cases once or twice within the first twenty-four hours; and, if necessary, cut through the bandages, whenever they are tight or oppressive.

It is important to bear in mind a practical lesson taught by some of these cases and other similar ones; namely, that after the removal of a cancerous tumour, the scar is frequently very hard for a considerable time; and that the induration gradually melts away in most instances, being due to simple thickening, and not to any specific deposit.

At the Bristol Royal Infirmary, in the after treatment of these cases, and, indeed, of all cases where severe operations have been performed, as amputation, excision, or the removal of large tumours, particularly if they have been accompanied with the loss of blood, we have been for a long time in the habit of giving our patients, as soon as possible, good diet, with meat and a little stimulus, and opium when requisite; and sometimes it has appeared necessary to give stimulants very freely; and the system is, doubtless, in this way more quickly lifted out of the depressed state in which the shock of a severe cutting operation has placed it, and the recoveries are more satisfactory; and I may add, that the plan of giving support freely in these cases was the custom here long before the date of that famous letter which appeared some years ago, in large type, in the *Times* newspaper, in which a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons addressed the editor, and told him how he treated the patients under his care, particularly his operation cases, with wine and good things; and how his success was much better than that of his neighbours, who did not advance with the times, but stuck to the old routine. This bold letter, with the help of the large circulation of the *Times*, undoubtedly answered the purpose of a productive advertisement, as it deserved, for it was on a larger scale and more cleverly done than the paragraphs alluding to Moses' clothes-mart and Rowland's kalydor; but if the writer had been practising in the provinces, or if he had been a man of smaller note in the metropolis, and not connected with a large hospital and the Royal College, I think he would properly have been called to account for his epistle.

[To be continued.]

OBSERVATIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF ASTHMA.

By T. L. PRIDHAM, Esq., Surgeon, Bideford, North Devon.

[Continued from p. 760.]

CASE XII. The case I have now to record, is that of a gentleman in Gloucestershire, who during the winter months whilst he has almost the daily enjoyment of hunting with the Duke of Beaufort's hounds, is tolerably free from an attack; but, should be then indulge in a full meal with more than his ordinary supply of wine, he is sure to feel distress in his breathing in consequence. He is an active energetic man; and, I am told, that when with the hounds, he is one of the first and foremost. Hunting appears to have been his great delight; and, being a man of large fortune, he spares no expense in being well mounted. He has other occupations, however, which require the exercise of great mental powers. In fact, he may be considered a fair specimen of those energetic persons so often the subjects of this distressing complaint.

He first visited me on the 8th July last year, at a time when his complaint was most distressing. His age was 50; his weight, eight stone four pounds. He had been subject to asthma twenty-five years; it came on when he was borne down by anxiety of mind and over-exertion. His chest was well formed, though rather dull on percussion on the left side. The pulse was 80; the heart's action normal; the tongue chapped and coated; the stomach was distended after eating a full meal, which is a sure indication of an attack. He reclined in bed when free from asthma. He expectorated largely, which procured relief. At the close of an attack, he had a large flow of urine, which deposited a thick pink sediment. The bowels were irregular in their action.

I at once placed him under the strict dietary and sedative system, which had been so successful in former cases, directing the bowels to be strictly attended to by means of mild aperients or an enema.

On July 20th, my patient paid me another visit, and reported that he slept well all night; and since the commencement of my treatment, had not had the slightest return of asthma. He said that he felt assured that it was the only plan which he had ever tried which afforded him decided relief.

The next account of my patient which I received was, that he was hunting the native forest deer on Exmoor, facing the most inclement weather with impunity, and without any return of his complaint. After a time, he became regardless of the rules prescribed as to diet and regularity; and he fully admitted that he was paying the penalty of his imprudence—asthma, in a mitigated form, having returned upon him. In a letter I received from him a few days since, he says he was then adhering to rule; and was in the enjoyment of comparative health.

I have now given the history and treatment of twelve cases of dyspeptic asthma, which I have chosen indiscriminately from a great number in my note-book. All these cases occurred amongst males, who by far form the greater proportion of cases when compared with females. This may be accounted for in dyspeptic asthma, in a great measure, I think, from the greater temptations and less inclination to resist in males, the imprudences of indigestible food and the luxuries of life, both as regards eating as well as drinking.

I shall now proceed to record two or three cases of dyspeptic asthma in females, which, I think, will be read with interest.

CASE XIII. This is a case of a lady who resides in the north-east of England, who wrote to me on December 19th, 1856, as follows:—"Having heard from a gentleman in this neighbourhood that you have treated him for asthma successfully, I am induced to write and ask your advice under similar circumstances for myself. It would probably be more desirable that I should have a personal interview with you; but this would not be possible for me at the present season to accomplish; therefore I will explain by letter, as well as I am able, what it may be chiefly necessary for you to know as regards my case. I am now 41 years of age, and have been a very great sufferer from asthma for twenty years. During this time, I have tried frequent and considerable change of climate; and I need scarcely say, many different remedies, without, however, much relief, or permanent good, in any instance. The attacks recur frequently, at intervals of not above ten days, or a fortnight, though rather less frequent in the early part of the year. They commence with great difficulty of breathing, which lasts for several days, and is still more distressing at night, when the only posture possible is leaning forward on some bench in bed, generally for several nights together. The only things relied on for any relief are smoking stramonium, inhaled by holding my head over a small chafing-dish. I have also inhaled chloroform with some relief. These remedies appear to soothe and mitigate the severity of the paroxysms, though I have not thought they ever shorten the attack; after some days, the severity of the attack subsides, and then cough, with much expectoration, comes on, and I am relieved, but feel much weakened and reduced. I have reason to believe that the cough and expectoration is not so much the cause as the effort of nature to get rid of the disease; but of this, you will be a better judge than myself. I ought to add, that I have been assured by several medical men that there is in my case no organic disease. And I fully believe this, from the circumstance of my enjoying complete freedom from any pain or uneasiness in the brief intervals between the attacks, the only discomfort remaining, arising from the debility they occasion. I am never able to take much exercise; and in the winter months, I am quite a prisoner. I generally take for my food what is provided for the family, when I am able to eat."

This communication is highly interesting, inasmuch as, without any opinion of mine, the strong belief and conviction of the patient was that the disease, of which she was the sufferer, went through certain stages, and was at length thrown off from the circulation by the medium of the lungs—an opinion which I have given in a former paper, and of which the more I see of dyspeptic asthma, the more I am convinced.

After a few letters had passed between myself and my correspondent, it was ultimately resolved that no specific treatment should be attempted, until the season would admit of her coming to Bideford, in order to give my plan the best chance of succeeding. Accordingly, on May 1st, 1857, she, in company with some of her family, accomplished the journey; and her history, as regards her disease, is so interesting, and it bears so completely on the opinions I have advanced, that I hope I shall not be considered digressing from my subject, if I give a detailed statement of some of the incidents connected with her history.

In addition to what has been before stated, she told me she had consulted many eminent men in London and elsewhere, who had treated her case, but without success; and that the poor consolation was given her, that she must make up her

mind to a life of suffering, as no known remedy would reach her disease. Her frame was much emaciated; her body bent forward; the eyes were large and protruding; the pulse 70; the lungs were emphysematous; the tongue was slightly coated, with fissures in it; the stomach was distended, particularly after eating. The urine was loaded with lithates after an attack; at other times pale, and in large quantities. The bowels were irregular, but their secretions were not very unhealthy. Notwithstanding the sufferings she had endured for twenty years, there was evidence of a highly educated and well stored mind; and from the interesting history which I am about to relate, it is evident she is gifted with energy, resolution, and courage, in no ordinary degree.

As I before stated, she had tried all available means, both as to climate and treatment in this country, without relief; she therefore made up her mind to cross the seas, and visit Australia; solely with the hope of restoration to health. Having relations in Sydney, she undertook the voyage to reside amongst them for a season. She suffered much on the way to this distant land; nor did she derive the benefit which she expected, as, with the exception of a short stay on the Blue Mountains, during which time her sufferings were mitigated, her distressing symptoms never left her, and she made up her mind to return to her home and country, with the melancholy prospect of enduring a life of suffering, for she felt now that her case was hopeless. Fresh troubles were at hand; as, during the voyage home the vessel sprung a leak, which defied every effort of the crew, so that each day told them they were so much the nearer a watery grave if they could not make some land before the ship went down. In this forlorn state of things she counselled the captain and crew to take to their boats. The captain was sick and ill from fatigue and anxiety, and could do little or nothing, so that it appeared the fate of the crew was sealed; but to the astonishment of all, this courageous and gifted woman assured them that by her knowledge of navigation and the use of nautical instruments she would steer the open boat to the island of Madagascar, which was at that time about two hundred miles away. With this hope they all embarked in the three ship's boats. The captain was lowered into first boat, his wife and daughter followed, and then the lady with her servant; they took with them three or four picked men of the crew, the lady taking the charge of the compass. Four days and nights they were exposed to tempestuous weather, at last land was declared to be in sight; and so true was the course taken that it proved to be the island before named. But why this digression? it may be asked. It is simply to record that during four perilous days not the slightest evidence of an attack of asthma made its appearance. This may be attributed to the small amount of food taken into the stomach, for the lady subsisted entirely during the time on biscuits and weak brandy and water; in fact, the stomach had but little to do, and hence the freedom from suffering which a good Providence provided for her. I mention this fact as material evidence in favour of the theory which I have ventured to advance. I will now, from the interest which must be felt for the result of this lady's case, pursue its history in connection with the peculiar circumstances under which she was placed.

Having reached the island of Madagascar, more dead than alive from fatigue, exposure, and privation, they were assailed by a large number of ferocious savages of the Malagasy tribe, with evident intent to murder them all; so that the wretched crew were of necessity obliged to put to sea again, and make for Port Dauphin, which was according to calculation about seventy miles distant, where they hoped to find a more civilized race. This they happily accomplished, and were treated with kindness, hospitality, and the greatest regard to the delicacy of their feelings. With this tribe the party remained just three months, hoping anxiously for some passing vessel to convey them to their native home and friends, by whom they had been mourned as lost in the perils of the sea. I need scarcely remark, that during their stay on the island the sufferings of the lady in question were most intense, greatly owing, no doubt, to the quality of food on which she was obliged to subsist. I have given but a brief account of what befell the crew of the *Driade*, which has been published in a little volume written by the captain's daughter, from which interesting publication I quote the following passage, which speaks of the lady in question:—"The delicate one for whom we feared so much was wonderfully supported, and *spared sufferings* which sometimes not the greatest care and skill could alleviate."

For fifteen years after this eventful voyage did the lady in question, to use her own words, "suffer a life of martyrdom." This brings the time down to that in which I first saw her, on

the May 1st, 1857. Her appearance and symptoms at that time I have already described.

I hesitated not at once to place her on the strict sedative and dietary system, commencing with three grains of the extract of conium and one grain of the extract of hyoscyamus, four times a day, attending to the state and regularity of the bowels, and exact punctuality as to meals. I extract the following particulars from my note-book:

"May 9th. All distressing symptoms are gradually subsiding; attends strictly to the prescribed rules. May 16th. Continues free from suffering, enjoys her food, sleeps all night; no signs whatever of her distressing disease. May 23rd. Continues free from an attack of asthma; looks more healthy; and is able to walk three or four miles without difficulty; continues her plan most regularly. May 30th. Going on remarkably well and in high spirits; says she has not been so well for twenty years."

About this time my patient left this place to return home, staying some days with her brother in the neighbourhood of London. On leaving London, she wrote to me on the 14th July as follows:—"I think you may, perhaps, begin to feel some little wish by this time to learn how your patient is going on, and whether the beneficial effects of your prescriptions continue to be felt as much as while I was in Devonshire; I am no less desirous to assure you how *entirely* this has hitherto been the case; and how grateful I feel to the Giver of all good, and secondarily to yourself, every morning when I wake, for the health and comfort I am permitted to enjoy. You told me witchcraft had been extinguished in Bideford many years ago; but I must think something of the old spirit still lingers in the vicinity of your dwelling. I only hope you will never be so uncanny as to withdraw the spells which seem to have charmed back for me a blessing I had believed not to be hoped for again. My brothers are delighted to see me so well, and can hardly believe it is the same poor panting sister they have for so long a time petted and pitied. Indeed, I am myself sometimes tempted to doubt my own identity, never remembering to have enjoyed myself as I now do for at least twenty years. Nothing surprises me more than the impunity with which I seem now able to encounter even considerable fatigue and exposure to skyey influences that would once have certainly brought on a paroxysm of my complaint; long drives, late hours, London sights, Crystal Palace Concerts, etc., have been a severer test than might have been wished. I am more and more encouraged to *adhere strictly* as ever to the prescribed treatment." On August 29th, having reached her home, she wrote—"Were I to write to you as often as gratitude suggested, I believe it would be after every good night's repose procured for me by your able treatment. I am at last quietly at home again, the pleasure unmarred to the last by my old enemy—the asthma; I may say, *quite* unmarred, for though I felt once or twice a little sensitiveness when any considerable change of temperature occurred, it was not more than to induce a little extra care,—a salutary warning that I must not fancy myself quite invulnerable, and I feel that it is true what you told me on leaving Bideford, "that I have recovery very much in my own hands."

On August 4th my patient writes: "You will like to hear how I am going on; I cannot give you a more convincing proof that I am still well and comfortable, living quite a butterfly life amongst my many friends, whose society I now so thoroughly enjoy." For more than two years, from the date of the last communication, I continued to receive satisfactory accounts from my patient, who occasionally writes to me for advice when she appears to require it.

CASE XIV. The next case which I have to record is that of a lady, aged 70, who placed herself under my medical care, owing to the benefit which an operative in the town where she resided, in the south of Devon, had derived after a month's treatment. The lady in question had been afflicted for thirty years, and frequently kept her bed for months together whilst suffering severely; and during one of these periods she resolved on being removed to a railroad carriage, which brought her to Bideford on February 20th, 1858. She was a person of spare habit of body, with all the distinguishing marks of a confirmed asthmatic patient, which doubtless the luxuries and good things of life had materially assisted to perpetuate; for she admitted that she ate largely every day and at every meal, whenever her sufferings would permit of her taking food. She also admitted that she never took her food with a true relish, although the large amount of daily expectation appeared to her to demand a continual supply of nourishment. Her tongue was coated, and stomach distended, which, as she informed me, appeared greatly to increase her sufferings, particu-

larly after a full meal; pulse 70; heart and lungs in a tolerably normal state. She could seldom lie down in bed; but her sufferings, from her description, were never of that distressing character which I have described in former cases; still her state was such as to be constantly irksome to her: the urine had constantly a pink deposit in it. After a few doses of blue pill and extract of henbane, and a saline aperient or two, I commenced the sedative and dietary system. She could not at first be convinced that she should not soon be starved by the comparatively small amount of food allowed. At the end of a fortnight all her distressing symptoms had left her, and at the end of a month she went home perfectly free from complaint, to the no small astonishment of her friends, and I continued for a few weeks to receive a satisfactory account from my patient. But a month had scarcely elapsed before I was requested to visit her, when I found that her symptoms had returned with equal severity. I also learned that she had indulged her appetite, if possible, to a greater extent than prior to my attendance upon her; she said that it had been so ravenous that all the powers of her mind could not induce her to control it, not even by gradually increasing the amount of nourishment prescribed for her daily consumption, and I plainly saw that my advice would be of little avail. And I understand it has been proved to be so; for she prefers, as I am told, to suffer great inconvenience to adopting even a moderate control over her fondness for eating and drinking the very best of everything this world can afford. She is one of those who say the remedy is even worse than the disease: there is only this excuse for such patients, which is, that the disease does not at any time assume the severest form.

CASE XV. This is the case of a lady in whom the disease of dyspeptic asthma first made its appearance in the coldest regions of Russia, just ten years prior to her consulting me. The history which she gave of its origin was simply this. Having experienced some considerable anxiety and distress of mind by which her whole system was greatly lowered and her digestion impaired, she was suddenly seized, whilst exposed to the dust and flock from a bed which was at the time being made up in her room, with a most severe fit of asthma, which lasted for several hours. These attacks returned at short intervals during her residence in Russia. She was in hopes, on her return to her native country, that her health would be restored; on the contrary, nothing appeared to relieve her, although she sought every assistance and remedy that could be procured. On September 7th, 1858, she came to this place, and was under my care for several months; and although it cannot be said she was entirely free from asthma during that time, she passed the winter in comparative ease and comfort, always admitting that whenever symptoms of her complaint appeared it was from acts of her own imprudence in eating forbidden food; but certainly the few paroxysms in this case, when they did come, were more severe than anything I ever saw in the shape of human suffering,—her agonized countenance, her cries for relief and assistance, were most distressing to hear. These attacks were, however, rare in comparison to what she had formerly experienced, and were met by means of the usual antispasmodic remedies, such as chloroform, ether, smoking stramonium, and more particularly the small French cigarettes, which appeared to have a considerable effect, being composed chiefly of stramonium leaves, which, from her own account, greatly shortened the duration of her sufferings. I may here remark, that this has been the only case wherein I was under the necessity of having recourse to palliatives to lessen its severity, or shorten the period of an attack of dyspeptic asthma, which did not at first entirely yield to the strict sedative and dietary system. An opinion may, however, be formed of its success from a letter which my patient addressed to me on the 5th of the following March, from which I make this extract:—

"In offering to give an opinion on your treatment of my case, I think few can speak more fully than myself of the efficacy of your adopted means as being instrumental in the alleviation of this merciless malady for myself, as well as others whom I have heard of. It will be a life-long matter of thankfulness and rejoicing that we were induced to seek your advice, for after ten years acute suffering, and for the past seven—being from the month of October to that of May or June—shut up in one room, I have during the past winter enjoyed comparative comfort and ease, and, up to the middle of January when I had an attack of influenza, I was taking daily outdoor exercise in almost every degree of temperature and sort of weather. I could describe my previous sufferings, but they are almost too distressing to relate; suffice it to say, then, my

attacks frequently became spasmodic, and seemed for hours, even for days at times, to threaten the annihilation of life, and these terrible paroxysms I had been accustomed to endure every fortnight ere I consulted you, till I became a mere skeleton, unequal to any fatigue, and without the power of walking. I cannot boast now of being robust, yet free from any acute suffering, my energy and comparative strength has returned, and, as I before said, my lifelong gratitude will ever be due to you."

As this case came again under my care the following winter, I shall have occasion to allude to it when speaking of *atmospheric influences as the exciting cause* of this most capricious disease, which will be part of the subject of my next paper.

I trust the number of cases which I have now reported of dyspeptic asthma will be sufficient to induce my professional brethren to bring further evidence to bear upon the treatment of a disease, which is generally looked on as one which admits of but little advantage to be derived from medical aid, although one of the most distressing and painful to which suffering humanity is heir. During the publication of my papers, it has been my pleasure already to receive from men of the highest standing in our profession assurances of their opinion of the reasonableness of the arguments, and my ideas on the subject; and not a few have borne testimony of its efficacy by their successful treatment of some of the most inveterate cases of what I have ventured to call dyspeptic asthma.

[To be continued.]

Transactions of Branches.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

NOTES ON THE TREATMENT OF DIABETES.

By WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D.Lond., Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

[Concluded from page 880.]

CASE IV. A fourth case has recently come under my care. D. B., a warehouse porter, aged 48, has been diabetic for four years. The disease was caused by mental anxiety, and at first ran a very rapid course. In three months he had to relinquish his work, from weakness. The complaint was then detected, and his medical attendant put him on a restricted diet; the use of potatoes was forbidden, and bran cakes were substituted for ordinary bread; cabbage was also allowed for dinner. A speedy change for the better followed this treatment. The urine fell from eighteen pints to three and five pints; and in five months he gained fourteen pounds in weight. His resources failing, from inability to follow his employment, he was not able to procure a diet suitable to his condition. He could no longer afford to manufacture the bran cakes according to the formula of Dr. Camplin; and yet such was his resolution that, in order to avoid the use of common bread, which aggravated his complaint, he was in the habit of making his breakfast and tea off simple bran, washed and dried in an oven, mollified with a little butter or broiled bacon; and this prodigal son's fare he washed down with a cup of weak tea or coffee. For two years and eight months this poor fellow dragged on existence in this fashion, courageously fighting his malady; and maintaining, not unsuccessfully, the unequal battle against disease and poverty. Nothing but the certain conviction that the forbidden articles were poisons to him could have sustained his resolution against such heavy odds. His testimony on this head is worthy of audience, both from his long experience of the complaint, and on account of the firmness and veracity of his character. He states that, when obliged by unavoidable circumstances to eke out his subsistence by ordinary bread, he perceives an immediate increase of thirst and clammy dryness of the mouth, more frequent calls to void urine, together with a tendency to drowsiness and failing strength (for all this time he has worked, under an indulgent master, two, three, or four days a week, according to his ability). His report on potatoes is still more unfavourable. "Half a potato disables me"—such is his phrase. Even milk, except in sparing proportion, disagrees with him.

Under these circumstances, I recommended him to persevere in his abstinence from amylaceous food with still greater strictness, but to avail himself more largely of lettuce, cabbage, water-cresses, and spring onions; I also ordered him a grain of opium three times a day. In addition, to relieve his craving