Let us consider the first class of cases. Since it is reasonable to suppose that in a case of strangulated hernia that has been operated upon, a part at least of the uneasiness dependent upon the intestinal function is immediately due to its restoration, we should in this class of cases theoretically be disposed to promote the action of the intestines, when it does not occur spontaneously, a short time after the constriction has been removed. Such practice seems the more reasonable, in that there can be no fear of aggravating inflammation which does not exist, and in that there is reason to believe that the expulsion of the accumulated fæces is tantamount to the exclusion of a possible, if not probable cause of inflammation.

In the second class of cases, the first part of the argument used above applies, but not the second; for inflammation exists, and the question arises, whether the administration of purgatives, theoretically indicated by the necessity of restoring the intestinal functions, may not be productive of evil by aggravating the inflammation. From what I have seen, however, these fears would not disquiet me. I think there is more chance of the progress of inflammation being checked by the expulsion of the irritating fæces, and restoration of the gut to its function, than of its being aggravated by the stimulant action of the purgative.

In the third class of cases, in which the bowel is in moderate condition, but the peritoneum intensely inflamed, it is reasonable to believe that the constipation, although in great measure dependent upon the atony which has resulted from long inactivity, is likewise due to the disturbance of innervation incident upon the inflammation. It seems hence prudent to respect the objections of those who allege that the inflammation may be aggravated by purgatives; but while antiphlogistics are being actively employed, there is no reason for objecting, if the bowels do not act, to enemata; the probabilities of their doing good are much greater than those of their possible perniciousness.

In the fourth class of cases (threatening gangrene of the intestine), inasmuch as there is more to fear from the action of the intestines, though it be but moderate, than from their inactivity, though it be extreme, enema and purgatives appear contra-indicated so long as there is reason to fear disorganisation of the gut.

From the foregoing considerations flow three rules for practice, in cases in which the operation of herniotomy is not followed by spontaneous action of the bowels.

1. When the condition of the gut is good, and there is little or no peritonitis, an oleaginous enema should be given an hour or two after the operation, and repeated after three or four hours in case of failure, or a purgative exhibited by the mouth.

2. When the peritoneal inflammation is intense, even though the bowels be in fair condition, antiphlogistics must be perseveringly employed; and though a simple enema may be given in the first six hours, it is inadvisable to excite the action of the bowels until the next day, either by more active enemata or purgatives by the mouth.

3. In the case of mortification threatening the gut, the bowels should be kept quiet by opium, and purgatives and enemata abstained from until the danger of perforation has passed.

These rules promise to be faithful guides for practice, inasmuch as they are in conformity with sound doctrine, and, so far as I am aware, opposed by no facts; but the great rule is, to observe rigorously the symptoms of each particular case, to study its indications and aid nature with the lights which doctrine and practice reflect, and not to pretend to act according to systematic rules based upon speculations, in cases which present infinite varieties, according to the age and constitution of the patient; the duration, size, and position of the hernia; the degree and duration of the strangulation; the condition of the intestine; the presence or absence of inflammation; and other more or less important conditions. In truth, just as there is reason for dissenting from those who systematically oppose purgatives after herniotomy, there is reason for not placing implicit faith in the teaching of those who universally recommend them. If there be any class of cases in medicine and surgery—and there are many—in which systems are injurious, and in which each case requires to be studied of itself with the light of reason and experience, that class is preeminently the one which comprises cases of strangulated hernia.

Palazzo Corsi, Florence, June 1854.

ANEURISM OF THE LEFT EXTERNAL CAROTID ARTERY: SUCCESSFUL LIGATURE OF THE COMMON CAROTID.

By GEORGE MITCHINSON, Esq.

[*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Midland Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, at Lincoln, June 1st, 1854.*]

THE following case presents several points equally of interest to the physiologist and to the practical surgeon.

CASE. William Bellamy, aged 48, by trade a carpenter, living in the country, an active well proportioned man, of sober habits, always enjoyed good health until ten years ago (1844), when he suffered from pain in the head and slight deafness. About this time, he also occasionally raised a little sputum streaked with blood; this, however, entirely ceased during the summer. The deafness increasing, he consulted his medical attendant, who informed him that he was suffering from polypus, and proposed extraction; but this he declined.

A few months afterwards, he noticed a fulness under the left ear, accompanied by throbbing sensations along the neck, and an occasional discharge (from the ear) of pus mixed with blood.

The fulness in the neck increased very slowly until March 1850, when a sudden gush of bright blood took place from the ear, after unusual exertion; it was followed by twitching of the face and left eyelid. From this time, the tumour increased more rapidly, and slight bleeding from the ear occurred almost every day; it sometimes amounted to a few drops, but occasionally, the patient stated, to as much as a tablespoonful. This was always followed by twitching of the face and difficulty of articulation.

July 16th, 1850. The patient consulted Mr. Hewson, who, on examination, found an aneurism of the left external carotid artery, extending from the external meatus to below the angle of the lower jaw. The mouth was drawn to the right side; the patient was unable to close the left eye; the tongue was flattened by pressure against the teeth of the left side, and, when put out of the mouth, protruded to the left side. Articulation was indistinct, though rapid. The general health was good.

July 19th. Great and sudden enlargement of the tumour having taken place, Mr. Hewson determined upon tying the common carotid artery. Chloroform having been administered, the patient was placed with the neck raised, and the face turned to the right side. An incision was made through the integuments, along the inner side of the sterno-mastoid muscle, terminating at its attachment to the sternum. The fascia and cellular tissue were then divided; this rendered visible the border of the sterno-hyoid muscle. Crossing the upper angle of the wound was the omo-hyoid. The sides of the wound being held apart, the sheath of the vessel was carefully scratched through, and the artery exposed. A ligature was then passed under the artery, and firmly tied; and the edges of the wound were brought together by slips of plaster and sutures, and covered by wet lint. Very little blood was lost during the operation.

July 20th. He slept three or four hours in the night. The countenance was tranquil; the pulse regular, 76, of moderate volume. The tongue was moist, rather white. The tumour had decreased in size.

July 21st. The patient had no pain. The pulse was 72, soft, and compressible. The bowels had not been open. A simple aperient was ordered.

July 22nd. The bowels had been open twice. The pulse was 72; the tongue was clean. Slight oozing had taken

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place from the wound. The dressings were this morning removed, and the sutures cut away. Considerable union had taken place at the upper part of the wound. Strips of plaster were applied, and covered with wet lint.

July 23rd. He was going on favourably; the tumour was rapidly decreasing. There was still a twitching of the face, and inability to close the left eye. The mouth was drawn to the right side, and the tongue to the left.

July 24th. No unfavourable symptoms had appeared. He complained much of the confinement and low diet.

July 25th. The wound was dressed; it looked very healthy, and was closing round the ligature.

July 26th. The bowels were open daily. The pulse was 72; the tongue clean; he had no pain; the appetite was good.

July 28th. He was ordered to have a mutton chop daily.

He continued doing well in every respect until August 10th—the twentieth day after the operation—when, in spite of repeated warning, he ate largely of beef-steak, went out, and walked about for nearly two hours. He returned home, feeling faint and cold, and sat by the fire. He had been in about two hours, when a sudden gush of arterial blood took place from the wound, to the amount of some ounces. Mr. Hewson was immediately in attendance, and applied pressure. This had the desired effect; and the hæmorrhage was arrested. It returned, however, on the following evening, with alarming violence. Mr. Hewson immediately sewed up the wound, and applied ice; the application of which was continued without intermission for twelve days; and, fortunately, no return of the bleeding took place. The ligature came away on the twenty-ninth day after the operation; no bleeding followed.

He returned to his home thirty-seven days after the operation; the wound being nearly healed, and his general health being good.

On Sunday, April 2nd, 1854, I saw Bellamy. He had gained flesh, and looked healthy; he worked regularly at his trade, and said he never enjoyed better health. The mouth was still drawn to the right side. The tongue lay pressing upon the teeth of the left side; there was inability to close the left eye. The tumour had almost entirely disappeared: pulsation had entirely ceased.

Remarks. A point of great interest in this case is the success of the operation; which, I think, may in a great measure be attributed to the little disturbance of those important parts which lie in such immediate proximity to the artery; and, however easy this may appear on paper, or in the dissecting room, the application of a ligature to the common carotid appears to me a difficult operation, the depth of the wound being very considerable. The continuance of the paralysis, and the peculiar position of the tongue, are also points of interest; as well as the arrest of the hæmorrhage by the application of ice.

To Mr. Hewson I am deeply indebted for his kindness and courtesy in giving me the opportunity of witnessing this very interesting operation, as well as for the privilege of watching the subsequent progress of the case.

Lincoln, June 1854.

PERISCOPIC REVIEW.

CHEMISTRY.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF CHEMISTRY DURING THE YEAR 1853.*

Part II. Organic Chemistry. By J. Denham Smith, Esq.

SECTION I.

Were we, in the present retrospect of the progress of organic chemistry during the year 1853, to enumerate only the names of the labourers in this field of science, and the mere titles of their respective memoirs, we should trench both on the space this subject should occupy in our Journal, and we fear still more on the patience of our readers. Were we, on the other hand, forced to announce some discovery in organic chemistry, or the elimination of a grand and simple law from facts and data already known, or, failing either, to hold our hands, we fear we should have to adopt the Shandean mode of expression, and present but a blank column under this heading to our associates—so barren has been this department of chemistry during the past year, whether we regard it in its theoretical, or in its practical development.

Blame for this absence of evident progress is, however, neither to be visited on the science itself, nor on the laborious men who devote their lives to its advancement; the truth being that this department of chemical science, at the very birth of which the present generation of chemists assisted, is yet in a transition state. Facts of greater and of less importance; statements of the highest value, or worse than valueless, because false; theories opposed, and striving to interpret given phenomena in utterly discordant methods; doctrines seemingly true enough when applied to the explanation of one vast body of data, yet at variance with another—render this section of the science truly a "debateable ground", on which many a combatant may win his spurs, and yet effect but little towards its permanent conquest.

The one great want in Organic chemistry is a simple and systematic nomenclature, founded on correct theory, and capable of general adaptation and indefinite extension. This is the very groundwork; and until this is achieved by a second Lavoisier, we confess we view with mixed feelings of vexation and admiration the vast amount of gratuitous labour expended by modern chemists on this illimitable field; for we feel that many, indeed that most, of these efforts are ill-directed, and that the results but cumber the ground to be swept away hereafter as useless and valueless. The barbarisms, the affectations, the numerous names borne by one substance; the very similar ones, both to sound and sight, borne by others between which no relation occurs; the fearfully complex, ludicrously long and unpronounceable terms—terms, we warrant, forgotten by the coiners almost as soon as minted;* these faults and these annoyances make the cultivation of organic chemistry, most truly, a pursuit of knowledge under difficulties. We ourselves, like many others, had almost hoped that this opprobrium would have been wiped out, and this problem of a rational and systematic nomenclature have been solved by the, alas! late illustrious Professor at Heidelberg, Leopold Gmelin, whose *Handbuch der Chemie*, still in course of translation under the auspices of the Cavendish Society, is this great chemist's best monument; a work of unwearied research, singular accuracy and of untold value to the cultivator of this science. This man, singularly fitted, it might well be argued, by his widely extended and profound chemical knowledge, grappled with this subject of nomenclature, and most signally failed.

There is one yet living, who, if this Herculean labour can as yet be achieved, could most surely perform it. Pre-eminent amongst his contemporaries for the originality of his teaching, the beauty and accuracy of his researches, and that wide mastery of the subject distinguishing the man of genius from the ordinary man, however laborious and careful the latter may be, and possessing in no ordinary degree the distinguishing characteristic of his countrymen, an innate love of and talent for the systematic arrangement of knowledge; we doubt not, were Dumas to bend his energies to reducing this present chaos to order, and to bring it into subjection to law, that this chief and crying want of chemical science would be met, and the countryman of Lavoisier would prove himself the peer of his great predecessor. But the Revolution of 1848 swept the chemist into the gulf of politics; and Dumas the chemist, to this day, seems still shrouded in the recollections of Dumas the Minister of State.

We may be pardoned a momentary digression to point to a subject fertile in thought, and worthy of the attention of the thinkers in both countries, viz: the extensive and directly personal influence so often exercised in France by the distinguished cultivators of science and the utter absence of a similar influence in our own country; where, indeed, save in the present Master of the Mint—a position most merited by its distinguished holder, but doubtless even here, owing far more to family connexion than regard for, or homage to science—we can point to no man of science high in the service of the State; whilst in the Legislature we should search for him equally in vain.

There is a third name, deservedly regarded with admiration, a name almost to conjure with amongst many in England, and

* The First Part of this Report will be found at p. 174, of Feb. 24th.

* What do our readers think of "Cumobenzosulphophenylamide?" Such names (and they are constantly occurring) invariably make our mind to revert to the most excellent Aldiborontiphoscophormiochrononhotonthologos as their common parent.

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