there is distinctly some paralytic affection of the right leg involved in the history of the seizure, but her recollection of the circumstances is not sufficiently clear to afford accurate information on the point, save that the right leg "remained weak, after the left leg had been affected." Some paralysis remains in the left arm, with diminished bulk of the muscles. She remained in bed four days, and when she got up she continued to drag the left leg. No reference is made throughout to articulation. The sounds of her heart were healthy.

CASE XXXIX. Female, aged 42. Attacked with sudden left hemiplegia eleven weeks ago; the arm remains considerably paralysed. No reference is made to the subject of articulation; but from the report, which is very brief (she seems only to have attended once), it is inferred that she told her own story.

[To be continued.]

Original Communications.

ON RETENTION OF URINE, PUNCTURE OF THE BLADDER, AND PERINEAL SECTION.

By THOMAS PAGET, Esq., Leicester.

SINCE the paper I read to the Midland Branch Association at its June meeting in 1859, and which was published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of July 2nd of that year, I have met with two other cases of impracticable stricture, and they have been similarly treated to those there reported; namely, by simple paracentesis vesicæ above the pubes, and with a permanent tube for micturition: one with like success; the other in too advanced a state of sinking to be more than eased by the operation.

Before entering upon the facts of the present cases, I may say that the former ones are still under my eye. The first patient, now aged 82, is to be seen in his walks, but little further aged in looks by the last five years, firm in his step, and ready in address; the other is as well as at last report, allowing for five years having passed over him.

CASE I. The first case I have now to name fell under my notice, in conjunction with Messrs. Cooper and Sidley, in March 1862. Mr. H., aged 71, had suffered from obstruction to the flow of his urine for some years, latterly increasing until entire retention had existed since February 27th; and we could not pass the catheter. At times a stilticidium occurred, but the bladder remained tensely full.

March 2nd. Mr. Cooper punctured the bladder above the pubes, fixing the cannula by elastic cord, in the way named for the former cases.

March 12th. The patient has continued relieved, and without any bad symptom. To-day the silver cannula was removed; and a shorter flexible one, of elastic gum, with silver shield, was readily substituted and fixed.

June 30th, 1864. Without anything untoward, he got about as soon as could reasonably be expected, and now walks as well as legs stiffened by gouty interfibrinous deposit will carry him. He says he makes some water by the urethra, but for no consideration would part with his tube.

Mr. Cooper tells me that both his cases prefer short silver tubes to the flexible ones, and that the shields have plugs worked with fine screws to stop them.

CASE II. May 22nd, 1864. The subject of the second new case is Mr. J. W. W., who has experienced difficulty in micturition since a hurt in the perinæum, re-

ceived by his horse falling with and upon him in the year 1824. He has received occasionally temporary relief from dilatation; but since the death of a relative two or three years ago, who was his surgeon, his stricture has gone on increasing, and now the urethra allows only of very gradual micturition, affected by almost constant and nearly unconscious dribbling. The abdomen is, and has been, I am told, for the last six weeks, occupied up to above the pubes by a tense tumour of the bladder. He has two sinuses in *perinæo*, surrounded by indurated swelling; is frequently troubled with vomiting; the legs are oedematous; and the pulse 110 to 120.

Under these circumstances, immediate relief to his bladder offers the sole chance for life; and the shock of a severe and protracted operation like the perineal section would add much to the peril of his situation. With the sanction and aid, therefore, of Mr. Shackelford of Husband's Bosworth and Mr. Cox of Welford, I this day (22nd) introduced the trocar above the pubes, filling one chamber-pot full to within an inch, a second up two-thirds from the bottom. The cannula was fixed in by elastic cord; the abdominal tumour wholly disappeared; and we left the patient in high appreciation of the relief he had gained. He, however, sank, and died on June 10th; I am told, from gradually increasing debility, and without any return of pain.

By the result of the four cases, the continuance of the first two in health and activity to so late a period of life, the present course of the third, and the fact that the fourth could not with a shadow of prudence have been submitted to any severe operation, I am convinced that tapping above the pubes, and micturition afterwards by a short tube regulated by plug or screw stopper, is for a patient past sixty years of age, and perhaps for others, a far better course of treatment than perineal section, though certainly not so glorious for an aspiring operator.

Transactions of Branches.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By J. HAMILTON KINGLAKE, M.D., Taunton.

[Delivered, July 6th, 1864.]

GENTLEMEN,—My first desire, on taking this chair, is to give expression to the regret we all feel at the loss of our much respected President, Mr. Collyns. I had not the privilege of his acquaintance; and am, therefore, debarred from speaking of him in the terms that friendship would dictate. The fact, however, of his having retained through half a century the affectionate regard of the people among whom he dwelt, is in itself an eulogy that would be spoiled by the addition of mere words of praise.

I now turn to the more cheering duty of thanking you most cordially for the honour you have done me, in calling on me to preside over your affairs during the ensuing year. A duty of another kind also devolves upon me. I have to speak the prologue, as it were, to the scientific proceedings of the day; and therefore it is, that I claim a small portion of your time, as well as a large measure of your indulgence.

It would hardly be fitting in me (seeing that the task has been so frequently accomplished, but never perhaps so ably as by our reigning President, Dr. Symonds), to advert in any but the most general way to the objects which the British Medical Association professes to embrace, or to the many services it has already rendered to medicine.