of two months, and, according to the author's experience, in which I quite coincide, on that account not a fair case. In the next, the patient took the medicine but one day, because he suffered some degree of nausea, etc. In the third, the remedy was tried three days only by a young man mixing freely in gay, fashionable society, who could not be induced to take any care of himself. Of any other disease we should not expect to effect a cure, use what means we might, if our patients, by their mode of life, ran counter to any suggestion of reason and sense; we should rather expect failure, as the just retribution of our patient's obstinacy and folly.

Sir A. Cooper, about this time, added his testimony to the value of cubebs in the treatment of gonorrhœa, and thenceforward it came into pretty general use. For my own part, admitting that it is not an infallible remedy for gonorrhœa, especially if the attack be of long standing, and thinking that it requires discrimination and attention to many details, as to the time, dose, and manner of giving it, etc., which have not been sufficiently indicated by authors, I have no doubt that it is the best single remedy which we possess for this troublesome disease, and that by its means, aided by appropriate diet, regimen, and general medical treatment, every recent clap may be benefited, and be brought into a state in which other means will complete the cure more speedily, and with less of drawbacks, than if the cubebs had not been given at first, some other plan of treatment having been preferred. But this is not all. In very many cases it is capable of itself, unaided by any other medicine, of quickly, safely, and pleasantly, getting rid of all those symptoms which form an attack of gonorrhœa, of the most acute and severe type, thus fulfilling the beau-ideal of a remedy, in acting, *Tutò, citò, et jucundè*. I would, therefore, not detract at all from the high character with which the cubebs was introduced into practice, but confirm it, by stating, as clearly as I can, in what cases its fullest benefits may be expected without other help; in what other cases this result must not be looked for; and, finally, what are the objections to its use and the precautions by which these may be obviated.

It is not a matter of slight importance in any sense to be able to treat the gonorrhœa effectively, and to cure it quickly. Indeed, there is every motive that could be imagined to prompt us to it. The disease is loathsome, contagious, painful, liable to severe complications, and to very formidable consequences; and the more protracted its existence, the greater the liability to these consequences seems, from the united testimony of experienced observers, to be. It is, therefore, quite worth while to give to everything which concerns it our most earnest attention. The fullest benefits of the cubebs, unaided by other remedies, are obtained almost with certainty in recent cases of gonorrhœa, attacking persons of a tolerably hardy constitution, whose generative organs are well developed, whose digestive powers are good, and whose nervous system is endowed with but moderate sensibility. The more decidedly these characteristics are found in any patient suffering from a clap, the more boldly may the remedy be pushed, the less is any inconvenience to be feared, and with the greater prospect of speedy success may we prognosticate a cure. In such persons there is nothing to do but to give the powder very freely, say in doses of three or four drachms from three to four times a-day, if the patient himself will so far aid our efforts as to abstain from exciting himself by over-exercise, liquor, or continued venery. In some cases, an occasional purgative may be required, and if the inflammatory symptoms, scalding of the water, frequent desire to micturate, and chordæ, be severely felt, sitting over the steam of hot water, abundant use of warm diluents, and the exhibition of Dover's powder and camphor at night, will lessen suffering, and shorten the attack; but, in the majority of such cases, no such aids are required, and many such patients learn to treat themselves without any professional advice, simply by taking the powder in the free manner which I have described. I have known such a person think no more of a clap than of a slight cold; but when he found

the disease coming on, he at once purchased a quarter of a pound of cubebs, and began taking them freely, with the full conviction that if that didn't cure him a second quantity would, and such, indeed, was the case. He pursued at the same time his ordinary calling, which was very laborious. In these cases, which are the most favourable, but in city life not the most common, the disease subsides very quickly, and the remedy really acts as a specific. But when we come to some other classes of patients, these effects can only be obtained by great care, and the further the subject of the attack recedes from the standard of health and constitution I have just depicted, the more of caution need we employ in the use of the remedy. According to my experience, the most troublesome cases, to say nothing of a first attack being generally the worst, occur in the persons of lads in whom puberty is barely established, whose growth is still proceeding, whose configuration is slight, in whom the penis is small, and the urethra consequently narrow. If to this physical condition there be added the fear of detection by parents or masters, a dread of imaginary consequences as the inevitable effect of the disease, and a sense of shame, regret, and compunction, at being the authors of such mischief to themselves, then we have to do with the most unfavourable cases for any treatment, and in which every resource of the physician, of the mind and body, is called into exercise. Between these extremes there are others, of course, presenting various shades of character and constitution, which will, in a corresponding degree, influence the method and results of treatment.

[To be continued.]

CASE OF POISONING BY STRYCHNINE.

By F. RYLAND, Esq., Birmingham.

THE following instance of death from the taking of strychnine may perhaps be interesting. It occurred twenty-five years ago, and is very imperfectly reported; but I prefer to send it as I find it, rather than to dress it up for public exhibition. The remarkable circumstances in the history of the case, as bearing upon that of Cook, are, the length of time intervening between the taking of the strychnine and the beginning of its poisonous effects, and the rigidity of the muscles continuing undiminished after death had occurred.

The account was written in my note-book on the day on which the autopsy was made; I believe, therefore, that the statements may be relied on.

CASE. 18th April, 1831. I was present to-day at the inspection of the body of a stout man, aged 46 years, who had died in the hospital five hours after taking a grain and a half of strychnine. He was under the care of Dr. —, for paralysis of the left side of some standing. About six or seven weeks before his death, he had had a stroke. During a short residence in the hospital, the man had been treated by strychnine—half a grain at first, a grain at one dose each day for a week, and the morning of his death the dose had been increased to a grain and a half. Three hours after taking it, convulsions supervened: I should imagine, from the description, tetanus. The convulsive motions affected both upper and lower extremities, and were much stronger in the sound side than in the paralysed one; and after death, we remarked that while the muscles of the left or paralysed side were in the ordinary state of *post mortem* contraction, those of the right arm were, while the body was still warm and afterwards, excessively rigid, hard as boards, and the fingers of that side were clenched and immovable. Towards the last, the man became comatose; and immediately before death took place, the body became rigid, and probably he died from this rigidity putting a stop to respiration.

On taking off the vertex, three or four ounces of fluid blood escaped from the interior of the skull, but its exact source could not be made out. The inner membranes were very vascular; the arachnoid thickened and milky. The ven-

tricles were much distended with serum; and in the middle lobe of the right hemisphere was found a large apoplectic cell, in which the blood had been for some time, as it was brownish, coagulated, but soft. The cell was lined by an evident cyst; and the brain, for about one-eighth of an inch round the cell, was deeper in colour than the rest, and softened. The cerebellum was not examined. The arteries at the base of the brain were thickened, and had in them atheromatous deposit. The middle cerebral was entirely obstructed.

In the middle part of the spinal cord, that corresponding to the dorsal vertebrae, the dura mater was more than usually vascular, as were likewise the other membranes; and between the pia mater and the cord there was an effusion of recent blood, which extended about four inches along the cord. It was a beautiful specimen of apoplexy of the spinal cord. Could it have been caused by the dose of strychnine? Certainly, it was of late date; the condition of the medulla, and the colour and appearance of the blood, proved it.

Reviews and Notices.

ISMEER, OR SMYRNA AND ITS BRITISH HOSPITAL IN 1855.

By A LADY. London: James Madden. 1856.

THE name of one illustrious lady who proceeded to the East to alleviate the sufferings of our poor wounded soldiers has shone so brilliantly, that the services of other individuals, among the noble band of Englishwomen bent upon the same errand, have become in a measure obscured. The little volume now before us will at least inform the public what our charitable countrywomen, acting under a sense of duty, did in the hospital at Smyrna. We have read *Ismeer* with great pleasure, for the reason that it is written in a common sense spirit which, we must say, distinguishes it from many publications relating to the lady-nurses in the East. When the scheme was first broached of young English girls proceeding to the seat of war, there was, we confess, much hysterical nonsense talked, and many sentimental ideas propounded, which we felt would lead to disappointment. Impulse was allowed full sway, and a band of young Englishwomen sailed for the golden East with notions which, we felt, could not be realised. We must give the fair authoress of these volumes credit for her better judgment in the matter, and for her courage in boldly describing her own feelings when they were at variance with the ideas of those who originated the mission. For instance, her remarks upon the well intended but injudicious order that all the nurses, whether of the lower orders or of gentle blood, should be dressed in regulation grey with a badge, are so honest that they at once enlist us in her favour.

"If," she says, "I found that it was really an advantage for us to be dressed as we were, I should say nothing about it; but as we spent nearly all the day at the hospital, where no other women were on any pretence admitted, it will be at once seen that the soldiers could not have mistaken us, and that the precaution was unnecessary. As for the dress itself, I have nothing to say against it, although not perhaps of the material or texture I should have preferred; still the colour, grey, was one generally worn from choice; but I must confess that when I found myself restricted to it without what seemed a good reason, an intense desire for blue, green, red and yellow, with all their combinations, took possession of me; though, now that I may wear what I please, I find my former favour for grey has returned in full force. However, allowing that it was desirable we should have some uniform, it certainly was unnecessary that ladies, nurses, and washerwomen, should have been dressed alike as we were."

The confession of this rebellious spirit against uniformity and in favour of red, blue, and green, shows at once the natural spirit in which the book is written. Her objection to the confounding of ranks in deference to a sickly idea was it appears, justified by the result; for, several of the

hired nurses having gone into the town of Smyrna and got intoxicated, a natural prejudice was created in the minds of the Turks for a time against the English ladies.

We find many examples in *Ismeer* of the astounding impression the fact of English ladies—"real English ladies"—coming out to nurse them, had upon the English soldiers. Certainly if the war has brought misery enough upon many families, it has afforded episodes which are invaluable as proving the power of kindness. Who would have thought that the poor British soldier, recruited from among what are termed the very clods of the earth—the rural population—was capable of showing such fine feelings as he has done? Who would have ventured to say that the coarse private, a mere animal as he has been supposed, when gently spoken to and kindly tended, should respond as instantly and as sympathetically as the harpstring springs up with music under the hand of the player. Such, however, was the fact, as we find by many passages in the volume before us.

"Poor Atterell! he is before me now, as I used to see him lying in the most uneasy position, almost on his shrunk and attenuated face, with his large hollow eyes perpetually following me or my nurse, Mrs. Bowler, as we went about from bed to bed. She had been at the hospital three days before I came, and he had got quite fond of her. Her first work had been to cut off his hair, which she described as a perfect mass of vermin, as also his whiskers and eyebrows; while from off the bed they were brushed in myriads, and had to be swept up, and the floor washed afterwards. When she had finished, and made him as comfortable as she could, he looked upon her, and said: 'I believe you're not a human being, but an angel.'"

Another example of the powerful manner in which the soldiers were affected by the attention of the nurses will not be out of place.

"In a bed near D— was a tall red haired sergeant M—, who had suffered severely from rheumatism and bed sores. I saw that the nurse attended to him carefully; and during D—'s illness I spoke very little to him, but observed him eyeing my proceedings with what I thought was a surly look. He was unable to feed himself; and being told by the doctors I might prepare the eggs he was ordered in any palatable way I chose, I made him a nice custard. He let me feed him in silence; and I was going away confirmed in my impressions of his sullenness, when a most fervent exclamation, in the richest Irish brogue, of 'God bless you! ye're a fine woman!' arrested my attention; and on turning round, I saw him looking after me with tears in his eyes. I found afterwards that it was not sullenness, but astonishment at seeing the trouble I took with D—, which made him look at me in the way he did."

Verily, who shall fathom the good that dwells in the depths of the roughest human heart? The writer remarks that many who were not suffering from active disease appeared to be wasting away without any apparent cause; and with a woman's instinct she imagined that for such, music would have been the best medicine; but there was no music to be had; the English never seem to understand the influence of delicate sounds upon desponding minds. The French, far more alive to it, kept their troops in heart during the siege of Sebastopol by the constant playing of their regimental bands.

Whilst the lady-nurses were attending the sick at Smyrna, they were themselves attacked by malignant fever, and one of them fell a sacrifice to it: all honour to the courage with which, in the midst of pestilence, they persevered in their self-imposed duties! *Ismeer* is not wholly confined to a narrative of the proceedings in the hospital, but gives pictures of the manners and customs of the people in Smyrna and its neighbourhood, which will be read with interest. The public will, however, read that portion of it with most avidity which describes the day-by-day fight with death which a noble band of Englishwomen imposed upon themselves in a far distant land, in performance of no religious vow, but for the sake of that principle which is at the bottom of all the true greatness of our country—duty. The public should at least be made acquainted with the name of "A Lady", who has written as well as she has laboured in the behalf of the poor soldier.