

of its "demoralising them, and transforming them into drunkards." Now, I suspect it is the abuse of this allowance which has led to such pernicious results; and, although it is with great diffidence that I express an opinion opposed to that of a sanitary officer on such a point, yet my experience in her Majesty's Navy leads me to believe that a small allowance of ardent spirit is beneficial. The present allowance of rum to soldiers in the field is, I believe, one gill, or a quarter of a pint; and some years ago this was the allowance to the seamen, when drunkenness was frequent in the navy; it is now reduced to half a gill, taken in the middle of the day, and drunkenness is rare. But even at the time when the issue in the navy was double what it is now, it was not pretended that the man got drunk on his own allowance. The "grog" was issued twice a day, at noon and evening, and the evening allowances of several men were frequently mortgaged to one, in payment of various debts, and this one, naturally, got drunk. A similar arrangement is probably the cause of drunkenness amongst soldiers in the field. I well know that any amount of hard work can be performed on good tea or coffee. But good tea or coffee is not easily prepared on all occasions; while grog is easily made, and produces an exhilarating effect which is not without benefit. Could not the army ration be diminished one half, mixed with water, as in the navy, and care taken that no man drank more than his own quantity?

In respect to the bedding issued for campaigning in New Zealand, it appears to me that, when dry fern, which makes an admirable bed, cannot be obtained, the waterproof sheet used as a hammock—some modification of what, I think, is called the "McGwire" hammock—would be an excellent sanitary precaution, as it enables men to sleep a foot or two above the bare ground.

In the article on the "Topography of New Zealand," in this paper, scant justice is done to many of its natural beauties and wonders, in merely naming them. But nothing named is more wonderful than the Geyser at White Island, in the Bay of Plenty, which, at many miles' distance, is seen as a jet of steam rising far out at sea, and thrown high into the air—not continuous, but intermittent, and ever varying its fantastic shapes.

H.M.S. *Boscawen*, Portland, Jan. 1868.

ALBUMINURIA IN A CHILD SEVEN WEEKS OLD.

By G. F. HELM, B.A. CANTAB., F.R.C.S.,
SURGEON TO RUGBY SCHOOL.

ON October 3rd, 1866, I was called to see the infant of the Rev. C. S—, aged seven weeks.

History.—Was a fine child when born, but since has been troubled with almost constant vomiting, for which every variety of food has been tried. As the mother from the first had no milk, the child has been entirely fed by hand up to this time. The different foods which have been ordered from time to time have usually remained on the stomach during the first few days of their trial; but after a short interval the vomiting has returned as badly as ever, and a fresh food has then been tried with a like result. No history of scarlatina or measles.

The child is a perfect skeleton, almost the most miserable object I ever beheld; lies listlessly in any position in which it may be placed; appearing not to suffer any pain; indeed it scarcely ever cries out as with pain. I can detect no mischief in the thorax nor in the abdomen, which is soft and not distended. Head rather small; no heat of head or skin; pulse very weak and rapid; bowels open regularly twice a day; motions said to be natural; has not passed urine for twenty-four hours. I ordered a wet-nurse, as that had not as yet been tried.

Oct. 7th.—Nurse's milk has been rejected like everything else in the shape of food. On testing some urine to-day, I found it pale, almost like pure water, and containing sufficient albumen to make a deposit of some height in the test-tube. To try beef-tea, and a regulated quantity of brandy in small quantities at frequent intervals.

10th.—No improvement. A donkey has been procured. The milk to be taken in a small quantity at a time; also ten minims of iron wine every six hours.

24th.—Up to this time the donkey's milk has agreed well

with the child, to judge by the absence of vomiting; still no real progress is being made. The urine contains the same amount of albumen. I am unable to test the specific gravity, the urine not being procurable in sufficient quantity. Now the milk and the steel wine are both rejected. Ordered to persevere with the donkey's milk and the wine; the former in very small quantities, frequently repeated.

Nov. 4th.—Child died at 7 A.M., having taken its bottle with apparent appetite at 6.15, after which the nurse went to sleep, and on waking found the child dead by her side.

Post-mortem.—Body literally skin and bone. Head not to be examined. Lungs pale and anæmic, as indeed were all the other organs examined, excepting the kidneys, both of which showed patches of congestion, the other portions being by contrast very pale. The capsule was not adherent, neither was the substance of either kidney softer than usual. There was a general absence of blood in all the tissues, and even in the large veins scarcely any was to be found.

Remarks.—I have never seen a similar case in so young a child, neither can I find reference to any in the books to which I have access. At first I suspected that there might be some malignant disease of the kidney, looking to the extreme emaciation; though absence of any discoverable tumour in the abdomen was against that supposition. Now I think the case must be considered as one of albuminuria from imperfect digestion and assimilation of the albuminous constituents of the food; for though the kidneys presented some spots of congestion, they cannot be considered as diseased. The real fault probably was in the stomach, where, either from inappropriate food being supplied, or from some radical disorder in the organ itself, an imperfectly formed albumen was manufactured, absorbed into the circulation, and then excreted by the kidneys as being worthless for all purposes of nutrition.

Rugby, Dec. 1867.

A CASE OF CÆSAREAN OPERATION SUCCESSFUL TO BOTH MOTHER AND CHILD.

OCCURRING IN THE PRACTICE OF

JOHN TAYLOR, M.D., M.R.C.P. LOND.

ON the 28th of December, 1867, at noon, I was called to see Mrs. H—, living in Pickering-place, W., the wife of a porter to a confectioner in the neighbourhood. She was twenty-three years of age, at the full period of her first pregnancy, and had been in pain of an intermitting character from twelve o'clock on the preceding night. On examination per vaginam, the finger came in contact with the body of the sacrum, about two inches from the arch of the pubes; and, on turning the finger upwards and forwards, the promontory of the sacrum was felt, arching forwards to within one inch and a quarter of the pubes. The whole of its surface was very tender to the touch. The os uteri could just be reached, hanging over the contracted pelvic brim like a nipple, though absolutely unaffected during the uterine contractions, which could be felt through the abdominal walls at regular periods of ten minutes. On an external view of the abdomen, the uterus occupied an oblique position, and, in the intervals of pain, the child's head could be distinctly felt hanging over the left groin, and the nates as distinctly observed in the right hypochondrium. The sacrum behind joined the lumbar vertebrae at an angle of 45 degrees. On finding this abnormal condition, I called on Mr. Baker Brown, who immediately visited her at two P.M., and confirmed my diagnosis; and was of opinion that nothing but the Cæsarean operation could save either mother or child. Having explained the circumstances to the patient and her husband, and by their full concurrence, I at once removed her to the "London Surgical Home," where Mr. Brown, assisted by Drs. Holt Dunn, Hubbard, Watts, Mr. Strange, and myself (all of whom examined the patient under chloroform previous to the operation, and confirmed the opinion as to the state of the pelvis, and as to the absolute necessity of the operation) at once operated, quickly removing a healthy female child, weighing seven and a half pounds. The uterus was closed by silver sutures, and the abdomen also by the same means. The whole operation was performed in less than five minutes.

A low form of general peritonitis ensued, vomiting occurring incessantly until the fourth day, when a severe attack of sickness caused one of the abdominal sutures to give way, and a