CASES OF HERPES ZOSTER (SHINGLES).

By W. F. CLEVELAND, Esq.

THE successful treatment adopted in two of the cases, especially the third, rather than any attempt to elucidate the pathology of so troublesome, and sometimes intensely painful affection as herpes zoster, or shingles, must be my excuse for offering them for publication. They may, however, serve as examples of the varieties of the disease, as regards pain and constitutional disturbance; there having been scarcely either in the first case, while in the third the pain was said to be of an agonising character.

CASE I. A. H., a healthy young lady, aged 5, living at Brixton, was seen by me in December 1849. There was a copious eruption of vesicles, in patches, of the usual appearance, extending from under the right mamma upwards and backwards to the spine. There was little or no pain; and she would scarcely have been aware of the circumstance had not another young lady, with whom she had lately been sleeping, been the subject of a similar eruption, but which had been attended with considerable pain in the side previous to its appearance.

Beyond a dose of aperient medicine, and a simple dressing, to prevent friction, nothing further was needed.

CASE II. In March 1850, I attended a young woman of dark complexion, married, living in Lombard Street, who was attacked with shingles on the inner side of the right thigh. There had been the ordinary heat and darting pain preceding and accompanying the eruption; and when I saw her, there was an irregular and elongated cluster of transparent vesicles a few inches above the knee. Purgatives and diaphoretics were prescribed, and saturnine lotion applied to the eruption. The pain, however, continued very severe; and soon some of the vesicles ruptured, coalesced, and began to scab. At the suggestion of a surgeon of great experience, who had previously seen benefit from the application, the eruption was dressed three times a day with ceratum calaminæ spread on lint. She soon experienced relief from this dressing, and continued its use until the scales and crusts had disappeared.

CASE III. Mrs. F., aged 40, residing at Kilburn, consulted me in September 1855. She is a fair and rather stout woman, of nervous temperament, married, but has never been pregnant. Catamenia regular, scanty. Says she is subject to erysipelas.

A day or two before I saw her, she had had sharp and deep seated pain in the left side of the chest. There were several irregular patches of transparent vesicles, some of them being as large as small pearls, and remarkably raised and glistening, on the breast, extending into the axilla, and obliquely across the scapula to the spine. The breast itself was hot, swollen, and heavy; and there was considerable redness of the skin surrounding the base of each cluster. She complained of the pain in the seat of the eruption as being agonising, and having entirely prevented her from sleeping for two or three nights. The pulse was about 80, and there was but little febrile disturbance. Bowels freely open. To take the fourth part of a mixture containing carbonates of magnesia and soda three times a day; and a pill, containing one grain of calomel and one of opium, at bedtime. The eruption to be dressed with an ointment composed of equal parts of ceratum calaminæ and ceratum cetacei night and morning.

The same night, about 12 a.m., she awoke with the most intense pain at the scrobiculus cordis, attended with retching. I found her with an anxious countenance, face and hands covered with a cold sweat, pulse rapid, and scarcely perceptible. She was in bed, writhing and moaning with the pain. Ether, ammonia, and brandy were freely given, and two pills, containing a grain of opium in each, before any was obtained. Fomentations, unusually hot, were found beneficial. On the following morning she vomited a quantity of fluid, but with it there was no undigested food. No new clusters of the eruption were discovered, but some of the old ones seemed to be extending. During the next two or three days the eruption continued exceedingly pain-

ful. Some of the vesicles were becoming opaque and confluent. As the ointment had failed to procure relief, she now tried hot fomentations, dredging the affected surface with flour, etc.; but these afforded only temporary ease. To keep linen rags, saturated with the following lotion, constantly applied:—

R Pulveris opii 3i; oleum jecoris aselli ʒiv. M. Fiat lotio.

In the course of a few hours she obtained marked relief from this application, nor was there any return of the pain connected with the eruption, except in a trifling degree. She was now able to sleep well, and expressed herself as being quite another person. She continued to use the lotion for three or four days, while the vesicles dried, scabbed, and fell off. The swelling and uncomfortably heavy feeling in the breast gradually subsided. During this time she took liquor potassæ with mucilage in camphor mixture three times a day; castor oil occasionally.

When the eruption had almost disappeared, she complained of great pain in the affected side, but it was of a more intermittent character, and differed, she stated, from the pain accompanying the eruption. For this she was ordered the following mixture:—

R Ferri amm. cit., ʒii; tincturæ valerianæ, tincturæ hyocyami, aa ʒi; syrupi ʒss; aquæ destil. ʒv. M. Fiat mistura. Sumat quartam partem 4tis horis.

She took this mixture for several days, with considerable benefit, and at the end of a week she was advised to go into the country.

In the lotion employed in the last case I cannot think the cod-liver oil acted otherwise than as an emollient vehicle for the opium, and would recommend that olive oil should be substituted, as being free from the disagreeable odour of the former.

For the neuralgic pain remaining after the eruption has disappeared, iron, in some form, and probably in large doses, seems worthy of more extended trial, and it has the recommendation of Dr. Watson in its favour.

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ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CHORDA TYMPANI.

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EVERY case which throws light upon the functions of individual nerves is worth recording. The difficulties attending the investigation of such functions are familiar to every practical physiologist. At all times great, they are especially so when the nerve under examination, like some newly found comet, is only visible in a part of its course, the remainder being obscure, if not wholly unknown. Such a nerve is the chorda tympani.

On August 22nd, I was consulted by Miss W., aged 16 years, for discharges from the right external meatus. The right membrana tympani had been destroyed by strumous inflammation, and the bottom of the meatus was occupied by the large vascular granulations growing out of the tympanic cavity, to which the name of *false fungi* has been applied by some writers on aural surgery. These were repressed in the usual way by the application of astringent and caustic remedies; very small fragments of potassa fusa being occasionally employed to remove the more prominent vegetations. Under this treatment the case steadily improved. The granulations diminished, the discharge disappeared, the meatus externus became free, and the hearing improved.

On October 1st, finding one prominent granulation more intractable than the rest, I applied to it a small splinter of potassa fusa by means of a modification of Wilde's forceps. The application was rather more painful than usual, but nothing peculiar was observed to result, until an hour or