

weak. The flap seemed in a satisfactory state at first; but ulceration came on, and the attachments gave way, and it melted down until about half of it remained. With the aid of a lotion of sulphate of zinc, the wound granulated and healed up; the neck being a little, but not much, improved. After it had become quite sound, I operated again, and repeated my proceedings in the anterior part of the cicatrix, taking my flap from the front of the neck. The operation was very promising; but exactly a similar train of symptoms followed, and the result was that about half the flap survived. I was much disappointed with the result of the case; for although there was some improvement, it was not what I had expected.

CASE DCIXXX. E. M., aged 15, burnt her face as a child, and the result was opacity of the right eye, with eversion of the lower lid, so completely that it was really destroyed, and a dense scar occupied the cheek and nose, and she could scarcely open her mouth.

I removed the surface of the cicatrix when the skin and conjunctiva were in contact, and introduced a flap taken in a vertical direction from the cheek. It fitted remarkably well, and was kept in place by eight sutures, while the new wound was brought together by two pins. A good deal of blood oozed out afterwards, interfering with the union of the flap, nearly half of which turned blue and sloughed, but the wounds eventually healed. She went away in rather less than a month, being somewhat improved in appearance, and expressing herself as much relieved by the operation.

[To be continued.]

Transactions of Branches.

CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON BRANCH.

CASE OF EXTRAUTERINE FETATION, WITH A FATAL RESULT, ACCELERATED BY A POTION TAKEN WITH THE VIEW OF PRODUCING ABORTION.

By T. WALKER, M.D., Peterborough.

[Read July 10th, 1861.]

On the morning of the 21st of June, 1860, I was requested by the superintendent of police to accompany him to a house, where I found on the bed where she had died, the body of a female. It lay on its left side, leaning over the edge of the bed, as if she had died in the act of vomiting. On the floor there was a quantity of glairy mucus, containing portions of black matter, which seemed to have flowed, either before or after death, from the mouth; and on examination, I found the lips and teeth stained of a dark colour; similar stains were found on cloths which she had apparently used to wipe her mouth, both in the room below, and in the bed-room where she died.

The bed appeared as if two persons had slept in it, and on the side on which she lay it was found, on removing the body, that, by means of folded clothes and blankets, the bed had been carefully prepared and guarded, as for an expected miscarriage or *accouchement*.

I was informed—and the after-inquiry before the coroner elicited the same facts—that she was a deserted wife, the mother of three children, her age about thirty-four; that for some months she had been living with a man, nominally a lodger in her house, but on terms, and under circumstances, which left no doubt of the existence of a criminal intercourse between them; that some weeks before she had expressed to a neighbour a suspicion that she was pregnant, and a wish that she knew how to get rid of her burden, as she feared that, if she did not, she and her children would be deprived of the relief she was then receiving from the guardians of the union.

I learnt that the day before, a gipsy woman, well known in this neighbourhood, had spent the greater part of the day alone with her, had left her house about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon; and that soon after the departure of Mrs. Jones, the gipsy, the deceased Mrs. Jeffray was seen by her neighbours vomiting, and they remarked that what she vomited looked black and stained the towels with which she wiped her mouth—which were shown to me—of a dark colour. About six o'clock her sickness had ceased; but up to eleven o'clock, when she was last seen by her neighbours, she continued to complain of pain in the back.

By the evidence of her paramour, it was shown at the inquest subsequently held on the body, that about twelve o'clock, when she was still complaining of pain, they went to bed together; that about two o'clock he fell asleep, but, waking about four o'clock, he found her dead at his back, and in the same position in which I found her.

Under an order from the coroner, and with the assistance of my friend, Mr. Pearce, I made a *post mortem* examination.

Externally we found a very slight appearance of bloody discharge about the vulva; but on vaginal examination, although the os uteri was patent, there was scarcely any coloured discharge in the passage.

On laying open the abdomen, there appeared a copious effusion of blood, partly fluid, partly coagulated, amounting in all to nearly five pints and four ounces, and contained chiefly in the lower abdominal and pelvic regions.

I need scarcely say our first impression on making this discovery was, that there had been some interference by instruments, and that this extensive internal hæmorrhage was the result of violence done to the uterus, and we were, therefore, the more careful in conducting our after-examination. We found the uterus in its normal situation, and of about the size indicating the tenth week of pregnancy. The ovary on the left side was natural in position and appearance; but on the right side there was in front of the ovary a tumour of about the bulk of a moderately sized orange, on the upper surface of which was a laceration about an inch and a half long, through which protruded a soft spongy mass of coagulum, making it sufficiently apparent that from this rent had proceeded the fatal hæmorrhage. This rendered the nature of the case tolerably clear, as having been one of extrauterine fetation, the right Fallopian tube being the nidus of the misplaced ovum, the walls of which being thin and tender had given way, either from the effect of the violent vomiting of the early part of the evening, or more probably from the effect of the uterine action induced by the potion taken with a view to its producing abortion, and which had continued all the evening and up to the probable time of her death.

Careful examination of the Fallopian tumour discovered, amid the vascular mass which formed its larger portion, the ovum, with its placenta and membranes, containing a fetus, apparently about the seventh or eighth week. The uterus was lined by soft vascular tissue, simulating the decidua, but it contained no fetus or other membrane. The rest of the abdominal viscera presented no appearance of disease, except that through the transparent coats of the upper portions of the small intestines the dark colour of the matters contained therein was visible, and that in consequence of the empty condition of their blood-vessels, they, as well as the liver and kidneys, were lighter in colour than usual.

The contents of the stomach, chiefly mucus, mixed with black flakes, resembled the fluid which I obtained from the floor of the room where she died, and gave sufficient evidence, on being tested, of the presence of iron and of hydrochloric acid, as did the black stains on the towels.

[The uterus, with its appendages, was removed and exhibited at the meeting.]

There being no direct evidence to fix upon the gipsy the administration of the drugs which had been the indirect cause of death, the jury, under the direction of the coroner, returned as their verdict: "That the death of the deceased was occasioned by her having taken the muriated tincture of iron, with intent to procure abortion; that the medicine had produced violent sickness and uterine irritation, which caused the rupture of a tumour which existed in the body of the deceased, and occasioned hæmorrhage, of which she died."

Reviews and Notices.

REPORTS IN OPERATIVE SURGERY. Series the Seventh. By RICHARD G. H. BUTCHER, Surgeon to Mercer's Hospital, and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery. Dublin: 1862.

THESE Reports comprise a description of the treatment of Deformities after Burn by a New Operation; observations on the Removal of a Large Portion of the Shaft of the Thigh-bone, and the means whereby such a loss may be remedied; also a case of Extensive Caries of the Upper and Lower Ends of the Tibia, where, after excision of the diseased parts, the functions of the knee- and ankle-joints were preserved. The Reports terminate with the narration of a complicated case of Amputation, in which recovery took place after ligature of the popliteal artery and the advent of pyæmia, the treatment of which latter scourge by mercury and stimulants is also considered.

In the treatment of the contractions resulting from burns—where, for instance, the head is pulled down to the shoulder—Mr. BUTCHER adopts the following plan. He freely divides the sound skin below the attachment of the cicatricial tissue, and, carefully dissecting it up to the spot where this begins, provides a good viable flap, which is gradually drawn upwards as the contracting bands are in all directions carefully divided subcutaneously by the introduction of a long narrow-bladed bistoury. By this means the entire mass of bands are lifted upwards, together with a large flap of sound material well calculated to form a good and permanent covering for the raw parts beneath. This mode of dividing the contracted bands in these painful cases appears well deserving of the attention of practical surgeons.

Mr. Butcher's remarks on Pyæmia following great operations are evidently the result of experience, and serve to confirm our present knowledge regarding the success that in rare instances attends our treatment of these cases. He advocates the abundant exhibition of stimulants, and the free administration of mercury and opium—a plan that, thoroughly carried out, indeed, may serve to rescue more than one unfortunate from the common gulf in which so many surgical proceedings disappear.

This series of Reports is excellently illustrated by engravings on stone, and possesses the same graphic power of description, and manifests in every line the same love of surgical science, which have hitherto characterised the publications of this writer.

A TREATISE ON THE PHYSIOLOGICAL ANATOMY OF THE LUNGS. By JAMES NEWTON HEALE, M.D. Pp. 84. London: 1862.

If Dr. HEALE's account of what he has done for physiology be correct, we can safely prophesy for him a high place among those whom posterity will delight to honour, even though in his lifetime a prejudiced and ungrateful world be slow in according to him that honour which he deserves. For it was he, it appears, who first demonstrated the error which physiologists had been committing in ignoring the function of breathing as possessing any physiological significance or importance whatever; who first controverted the ordinary views regarding the "merely local nature of the respiratory operations"; and who first demonstrated that "the respiratory changes constitute the exciting cause of all the vital operations throughout the body". No one, before Dr. Heale wrote, had an idea of the importance of the respiratory function; and even the notions of physiologists regarding animal heat, and its necessity to animal existence, amounted to nothing more than an occasional admission that the lungs "might sometimes be employed advantageously in 'aërating' some of the fluids of the body, after the fashion of the makers of soda-water"!

We must really chide Dr. Heale for his modesty. Here is a man, who must have been carrying on his physiological inquiries through a life approaching in duration that of the antediluvian—or, at any rate, pre-Abrahamic—patriarchs, and who only within the last few years gives us the results of the labours of his great intellect! Or must we fall back on one of two other alternatives; either that Dr. Heale is profoundly ignorant of modern physiological writings, or that, being acquainted with them, he has obstinately shut his eyes to all that has been written on the respiratory process and its importance to the life of the animal?

Turning at once from the beginning to the end of his book, we meet with the following assertion.

"Vitality is a galvanic force existing exactly during the time and just so long and in proportion as the animal breathes, and not one instant longer. Its efficacy depends upon an uninterrupted circuit being established through the whole of the living blood; and this is the true import of the mechanical circulation of the blood: the meaning of the word *living* blood is comprised in this fact." (P. 83.)

We commend the statement, that vitality exists no longer than an animal breathes, to all the investigators of the means of restoring suspended animation. They may as well at once desist from labours which will be only fruitless, and apply themselves to something more likely to succeed, and therefore more useful.

A great part of the book is occupied with a description of the structure of the lungs. On this subject—on which we must do Dr. Heale the justice to say that he has bestowed much labour—he holds some views differing from those entertained by other observers. For the correction or confirmation of these, we must leave him to other investigators of the structure of the lungs; but, as to his physiological notions, we must designate them as characterised by an assumption of merit for himself, and by a depreciation of others, which the facts of the case by no means justify.