THE LANCET, he took the remedies advised therein, and has been better since, but he does not attribute any benefit to them, having occasionally been better, and then relapsed; he is better for change of air. The complaint commenced with lumbago. He has difficulty in passing his urine, and when in great pain cannot micturate without straining for half an hour; his pulse averages 72. For the last twenty years coughing or sneezing has produced pain down the sciatic nerve, and eight years ago he suffered so severely from sciatica, that in walking he was obliged to assume the sitting position for two or three minutes before he was able to walk again. He now complains greatly of a sensation of weight in his loins, and states that his sufferings are so great, particularly at night, that he cannot obtain ease without taking frequent large doses of opium. Ordered two of the aperient pills, containing croton oil, every other night.

Aug. 4.—Mr. C—— has taken two doses of the medicine, both operating very powerfully; the secretions were dark-coloured and mixed with scybala. He has slept better the last two nights, and has had more ease in walking, with less pressure upon the back; but the pain always returns in greater violence about half-past nine in the evening. He has taken twenty-five drops of the bimeconate of morphia for the last two nights, and has slept comfortably; he can pass his urine with less difficulty. To have three grains of disulphate of quinine three times a day.

18th.—Has repeated the aperient pills of his own accord with similar results, and has since taken the quinine. He has not had such acute pain of late, and the pressure upon the back is removed; but he has still much pain as soon as he gets to bed every night, and some flatulency, but the latter he thinks is in some measure relieved. He is still obliged to have recourse to opium. To repeat the quinine, and to diminish the quantity of opium, with a view to its discontinuance.

Sept. 5th.—He has continued the quinine to this date; has had no return of pressure upon the back, but complains greatly of flatulency, particularly when in bed; he has better nights, having rarely had recourse to opium, which he had been obliged to take almost every night for some weeks. He says, however that at different periods he has been able to abstain for a few weeks. His bowels now act regularly without aperient medicine.

Dec. 18th.—I have not seen the patient since last report. To-day I received a letter stating that there had been no return of pressure upon the back; that he generally sleeps well, having only found it necessary to take opium two or three times, and that for extreme flatulency; that he considered the sciatica cured. He finds that when he dines out, and takes more stimulant, that he has less flatulence. Has discontinued the quinine for three weeks. To have three grains of compound aloes pill every day before dinner.

Feb. 7th.—Has derived great benefit from the last prescription; does not now take opium, and sleeps well; can now bear the motion of a two-wheeled carriage, which he has not done for five years.

March 1st.—Mr. C—— called upon me to-day; he is cured.

CASE 5.—Mr. W. K——, aged fifty-two, residing in Essex, was sent to me in October, 1854, having for years experienced weakness in his back and numbness down the right leg. At present he is suffering from lumbago and pain in the right leg, of six weeks' duration. He caught cold, and was attacked with lumbago, for which an embrocation, a warm bath, and blister were employed, with sufficient relief to enable him in the course of a fortnight to resume his occupation of a farmer for nine days. He was not cured, as walking and riding caused him great pain; he could not ride on horseback. At the expiration of this time he again caught cold, and he became worse, the lumbago being more intense, and the pain extending along the gluteal region down the thigh to the knee. Another blister was applied, and tonic medicines prescribed, with some little benefit. He says his bowels are easily acted upon; has suffered from internal piles, and experienced considerable languor for three weeks before the attack, also weakness of his back and chilliness, and a sensation of fulness after eating; perspires greatly. He has had ague several times previous to his present chilliness and that complaint in the absence of the hot stage; during the present illness flexing the right thigh on the pelvis has been effected with difficulty and pain, referred to the back of the pelvis, and latterly a gland in the groin has enlarged. He and his family being very anxious lest he should be suffering from lumbar abscess and spinal disease, Mr. Warwick, the gentleman under whose care he was, sent him up to me, and I had the satisfaction of confirming that gentle-

man's opinion, that there was no mischief of that nature, but that Mr. K—— was suffering from lumbago and sciatica, depending upon loaded colon. To have two pills, containing the croton oil, every other night.

Nov. 2nd.—Mr. K—— called upon me to-day very much improved. He took six pills, and found himself so much better, and the pills had acted so freely, that he discontinued them. He has not taken any medicine for three weeks. He is now quite free from pain, is able to stoop and ride on horseback for a short distance, and can hold himself upright, which he could not do when last here. Describes the alvine evacuations as lumpy, and as though there had been a collection. Repeat one of the pills occasionally; to have three grains of disulphate of quinine, in the form of pill, three times a day.

Not having seen or heard of this patient since the last report, I conclude that he is now quite well.

CASE 6.—Mr. A. H—— consulted me on the 1st of August, 1854, for sciatica of the right side, of twelve months' duration. He had tried the Harrowgate and Cheltenham waters and cold-water cure, without effect. His tongue is much loaded, and complains of itching at anus and bleeding piles. He says he keeps his bowels open by taking cold water night and morning. He has applied very strong stimulating liniments to the leg without benefit. He has suffered from gout. Ordered, spirits of turpentine, two drachms; castor oil, half an ounce; add cinnamon-water to an ounce and a half; make a draught, to be taken at bed-time.

Aug. 7th.—The medicine acted very powerfully, and with decided relief to the pain. It is now dull, like that of a bruise. To have an ounce of the compound guaiacum mixture twice a day.

I have not seen this gentleman since the last report, he having returned home into the country; but his cousin, who consulted me a short time afterwards, informed me that he was quite recovered.

Harley-street, April, 1855.

ON SPURIOUS PREGNANCY.

ILLUSTRATED BY CASES.

By W. BURKE RYAN, M.B. Lond.

(Continued from p. 382.)

I WILL now detail my own cases:—

CASE 1.—In 1841, I was engaged to attend Mrs. J—— (Warwickshire) in her accouchement. She had previously had eleven children, and her eldest daughter (whom I attended during her confinement) was married a year afterwards. When I called on her, she appeared as large as at the full period of utero-gestation, breasts similarly enlarged, bodily health in the best condition, and spirits in the highest flow. I took my leave, asking few questions, and treating the engagement as a matter of course. I called occasionally for some time after the period named for my attendance, and the patient was much surprised at her miscalculation, having been generally, previously, pretty correct. I waited patiently for two months after the period mentioned, but no labour coming on, it was evident the woman was not pregnant. She got quite ashamed of the neighbours coming to inquire what she was about in delaying the event so long, and asking if she intended taking "a second round of it"—a phrase used in that part of the country when a woman goes much beyond her calculation.

In June, 1844, she informed me, that in about twelve months from the period of her imagined conception, she was taken ill with severe pains, simulating labour, and that a large substance, dark, like liver, and large as an after-birth, came away, with a considerable quantity of fluid. This I did not see.

Since that time she has never menstruated. During the period of her supposed pregnancy she frequently, as she thought, felt the movements of the fetus. She had baby-linen, "and all appurtenances," prepared.

In this case, there was gradual increase of size to the full extent, suppressed catamenia, enlargement of the mammae, morning sickness, and all the other symptoms necessary to deceive a woman of intelligence, and the mother of so many children.

CASE 2.—On the 25th of February, 1849, I received a note from Mons. V——, a French gentleman. On calling, I found he had been married about nine months to an English lady, aged twenty-one, and he wished me to attend her in her con-

finement, expected about the 11th of April. The patient was in an adjoining room, but did not make her appearance. I saw her the following week in presence of her husband. On the first time of seeing her very little conversation took place. I merely learned that she had increased considerably in size, that her breasts had much enlarged, that she had morning sickness, capricious appetites and tastes, and that she was, in fact, pregnant. She menstruated regularly. I called a few times, almost formally, and saw the lady in presence of her husband. She complained of no ills, and did not therefore require me to administer to any disease. I did not think it likely from appearances that this lady was so near parturition as she supposed, and, being about to leave town for a week, I called to inform her, but found both herself and her husband quite impressed with the belief that she should certainly be confined on the week I intended to leave. I was therefore obliged to remain in town. The nurse called on me on the 12th of April. The lady did not consider herself in labour, but she had got much less during the last few days, and was now in bed. On inspection of the mammae, I ventured to hint that she was not pregnant, and, on further examination, assured her that such was the position of affairs. She made no reply, seemed timid and sorrowful, and just then her husband entered, whose consternation when he learned the state of things was unfeigned. He left the room half distracted. I found considerable tympanitic abdominal swelling, with enlarged breasts, but no areolar darkening, moisture, nor protuberant follicles. From the 12th to the 26th of April she took bibeate with carbonate of soda and digitalis, squills, and other diuretics. My attendance then ceased until the 16th of July, when I was called on to visit her. She was then suffering from diarrhoea of a few days' duration, with a rapid, feeble pulse, and red tongue. She had evidently lost much flesh since I saw her in April, accompanied with weakness and perspirations; her appetite, too, had failed her; there was occasional sickness of stomach, and she had cough, but not sufficient to attract her attention much. She had also experienced occasional dyspnoea, with palpitation of the heart. There was decided dulness on the right side on percussion in the clavicular and subclavian regions, and the stethoscope applied over the supra-spinous fossa detected small crepitation. The breathing was coarse, and the expiration more prolonged and distinct than usual. The voice, too, was unusually resonant, and the vocal vibration more than on the opposite side in the same regions. These signs, with the exception of the small crepitation, existed on the left side in a less degree. There was a slight hectic blush, and a little, but very little, tenderness over the right iliac region on deep pressure. I made up my mind that it was a case of tubercular formation, and likely, it was to be feared, to be a rapid one—one of those cases of dyspeptic or acute phthisis that run a very hurried course. Chalk mixture with opium so quickly removed the diarrhoea, that I thought it prudent the day following to give as a refrigerant half-drachm doses of sulphate of magnesia, with dilute sulphuric acid. I was the more confirmed in my diagnosis as hæmoptysis set in on the 18th of July, which was stopped by five-grain doses of diacetate of lead, and did not appear again until the 30th. Owing to her former good health, I could scarcely get the family to view the matter in so serious a light as I thought desirable to place it; but as I pressed for a second opinion, and they wished me to name a gentleman, Dr. Copland was called in, who agreed with me as to the diagnosis, and as to the probable tendency of the case. Hæmoptysis appeared on the 6th and 7th of August also.

She was now removed to her father's house at C—, where I attended her. There was irritative cough, but not until the last any considerable amount of sputa, and even then nothing equal to what is noticed in the slower and more common form of this dread disease. Hectic symptoms increased rapidly, with cedema of the legs, and aphthous ulceration of the tongue and mouth, with change of voice, not perfectly aphonic, and pain in swallowing, showing the extension of the aphthous affection towards the larynx. The catamenia had not appeared for three months; the emaciation and exhaustion became extreme; she was literally in this short period, without a murmur of impatience, reduced to a skeleton; and in nine weeks from the time I was called to see her, and when symptoms of phthisis were first suspected, she breathed her last.

CASE 3.—About the 9th of March, 1852, Mrs. —, the wife of an officer in the army, whose family I had been for a time attending, consulted me for an attack of hæmorrhage, informing me at the same time that she was pregnant, and feared the hæmorrhage was uterine, as she was seized with what was considered such during her previous pregnancy, and for which she had to lie on a couch during a long period.

From the symptoms she described, I was enabled to assure her that the bleeding arose from hæmorrhoids. It was soon suppressed by appropriate treatment. This lady, aged about thirty-five, was the mother of several children, and having considerable dread of the parturient throes, she and her husband had long previously determined that, in case of another pregnancy, she should call "upon the services of a medical gentleman who on all occasions used chloroform;" and her husband, on the 18th of April, on the point of leaving home for a period of eleven months gave me intimation to this effect. The subject of pregnancy was therefore, under these circumstances, of course not mentioned. The shock of his departure severely affected her, causing depression even to syncope, and when I was called in the evening I found her in a state of extreme exhaustion, with severe vomiting. This was the more to be feared, as she seldom found herself inclined to take sufficient nourishment. She had travelled much. There was now considerable increase of size, the more apparent as the lady was of a spare habit of body,—such as might be expected about the fifth month of pregnancy. I prescribed for her on the 21st of April, and after that did not see her for six or seven months, presuming that long before that period her delivery had taken place. On meeting her about this time, she informed me that she had not been pregnant, and I believe no doubt on the subject presented itself to the mind of the gentleman under whose care she placed herself, until, or after the full time had arrived; and even then, after the necessary inquiries, it was found desirable to obtain the opinion of a physician of the highest eminence, in London, in that department of medicine, who pronounced that there was no pregnancy. I wrote lately to this lady, requesting her to furnish me with particulars as to the symptoms, but she had not courage to revert to them. Her husband, about four months since informed me that after fatigue she was then threatened with a miscarriage; if so, this would be an instance where the female became pregnant after having laboured under the symptoms of "spurious pregnancy."

(To be continued.)

ON THE PREVENTION OF CHOLERA AMONGST OUR TROOPS AND SEAMEN IN THE EAST.

By GEORGE BEAMAN, M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Enclosed is the copy of a letter lately addressed by me to the Minister of War. It forms almost a necessary appendage to the communication you did me the honour of publishing in the last number of your journal, and, believing its purport cannot be too extensively circulated, I should feel much obliged by its early insertion in THE LANCET.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

GEORGE BEAMAN.

32, King-street, Covent-garden, April 18th, 1855.

MY LORD,—His Grace the Duke of Newcastle stated in the House of Lords in reference to the movements of our troops in the East, that "*by far the most serious cause of delay was the breaking out of cholera in the camp.*" I am therefore impelled from a conviction, the result of more than twenty years' practice, thought, and reflection, to communicate my views to your lordship, which views, if carried out, I feel most confident, would not only prevent a recurrence of cholera attacking our army, but, if pursued in India, (the hot-bed of its existence and European importation,) would in that country greatly moderate its fatality.

When we consider the fact that above one hundred millions of human beings have already fallen a prey to this disease, and when there is every reason to believe that occasional or periodical visitations may be expected, your lordship must admit that a safe, inexpensive, and salutary preventive would be highly desirable.

Such a preventive is a moderate quantity of common table-salt, pure, and perfectly clean, eaten in a granular state with the food; but I will venture to trouble your lordship with the general directions which at each visitation of cholera I have distributed amongst my friends and patients, and through them to many thousand persons. As giving weight to my recommendation, I beg to observe that while the weekly mortality from cholera in this metropolis during part of last autumn was from 1600 to 1800, and once exceeding 2200, in