

CALCULUS VESICÆ: SEVERE HÆMORRHAGE ONE HOUR AFTER THE OPERATION.

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WILLIAM WADDINGHAM, aged 5, a fair stout boy, came under my care in July 1855, suffering from symptoms of stone. His father says he has had some difficulty in passing his water for the last three years: two years ago, he was taken to a hospital, and was sounded, but no stone detected. Within the last two years his symptoms have become much more urgent. I sounded him, and detected a stone. The usual symptoms were present—pain in micturition, often lasting for one hour afterwards, prolapsus ani, elongation of prepuce, etc.

His bowels having been freely cleared out by a purge, under the influence of chloroform, kindly administered by my friend Dr. Dymock, of Louth, I performed the lateral operation of lithotomy, and removed a small stone. There was very little hæmorrhage at the time. In two hours afterwards, I was called to him, and found him in a state of syncope from loss of blood. He had been tossing about a good deal since the operation, although, immediately after the operation, an opiate had been administered. Upon examining the wound, I found a firm coagulum in it, and not the least bleeding; and ordered a cold wet sponge to be kept applied firmly over the wound all day and night until my visit the next day; and some wine in sago, etc. Violent reaction followed the loss of blood, and was combated by salines, and calomel, and Dover's powder, at night, together with low diet, which was persevered in for a few days. From this time he progressed most satisfactorily, and was quite cured in three weeks.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER'S VISITING LIST, DIARY, ALMANACK, AND BOOK OF ENGAGEMENTS FOR 1856: upon a plan furnished to the publishers by F. SEYMOUR HADDEN, Esq. London: John Smith and Co., Long Acre.

It is not necessary to do more than call attention to the issue of the Visiting List for 1856, the portability, simplicity, and utility of which have already secured for it a well merited share of favour in the profession. The publishers, we learn, have also prepared an edition for the special use of physicians and pure surgeons, and a set of books intended to facilitate and methodise the process of medical book-keeping.

CHLOROFORM: HOW SHALL WE ENSURE SAFETY IN ITS ADMINISTRATION? By PATRICK BLACK, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physician; Assistant-Physician to, and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence at, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. pp. 40. London: 1855.

How does chloroform destroy life? is a question which has been often debated, but which, it seems, has not been answered to the satisfaction of every one. Dr. Snow, who has perhaps done more than any other man to elucidate the action of anaesthetics, ascribes death from chloroform to paralysis of the heart. Dr. BLACK, however, regarding the rapidity with which death occurs in fatal cases, and seeing in these cases evidences, not of syncope, but of asphyxia, believes that chloroform destroys life

"Not, indeed, in the manner of paralyzing or narcotising the heart by its direct action, but by its influence in restraining the respiratory movements at the earliest periods of its being administered, when its pungency would suddenly arrest its inhalation, and thus be the means of asphyxiating the patient with all those distinctive phenomena which we have already dwelt upon." (pp. 18-20.)

In plain words, Dr. Black means that chloroform kills by causing spasm of the glottis, and thus inducing asphyxia. Impressed with this belief, he lays it down as a rule, that the respiration is to be watched in cases of inhalation of chloroform: and that if its warnings be heeded, there will be no ground for fear that chloroform will prove suddenly fatal without any previous warning.

"If the patient breathes easily he is in safety, whatever may be the amount of chloroform which is passing into the lungs. But if his breathing be attended with frequent coughing, and, still more, if it appear to be restrained, with deepening turgescence of the head and face, we have before us the distinct warnings of danger; and, unless we give immediate heed to them, they will be speedily realised." (p. 30.)

Dr. Black's arguments are worthy of being considered by all who are engaged in investigating the action of anaesthetic agents.

THE FIRST STEP IN CHEMISTRY: a New Method for Teaching the Elements of the Science. By ROBERT GALLOWAY, F.C.S., author of "A Manual of Qualitative Analysis", etc. Second edition, rewritten, enlarged, and greatly improved. Illustrations on wood. pp. 303. London: 1856.

A CATECHISM OF CHYMICAL PHILOSOPHY: being a familiar Exposition of the Principles of Chymistry and Physics, in their Application to the Arts and Comforts of Life. Designed for the use of schools and private tuition. Illustrated by one hundred and fifty woodcuts. By JOHN HORSLEY. pp. 247. London: 1856.

MR. GALLOWAY'S little work is well calculated for promoting a knowledge of chemistry. Simple in language, without being superficial, it contains instruction in the doctrines of elementary and compound substances, the properties of matter, the laws of combination, chemical nomenclature, elective affinity, and the forces influencing it, isomeric compounds, oxides, acids, and salts, chemical formulae, the modes of expressing the results of quantitative analysis, and the construction of apparatus. Interspersed through the work are numerous problems and exercises, which no doubt increase its utility.

For those who do not desire to obtain a less amount of chemical knowledge than is afforded by Mr. Galloway's *First Step*, and, at the same time, wish to learn some generally useful and interesting facts, Mr. HORSLEY'S *Catechism* is well fitted. It contains chapters on heat, air, specific gravity, electricity, galvanism, magnetism, electro-magnetism, gaseous chymistry, the elements, metallic oxides, acids, salts, definite proportions, organic chymistry, chymical action of light, apparatus, and tables: with a glossary of scientific terms. Mr. Horsley writes "chymistry", instead of "chemistry;" in this we think he is etymologically wrong, and at variance with custom.

Both these books are good, each in its way, as elementary works; and, as such, are calculated to be useful in schools and for private instruction. Such of our associates as have pupils would find them useful in instilling a knowledge of chemistry into their minds.

PERISCOPEIC REVIEW.

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY.

NOTES ON SKIN DISEASES.

[Continued from page 996.]

VIII. *Ichthyosis simplex*, 3 cases, all hereditary. Soft soap, applied night and morning for six days, facilitated the removal of the hypertrophied epidermis, but the disease always returned.

IX. *Lichen*, 16 cases (10 males, 6 females). Under this term Hebra places all cases of reddish papule, about the size of a mullet seed, which were accompanied with itching, and were generally increased by scratching. In all these cases the disease was removed in a few weeks by the use of baths.