REMARKS. This case will doubtless be of interest to those engaged in "the great Tobacco Controversy." To those who argue against the use of this luxury from its abuse it will sent a tolerably well marked instance (better marked believe, than most which have been alleged on that side the ill effects which sometimes occur from excessive smoking). The purely local character of the affection—for the patient fine healthy sailor, presented, notwithstanding his acute symptoms, no evidence of constitutional disturbance—left no doubt of its origin in the local irritant of which he had made so use, and the success of the treatment directed to it confirm this idea. The use of mercury was indicated by the great duration of the part, and the combination of opium and t. emetic was useful in allaying vascular action and subduing extreme pain. Without trenching upon the domain of those whose "mission" it may be to conduct this "controversy" would only desire them to bear in mind the old adage, "*tolit abusus usum.*"

Original Communications.

CASE OF PROLONGED RETENTION OF THE PLACENTA AFTER ABORTION.

By JOHN ROULSTON, M.D., Low Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Mrs. W., a robust woman, aged 41 years, having been married, but without family, sent an urgent message for me to visit her on November 10th, 1856. I went immediately and found her suffering from profuse uterine hemorrhage which had arisen in this wise. She was pregnant, though this fact she had no suspicion; and on November 8th, she been attacked by severe abdominal pains, which she attributed to colic or commencing diarrhoea, and for the relief of which she took tincture of rhubarb. After making frequent visits to the water-closet, and using considerable expulsive effort for the fetus (which, from the description, I should judge to be of about the fourth month) fell suddenly upon the snapping asunder the funis at the same time. A neighbor ran in on hearing her cries of alarm, and, finding there was hemorrhage nor yet pain, told her that medical aid was unnecessary, as the afterbirth would soon come if she continued to move about, which she accordingly did, but without effect.

Two days after this event, on my arrival, I found that morrhage had been going on for some hours. She was in the clothes were saturated with fluid blood, and the char. utensil was half full of coagula. There was considerable firmness, and the flow was now abated in some degree. On examination *per vaginam*, I could barely reach the os uteri with the finger; and, in consequence of the contracted state of the vagina, as well as the rigidity of the soft parts, I found it impossible to introduce the hand. The cervix uteri appeared flaccid, and the os merely admitted the tip of the finger; could thus gain no decisive evidence of the contents of the womb; and my patient was unable to say whether the placenta or only coagula had been expelled previous to her retiring to bed. There was no perceptible uterine action; I therefore carefully applied the tampon, put on a well adjusted band and compress over the abdomen, and administered alternate doses of infusion of roses with gallic acid, and ergot of corn every three hours. By these means the hemorrhage was arrested, but there was not any pain produced. I discontinued the ergot at the end of four days; and the lochia having ceased, I gradually allowed my patient to resume her position, and return to her avocations, paying her an occasional visit, until November 26th, when she expressed herself perfectly well, and I discontinued my attendance. The quantity of ergot given was two ounces.

December 22nd. Mrs. W. was again seized with flooding an alarming extent; and I found her on the bed pale and faint, with fluttering pulse, and covered with clammy perspiration. On making a vaginal examination, and clearing out the coagula which filled that canal, I found the placenta just protruding through the os uteri, and by means of a little manipulation with a curved probe, I was enabled to remove it. It came away without force in two portions, condensed into a fleshy substance, and presenting no sign of putrefaction; had there ever been the least offensive odour during the progress of the case. The hemorrhage immediately subsided, there was no relapse, the recovery being very rapid.

The period of time which elapsed between the expulsion of the fetus and the removal of the placenta was forty-four days.

REMARKS. I am induced to report this case as an example of the state of inertia the uterus may maintain for a length of time when containing a foreign body, the slight constitutional disturbance, and the absence of putridity. The fact of her having gone to the water-closet several times after the birth of the fetus, and being conscious of one or two substances passing *per vaginam*, together with the circumstances detailed, and the failure of all the means used to excite uterine action, rendered an expectant treatment the only resource.

LECTURE ON MORAL INSANITY.

By JOHN KITCHING, Esq., Medical Superintendent of the Retreat, near York.

[Continued from page 336.]

THERE is another mode in which original differences of mind are exhibited, to which I must devote a few sentences before passing to the consideration of the results from the foregoing principles to which it has been my great object to lead you. This is the singular and striking difference in the sensibility to impressions, or in the emotions with which different individuals are affected. The varieties of temperament are considered to afford some explanation of these phenomena. But there is something more than temperament concerned in them, because the same peculiarity attaches to all the temperaments. The violence, excitability, or mobility of the emotions, are, to a great extent, irrespective of temperament.

But we will leave temperament out of the question, and simply attend to the fact of the great difference we may observe in men with regard to their emotions. We observe that one man is excited to tears and intense sympathy by a tale of distress, whilst another is scarcely moved at all. An appeal to one man's feelings succeeds in stirring up an active exertion for the relief of want, which leaves the other in the enjoyment of cool and dispassionate indifference. A humorous story or incident moves one to violent laughter, whilst another, still capable of thoroughly enjoying it, does not stir a muscle of his face. An insult stings one to the quick which scarcely rouses another from his equanimity. I have read somewhere of a person who died in his chair from the chagrin of being called a liar. At the enunciation of the insult, he turned pale, simply uttered the words, "He called me a liar," and died. Dr. Aiken mentions a respectable foreigner, who, being once laughed at on some trifling account, was so much hurt and humiliated, that ever afterwards he was fully persuaded that all the ballad singers in the streets were engaged in turning him into ridicule; and when their songs were purchased and brought to him by his companions, in order to convince him of his mistake, he eluded the force of the evidence by saying, that what they sold was not what they sung. In other points, no man could talk or behave more rationally. In the same way, we may trace through all the modes in which feelings are called into action as much difference in their vividness and intensity, as we can perceive in the power of any other mental attributes. Men under the same circumstances of suffering or of pleasure, manifest their feelings in the most diverse degrees. The restraints of education impose a decorous self-control upon the expression of the emotion; but, independently of these, the natural differences in the vividness and excitability with which we are impressed, break out, and assert the inherent differences that exist in our mental constitution in this respect.

Children, however, afford the best field for studying these original differences of mental constitution, both because they are less changed and modified by the effects of education, and because they are less influenced by the operation of the intellect and the will, in the expression of their emotions. Let a father announce to a family of children that he has some unexpected pleasure prepared for them, and watch the effect of the communication upon each. Whilst one claps his hands and loudly exults in the exuberance of his joy, another, with quiet gravity, prepares himself for the enjoyment, as for an ordinary duty. Let the parent administer a reproof to them, how soon is one melted into tears of contrition, and of grief for the temporary withdrawal of parental favour, whilst another betrays little, if any, feeling; and we satisfy ourselves with the observation that one child is more susceptible than another—more sensitive, more tender, or impressible. Now, what is the reason of these differences? Clearly the reason does not reside in any conditions external to the child—or in any in-