of the powers of nature, and causes a larger cicatrix. It is, therefore, highly important that the edges of wounds should be brought together as accurately as possible, in endeavoring to unite them by the first intention. For this purpose, I am convinced the method here recommended will be found superior to any hitherto employed, bringing the edges of the wound more perfectly together without pain, retaining them constantly in their proper situation, and effecting a cure without a scar.

I have only to add, that the caoutchouc is susceptible of being made into sheets of any required thickness or size, and is now, indeed, employed to cover tables.—*Ibid.*

EFFECTS OF TARTARIZED ANTIMONY IN DILATING THE OS UTERI.

BY JOHN LANGLEY, ESQ., SURGEON.

At three o'clock, P. M., of Friday the 21st ult., I was called to attend a young woman of plethoric habit and rigid fibre, 21 years of age, in labor with her first child. I was then informed she had been suffering severe pains during the day, which having increased in intensity and frequency, her attendants deemed it necessary to send for me. On visiting her, I found she had pains of such unequivocal character, occurring every five or six minutes, that induced me to press an examination per vaginam, believing, from their nature, the labor must have progressed to an advanced stage; but, to my surprise, I found the os uteri with difficulty admitting my finger, extremely rigid and unyielding, the foetal head presenting, and pressing firmly upon it; the pelvis sufficiently capacious; the bowels had been frequently and freely evacuated; but she experienced a most distressing inclination to pass urine, without the power. Accompanying this state, there was a hard and frequent pulse, dry tongue and hot skin. To relieve the insupportable suffering from obstructed micturition, with difficulty I drew off rather more than a pint of urine, which so far gave relief; still the apparent, and no doubt real, suffering of my patient was excessive, the pains assuming a more than ordinary violent character. I determined forthwith to bleed her freely, which proposition panic-struck her mother and self, both of whom positively and resolutely refused a compliance with my wishes, and in such a manner as rendered a perseverance unavailing, notwithstanding I described, in strong terms to both, the risk they incurred from such contumacious conduct. In the hope of inducing a relaxation of the contiguous parts, I threw into the rectum four injections of thin warm water gruel, at intervals of about an hour; still the same relentless rigidity of the os tincæ, and all the parts concerned in parturition. Reflecting upon the relaxation which supervenes upon the spontaneous vomiting which so frequently occurs, from sympathetic gastric irritation, during the last stage of uterine dilatation, I thought myself justified in anticipating, or rather imitating, nature in her operation, and decided upon giving small doses of tartarized antimony, which I did in quantities of one-sixth of a grain every twenty minutes in a little gruel, unconsciously to my patient. The second dose produced considerable nausea and gentle diaphoresis; and, upon again examining, I found the os uteri in a more favorable state. I gave a third

and fourth dose, the latter of which excited vomiting, accompanied with profuse perspiration. From this moment an unusually rapid dilatation of the os uteri took place; the head descended upon the perinæum, and the external parts yielded most favorably to the passage of the head, and my patient gave birth to a fine living child at nine o'clock.

I do not hesitate to affirm, from analogy in similar cases, that many hours of suffering and anxiety were saved to my patient, and which I alone attributed to the effect produced upon the muscular system by the administration of the antimonial.

London Medical and Surgical Journal.

EXTRACTION OF FOREIGN SUBSTANCES FROM THE EAR.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The notices of "Intra-Auricular Lithotripsy" and other methods of extracting foreign substances from the external meatus of the ear, recently published in your Journal, remind me of an ingenious method employed some time since, in a case of this kind, by MR. ELI WHITNEY BLAKE, a scientific mechanic of this town.

In 1829, a child about three years old, living in Whitneyville, in the neighborhood of the extensive gun-manufactory superintended by the Messrs. Blakes, crowded into the ear a small stone, which in the course of six or eight days produced severe irritation and inflammation. The extreme soreness of the ear, and the violent resistance made by the child, appeared to forbid the ordinary methods of operating.

It occurred to Mr. Blake that something might be fastened to the stone, by means of glue or some other adhesive substance, by which the stone might be extracted. Several different preparations were tried without success—owing to the difficulty of drying these preparations in the humid cavity of the ear, sufficiently to afford a proper degree of tenacity. He then selected a strong solution of Gum Shellac in Alcohol—considering that the volatility of alcohol rendered it preferable to water, as a solvent for this purpose. A small portion of cotton was tied into a knot, with a strong thread, and fastened to a piece of quill, a little more than an inch long, by passing the ends of the thread through the hollow of the quill. The cotton was then charged with the shellac solution, and introduced against the stone, where it was allowed to remain more than twenty-four hours; and, in order to hasten the evaporation of the alcohol, hot air was occasionally blown into the ear with a bellows—a dish of burning coals being held under the valve of the bellows. The plan was successful, and occasioned scarcely any pain. From the swelling of the parts, the stone had become very firmly impacted within the ear, and considerable force was required to extract it. The tenacity of the substance employed was, however, abundantly sufficient; as the stone, after extraction, was found adhering to the instrument with a force sufficient to raise twenty or thirty ounces.

Yours, &c.

CHARLES HOOKER, M.D.

New Haven, June 14, 1834.