

by another, or abandoned by the authors themselves. The cause of this, great variety and change of opinion is to be found, either in an honest desire for the truth, and a belief that it has been discovered, or in a desire to introduce some new theory, that may attract notoriety and promise wealth to its advocates. This has given rise to the numerous medical systems and denominations which have existed and continue to exist. The great error has been in forming theories upon observations or statements, without duly inquiring whether they have been sufficiently numerous, and have been carefully and truthfully made, upon a uniform and comprehensive plan, or whether they are otherwise imperfect. Any theory, however plausible, resting upon a basis in which imperfection exists, is liable to be overthrown.

One great desideratum seems to be a *register of cases*, for private professional practice, constructed on a plan so simple in its requirements, so convenient in its form, at so low a cost, and so comprehensive in its design, that it shall commend itself to universal favor, and be universally used. If such a desirable end could be attained, means would be provided, which have not hitherto existed, to illustrate the causes, nature, effects, and treatment of disease. The abstracts of a large number of authentic registers, if properly presented to the public, would, it is believed, overthrow and destroy much of the medical theory and practice of the age, and introduce a more natural, rational and successful system.

"The private register of the medical practitioner," says Mr. Farr, "would, at the end of a few years, be of incalculable benefit to him; he might refer back to it for important information, transmit it to his sons or successors in practice, analyze the results of his experience, and, in conjunction with his brethren all over the country, would ultimately accumulate a large mass of materials, which could not fail to advance medical science. Too much need not be attempted at first; *all cases* should be noticed; but those facts should be chiefly recorded which are of an unquestionable nature, and that admit of precise statement and comparison, in respect to number, time, weight and measure."

How shall this register be constructed? We have examined a large number of different plans, but none of them exactly meet our views. After consulting with several different physicians, whose opinions and approval are entitled to all respect, we propose one for adoption, a double page of which is presented and explained in the appendix. It may be afforded at a low price; and its form is such that it may be conveniently carried about by the practitioner, thus allowing him to have at hand the means of entering his observations *in the place and at the time* they are made.

Such a register would enable the physician to give the certificate of the cause of death, required under the registry laws, and also to give the amount of sickness suffered in any family he visits.

CASE OF GLOSSITIS.

BY C. T. QUINTARD, M.D., OF ROSWELL, GA.

THE following case presents some peculiarities which call for its publication. On Tuesday, Sept. 23d, was called in consultation with Dr.

P., on the case of J. F., who, I was informed, had been sick since the Friday previous. The following is the history of the case to date. About six weeks ago, a dentist, in attempting to extract one of the larger molars on the right side, broke off the crown, and left the root. For ten days a continuous pain was felt about the part; it then became intermittent until the 12th inst., when it ceased altogether. On the evening of the 19th, the pain returned—the patient applied a few drops of ol. caryoph. and went to sleep. In the morning the pain became severe, and the tongue was slightly swollen. During the day (20th) he complained of pain in the back, and general malaise. In the evening Dr. P. visited the patient, prescribed a cathartic, and applied a blister about the anterior part of the neck.

Sept. 20th.—Tongue, sub-lingual and sub-maxillary glands much swollen; pain severe; the masseter muscles rigid, particularly that of the right side.

22d.—Made my first visit at 10 o'clock, A. M. Patient, a waggoner, aged 28; fine ruddy complexion, light hair, weighs 175 lbs., and is five feet one inch high. This morning there is an aggravation of all the symptoms. Patient unable to articulate; tongue protruded between the lips—is tense, red and painful to the touch; his breathing laborious; his brow bathed in perspiration; surface in other places hot; pulse 100, and full; saliva flowing profusely. He had passed a restless night, tossing to and fro on his bed, without any cessation of pain. No dejection since the operation of the cathartic administered on the 19th. Blood was at once abstracted to the amount of 25 oz.; a large dose of sal Epsom administered, and a poultice of hops and meal applied to the neck. Patient experienced considerable relief from the bleeding, and was able, after some effort, to swallow the salts. Not being able to remain with the patient, I advised the application of C. cups *ad nucha*, but no blood was drawn, as I learnt on my return at 6, P. M. Breathing easier, tongue not so painful; salts have operated well. The pulse being about the same as at my former visit, again advised venesection, and twenty-five ounces more blood was drawn, together with six or eight ounces by cups under the clavicles. At 9 o'clock there was a free discharge of fetid pus from an abscess at the base of the tongue.

23d.—This morning found the patient sitting up, quite cheerful. No pain; tongue not so much swollen, nor so much lessened as was to have been expected from the discharge of pus which had continued through the night. It was still impossible to pass the finger back to the base of the tongue. Ordered only chicken-broth. In the evening the discharge had ceased, but was renewed by using a probe.

24th.—Patient slept well till towards morning, when there was a recurrence of pain. The right side of the tongue was now more swollen than the left, and as there was evidently another abscess forming, and the pulse again full and frequent, the patient was put on the use of half a grain of tart. emetic every two hours. 5, P. M. Has taken but two doses of the tartar, which acted freely on the bowels, as well as having produced the desired effect. At 2 o'clock, the second abscess discharged an enormous quantity of offensive pus. Ordered a cup of strong green tea, and morph. gr. ss. to be taken at 8 o'clock.

25th.—Patient better in every respect. Has some appetite, and considered convalescing. It is proper to state that scarification of the tongue had been attempted, but would not be submitted to by the patient.

Among the causes which predispose to glossitis are reckoned compression of the jugular veins (Stahl) ; ptialism (Slegel, Frank, Hosack) ; rubbing the head with mercurial ointment, smallpox, &c. (Trincavalleus). Among the occasional causes, are wounds, laceration, and contusions of the tongue ; the application of emetic to the organ, burns ; while the most frequent is the action of acrid or acro-narcotic substances on the tongue. "Such effects have been produced by the juice of the daphne mezereon, by tobacco leaves, and by the sting of wasps, bees, and other insects." Dupont relates a case of a young man who, for a wager, "took two bites of a toad, and was speedily attacked with severe glossitis."—(Vid. Brit. and For. Med. Chir. Rev. July, 1850, p. 54.)

The treatment of this disease is generally simple, consisting of venesection, scarification of the tongue, or incisions made parallel to the raphe, the introduction of ice into the mouth, and, if the patient can swallow, the administration of cathartics or laxatives. Emetics are highly commended by Dupont, Ruggi, Wettingsins and others, in the earlier stages.

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INFLUENCE OF MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS ON THE FŒTUS.

BY M. J. M'CORMACK, M.D.

THE first case I will allude to is that of a near relative (an uncle), who presents a very extraordinary mark all down his left thigh and leg, which (strange though it may seem is nevertheless true) is much more vivid and prominent during the summer season than at any other time. The appearance it then presents is that of a red currant-tree branch in full fruit ; the fruit being regularly raised and standing out of the cuticle, having a bruised appearance, with the juice squirted all over the limb. Now, in connection with this is the circumstance of his mother, when not more than six weeks or two months pregnant with him, being engaged (as the ladies of that period were in the habit of being) in making some preserve from red currants ; and whilst in the act of squeezing the muslin bag containing the fruit, it burst and covered her whole face. Being a woman possessed of great presence of mind, and being also fully impressed with the prejudices of that day, of the effect the mother's mind had on the child, she, instead of putting her hand up to her face, at once passed it down the thigh and leg ; at the time she did so she declared it was to prevent her offspring being disfigured ; the result was as above described. I may further add, that the party alluded to is now a very distinguished officer in H. M.'s navy, and I have myself often seen the appearance of the leg, which in summer is very startling.

The second one occurred with a much nearer relative, and I was myself an eye-witness of the circumstance, and, I confess, watched its probable result with great anxiety ; it was one of the first things which has made me hesitate in coming to any decision. This lady happened (re-

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