

was but a small number of deaths, especially in the districts to which the water supply of the Lambeth Company extends.

For the various reasons stated above, we may conclude that the supplemental inquiry of the General Board of Health into the influence of water supply on cholera is of some value, and corroborates the original investigation, but ought by no means to be quoted as an exact exposition of facts, or be allowed to set aside the previous inquiry.

#### CASE OF INTRAUTERINE FRACTURE.

By FRANCIS DAVIES, Esq., Pershore.

THE following case is of no practical value. But as it corroborates some of Dr. Barker's cases, possibly it may be thought interesting.

I was requested to see a woman who had been confined two days. She had been walking down a footpath through a wood of my father's, some six weeks previous to her delivery, when, in crossing a stile, her foot slipped. She fell heavily on her abdomen on the stile. She felt as if a penknife was pricking her for several days. She got quite well, and was confined at her full period.

On examination of the child, I found that the thigh had suffered a compound fracture, and that the bones overlapped nearly an inch. The child has grown up to be a man; but his fractured leg is only now about a foot in length. He is now a schoolmaster in the parish of Llanpumpaint near Carmarthen.

#### INTRAUTERINE FRACTURES.

By GUSTAVUS C. P. MURRAY, Esq., M.R.C.S.E.

THIS subject of medical science having been recently and ably brought before the notice of those who are especially engaged in obstetric practice, by Dr. Barker, of Bedford, I am induced to narrate the following case, which occurred last year during my attendance at the Vienna General Lying-in Hospital. I must state that my notes were taken for private use, and not for publication; and hence their brevity and imperfectness.

CASE. Francisca Raplan, a native of Telluris, aged 26, of a sallow and unhealthy complexion, and in a great state of debility, was delivered of her first child at the end of the seventh month of gestation. The fetus at birth presented the following appearances:—The left side seemed soft, and as if consisting of nothing but loose and unhealthy fat; whereas the right side exhibited a very remarkable contrast in its rigidity. Upon further and closer examination, the left humerus was found to be broken at its centre, the ulnar and radius of the same arm being perfect; but the fingers, which were longer than usual, and also in proportion to the rest of the body, were greatly curved backwards, especially at their extremities. The right arm was rigid and shrivelled, with the bones unbroken, and the thumb and fingers closely drawn together. The left femur was fractured in its upper third, the tibia and fibula being perfect. The right leg was as rigid and firm as the right arm, and the bones were also entire, but the foot was, to a very great extent, curved inwards, forming a perfect arc. The scrotum and penis were œdematous, and of a slightly greenish yellow colour. The length of the fetus was from twelve and a half to thirteen inches, and the circumference of its head, measured above the ears, was eleven inches. It survived a few days, and died on the morning I left Vienna. I was therefore, unfortunately, unable to attend the *post mortem* examination.

Through the kind assistance of a German friend, I learnt from the mother that she had met with no accident or unusual circumstance during her pregnancy; but she admitted that about the fourth week after conception a syphilitic eruption appeared over her whole body, and for this she consulted a homœopath, who administered minute doses of corrosive sublimate. After pursuing this treatment for two months the eruption entirely ceased, and she remained perfectly well up to a week before her confinement, when condylomata appeared on the labia, the inner part of the thighs, and around the anus.

REMARKS. With the above positive evidence of syphilis existing at an early period of gestation, and presuming, from the character and habits of the mother, that she had been no doubt infected with the syphilitic poison long before conception, we have, I think, some good grounds for supposing that the fetus became affected through the diseased condition

of its parent. The fetus had evidently not arrived at maturity; and as it was not dead, and the mother had received no external or internal injury, either of which might have brought on labour, we are left to seek for some reason why the fetus should have been born before its time, and when born why we should find one half of its body in a state of rigidity and atrophy, whilst the other half was pulpy, and contained two fractures.

I hope, in conclusion, that the history of this case may throw some light on the possibility of certain diseases, such as syphilis, when attacking the mother, being transmitted to the offspring, and causing either the fracture of its bones, or the arrest of its development.

Green Street, Grosvenor Square, October 1857.

## Introductory Lectures.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

DR. FULLER began his address by recalling to the senior part of his audience the difficulties and temptations they had had to encounter at the outset of their professional career, and made this a ground for addressing the remainder of his remarks to those who are now about to commence their studies in London. He first pointed out the nature of their adopted calling, and the motives with which it ought to be pursued. "If," he said, "it be true that a profession, which has for its object the saving of human life and the prevention of human suffering; which calls forth the noblest qualities of the mind, enlarges its sympathies, and tends to clear it of prejudice or error; which brings us in direct and intimate relation with our suffering fellow-creatures, and by giving us an insight into human nature under every form and every aspect, enables us to learn wisdom from the dearly bought experience of others,—if such a profession be worthy of your desire, you may be truly thankful for the selection you have made. A life of honourable usefulness lies before you, such as does not fall to the lot of every one. The profession of medicine, if worthily pursued, is a noble and beneficent vocation, softening and humanising those who follow it, leading them to regard with leniency the weaknesses of their fellow-creatures, and prompting them to spare no effort to relieve their mental anguish or assuage their bodily suffering." He urged them to take a high view of their profession, and to follow it steadily and consistently, in the hope that, whilst it may one day yield them an honourable subsistence, it may also enable them to cultivate those qualities which serve to distinguish a Christian gentleman. He then proceeded to offer them advice respecting the choice of friends and companions, and warned them not only against the idle and the dissolute, but against the good natured, well meaning, but thoughtless, whose inexperience leads them to imagine that there can be no harm in a little temporary self-indulgence, a little time devoted to the so called pleasures of a London life. He urged them to begin as they intended to go on, to be regular and constant in attendance at lectures, diligent in the dissecting-room, earnest in their private studies, zealous in the pursuit of that practical knowledge which is only to be acquired in the wards of the hospital. "The study you have embraced," he said, "is one to engross your whole attention, even if it had no relation to your future career through life. But forming, as it does, the groundwork of that profession which you have deliberately chosen, you are bound to devote your whole energies to its prosecution. You are bound to do so for the sake of your own reputation and future happiness, for the sake of those friends who have given you your education, and who are still assisting you, and for the sake of those poor suffering fellow-creatures who will one day look to you for relief; above all, you are bound to do so as the servants of an all-wise Providence, who has been pleased to enrol you among the number of those whom He employs as the channels of His mercy and the ministers of His earthly blessings, and who one day will require at your hands an account of the talents committed to your charge." He then proceeded to point out the necessity for learning to regulate the feelings and behaviour, to discipline the mind, and to follow strictly in the path of moral rectitude. "You must learn," he said, "to cultivate habits of order, method, and punctuality, so as to be able to economise your time; you must acquire the habit of directing your whole attention to the subject before you, so as to analyse