

April 2nd.—Very much improved; plays at cards with the children; attended divine service yesterday, and family prayers this morning. Removed to an associated bed-room. She is now wearing dresses of ordinary texture.

9th.—Continues to improve; has only wetted her bed once since last report.

11th.—Improving daily; plays at croquet and cards with the children. She plays quietly on the piano; but has quite lost her voice for singing. Her friends say she never could sing.

22nd.—Employed in needlework, and very rational.

May 20th.—So much better that she is able to go out with the family. She attends church regularly, and spends a good deal of her time in teaching one of the little boys his lessons.

From this time she gradually improved, went to several places of amusement, concerts, Crystal Palace, Polytechnic, and even to a white bait dinner at Greenwich. On the 13th of July she left the house on trial; and on the 27th was discharged recovered.

Earl's Court House, Brompton, Sept. 1864.

REPORT OF TWO CASES

OF

COMPOUND FRACTURE OF THE SKULL.

TREPHINING; REMOVAL AND ELEVATION OF
DEPRESSED BONE; RECOVERY.

By A. HARRIS, M.D.

HENRY M—, aged nine years, on the 9th of March, 1861, fell from a loft into the stable-yard, a height of fourteen feet, and struck his head against a projecting stone of the pavement. He was immediately taken to his house, and I was in attendance in about ten minutes after the accident. I found him lying on a sofa, affected by stupor, surface of body cold, breathing difficult, pulse weak. He could be roused by speaking to him. There was a lacerated wound of about two inches and a half in length near the frontal eminence on the left side of the frontal bone. On introducing my finger into the wound, I found an extensive depressed fracture of bone, one margin of which was driven under the sound portion. Believing that raising the bone would be the wisest course to adopt, I enlarged the wound, and trephined in the usual way. Two large and several small pieces of bone were then removed, and a considerable piece, which was not detached, raised to the proper level. The inner table was fractured to a greater extent than the outer. Having ascertained that nothing remained that was likely to irritate, and the dura mater appearing uninjured, I closed the wound by three sutures, and applied cold-water dressing.

I saw him again four hours after the operation, when he very readily answered my questions, and was inclined to sleep.

March 10th.—Had a tolerably good night; complains of soreness over the wound.

13th.—Removed the dressings and two of the stitches; wound healthy, and in great part healed; free discharge of pus.

16th.—Has gone on well to this time, and left his bed this day; removed remaining stitch; still discharging freely.

He continued to progress favourably, and at the end of two months from the receipt of the injury was quite well.

C—, aged fourteen years, mason's boy, on the 13th of November, 1861, fell from the second floor of a house (a height of sixteen feet), which was in course of building, on to some stones on the ground, his head coming in contact with the corner of a large one. He was immediately picked up insensible, and conveyed home. I saw him about an hour after the accident. He had not recovered his consciousness, and was in a state of deep stupor, from which I could not rouse him. Breathing stertorous; pulse full; pupils dilated. On examining his head, I found a small scalp wound near the anterior superior margin of the right parietal bone. I enlarged the wound, and discovered that there was a considerable indentation in the bone, and across its middle I detected a crack with the probe; the margin all round appeared not to be fractured, but bent. The symptoms warranting operative interference, I trephined, and succeeded in raising the depressed bone, and only two small pieces and a few spiculæ of the inner table

required removing. The boy spoke and complained of his head directly the bone was raised. The wound was then closed with plaster, and cold-water dressing applied.

On the next day my patient was quite conscious, but complained of his head. I ordered an aperient, which relieved him. He kept his bed ten days, and at the end of six weeks had quite recovered from the injury.

Camborne, Cornwall, Sept. 1864.

REPORT OF A

CASE OF OPISTHOTONOS CURED BY ICE.

By EDWARD HOWARD, M.R.C.P.L.

THIS case seems worthy of record in a medico-legal point of view, as, under many circumstances, poisoning by strychnia would have been strongly suspected.

On the 13th of August, in the afternoon, I was summoned to attend Mr. C—, aged twenty-five, of bilious aspect and nervous temperament. He is a foreman in a draper's shop, but much out of doors as an agent collecting orders. About two years ago he was under my care with well marked hysteria, which diagnosis was subsequently confirmed by other physicians who saw him. From that he recovered by a liberal diet and a general mineral- tonic treatment. He has enjoyed good health during the last eighteen months, although I do not doubt he has had much anxiety from failure in trade.

On arriving, I found my patient lying over the back of a chair, his shoulders and legs being supported by four attendants. His body was drawn backward and arched; attempts to put him straight caused a fearful increase of pain, which he described as like having a testicle pressed strongly. There was also a sense of suffocation from contraction of the abdominal and intercostal muscles; heart's sounds and action normal; pulse feeble and quick (72). I had him placed on a couch, with a sofa-pillow under his back as a support. He was perfectly sensible, and had had no fit or loss of consciousness. A few hours before, he had a dull pain in the spine between the shoulders; this increased, and he found himself unable to speak to a customer he was serving. He went to the back of the house to get fresh air, and then was suddenly drawn back by the tonic spasm in which I found him. Tongue moist and clean, and the bowels regular. He had received no wound or injury of any kind, nor taken anything that could have disagreed with him. There was no sickness or nausea. Ordered a light nutritious diet, and five grains of sesquicarbonate of ammonia in infusion of gentian every fourth hour.

Aug. 14th.—Morning: Much the same; not worse, but no definite amelioration. Ordered ice to be constantly applied along the spine, and to continue medicine.—Evening: Better; the spasm less violent, and the breathing unimpeded. To continue the ice, and take five grains of citrate of iron and quinine every sixth hour.

15th.—Still improving. The opisthotonos has vanished; only tenderness along the dorsal spine remains, and slight spasmodic pains on sudden movements of the body.

I need only add that the progress to entire recovery was rapid, and hitherto there has been no sign of a relapse.

Red Hill, Surrey, Sept. 10th, 1864.

ON A CASE OF SUDDEN DELIVERY, WITH RUPTURE OF THE FUNIS.

By WILLIAM ST. JOHN COLEMAN, L.R.C.P.

NEVER having read or heard of a similar instance, I was naturally enough impressed with the great danger of the following at the time. I am induced, from this fact, to place it upon record. The interest of many cases, too, depends upon their isolation, and from the scarcity attending similar reports, it may not be without attraction to the profession. To my more immediate brethren, the junior members of the profession, it will be of service, as the relation of a case of unusual interest, fraught with great danger, and of which many of them, like myself, had never learned like particulars.

On June 7th I was called to see Mrs. M—, in labour with