

similar circumstances, and presented almost the same appearances; it is therefore unnecessary to go into any lengthened detail. In addition, however, there were several vesications at the end of the prepuce, retention of urine, the distended condition of the bladder being evident in the hypogastric region. The same plan of treatment was pursued, and the removal of the foreign body was equally painful and protracted. The difficulty of both operations was greatly augmented by the utter impossibility of restraining the writhings of the sufferers. It was gratifying to witness the sudden amelioration of both the general and local symptoms, following almost immediately on the removal of the exciting cause. In a few days, the patients could move about the room; and before the expiration of a month, the only abnormal appearances observable, were some thickened condition of the integuments, and marks left by the abrasion produced by the rings.

Had the constriction not been removed, it is evident that gangrene must have very shortly ensued.

The induction of anæsthesia would doubtless very materially have facilitated the various steps of the operation, and also have saved the children much torture; certainly, should I meet with another case, I shall resort to its agency.

Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, November 10, 1853.

### CASE OF TRACHEOTOMY; WITH REMARKS.

By CHARLES WEBB, Esq.

AT 5 P.M., Sept. 5th, I was called to see a fine stout child, aged two years and two months, who had inhaled the steam from the spout of a boiling tea-kettle, a few minutes before I arrived. On examining his mouth and tongue, I found no blisters. I advised the mother, if she found the breathing affected, to apply bread and mustard poultices to the throat, and give him small and repeated doses of oil, and to let me know if she saw any change. About eleven o'clock the same night, my assistant being in the neighbourhood, I got him to call in and see the child. He found him heated and restless, and some difficulty of breathing. I gave him an aperient powder and an antiphlogistic mixture, and applied two leeches, which bled freely, without relief. A little before five the next morning, I was informed that he was much worse; and, on visiting him, I found his lips blistered from the steam. He was perfectly insensible; his breathing was most laboured and gasping, as if the glottis were all but closed.

Under such circumstances, not a minute was to be lost; and I proposed the operation of tracheotomy, which was at first refused by the parents. I told them there was no time for delay, as it was the only chance of saving the child's life. With their consent, I immediately operated. Directly the trachea was opened, the breathing was instantly relieved. The child had been for some time troubled with a cough, and a good deal of mucus escaped from the opening. Having no tracheal trocar or canula, I used a common dressing case-knife, and enlarged the opening of the trachea with a blunt topped bistoury, and inserted a hydrocele canula; but, from the spasmodic coughing, it could not be retained. After waiting more than an hour, I obtained about two inches of a No. 9 catheter, and introduced it. This for a few minutes produced considerable irritation, and the expulsion of a great quantity of mucus. After this, he fell into a sound sleep, and slept for three hours, when he awoke up quite conscious and refreshed, and made his mother understand that he wanted drink. I had ordered cold thin gruel to be ready for him when he required anything, and he drank freely and frequently of it, and continued to do so for a week, and nothing else. He continued his mixture, and progressed daily, without a bad symptom, to recovery. The canula was removed several times to be cleaned, and it was withdrawn altogether on the 13th. The wound closed up in a short time, and was completely healed on the 2nd of October.

REMARKS. I have only to make some remarks on the operation to any one who may be placed in my situation, not having instruments proper for it at hand. After cutting through the skin, remove the fat which fills up the opening with a pair of forceps and scissors; by doing so, the wounding of vessels and hæmorrhage are avoided; and the trachea, being laid bare, will give a clearer sight for the insertion of the knife. Had I not done this, the operation would have failed, as the child would have been suffocated with blood and mucus, although he did not lose more than half an ounce of blood during the time I had to wait for the canula. The space being clear, I could wipe away both, with a cold sponge, as fast as either appeared.

Basingstoke, November 10th, 1853.

### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

HANDBOOK OF ORGANIC ANALYSIS. By JUSTUS LIEBIG, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Munich. Edited by A. W. HOFMANN, Ph. D., F.R.S., etc. London: 1853.

BARON LIEBIG, in his prefatory remarks to this book, acknowledging the assistance received by him from Dr. Strecker of Christiana, and Dr. Hofmann, his present editor, gracefully says, "I believe the cooperation of my friends, who possess so much experience in that department of chemical analysis, 'the organic', has conferred a peculiar value upon this little work." To Liebig, however, we cannot but ascribe the simplicity and clearness pervading this Handbook, (and which, when he pleases, are the characteristics of his style,) as well as the excellent general arrangements, so plain and easy to be comprehended, that the student must be obtuse indeed who cannot understand and follow the directions without difficulty, after some slight practice in manipulation.

We can readily imagine that "the peculiar value" referred to, as due to Drs. Hofmann and Strecker, consists in what the former calls "little improvements"; being in truth the details of those seemingly trifling precautions; and the methods for making, arranging, and using various simple apparatus, without the careful observance and use of which, success in organic analysis is unattainable. With such "little improvements" every page is studded, lending most truly "a peculiar value to this little work;" its smallness being, in our eyes, not the least of its merits.

Whatever may respectively belong to each author as his special deserts, we cannot speak too warmly of the manner in which the triumvirate has produced the useful *vade mecum* before us. We particularly thank Dr. Hofmann for his successful adaptation of coal-gas to the purpose of organic analysis, an arrangement of especial benefit to the chemists of this country. To point to the pleasant rendering of the original into our language is almost superfluous, the editor being, as it were, naturalized amongst us, and we, moreover, remembering a very successful exercise of this faculty on a former occasion, and on a more difficult subject. The engravings are unusually distinct and good; and we are glad to see that the accessories of paper and type are such as should always be bestowed on a useful and original work, especially if it be one intended for hard service.

PRACTICAL PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY. By DR. G. C. WITTSTEIN. Translated by STEPHEN DARBY. London: 1853.

MR. DARBY'S command of his mother-tongue is not evidenced in this translation. He pleads, indeed, in extenuation, that it was executed in the hours of relaxation from business: but we cannot see the force of this excuse. When he was at work, he might as well have done it thoroughly as indifferently. "Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well."