which supply the part where the lesion exists.

Illustrations OF HOSPITAL PRACTICE: METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL.

COMPOUND COMMINUTED FRACTURE OF THE FEMUR:
ACUTE NECROSIS OF A LARGE PORTION OF THE
SHAFT: AMPUTATION: SUCCESSFUL RESULT.

Under the care of G. LAWSON, Esq.

G. P., aged 24, a healthy man, was admitted into the Great Northern Hospital on November 1st, 1860, under the care of Mr. Lawson, with a compound and comminuted fracture of the left femur. At the time of the accident, he was working on a plank placed between two girders, and was drilling a hole in one of them. By some mishap, a slight separation of the girders took place, and the plank, which had but a small rest at each extremity, fell, and with it the men who were sitting on it. The height from the ground was about twenty feet.

On his admission, there was found a compound fracture of the femur, which had extended into the joint. The external wound was very small, not sufficient to admit the finger. The patient at first progressed most favourably. For several days following the accident, there was considerable effusion into the knee-joint; but this ultimately entirely subsided. Suppuration took place between the extremities of the bones; this soon became excessive, and, great tenderness extending for some distance up the femur, it became evident that acute necrosis of the shaft of that bone was going on.

As the man's health was now beginning to fail, and as, on examination, extensive necrosis of the whole circumference of a portion of the shaft of the femur was detected, Mr. Lawson determined to amputate the limb. This he did on January 10th, by the ordinary flap-amputation, at the junction of the upper with the middle third of the bone. The man progressed most favourably. The ligature came away on the 25th, and a most excellent stump resulted.

On examination of the parts after removal, it was found that a vertical split had separated the two condyles of the femur; and that these had firmly united, and, from being in direct apposition, had done so without the formation of any callus. A piece of the shaft of the femur, about two inches in length, was perfectly dead; and a rough irregular line of demarcation indicated where the separation of the necrosed from the living bone would have taken place.

M. CLOQUET, at a late meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, stated, "That he was present at the famous duel between the Deputy Dulong and Marshal Bugeaud. The opponents were placed at forty paces distant. M. Dulong was struck when they had advanced to thirty-five paces. The ball, striking the frontal bone, divided into two parts: one, continuing its course, passed directly through the brain, and was flattened against the internal surface of the occipital bone; the other coursed round the skull between the bone and the integuments, and passed out at the part opposite to where the portion was lodged inside the skull."

Original Communications.

CASE OF SYPHILIS, ARISING PROBABLY FROM SECONDARY INOCULATION: INFECTION OF WIFE AND OFFSPRING.

By F. WILDBORE, F.R.C.S.L. (Exam.), Brighton; formerly House-Surgeon of the Lock and Westminster Hospitals, and late of the Coldstream Guards.

THE recent publication of Mr. Henry Lee on the subject of syphilis, and the editorial remarks thereon in this JOURNAL, have caused me to look over again the notes of a very interesting case of this disease, which I have kept with care and minuteness for upwards of eight years. I have abstracted it as briefly as I can, consistently with clearness. The difficulty hitherto presented to my mind has been to know, whether to rank it as a case of primary infection with an unusually rapid manifestation of secondary symptoms, or as one of secondary inoculation of the disease from a female suffering from secondary syphilis. I have over and over again attempted, when residing at the Lock Hospital, to inoculate from the secretion of mucous papules, and I have seen others try the same thing, with the uniform result of failure; and as I knew of no well authenticated case of this having been effected; or of secondary inoculation being brought about by other means, I had almost dismissed from my mind the possibility of conveying infection in this way.

Mr. Lee's observations on this subject in Holmes' *System of Surgery* have thrown a new and very interesting light upon my case; and I am now disposed to consider that it is really one of secondary inoculation, and that the period which elapsed from July 17th to some days prior to August 7th, at which period the mucous papules were fully developed, was in fact the period of incubation before the hardness appeared.

The subsequent details of the case have, besides this, many points of interest in them. The intractable nature of the symptoms exceeds anything I have seen either in civil or in military practice; and the patient's ability to bear mercury unharmed is something remarkable. Although the disease has reappeared so often, there has been an entire absence of any well marked tertiary manifestations. The wife, no doubt, was affected through the fœtus during pregnancy; but it was not till after the birth that the symptoms showed themselves. The disease in the children has been very manageable; as, indeed, I have always found it to be when mercury is used by inunction. It will be observed also that the wet-nurses escaped.

CASE. An officer, aged 27, who had just recovered from a gleet of long standing, but who had not suffered from any previous syphilitic affection, consulted me three or four days after connection, on July 17th, 1852, for a small abrasion of the mucous membrane at the corona glandis. It was touched with caustic then; and on the 18th, when it was apparently healing.

On August 7th he came to me again; and I then found several indurated, raised, and flattened patches on the prepuce, of the size of a threepenny piece. They were near to the corona glandis and frænum; and one larger than the others was superficially ulcerated. He had felt tingling there for some days. I noted them at the time as having all the characters of condylomata or mucous papules. There were also several enlarged and slightly painful glands in the right groin. He was ordered blue pill and black wash.

Aug. 27th. The ulceration had healed.

Sept. 18th. All the hardness had disappeared. He took the mercury six weeks, and the gums were slightly affected. He grew lean and shaky under it.

Oct. 3rd. Eleven weeks after connection, I observed that his tonsils were enlarged and honeycombed, and that they had superficial ulcerations upon them; and that the glands under the jaw were swollen. He was ordered Plummer's pill, with syrup of sarsaparilla and iodide of potassium.

Nov. 10th. While this treatment was continued, psoriasis began to show itself on the scrotum, and there were some scattered pimples about the scalp.

Nov. 20th. He was put upon a course of mercurial inunction, and the other remedies were omitted. The psoriasis of the scrotum was then extending, and the ulcerations on the tonsils of the same character had reached the soft palate, and they were assuming the appearance of mucous papules, resembling very much those seen on the penis on the 7th of August. In addition to the inunction, he took for a time one-sixteenth of a grain of the bichloride of mercury three times a day in tincture of bark.

Jan. 4th, 1853. No trace of the disease remained; but he was directed to continue the mercury till January 17th, to make out a two months' course. The gums were affected during nearly the whole of this period.

Jan. 17th. He began to take syrup of sarsaparilla with nitric acid, to improve his general health; but, unfortunately, on the 21st of February, ulcers again manifested themselves on the tonsils, and one was deep and excavated. Plummer's pill was substituted for the sarsaparilla and acid; and, at the expiration of a six weeks' course, on the 4th of April, he was again sound, and he resumed the sarsaparilla and acid.

May 2nd. The same symptoms as existed on Nov. 20th reappeared; but the psoriasis and the ulcerations on the tonsils were wider spread. Mercury by inunction was again resorted to for two months; and again there was an apparent cure.

In the spring of 1854, the old symptoms broke out again as badly as ever. Mercury for six weeks by inunction was again appealed to; and all traces of the disease vanished.

Thus it will be seen that in less than two years my patient had been under mercury forty-one weeks, including two courses of Plummer's pill. Sarsaparilla and iodide of potassium were valueless in this case as anti-syphilitics. During my absence from England in this year with my regiment, he was advised by a surgeon that he was cured, and that he might marry.

At midsummer 1855, a child was born with syphilitic ulcerations upon it about the anus; and upon the wife also ulcerations appeared about the back and nates a month after childbirth. For the child, at a month old, mercury was used on a garter, and the ulcers healed. Mercury was given to the mother also, as soon as she could bear it; and she got well.

One year subsequent to this, mercury was resorted to again for mother and child, to remove some coppery stains which had exhibited themselves. At this period (the autumn of 1856) all the father's old symptoms came back: the throat was ulcerated as before, the psoriasis was more extensive, and the scalp was covered with impetiginous scabs. A very carefully directed course of inunction of six weeks' duration, carried on in bed, removed once more all outward traces of the disease. This was the seventh course of mercury; and, except being a little pulled down, he expressed himself as feeling none the worse for it.

In 1857, twelve months after the father's seventh course of mercury and the mother's second, a second child was born. This infant had not any outward mark of syphilitic disease; but it was puny and withered-looking, having a pained expression of countenance and corrugated brows. It did not thrive well; but at nine months old it improved much, after a slight course of mercury on a garter had been given.

In 1858 a third child was born, apparently healthy.

A month, however, after birth, a large patch of psoriasis came out on the forehead, which quickly yielded to inunction.

When the second child was fourteen months old, it had but six teeth. I suggested a second mild mercurial course; and teething proceeded very rapidly after this was done.

Since the year 1856 there have been no visible marks of disease in either parent, except perhaps a little very pale staining of copper on the back of the father; but in 1859 and in 1860 there were miscarriages at about seven months, with great hæmorrhage. On the latter occasion, it was said that the placenta had syphilitic indications upon it, and in consequence both parents have since had a course of mercury—the mother's third and the father's eighth course. The three children now look perfectly healthy. A little branny eruption now and then comes on the skin, which iodide of potassium soon removes. The teeth are in all respects of the usual character of milk-teeth; they are not marked in any way. Wet-nurses were employed for each of the three children, and no infection resulted.

DR. BEALE'S LECTURES

ON THE

STRUCTURE AND GROWTH OF THE TISSUES OF THE HUMAN BODY.

DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, 1861.

THE third lecture was delivered on April 22nd. Dr. Beale commenced with the following summary of the conclusions arrived at in his last lecture. He had endeavoured to show that mildew, and all such simple living structures, were composed of matter in two states—*germinal matter* and *formed material*; that the *formed material*, of which the external envelope was composed, was once in the state of germinal matter; and that the inanimate matter, which formed the pabulum or nutrient substance, passed through the outer covering of formed material into the germinal matter, in the particles of which it became living. Here all those wonderful powers, which the germinal matter itself possessed, were communicated to the inanimate particles. Dr. Beale brought forward facts to show that the germinal matter was composed of spherical particles, and these of smaller and still smaller spherules. He believed that these spherical particles always move in a direction from centre to circumference. The formed material differs as much from the germinal matter in its structure as in its properties. The germinal matter alone grows and is active, and can alone animate inanimate matter. The properties of the formed material depend upon the powers of the germinal matter from which it was produced. These powers were derived from the germinal matter, which gave it origin; and so on from the beginning. The germinal matter possesses the power of infinite growth; by which statement Dr. Beale meant that this material will continue to increase, as long as it is placed under favourable conditions and supplied with the proper pabulum or nutrient substances. The germinal matter is coloured by alkaline colouring matters, especially by carbomide; while the formed material remains perfectly colourless, although it is much