ART. XIX.—*Observations upon the Use of Ipecacuan in Internal Hæmorrhagies, illustrated by a Report of Cases successfully treated with it.* By W. ADAMS TRENOR, Esq.

IF there is one form of disease more than another which demand prompt and decided measures for affording relief, it may with safety be said to be hæmorrhage. It is not the object of this paper to enter into the causes or consequences of hæmorrhage when it occurs in any of the internal organs; medical readers will find abundant information in the numerous authors who have treated this subject very largely, thus showing the importance which they attributed to this form of disease. The article of *Materia Medica* which is mentioned at the head of this paper, has long held a place as a remarkable agent in restraining internal hæmorrhage. I may mention the five cases of menorrhagia, reported by Dr. Osborne of this city, which were successfully treated by emetic doses of it; (*Transactions of the College of Physicians*, 1828;) also in the fourth volume of the same work, some remarks upon *Hæmatemesis*, by Dr. Sheridan, in which both he and his father had used this medicine with the same happy results which attended Doctor Osborne's cases of menorrhagia. The year following the publication of Dr. Osborne's cases, I was called very early in the morning to see a young gentleman about 20 years of age, very robust, being six feet four inches in stature, and well made in proportion; had always enjoyed excellent health. At the time of my visit, about 4 o'clock in the morning, I found this young man sitting with his feet upon the hearth-stone, and his hands immersed in a basin of cold water. The floor round where he was sitting was covered with florid, frothy blood, and a large vessel in the room almost filled with it. He felt faint and suffocating; at times finding his inspirations very difficult, from the great quantity of blood which was literally flowing from his mouth. His face was a little flushed, which was naturally ruddy; his voice weak, and indistinct; pulse quick, small, and rapid; could not

bear the slightest attempt at the reclining posture; called for air, and had all the windows and the door open. This was no case for venesection, and to wait for the sedative influence of the acetate of lead and opium, did not appear safe; it was instantly determined in my mind to use the ipecacuan, of which I gave ten grains in a little water. It was incredible the relief which followed the nausea, and some slight efforts to vomit, which this dose of the medicine excited. The hæmoptoe now abated; respiration became more easy; and in some little time the reclining posture could be indulged in. This young gentleman after some months recovered perfectly, went to America, where I understand he suffered severely from Asiatic cholera, but ultimately recovered from it. Dr. Crampton saw this young man with me at his father's residence in Simmons court.

The second case of this kind occurred in a young gentleman of tall and slender figure, seldom sick, yet of delicate constitution. He was in his 21st year; had been confined to the house for a few days, with what was considered catarrhal fever, got from travelling for some miles on the outside of the coach. Like the former case it was very early in the morning, 3 o'clock, when the hæmoptoe came on.

I found him supported erect in the bed, with both windows open; he could scarcely speak. The quantity of blood, though very great, was not anything like the quantity in the former case, yet the prostration was much more alarming: countenance was contracted and death-like; the anxiety of manner very great. The strength had failed, and the interval between each expectoration of blood had become longer, yet the breathing was becoming more oppressed, and the distress more urgent. In this case the ipecacuan was given in doses of two grains every fifteen minutes in a little cold water. He had not long taken the second dose until some nausea was felt; and with it the respiration became less oppressed. The third dose of the medicine increased the nausea to some effort to vomit, but the stomach did not empty itself. The appearance of blood now decreased,

and soon disappeared, nor did it return for several weeks, and was then very moderate in quantity. This case ended very differently from the former, as it rapidly terminated with phthisis. Dr. Marsh attended this young gentleman through the whole of his illness with me from the day after the hæmorrhage.

The cause of the hæmorrhage in these two cases was very different, yet the ipecacuan was a most salutary and efficient means in each in restraining the flow of blood.

The third case which I am going to mention, in its course and termination closely resembled the first.

Mr. H —, about 22 years of age, had been out rowing, and on coming home ran quickly up stairs to dress for dinner; on getting into his room a fit of coughing came on, and with it large mouthfuls of blood poured forth. When I saw him, 5 o'clock, p. m., much blood was coughed up, and considerable prostration of strength, although obliged to observe the erect posture. The face was more flushed than natural, and the pulse was very quick and small. In this case I gave small doses of the ipecacuan, which created little more than nausea: the hæmoptoe soon disappeared. The right lung presented some of the phenomena of pulmonary apoplexy in the mammary region. Dr. Graves concurred in the propriety of having a seton formed over this part of the lung. The recovery here was steady and uniform, as this young man has been ever since in his usual robust health and strength; the seton was removed at the end of some months.

These three were the most severe cases of hæmoptoe I ever witnessed; many of a milder nature have been treated by the same medicine in variable doses, and always with the most fortunate result in restraining the hæmorrhage, one of which only I shall detail.

Last February I was sent for to see Mr. T —, aged 36; had been exposed to cold and wet; a cough followed this exposure, and continued for ten days or so, giving him no uneasi-

ness, as he said the cough never hurt him; he thought it would go away like many others on former occasions. He hated medicines, as they always made him sicker than before he took them. His pulse was quick, but soft and easily compressed; the skin moist and perspirable; the sputa almost all florid blood, and had coughed up about a teacup-ful. The countenance, which I understand is naturally pallid, is now a little flushed; he was sitting in a very warm room with a large fire. Upon examination the right lung gave evident signs of being gorged with blood, as the rattle was no doubt occasioned by it, while in other portions of the lung the respiratory murmur was comparatively clearer than natural. Some leeches were directed over this portion of the chest; and on their being removed, a blister to be kept on for eight or ten hours. The infusion of roses with additional acid, sulphate of magnesia, and tincture of digitalis, to be taken in doses of two tablespoons-ful every three or four hours; perfect quiet and silence, with a cooler apartment, were enjoined. In about a fortnight this plan of treatment seemed to answer very well, and he was again able to resume his business for some hours in the day, as it required little or no exertion. His cough was almost well at this time, as he said he would not notice it. Not long after this, excitement of temper with violent language soon reproduced the hæmoptoe, and that too in no very moderate degree. I was again sent for; the violence of the hæmoptoe by this time had subsided, and the cough occasioned by the presence of the blood in the air tubes was now pretty frequent; the continuing of which he seemed to dread very much, as he knew the bleeding would be increased by it.

I now prescribed the ipecacuanha for him in grain doses every half-hour, until he had taken three or four grains, when if any nausea was felt he was to lengthen the intervals; this he was reconciled to do; as he said he would prefer being sick rather than have the bleeding continued. In this way he took twenty grains of hippo in the course of thirty hours. No vo-

miting came on, but much nausea; the blood disappeared from the sputa. I told him now to leave town for some weeks, and take his pills with him: this he did; and although he attended closely to business, and was often exposed to vicissitudes of weather, he has had no return of the hæmorrhage.

The following case of menorrhagia, which occurred to me some years ago, shews the value of this medicine in this form of hæmorrhage, and as it bears evidence in favour of the practice so long ago recommended by Dr. Osborne, I hope it will not be deemed uninteresting. Miss L., about 35 years of age, at the time of this history living in Rathmines, has often had menorrhagiæ, which had its first origin in a fright, accompanied by great exertion, occasioned while driving with some children who were in her charge. The coachman had left the driving seat of the jaunting car, the horse taking flight was making towards a precipice where instant destruction must have awaited them; making one great effort Miss L. contrived to lay hold of the reins, succeeded in altering the course of the frightened animal, and finally to control his speed. This form of hæmorrhage was the immediate consequence of this fright and exertion, and for which the late Dr. Cheyne, together with Dr. Morgan, now residing in Bath, attended, and I understand from herself they considered her in much danger; she slowly recovered, subject, at the period of menstruation, to excessive losses, often requiring much care and attention; notwithstanding all this, Miss L. was a stout, well made woman, and rather embonpoint.

The circumstance which placed her under my care was also of an appalling nature. An elderly lady, a friend of hers, had caught fire, and in endeavouring to save the old lady and the house from being burned, she herself received much injury from the flames, as her arms were deeply burned; when assistance had arrived and all the flames were extinguished, the apparently lifeless body of her friend, with all the horrible effects of the fire on her face and head, produced the same effect as the

fright she was first subjected to. The quantity of blood lost was very great indeed, for it was in a pool under the bed ; the bed-clothes literally saturated with blood. The lower extremities, were cooled by the vinegar and water, which she had been in the habit of using in milder attacks of this hæmorrhage, were now quickly dried, and a warm binder firmly bound round the hips, a sponge pressed out of hot water and vinegar introduced into the vagina, a compress of linen, and the bandage to secure all. While I was thus employed one of the family were endeavouring to make her swallow some brandy with twenty grains of hippo in it ; almost every appearance of life had fled ; there was no pulse to be felt, and the extremities, arms, and legs cold as death ; she scarcely breathed for an hour, during which time every exertion was made in the way of warm friction, turpentine enemata, and brandy, in such quantities as could be got down the throat. The hæmorrhage from the vagina seemed to have ceased, so far as the clean bandages gave information ; indeed death seemed to have closed the scene. At last the chest heaved, respiration now became evident, she could swallow better, and the brandy was more liberally given ; after much watching and attention, warmth seemed to become more evident on the surface. In three hours from her getting the ipecacuan, some slight effort to vomit came on, which we thought was occasioned by it. An eminent surgeon, who is now no more, saw her while lying in this condition, and I shall never forget the remark which he made when he was going away. However I did not consider this death-like interval to be entirely attributable to the loss of blood ; hysteria often assumes this still form of existence, and here was a subject under circumstances calculated to excite the most formidable aspect of this disease : the result proved I was right in my exertions. The force of vomiting was at last so strong as to assure me the medicine was producing its effect ; the cloths of the bandage became bloody, which with the sponge were removed ; the latter was saturated with blood.

Life now every hour became more and more established, and in about three months this lady could be removed to the sea side, where she gradually recovered both health and strength. She still continues to be afflicted with the excessive loss of blood occasionally, for which she regularly takes some grains of hippo, but not an ametic dose ; and is never disappointed in its effect of arresting the hæmorrhage. The last time I heard of her, she could walk six or eight miles in the day, and that perhaps three times a week.

The four following cases are instances in which the hæmorrhage took place from the alimentary canal.

In May, 1838, a young lady was seized with faintness, while standing beside her brother who was fishing not many yards from the house ; soon after getting home she became sick and vomited much blood. The intervals between each attack of vomiting were short and variable, sometimes an hour, and again may be two or three hours. Thirty-two hours from the time of attack the vomiting had not ceased, the patient was lying in the dress in which she had taken ill, loosened as much as possible, as every movement created sickness which would not subside until vomiting came on. Her mouth and tongue were as white as her lips and cheeks from the great loss of blood, the pulse was scarcely perceptible, the extremities cold ; had taken nothing but cold drinks in mouthfuls, and her medicine, since the attack came on. In this state the ipecacuan was proposed to be given in grain doses every half hour, combined with same quantity of calomel ; after taking the third dose, nausea became distressing, accompanied by faintness ; this soon subsided, but after the fourth grain the effort to vomit was complete, and a perfectly yellow bile was vomited without any admixture of blood ; the medicine was now laid aside. This lady recovered rapidly and perfectly, under the judicious management of my friend Dr. Cuming, and is now in excellent health.

The second case of this kind occurred in a lady who was in her 85th year ; while at dinner I was called to see her,

she was considered dying; about an hour after her dinner she suddenly became weak and faintish, she was cold, pallid, and pulseless, with every appearance of sudden death at hand; soon after swallowing some warm water and brandy, vomiting commenced, and the quantity of blood was such as impressed all with the idea of immediate death. As soon as was possible, I gave her four grains of ipecacuan in a little warm water and brandy, and every half hour one grain in the same fluid; no vomiting was excited in this case, but much nausea, the bleeding was checked, and the old lady, after some considerable time, was again able to resume her accustomed walk in the garden, with the usual assistance of her cane. In three months from this time, a second attack came on, which was arrested by a similar mode of treatment; at present this lady enjoys as good health as generally belongs to the 86th year.

The third case is that of a young gentleman who was attended by the late Mr. Richardson, of Sackville-street, in company with others; æt. 30, a tall, delicate looking man, much addicted to the smoking of tobacco, was seized with vomiting of blood, which continued unrestrained, notwithstanding the closest attention to all the means in ordinary practice; blood also flowed from the bowels. Life was soon terminated, and the evidence of the post mortem inspection was such as to induce me to think, had the ipecacuan been used the hæmorrhage might have been arrested; all the viscera presented a blanched and bloodless appearance, the mucous surface of the stomach ecchymosed in patches, also of the bowels, the ilium particularly.

The last case was remarkable on account of the collapsed condition of the patient, as well as on account of the immense quantity of blood lost, the one depending upon the other. A young lady had been sick in stomach, and fainted more than once the day preceding, but was not willing to frighten her parents by saying she was not well; early next morning, having passed a restless night, she felt sick, rose to ring

the bell for assistance ; while on the floor she became sick in her stomach, her head became light, and it was with some difficulty she was able to regain her bed ; she now vomited a little blood, and became more composed. The vomiting quickly returned and the intervals between each throwing up so short, that her life was in great danger, more especially as she was some miles from medical assistance. On my seeing this young lady, her extremities were cold up to the hips and shoulders, tongue cold, pupils dilated, and with the effort of vomiting a tarry fluid trickled down the angles of her mouth, no pulse could be felt, even the action of the heart could scarcely be discerned ; at once I gave her four grains of ipecacuan with a spoonful of brandy, which with some difficulty was swallowed, and an enema of hot water and spirits of turpentine. About an hour after swallowing the ipecacuan nausea came on, with some slight efforts to vomit, the two first of which were blood-coloured, and the last a colourless frothy fluid. Of course this case, as all cases in which there is much blood lost, required constant attention, but as it is now some time since, the hope of perfect recovery is entertained.*

Dr. Graves saw this young lady some days after the hæmorrhage had ceased, and from the great state of exhaustion in which she then was, could form some idea of the severity of the case.

As I mentioned in the introduction to these short reports of cases, that it was not my intention to enter into the various topics which are embraced in this mode of arresting internal hæmorrhage,—because the practice is not altogether novel, and although recommended by men of experience, and erudition in medicine, there is a something which deters physicians from using a remedy so well recommended to them, and holding out so much success in its use. Now and again cases have occurred, in which the emetic dose of ipecacuan has been attended with unpleasant consequences, one of which is related by Dr. Cullen ; also the apprehension of the blood issuing from an open vessel,

* The hope here expressed has been realized, as this young lady is now able to move about, having regained much of her former strength.

as related by Andral, if I recollect correctly. If such was the case, the use of an emetic dose of ipecacuan must be attended with the very worst consequences. The chief value which the experience of the foregoing cases exhibits, appears to be that the remedy does not require to be exhibited in its full emetic dose, this at once disarms the medicine of many of its disagreeable features. Few friends will administer an emetic dose of ipecacuan in hæmatemesis, even though prescribed by the physician, but let the latter administer small doses of the remedy, and their prejudices are at once overcome ; there is a certain feeling too in the breast of the physician, which forbids him to use a remedy so little in accordance with the ideas of the public, though they may be erroneous, as his success in his Profession depends upon the confidence which the community at large place in his judgment and good sense ; and should these be once forfeited, it is no easy matter to regain them. This feeling, I think, is one great cause why this well known remedy has not been more generally prescribed.

To me it appears both a safe and judicious practice, to administer it in small doses at well timed intervals, a practice full of usefulness and relief to the suffering patient, as well as one less likely to disappoint the physician, than any other I have ever seen used. The after treatment of severe forms of hæmorrhage requires the physician to be well versed in common principles of therapeutics, as there is no form of convalescence so tedious or so difficult, from the complexity of anomalous symptoms which now and again occur, creating much distress to the patient, and requiring a timely and effective management on the part of the physician.

Much might be said upon the subject of the remedies usually had recourse to in the treatment of internal hæmorrhage ; such as the various acids, the combinations of opium with superacetate of lead, ice, cold drinks, &c. &c. ; that these do not afford a constant or uniform relief cannot be denied, yet they are useful in abating the violence of the hæmorrhage. The mu-

riate of soda is also a very popular remedy, and frequently, from its being so ready at hand, one of the first substances used ; now to be useful it must be given in a certain form, that of solution in mawkishly warm water ; it thus excites nausea, and perhaps vomiting : but it is not unfrequently administered in such away as interferes with the saving process of nature. Salt always renders the coagulum of blood fluid, and prevents coagulum from forming, which, with the faintishness and accompanying nausea seems to me to be the natural effort of the economy exerted for its own safety. Used in this manner with tepid water, I have oftentimes found the muriate of soda very beneficial.

ART. XX. — *Observations on Diffuse Inflammation*. By
HENRY KENNEDY, M.B.

[Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, November 25th, 1839.]

DIFFUSE inflammation is a disease which has been treated of by many authors. Many points connected with it would, however, appear open for farther investigation : independent of these it is often accompanied by the most exquisite suffering ; it is very rapid in its progress ; it frequently comes on in the course of other diseases both medical and surgical, when every thing else is going on favourably ; and lastly, it is a disease of the most fearful fatality. In this latter respect it may be placed next to hydrophobia itself. For these reasons I have thought it worthy of notice ; and in order to render the following paper as complete as possible, have consulted the writings of numerous authors on the subject.* My own experience too

* The papers written by Duncan, Dupuytren, Lee, Colles, Davis, M'Dowell, Benson, Lendrick, Carnichael, Graves, Arnott, Travers, Rose, Gulliver, Quesnay, Dance, Cruvelhier, and John Hunter, have all come under my notice. Two communications were also made to the Surgical Society last winter, one by Mr. Smyly, and the other by Dr. Beatty. The latter has been published in the last Number of the Dublin Journal.