

This was sixteen years, five months and sixteen days after the time of the accident. While the pain and tumor were in the left side, the doctors thought it a hernia, but never thought of the board, nor was it ever supposed to be the source of the trouble by any of the physicians during the whole time it remained in the abdomen.

The patient's health has been very good ever since, and he is now living a short distance from this place. The end of the stick that first passed in, came out first. The stick, when it came away, had three collections of roundish balls concreted on it; one near the end that first passed in, one near the middle, and one near the opposite end. These knobs are of various sizes, some nearly as large as a small hen's egg, and others smaller. They are, to appearance, all of the same substance, having a ligneous, earthy, and osseous appearance, but not exactly like either. The surface of the stick itself, for some depth, is of the same substance. The stick is in the possession of the patient, and I have often had the pleasure of examining it.

P.S.—The above case was somewhat novel to me, and I have thought it might be so to you. I have been advised by some medical friends to prepare a copy for publication. If you think it deserves to be spread before the profession in that way, please to state the paper in which you would insert it.

Yours, &c.

HIRAM BAXTER.

To Alden March, M.D., Albany.

DECEASE OF DR. WILLIAM ATCHERSON.

Extracts from an Address delivered before the Vermont Second Medical Society, at their Semi-annual Meeting, in June, 1833. BY DR. JOHN H. WELLS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THIS SOCIETY,—I crave your indulgence while I make a few brief remarks upon the character, and the disease which terminated the life, of our late friend and brother, Doctor William Atcherson.

He was taken unwell last September, immediately after a fall from his carriage, by which he was much hurt at the time; but he did not then, nor indeed ever after, appear to attach much consequence to the circumstance.

In consequence of my own ill health, and that of my family, I did not see him until some time in the month of November. From that time until his death, which took place on the 26th of January, the symptoms in his case were those, and only those, which usually accompany inflammation and suppuration of the liver. These have been so accurately described by authors who have devoted their time and talents to the subject, and they are so well understood by this audience, that it would be trespassing upon your patience for me to attempt a delineation of them. The remedial means made use of, were such as are usually resorted to in like cases. Bleeding by cups and leeches, the tepid bath, blistering, mercury internally administered, and externally applied by friction, were among those upon which the most reliance was placed.

Yet suffice it to say, the disease progressed slowly, but steadily, to its fatal termination.

The post-mortem examination discovered, as was anticipated, a large abscess, containing several pints of thick yellow pus ; it pointed upwards, and had made an opening through the diaphragm, into the cavity of the thorax. Upon elevating the sternum, and bringing to view the cavity of the thorax, every one who witnessed it was astonished to find every vestige of the right lobe of the lungs had disappeared, and in its stead were found several quarts of thin sanious pus ; yet there had not, since the early part of his sickness, been any troublesome cough or expectoration. *The stethoscope had been frequently applied during his illness, without leading those by whom it was applied to suspect any disease of the lungs ;* and but two or three days previous to his death, by one who possesses a skilful hand and a discriminating ear, they were pronounced to be sound.

Thus terminated the brief earthly existence of him whose loss we sincerely deplore. At the very zenith of his prospects and usefulness, he was cut down, and will rise not till the last loud trumpet shall summon him.—The forebodings of approaching dissolution awaken the keenest sensibilities of our nature ; the stoutest heart trembles at the prospect, and would feign linger yet a little longer on these mortal shores. ‘O how mysterious and inscrutable are the ways of Providence !’ ‘Surely it is not in man to direct his steps.’ But a few days since, as high a glow of health sat on his cheeks as that which flushes ours : but a few days since, that lifeless pulse could beat as well, those unstrung muscles could bound as high, as ours : prospects of health and long life were as bright and flattering as ours.

Dissolution, too, reigns throughout the world inanimate. Summer’s green and verdant livery in sickly yellow pines away before the chilling breath of Autumn. The flowery tribes will scarce live out a summer’s sun. The stately oak, which has endured the rude blasts of ages, threatening a kind of vegetable immortality, in rottenness dissolves and lies unnoticed from the dust it shaded. The hills, by perpetual washing, and by gravitation of looser particles, are sinking to a level with the valleys. Yea, the great globe itself (with awe I name it), and these material heavens, shall dissolve, and like the insubstantial fabric of a vision leave not a wreck behind.’

The same unerring law of nature pervades universal creation. What myriads of insects flit and buzz away their lives in a summer’s sun ! What hecatombs of beasts are sacrificed to one revolving year ! And is man mortal, too ? Man, who measures the earth, counts the stars, subjects nature ? Yes, my friends, immortal man is mortal. His life is swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and cradles do but rock him towards his tomb. What countless millions in successive generations have chased one another through the long annals of time, to their common home ! How soon will this assembly, should all the hopes in it of long life be realized, moulder in the silent mansions of the dead ! How soon the mighty myriads who now swarm on the face of the whole earth, surfeiting in unthinking mirth, or teeming with wise projects of future wealth, pleasures or honors, lie undistinguished from

the dust they tread on ! No age, sex, or condition, is privileged against the king of terrors. The tender infant—the youth, whose cheeks are flushed with health, whose tide of life runs high,—who never thought of death but in distant prospect—the middle aged, and the old, may at an unexpected moment yield to the dread summons.

An afflictive Providence has deprived this Society of one of its most valuable members. Long had he been a Fellow of it, and his loss will be lastingly felt. As a practitioner of medicine, he was respectable, a careful investigator of cause and effect, judicious in his prescriptions, consequently successful. He possessed abilities, and he was ever ready modestly to use them for the benefit of his fellow men. His integrity was unsuspected, his character liberal, and he was, we humbly hope, a friend to that God in whose immediate presence he now appears.

CASES OF DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS.

THE history of the pathological states of the kidneys is still very imperfect. The late Dr. Dance, who died a few months ago of cholera, one of the physicians of the Hôtel Dieu, at Paris, left some manuscript observations on this subject ; from these we select the most interesting.

CASE I.—*Numerous Calculi in the Substance of the Kidneys ; Dilatation of the Infundibula and Pelves, which were also inflamed.*

A girl, aged 23, entered the hospital on the 12th January, 1824. Two years and a half before, she first voided some blood with her urine, and felt severe pains at the time in the loins. The urine was muddy, thick, and afterwards whitish and purulent, and scanty in quantity. These symptoms continued more or less for 18 months, at which time she experienced a feeling of great weight and heaviness in the renal region, and the urine still deposited the same puriform matter, but there was no sand or gravel mixed with it. Three weeks ago the catamenia were suddenly suppressed by exposure to cold, and from that period she has been very ill, complaining of great pain and tenderness over all the abdomen and in the loins ; thirst, nausea, urine voided with much pain, and only in small quantities. Leeches were applied to the anus, and an emollient ptisan ordered. The severe pains of the abdomen were relieved, but those of the kidneys became worse and worse. Vomiting, pulse weak and feeble, facies hippocratica, announced approaching death, which took place two days after.

Dissection.—The kidneys were found larger by one third than usual, embossed on their surface, hard and resisting to the finger in some places, and fluctuating in others. On dividing them, the scalpel grated against numerous calculi nicked into the substance of the kidneys, and jets of pus escaped at the same time from many points. Nine calculi were found in the left kidney, and 15 in the right ; each of these was contained in a sort of cyst, lined with a mucous membrane, and was bathed in purulent matter. These cysts were the dilated calices and infundibula. The calculi varied in color, being white, yellowish, or ash-colored ; many were of the alternating sort, and consisted of nu-