on by me in February, 1869, and published in your JOURNAL Dec. 16, 1869, New Series, Vol. IV., No. 24. That case, from being one of great agony and torture, with constantly threatened fatality, was immediately relieved, with a comfortable and improving condition up to the present time. Herewith is an extract from an unsolicited letter from the patient, which I give verbatim (excluding only some very highly flattering and thankful expressions to myself, which might seem egotistical in me to publish). The patient lives about fifteen miles from me, in Orange Co.; his case was of several years' duration.

"JANUARY 25, 1870.

"My kindest of Friends,—The Medical Journal containing report of operation on my throat was received this morning. * * * My throat has been less inclined to ulcerate since your operation than it ever was before, but is still disposed to contract. I avoid any *inconvenience* from it, however, by the frequent use of the instrument you directed. I suffer greatly sometimes with pains in the bones of my head and limbs, but I find iodide of potash a sovereign remedy for that as well as ulceration of the throat. One remarkable thing about my disease is that these pains always cease when my throat ulcerates. I am never afflicted with both at the same time."

I learn from the patient's friends that he is comfortable and improving. This case originated in syphilis and a profuse salivation. If your readers will turn to page 378 of the July number for 1869, they will see a mild case reported by Dr. Sinclair, treated successfully by the use of a probang, iodide of potassium, &c. Two cases are referred to by Dr. Langston Parker in his work on syphilitic diseases, London, 1860; both cases died, exhausted from inability to swallow food, and it does not appear that there was any surgical attempt at relief.

March 7, 1870.

ON THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS BY SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF SUBLIMATE. VIEWS OF THE VIENNA SCHOOL.

Translated by J. C. WHITE, M.D.

[In connection with what has already appeared in the JOURNAL upon Lewin's method of treating syphilis, the results of its use in the two great clinics of Vienna may be of interest. The following extracts from the annual report of the General Hospital of that city are taken from the last number

of the *Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis*.]

In the clinic of Prof. Hebra the method was employed upon 20 males and 20 females. Although the abscesses, at the point of injection, were of a mild character and appeared in only a few of the cases, and although the patients did not in general object to the fresh pain which was daily inflicted upon them, he could not bring himself to continue the treatment. Its effect upon the syphilitic symptoms was later in manifesting itself, as a rule, than by inunction with unguentum cinereum. Against individual symptoms, such as pains in the head and joints, the employment of the usual remedies, as iodine, could in no way be given up, and relapses were as often observed as in other methods of treatment. Inasmuch, therefore, as this method acts less quickly and surely than those hitherto employed, and appears to have no effect against some of the symptoms of the disease, and, finally, as it always gives rise to pain and occasionally to abscesses also, Hebra concludes that the method cannot be especially recommended.

In Sigmund's clinic the injections were practised upon more than one hundred patients, affected by nearly all forms of syphilis. The solution employed for injection was of about the same degree of concentration as that used by Lewin—four grains to the ounce of distilled water. In the beginning twelve grains of this solution were injected once or twice a day; afterwards, twenty-four grains once a day. The regions which showed themselves best adapted to receive the injections were, as Lewin recommends, the sides of the thorax, the groins, the buttocks and the upper arms. Attempts to enlarge these limits led to unfavorable results. Neither the outer, front, or inner surface of the thigh, nor the upper scapular space were found fitted for the injections. On the thigh severe phlegmonous inflammation and abscesses formed about the point of injection. Special attention was directed at the beginning of treatment and throughout to the care of the mucous membrane of the mouth. Cleansing by the nasal douche, by gargles, and by the application to the gums of tincture of rhatany and galls was energetically carried out, and to this alone is to be attributed the prevention of those severe cases of stomatitis which Lewin met with. Without the observation of such rules it would be often impossible to carry out the treatment. It excludes, therefore, patients with

caries of the teeth and poor gums, as well as those who are weak and poorly nourished.

The results of the treatment were often very favorable; severe forms of syphilis healing within a noticeably shorter period than by any other method of treatment. This, with its precision, ease and convenience of application, prevented a full estimation of the evils which were noticeable from the first, such as the painfulness of the injection, the formation of abscesses although seldom, and the difficult prevention of stomatitis. But if these disadvantages are not sufficient to counterbalance the advantages of the method, the latter would be more than outweighed by the relapses which so soon show themselves, or, in other words, by the farther development of syphilis. In nearly all the patients who could be kept for any considerable time under observation, these relapses appeared, and much sooner than after any other method of treatment. The obstinate nodules, often exceeding a hazlenut in size, which so readily form at the points of injection on the buttocks, are likewise more than dark points in the method. However much it may be regarded as an enrichment of our therapeutics, it can in no way compete with the inunction-cure.

CASE OF FATAL POISONING FROM THE EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF MERCURIAL OINTMENT IN A CASE OF SCABIES.

Reported by Dr. Leiblingen, of Tarnopol, in the Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift for Dec. 1, 1869.
Translated by HENRY TUCK, M.D.

ONE morning in January last, three persons were found dead in bed. They were in good health the day before, and had been rubbed all over with a mercurial ointment for the cure of scabies. The room in which the three bodies were found was damp and very poorly ventilated. Autopsies were at once made on all the three bodies, but as the appearances and results in each case were identical, an account of only one will be given.

External appearances.—W. R., 18 years old. Hair dark brown. Eyes blue, pupils dilated. Chest well developed. Abdomen normal. The teeth were covered with tartar, the gums were shrunken away from them, of a deep greyish blue color and much swollen. The mucous membrane of both upper and lower lip was swollen and blue, and deprived of its epithelium. The smell from the mouth was very offensive. The

integument of the whole body was in many places of a dark violet color. On the hands, feet, breast, belly and back, were here and there dry brownish spots as large as a pea, where the burrows of the itch insect had been. Otherwise, with the exception of patches of ecchymosis on the back such as are usually seen after death, there were no marks on the body or any appearance of violence having been inflicted.

Internal appearances.—The integument of the cranium was filled with blood, the bones of the skull thick and compact, and the dura mater, the sinuses and the pia mater, as well, gorged with dark, almost black, fluid blood.

The cerebrum and cerebellum and all their vessels were completely full of dark fluid blood, so that the whole brain was of a deep red color. On cutting the brain, the substance of both cerebrum and cerebellum had scattered through it spots, as large as a pea, where there was effused blood. At the base of the skull there was a considerable quantity of fluid blood.

The thyroid gland and the mucous membrane of the glottis and trachea were saturated with blood.

Both lungs were slightly adherent to the walls of the thorax, greatly congested, of a dark bluish-red color, and on being cut into poured out a considerable amount of fluid, frothy blood. The pericardium was distended, and contained two ounces of bloody fluid. The heart was flaccid, and contained a considerable amount of dark fluid blood. The liver and spleen were both dark colored and greatly congested. The stomach was greatly distended, but was not opened, as its contents were saved for chemical examination. The intestines were normal. Both kidneys were much congested. The bladder was distended.

The following parts were saved for chemical examination:—The stomach and its contents; a portion of the lungs; a piece of the intestines, large and small; one kidney; a piece of the liver; a piece of skin, to prove that some ointment had been rubbed on.

Results of the Autopsy.—It is proved beyond question that W. R. died a sudden death, due to congestion of the brain and its membranes, and of both lungs, to cerebral and pulmonary apoplexy and consequent paralysis of these organs. The brain and its membranes were found filled with dark fluid blood; the substance of the brain, on section, showed numerous points as large as a pea, where effusion of blood had taken place (cerebral apoplexy), and both lungs were gorged with blood, and