flax action was not strong enough to bring up the contents of his stomach. He went to bed, and slept most of the day: in fact, he had no subsequent trouble, except a little tickling from oedema of the uvula.

I took out the stitches on the 28th, and found that the wound had entirely healed; and so it remained. Of course the bony aperture still remains to be relieved by artificial means.

CASE OF SUICIDE BY CUT THROAT.

By JOHN S. BARTRUM, Surgeon to the Bath General Hospital.

[Read at the Meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch, November 15th, 1855.]

A SINGLE woman, aged 52 years, of habitually saving habits, and genuinely religious sentiments, in the spring of 1855 was attacked with chronic pleuropneumonia, accompanied with much pain in the side, and expectoration. Until this period she had always been characterised by shrewdness, firmness, and good sense; she now became the subject of many delusions; would continue unclothed during the intense cold; would unceasingly spit, to get rid, as she said, of the inflammation; slept very little, and was occupied with divers vagaries, for each of which she had some apparent reason. I first saw her when convalescent: as the state of her lungs gradually improved, so her mental ailments decreased, till, after some weeks, she wholly recovered her bodily and mental powers.

In the earlier part of her illness she had not been managed by her nurse with sufficient firmness, which, I have no doubt, materially aggravated her bodily ailments, and so added to her mental hallucinations.

For some months she continued quite well, and able to resume her duties as confidential lady's maid. In this interval she often spoke without reserve of her previous state of mind, saying that she could not control her shouting, laughing, singing, etc.; and that, though she had been threatened by her previous medical attendant with being sent to a lunatic asylum, she stated that she was quite sane but could not control herself; this deficiency of self-control, however, from my own experience of her, I much doubt, had she at that period been properly managed by her nurse.

After a prolonged sojourn at the sea side, she returned to her usual residence, performed more than her ordinary duties most efficiently, and went to bed with her mistress. The morning after her return, her fellow servant found her sitting on the floor of the scullery half dressed with her throat cut on the left side. It seemed that she had left her mistress's bed, come down three flights of stairs, procured one of the ordinary blunt kitchen knives, and inflicted an awful gash; kneeling before the dust-box, she coolly held her head over it, supporting herself on it with both her hands; she had put the knife on the floor, and then left herself to bleed: for some reason she had seated herself on the floor, where she was found. Probably she partially fainted and then turned round. Between the box and the place where she was seated, there were but few spots of blood, and these close to the box, the blood having probably run down her neck as she turned round. She was then helped up, and walked or staggered about four feet farther, still leaving no tracks of blood. At her express desire, she washed her hands and partially her face at a sink close at hand. On the outside of the dust-box were bloody thumb marks, and bloody finger marks on the inside, but not a drop was spilt on the floor. Her mental state, as far as we could judge by expression, was one of intense agony; her appeals to heaven for mercy were continuous. After some hours she was able to be removed to the hospital, where she recovered sufficiently to express herself by writing. From her statements there, as well as from her previously expressed fears, it seemed that she dreaded leaving her situation and coming to poverty, both of which were groundless, she being very much trusted,

and having comfortable independent means. This mental condition struck me as very singular; to the last her conscience appeared to be in full exercise, as she evidently looked for mercy where alone it is to be sought—where she had been accustomed to appeal; at the same time she deliberately wrote down that she had no money, that she must go to the poor house, though the previous day she had given her friend thirty pounds to take charge of, and much money was found in her possession. In this state she continued, till increasing dyspnoea induced insensibility and death, having lived upwards of seventy hours.

On examination, the incision commenced to the right of the median line, she had severed wholly the trachea, dividing two of the upper rings; the œsophagus was cut across, as was the jugular; there was a slight orifice in the carotid, scarcely more than a pin hole; the condition of the pneumogastric was not noted, and the intervertebral substance between the fourth and fifth cervical bones was very deeply divided.

This case appeared to me worthy of record from two reasons, one medico-legal, the other psychological.

When I first saw her, shortly after she was found, there was only a general oozing of not florid blood from the wound, every expiration forcing up the bloody froth; so soon after the injury as when she was at the dust-box, it struck me as remarkable, that with such a wound in such a situation, she could move a distance of five feet without leaving traces of blood, and there were none, as I at once looked for them carefully. Her mental condition was equally remarkable. For several days before her return she had been desponding and altered, full of fears about her mistress's displeasure—of fears about her poverty, etc. The meditated deed is effected; she becomes fully aware of its iniquity, yet the delusion continues unshaken to the end. Whether this be an ordinary state in those labouring under any mental delusion I do not know; but if the case elicit any observations, or call forth the experience of the members having larger fields of observation, it will have fulfilled its purpose.

THE WEATHER.

By J. A. HINGESTON, Esq., Brighton.

AFTER the very long drought, which has characterised nine months of the present year, the rain that has lately fallen, between September 27th and November 7th following, has amounted, in this locality, which is 200 feet above the level of the sea, to the depth of 7.68 inches. The amount that fell from the beginning of the year up to June 30th, was only 6.28 inches, melted snow included. In July, 3.54 inches fell, and in August, 0.71 of an inch. When the south-westerly gales prevail in the autumn, a great deal more rain falls here than farther inland, owing to the clouds, surcharged with moisture from the Atlantic, depositing their load of vapour in floods, the moment they break along this line of coast.

The temperature has hitherto been high; and the gales from the S.W. account for the warmth, together with the south facing, of this locality. The average range of the thermometer may be stated at from 50° to 55° of Fahrenheit. Sometimes it has risen above this altitude, but it has seldom fallen below it. On the morning of the 4th November, it stood at 38°, and there was some sleet, the wind being northerly.

On the 26th October, there was a hurricane from the W.S.E., which lasted twenty-four hours. It subsided all of a sudden, just at high-tide, about 10 A.M., on the 27th. The eclipse of the moon on the 25th was hidden behind the driving scud. The flood-tides, driven to shore by the wind, were very high. The barometer rose before the storm burst, and stood at 30 inches; it then fell rapidly down to 29.048. The thermometer varied between 63° and 50° Fahrenheit. The electrometer was capricious. The magnet undisturbed. After the storm, the thermometer sank

to 38° Fah., and the barometer went down as low as 28.900, on the 29th, or three days after the tempest. Between September the 27th and November 7th, the barometer has varied between 28.900 and 30.045 inches; its average height being 29.500. During the storm, 0.57 of an inch of rain fell.

On the 21st of October, the magnet, whose declination was 20°, retrograded 1°, and marked 19°, east of the magnetic meridian. But there was an aurora of a ruddy tint, about 10 P.M., that night. In the Registrar General's Returns for the week ending Saturday, October 20th, it is stated, page 348:—"A fine aurora was seen at night (18th Oct.), with coloured streamers; the magnets were much disturbed." On that night, in this locality, the magnet was quiet. It will be noticed that the aurora preceded the hurricane of the 26th October; and the other phenomena were altogether remarkable, viz.: an eclipse of the moon, the disturbance of the magnet, the sudden rise and fall of the barometer, the extreme capriciousness of the electrometer, the height of the thermometer, the quantity of rain that fell, and the force of the wind, which is calculated at 4.0, by Mr. Lowe, of Highfield House Observatory.

The prevailing direction of the wind Sept. 27th to Oct. 26th was S.W.W., but afterwards it blew from N.W.N., occasionally going round to the S.W., with plenty of rain. The storm of the 26th Oct. changed the state of the atmosphere, and the autumn was completely established. Until then, the weather was still summerlike, and fires were scarcely wanted.

To say that cloudy weather is dark, is very indefinite. The Greenwich meteorologists call it "cold and dull", which is the popular expression; but it is not accurate nor precise. During the storm of the 26th, it was only twilight, while on the 4th of November, the sunshine was as bright as in June. I have contrived an instrument of a very simple kind, by means of which I think I can arrive at the amount of each day's light, proximately, at least. It consists of a box, 6 inches long by 4 inches broad and 3 inches deep, lined with lamp-black, and its floor furnished with a white dial divided into eight spaces; the light enters through a slit, 1 inch high and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad at one end, while an eyelet hole in the roof permits you to look in and see the number to which the direct ray reaches. The light should be received from a clear north aspect at noon. This little contrivance is open to all sorts of objections, and capable of every kind of improvement; but it is good enough as far as it goes. Thus, I find, that—

Nov. 3rd, marks only	4	a dull day.
" 4th, "	6	} bright days.
" 5th, "	6-7	
" 6th, "	6-4	
" 7th, "	5-6	
" 8th, "	3	the twilight of a gale.

CASE OF CHOREA.

By THOMAS BROWN, Esq., Manchester.

Miss E. L., a near neighbour, and a very interesting young lady, aged 17 years, belonging to the millinery business, came under my care on the 17th of March last for a very decided case of chorea. As is frequently usual in such cases, there was a perfect anæmic condition of the system, and distressing tedium vitæ. On giving my interesting patient my cane, the arm convulsively drew back; and on examining the tongue, it was tremulous; there was every symptom of debility; and confinement in a garret at Southport, where there was very little ventilation, as well as long-continued application to needlework in the sitting posture, was sufficient *causa proxima* to account for every symptom. Without any delay a sudorific and aperient was administered; and so soon as the skin and bowels were corrected, a mixture of quinine and iron was prescribed. With this medicine, composed of citrate of iron and sulphate of quinine, and taken three times a-day, I gave—

R. Pulv. rhei gr. xv; ferri sesquichloridi 3i; ex theriacâ.

A few days only were requisite to give indication of a salutary change. The lips became ruddy, the tongue florid, the countenance happy; the power over the voluntary muscles well marked, and this delightful approximation to healthy action manifested by a full and complete grasp of the cane. From the 17th of April to the 14th of May the chalybeate and tonic mode of treatment was most admirably persevered in, and a complete recovery from a most repulsive malady the result.

Association Medical Journal.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1855.

THE SPECIAL MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE Birmingham Meeting of the 20th of November will ever be looked upon as a memorable one in the annals of our Association.

On that date an extraordinary convention, suddenly called together from all parts of the island, met in doubt, and perhaps distrust. Two sections of the Association, whose views had hitherto differed as to the best means of conducting the affairs of the Association, were to confront each other, either to heal or to destroy. The discord that for years had been slowly gaining strength was either to break out into uncontrollable disorder, or to be banished for ever from among us. Under such circumstances it was not to be wondered at that many anxious faces were seen at the commencement of the meeting, and many doubtful answers were given as to the manner in which its proceedings would terminate. In these doubts we must confess, however, we did not participate. We said last week that the real differences between the two sections were no longer worth contending for, and so it has proved. A few liberal and comprehensive resolutions on the part of the Executive Council, gracefully proposed by Sir Charles Hastings, and as gracefully accepted by Mr. Michael, Dr. Cowan, Mr. Ancell, and the other leaders of the late opposition, at once swept away every element of discord within the bosom of the Association, and in the bursts of cheering with which this happy accord was greeted, every member present felt that the Association was taking a new and lengthened lease of its existence. Meetings of this kind rarely present any dramatic element, but on this occasion it was certainly apparent. Speakers that have hitherto honestly differed, by some harmonising influence were found honestly in agreement. Sir Charles Hastings, in the progressive race, touched the goal before Mr. Michael, only because he was the first to speak; and Dr. Sibson, acting under the happy inspiration of the moment, was foremost to welcome the amendments of the latter gentleman. Before half a dozen speeches had been made, the meeting breathed freely. Where was the opposition? Where the grating voice of dissent? Each speaker, as he got upon his legs, seemed to drop nothing but precious stones from his mouth, like the child in the fairy tale; and the scene, which some fancied would end in a miserable catastrophe, closed by the whole company taking hands before the footlights ere the curtain fell.

In speaking thus rejoicingly of the termination of Tuesday's meeting, we are fully aware of the gravity of the danger we have passed. It is nothing less than a revolu-