

plied to me to remove an enlarged and painful testicle, which had given him much annoyance for several years. Not considering the disease to be one of a malignant character, I did not feel justified in complying with his request. Several weeks afterwards a summons was sent to my house for my attendance upon a man who was "bleeding to death." Not being at home a medical friend attended for me, and found the patient to be the above-mentioned individual, in a state of syncope from loss of blood. It appeared that he had made a longitudinal incision with a razor through the scrotum over the diseased testicle, had then pulled it out, and cut through the spermatic cord. My friend after some difficulty, arising from the retraction of the cord, secured the artery, the wound went on well, and in three weeks healed. The patient was much delighted with having got rid of his troublesome enemy, and also with his own surgical skill.

### CONGENITAL DEFICIENCY IN THE URINARY BLADDER; PARTIAL NON-CLOSURE OF THE LINEA ALBA; WITH EPISPADIAS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—Seeing in THE LANCET of last week the account of a case of congenital deficiency of the urinary bladder, I am induced to send you the following statement of a similar defect:—

January 27, 1840, Mr. Welchman, my assistant, attended a young woman during her confinement with her first child. The infant appeared healthy, but at the lower part of the abdomen was a tumour, which presented an irregular lobulated appearance; it was covered with a mucous membrane, and near its centre were two depressions, from which the urine oozed. These were probably the mouths of the ureters. The penis was at first somewhat longer than usual, but has since, as well as the tumour, much diminished in size. The corpus cavernosum and glans penis are well-formed, but there is no prepuce. Along the dorsum of the organ is a groove having the appearance of the urethra, slit open, and extending the whole length of the penis, but there is no meatus. The scrotum and testicles are natural. The child appeared from irritation to waste for the first month, but by attention has recovered, and is now doing well. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH CURTIS.

Camden Town, April 17, 1840.

### INFLUENZA

COMPLICATED WITH HOOPING-COUGH, TREATED WITH FREQUENT DOSES OF CALOMEL.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—If you should think the following case of sufficient interest to occupy a place in your valuable Journal, it is very much at your service. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
WILLIAM JONES, M.R.C.S.L.

Ulverston-super-Mare, April 15, 1840.

On the 22nd of March, P.M., I was called to see a little girl, 2½ years old, who appeared to be suffering from influenza. She had lately recovered from an attack of the head (cerebral congestion, I imagine), and was sent here for change of air, in consequence of hooping-cough. I ordered her a warm bath, and calomel with jalap, immediately, and one-sixth of a grain of tartarised antimony every fourth hour.

23. Breathing worse, symptoms of pneumonia having set in; râle crepitant very distinct. Two leeches were applied under each clavicle, and a blister to the sternum. Repeat the cathartic, and administer the tartarised antimony every two hours. Evening: Breathing no better; occasionally there is a violent attack of the spasmodic cough, attended with a loud hoop; the antimony occasions slight nausea. Repeat the warm bath, and give two grains of calomel, with one-sixth of a grain of tartarised antimony, every two hours.

24. None of the symptoms relieved; bowels not open; skin burning; breathing very quick; constant thirst. Two leeches to be applied to the chest, together with a blister; castor oil immediately, and the following powder:—

*Chloride of mercury, and powder of scammony, aa grs. ij;*

*Powder of ipecacuanha, gr. i. Ft. pulv.*  
To be taken every two hours.

My friend, Mr. Hardwick, saw the case with me to-day. He advised two more leeches, and the calomel to be persevered with. In the evening the bowels were plentifully opened, the other symptoms remaining much the same. Omit the scammony, but continue the calomel and ipecacuanha every two hours.

25. A little improvement in the breathing; bowels not opened during the night; mouth not sore. Let her have a warm bath immediately, and some castor oil; continue the calomel.

26. About four o'clock this morning the nurse observed the breathing to have become slower. I visited my little patient at eight, A.M. The mouth was evidently affected, the cheeks were somewhat tumefied, and the breath foetid; all the symptoms

were improved. Omit the calomel. Evening: she continues improving, but is very weak. I ordered her arrow-root, with a few drops of brandy occasionally, and isinglass with gum frequently.

27. She continues to improve; but is very much debilitated, and is harassed with the whooping-cough, for which I ordered frictions to the spine, and the following mixture, with very great benefit:—

*Simple syrup*, ℥iiss;

*Extract of conium*, grs. ij;

*Extract of hyoscyamus*, grs. ij;

*Hydrocyanic acid*, min. ij;

*Syrup of squills*, ℥ij;

*Mucilage of gum acacia*, ℥ij. mx. A tea-spoonful to be taken three times a day.

From this time she continued to improve daily, and left here on the 14th inst., with little else than debility remaining.

The above case I think to be interesting in several points of view (although nothing new is pretended to be advanced). First, as proving the large doses of calomel that children will bear without its producing any serious mischief in the mouth; Secondly, as showing how suddenly and rapidly the disease gave way, so soon as the system became affected with the mercury; and, lastly, the great value of a combination of sedatives in pertussis.

#### SUDDEN METASTASIS OF RHEUMATISM TO THE HEART.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—I transmit the particulars of the following case of rheumatic metastasis, hoping it may not be uninteresting to the readers of your truly valuable Journal:—

James Godwin, a carpenter, having been for some years troubled with attacks of acute rheumatism of an erratic nature, had one, on the 16th of April, in the elbow-joint of the left arm. Being desirous of removing it he applied to a chemist, who gave him an embrocation, which had the desired effect in a few hours. (I must remark that he had been previously cautioned against using any external application, in consequence of the pains suddenly flying from one part of the body to another.) From that period (ten o'clock in the morning) until nine o'clock in the evening, he felt considerable præcordial uneasiness, which prevented him from taking his usual food. At nine o'clock he was seized with pain between the fifth and sixth ribs, accompanied with tremors and inclination to faint, the symptoms increasing in violence. At ten o'clock I saw him, and found his pulse irregular; at one period slow and labouring, at another hard, quick, and wiry. The sound of the heart was similar to the *bruit de rape* muffled, or

to the noise of two dry surfaces rubbed together; his breathing was irregular at one period, hurried at another—slow; the countenance expressed alarm; and the tongue was dry and loaded. I bled him to syncope from a large orifice, ordered his feet to be bathed in mustard and water, and gave him eight grains of calomel with ten of Dover's powder, to be followed by ten minims of tincture of digitalis, and fifteen of antimonial wine, every two hours. The next morning at ten o'clock there was but slight improvement, the pulse still continued wiry, but was not so irregular. I therefore bled him again to syncope, and gave the common aperient mixture, with fifteen minims of the wine of colchicum every two hours. At two o'clock there was considerable amendment, the pain was relieved, and the pulse soft without irregularity; the skin was cool, and the anxiety of the countenance completely removed. There was a slight return of the symptoms in the evening, in consequence of a cough which had come on at that time; but a small blister removed them before morning, and he has returned to his work these last two days perfectly well.

You may see by the above that I am no advocate for the homœopathic system, perhaps in *medio tutissimus*.

PETER BERRELL, Surgeon.

53, Mount-street, Lambeth,  
April 28, 1840.

#### DUMBNESS PRODUCED BY SULPHATE OF QUININE.

BY DR. MÉNAGE.

MADAME L., 22-years of age, nervous, irregular in menstrual functions, subject to hysterical affections, was seized with intermittent fever, which evinced its activity by the periodic return of the above symptoms. After the six first attacks, twelve grains of sulphate of quinine were ordered, to be exhibited in three doses during the intermission. The two first doses produced no effect; but immediately after taking the third, extreme nervous excitement was induced, the features became sharp, the eyes projecting; there was violent pain in the head, and, finally, a total inability of utterance. The sense of hearing and sight were unaffected. This condition after lasting for twenty-four hours ceased instantly, leaving behind it merely a slight confusion in the head. The fever did not reappear.

This case loses much of its interest from occurring in an hysterical patient. A similar case was observed by M. Bertin, and published in a thesis by that gentleman in 1839.—*Gaz. Med. de Paris*, April 25, 1840.