

and improving the tone of the system generally. For this purpose, from half a grain to a grain of the sulphate, combined with a slight excess of sulphuric acid, is a sufficient dose.

As an antiperiodic, a grain and a half to three grains or more, even to the extent of six grains, may be given at suitable intervals. Its most appreciable effect on the system is, that it increases the heart's action, raising the pulsations from ten to twenty beats per minute beyond the ordinary amount, and renders the pulse somewhat fuller.

In larger doses (five to fifteen grains) it produces increased heat of surface and diaphoresis, and sometimes disagreeable symptoms—nausea, giddiness, and vomiting. These, however, disappear on lessening the dose, in most cases. The author remarks, "In several cases I have obtained marked benefit by combining tincture of opium with the sulphate of anarcotine." "The only objection to the medicine is its tendency to produce constipation;" hence, before and during its administration, purges are necessary.

In reference to the relative economy of anarcotine and quinine, Dr. Garden's tables are full and conclusive. The average quantity of sulphate of anarcotine required to arrest intermittent fevers was found to be twenty grains for quotidiens, and something less than forty grains for tertians; whilst about sixteen grains were demanded during convalescence from both kinds for the re-establishment of health. If it fails in a small per-centage of cases, this is not more than is experienced with quinine, to which it is nearly if not quite equal in therapeutic value as an antiperiodic.

As a matter of mere scientific curiosity, not of any present significance in therapeutics, we may add that organic chemistry separates anarcotine into four homologous bodies, which, by decomposition with caustic potash, yield homologous volatile bases:—

Normal anarcotine—yielding ammonia.			
Methylic	"	"	methylamin.
Ethylic	"	"	ethylamin.
Propylic	"	"	propylamin.

[*Note on Veratrum Viride.*—Since our last issue we have been informed that a saturated tincture of veratrum viride affords relief from the pain arising from carious teeth, where opium and all other narcotics fail. In one case reported to us a small quantity was accidentally swallowed. It produced great muscular prostration, a very slow pulse, nausea, and, an hour and a half after being swallowed, vomiting. Recovery was then rapid, and no return of the toothache has been experienced.]

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I find from numerous letters which I have lately received, that a general impression seems to exist that the new regulations recently issued by the Scottish Universities Commissioners came in force in this University on the first day of the present year.

Will you permit me to state, through the medium of your pages, that the new regulations do not come into operation until the first day of next year?

During the present year, members of any one of the Colleges of Surgeons, of the Apothecaries' Society of London, and of the Glasgow Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, are, as heretofore, eligible as candidates for our medical degree.

After the present year, if the proposed regulations are confirmed by the Privy Council, no one will be admitted as a candidate for a medical degree who has not spent two of the four winter sessions at an English or Scottish University; at Trinity College, or one of the Queen's Colleges, Ireland; or at King's or University College, London.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

GEO. E. DAY, M.D.,

January, 1862.

Prof. of Medicine in the University of St. Andrews.

CASE OF NUMEROUS FRACTURES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the 12th November last I was requested to attend a boy who had fallen through the roof of a large ice-house. I found him suffering from the following injuries,—namely:

Compound comminuted fracture of the right thigh; comminuted fracture of the left thigh; simple fracture of the radius of the left arm; simple fractures of the ulna and radius of the right arm; loss of four upper incisor teeth, with portion of the alveolar process; severe contusion of the right eyebrow. The boy survived the accident seven days.

I am induced to send you the particulars of the above case for the following reasons:—First, on account of the number of bones broken. In a very interesting monograph contributed by Mr. Hornidge to "A System of Surgery," the author states that fractures of three or more bones in different parts of the same skeleton are rarely found. Now in this case there were five of the long bones fractured, besides other injuries. Secondly, the fee of £12, allowed me by the guardians of the Romford Union, is, I believe, the highest that has ever been received by a Poor-law medical officer.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Barking, Essex, Jan. 1862.

FRED. DAVIDSON, L.R.C.P.E.

SECURING THE CATHETER IN THE URETHRA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Referring to the description given in THE LANCET of last week of the method by which Mr. Hart, at the West London Hospital, secures the catheter in the urethra, may I be allowed to mention a simple plan I adopt? A ring of bone, or other suitable material, is passed over the penis, and fixed in close contact with the pubis by two broad tapes passed round the pelvis; from this, as a fixed point, two slender tapes are secured to the bone-end of the catheter. By this plan the catheter can be kept in close contact with the stricture (a most desirable thing), and by not allowing the catheter to project more than about an inch from the urethra, the patient is enabled to walk about without disturbing the instrument.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

City-road, Manchester, Jan. 1862.

JOHN HUNTER, M.A.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CHILD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case I send, not that there is any great amount of interest connected with it, nor from any particular novelty that I am aware of in it, but simply as forming one of those cases to be borne in mind at all times when the question arises as to whether the death of an infant (occurring suddenly or at least unexpectedly) has been caused by neglect or by some intentional act of the parent or attendant, or whether it is consistent with the verdict of "Accidental death:—"

On Friday morning, the 16th ult., I was summoned to a village about six miles distant, in consequence of an infant having been found dead in its mother's bed. On arriving there, I saw the mother, a married woman, the wife of a labourer in very humble circumstances, and she told me that the infant (her second child) was thirty days old, and was healthy from its birth. On the previous evening, at seven o'clock, the child had sucked well, and once again during the night (supposed to be about two A.M.) had taken the breast; and from this time she had been in no way disturbed. According to habit, she awoke at about half-past four, as her husband usually went to work about five, and to her horror found the baby dead. It was lying to her right, the farthest side from the father, and on its own left side looking towards its mother. I found the infant in an upstairs room, lying on its back, having been placed thus by a neighbour; its hands were clenched; the lips blue and pouting; and the tongue thrust out a little way from between them. An inquest was deemed necessary, and a post-mortem ordered, which I accordingly made on the following day.

The child was well nourished; there were no marks of violence or flattening of the features. On opening the chest, I found the lungs and right side of the heart turgid with blood, but otherwise normal. The stomach contained a quantity of curdled milk. On opening the larynx, I found a small quantity of the same kind of curdled milk resting on the vocal cords, and lining the upper two or three tracheal rings, and thus completely blocking up the tube, which in calibre was not larger than an ordinary goose quill. On going down stairs again, I ascertained that on the previous day the child had frequently thrown up its milk. On this statement, and what the post-mortem examination revealed, I founded a theory as to the cause of death (given in evidence), viz., that some time after the child had taken the breast, whilst lying on its left

side, it had been seized with vomiting, and whilst in the act of retching, had turned its face into the pillow; thus the egress of the vomited matter being fairly prevented, the next inspiration had drawn some of the contents of the mouth into the larynx, and the child, either from position, or more probably from sheer want of strength, had been unable to clear the larynx, and thus death had ensued from mechanical obstruction.

This, I believe, to be the true explanation of the cause of this infant's death; and it has since struck me forcibly, might not many of the deaths of supposed "overlaid children" be accounted for by such an accident as the above?

Yours faithfully,

F. D. ROSS, M.R.C.S.

Guildford, Dec. 1861.

PARISIAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

I ANNOUNCED to your readers some months ago that that ingenious electrician, Dr. Duchenne de Boulogne, had for some time been preparing, with the aid of photography, a work, partly addressed to physiologists and partly to artists, on Facial Expression. To the correct reproduction, by means of electrical stimulation, of the cutaneous wrinklins by which the various mental impressions are portrayed on the human face, and to their accurate representation by means of photography, this experimentalist has devoted many hours of patient labour. As Dr. Duchenne addressed his first communication on this subject to the Academy only on Tuesday last, I find that I have anticipated his announcement by about six months. As it was this gentleman's intention to send his very interesting album of portraits to the Great Exhibition, and as I have every reason to believe that he will do so, your readers will have an opportunity of judging for themselves as to the correctness of his views on the "Orthography of Physiognomical Language."

The Ministers of Commerce and of Public Instruction have presented to the Emperor a report on the necessity which exists for a revision of the Pharmacopœia. It is probable that a committee will be selected from amongst the members of the Academy for this purpose, and that those medicines hitherto excluded from general use, but of which experience has taught the value, will be formally recognized; and that others already admitted, but now ascertained to be practically worthless, will be omitted.

The serial publication of M. Lefort's essay upon the comparative salubrity of the Paris and London hospitals, has been brought to a close; and as the circulation of the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, in which the communication has appeared, is very extensive, a fair notion of the system at present existing in England will be spread throughout France. From what I see and hear in this capital, and from the admissions made on both sides the Channel, it is evident that a much more friendly disposition mutually to give and take, to teach and learn, exists between the two countries now than at any previous period in history. We are, in fact, on the eve of a medical *entente cordiale*, which may, like the new treaty of commerce, be made alike profitable to both countries. If the interchange of experience be made in the true spirit of science, without feeling of rivalry or jealousy, there can be little doubt but that a degree of perfection hitherto unknown in hospital organization may be attained by a fusion of the merits to be found in both.

One of the drawbacks hitherto unnoticed by the adversaries of depletion is mentioned in the Paris journals as illustrated by the following anecdote:—A physician of Hondelaincourt, in the department of the Meuse, was found dead on the high-road; he had been murdered by a succession of heavy blows, inflicted by a blunt instrument, on the head. Search was made for the assassin, and a labouring man, named Vincent, thirty-eight years of age, was arrested on suspicion. It subsequently transpired that Vincent had been ill, and had been treated in turn by two medical men, Dr. Guyot, the victim, being one, and Dr. Hanin, the other. Both had recommended copious bleeding, but neither had succeeded in curing his patient. Finding no relief from this mode of treatment, Vincent applied to a third practitioner, who informed him that his symptoms arose entirely from want of blood. This announcement so

incensed the labourer, that he resolved upon lynching his former medical advisers as a punishment for malapragis; and accordingly, having heard that Dr. Guyot was at a neighbouring village, he waylaid and slew him, offering as a most indubitable justification of his act the Scripture authority of "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

In several letters, I have referred to the conflicting testimony which prevails in France on the question of the respirability of pulverized liquids; M. Sales-Giron and his partisans maintaining that minutely subdivided fluids do pass through the glottis into the lungs, and an equally large and respectable body asserting the contrary: both bringing facts and experiments, the one being in direct opposition to the other. Who shall decide...? The question is decided already. A speculator in the Quartier Latin has opened an establishment, and sent round circulars, in which he offers to the confiding public any amount as well as any quality of pulverized liquid by inhalation for something more than a franc and a half each sitting. Perhaps some enterprising pedicure might turn an honest penny by hiring, at a low rate, the ground-floor of Eddystone light-house, and making consumptive patients inhale the spray of the sea during a stiff sou-wester, through a series of loop-holes bored for the purpose.

The *Revue Contemporaine*, under the heading of "La Question des Eaux de Paris," publishes an interesting article by Baron Ernouf, in which the various projects for supplying the capital with pure water are fully discussed. M. Bouchut, it will be remembered, during the summer made the most appalling revelations regarding the insect population of the fluid at present served out from the open reservoirs round Paris. The water of the tank in the Rue Racine is often covered with a yellowish-brown crust, composed of all possible varieties of minute animal and vegetable life. A most interesting crustacean individual of the genus *Daphnia* affects the reservoirs in the Quartier Popincourt, and a liberal supply of disinfecting material, in the shape of soot mellowed by an admixture of rotten leaves and departed caterpillars, rivals the celebrated emulsion of sewage so long distributed to, and so impatiently accepted by, the population of Montmartre. The municipality of Paris have a decided weakness for a supply from Champagne, and smile upon a proposal for diverting the waters of the Somme, Soude, and Dhuis from their beds to the capital by means of aqueducts. The plan is opposed, however, by the vinous province; and as its completion would entail the construction of some 120 miles of iron piping, or other channel, and an expenditure of two millions of pounds sterling, its advisability is generally questioned. Add to which, in case of an invasion, the province of Champagne being one of the most exposed points of the territory, an enemy might at once cut off the supply of water to the capital: no small consideration in a strategical point of view. Baron Ernouf's ultimate conclusions seem to coincide with the opinions expressed by most of the practical men who have been consulted on the matter,—namely, that large gravelly basins should be constructed near the Seine, above Paris, and that the intake pipes for their supply should be laid above that point where contamination by town sewage commences.

M. Coste, the pisciculturist (not mentioned in "Johnson's Dictionary"), embarked at Toulon last week in order to proceed on a tour round the Mediterranean coasts. His object is to ascertain the results of an experiment made two years ago relative to the artificial formation of oyster banks. The success of the so-called *Ostreoculture* at Bordeaux and Toulon has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its originator; but meanwhile natives are quoted at a franc a dozen on the *carte* of the Café Anglais.

A Lille newspaper, the *Echo du Nord*, mentions another instance of the prostitution of science, and cautions the public against receiving certain forged notes of the Bank of France, which have been put in circulation in that part of the world. These notes are executed by photography, and so perfectly resemble the original as almost to defy detection. Several of them, which had passed into the hands of respectable tradesmen, have been refused by the banks of Paris.

The Academy of Sciences has received from M. Jourdan a description of two new fossil animals: one the *Rhizoprion Bariensis*, of which the head only has been found, appearing to belong to an extinct race of cetacea; the other, the *Dinocyon Thenardi*, of which the skeleton has been obtained, and which bears considerable resemblance to those of the canine race.

Amongst the novelties in the botanical world, I may mention the following, which possibly may be of use to agriculturists:—The *Journal de Fécamp* publishes a letter from M. St. Réquier,