mortem examination sixteen hours after death, but in consequence of being pressed for time, I did not institute a general investigation, confining my inquiries to the abdomen. I found, as I suspected, the bladder rather to the left side; it contained about six ounces of turbid urine. The uterus was much larger than it should have been, so long after delivery; its size being about that of an uterus at the fourth month of gestation. There seemed to be a putrid tendency throughout the peritoneal covering of the viscus, which was of a greenish hue. Its substance was firm: on making a V incision into the anterior surface, and turning up the flap, a membranous or fleshy polypus was discovered, attached firmly by a broad base to the posterior part of the internal surface; just above the cervix, the tumour was quite putrid; it was rather torn at one place, most likely by the pressure of the finger when attempting to bring it down; the whole of the lining membrane of the uterus assumed a dark gangrenous appearance. The ovaries were of the usual size, but not healthy, containing several small tubercles; there was a corpus luteum in the right. I have presented the preparation to Dr. F. H. Ramsbotham.

Previous History.—This was the seventh confinement, she had aborted two months previously to this pregnancy; the last is a healthy child, two years of age; she had alternately borne living and dead children. From her history, prior to delivery, I cannot glean anything that could have indicated the gradual development of the polypus. She did not appear to have suffered more pain in this than in her former pregnancies, nor had she experienced any unusual symptoms. Her bowels were habitually constipated, did not act without castor-oil; and after this delivery, the operation of aperient medicine caused distressing feelings of depression.

This case is interesting, as it shows what an extent, and for how many months disease may exist in the uterus, without interfering with the natural process of utero-gestation. It is also singular, that there should have been no symptoms indicative of the mischief that was going on until a few hours before dissolution took place.

The growth of the tumour must have occupied some considerable period; and the probability is, that it must have existed before impregnation, since its size would forbid the supposition that it could have acquired such a magnitude within seven months.

ON THE POISONOUS EFFECTS OF LABURNUM SEEDS.

By T. A. B. BONNEY, Esq., Surgeon,
Brentford.

THE following occurrence, though neither unprecedented nor yet very serious in its results, is, perhaps, sufficiently rare and important to be worth recording in the pages of THE LANCET:—

On the 3rd of the present month, eleven little boys, of the Juvenile Establishment in this neighbourhood, belonging to St. James's, Westminster, ate, *immediately after dinner*, of the seeds of a laburnum-tree growing in their playground. I was sent for about an hour afterwards, and then found the children as follows:—

1. W. D., aged 9, had eaten but one seed, which had produced vomiting and purging; was now pale and nauseated, with pulse scarcely perceptible at the wrist; drowsiness, and sluggish pupils.

2. M. E., aged 9, ate one seed; no vomiting or purging; pulse weak; drowsiness and great dilatation of pupils.

3. T. B., aged 9, pulse weak and rapid; pupils sluggish. This boy had eaten four seeds.

4. W. B., aged 8, had eaten four seeds, which had occasioned vomiting and purging; was now very pale, and had weak pulse.

5. T. G., aged 6, had eaten five seeds; was pale and nauseated, with a weak and rapid pulse.

6. R. T., aged 9, ate one seed; had pain of stomach and a weak pulse.

7. J. M., aged 9, ate five seeds, which purged him considerably. Now feels well.

8. J. E., aged 8, ate one seed, which made him vomit, and he is now well.

9. E. L., aged 7, ate one seed, and looks pale and heavy, but makes no complaint.

10. T. P., aged 8, ate one seed, and has had no symptoms.

11. J. P., aged 7, ate one seed, without any ill effect.

Though it will be observed that only three of these cases presented any cerebral symptoms, it can hardly be doubted that the action of the seeds was truly narcotic; for in one of the worst cases (that of M. E., No. 2,) the drowsiness and dilatation of pupils were very distinctly marked, notwithstanding that neither vomiting or purging had preceded, so as to have occasioned such head symptoms by inducing exhaustion.

The treatment consisted in a salt-and-water emetic to those who had not vomited; a warm bed, with a few drops of aromatic spirit of ammonia, to the faint; and, for the three who had the head affected, a high pillow, a cold lotion to the forehead and temples, and hot bottles to the feet. A few

hours afterwards Cases 1 and 2 still showed a little narcotism; but the next day, after each had taken a gentle aperient, I found all the children perfectly well.

The tree was cut down directly after the accident. Where it is an object to preserve such an ornament to any garden without endangering children who have access to it, the pods might be cut off as soon as the blossoms have fallen.

Brentford, Dec. 16, 1840.

MANCHESTER DISPENSARY.

CASES

By CHARLES CLAY, *Surgeon, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, &c.*

TRICHIASIS.

ANNE PLATT, Dukinfield, æt. 60, applied for relief Nov. 1st, for a complete trichiasis of the lower lid of the right eye; the constant pain caused by the eyelash sweeping over the cornea irritated the eye to such an extent, that she was glad to submit to any means proposed for her relief. Leaning her head against the breast of an assistant, I took hold of a fold of the skin of the under lid, raising it, and at the same time rolling it between the tip of the forefinger and the thumb, until the eyelash resumed its proper position, or rather more; then, with a pair of curved scissors, I took out a portion of the skin pinched up about three-quarters of an inch in length, when the parts regained their liberty; the edges separated to the extent of rather more than an inch, and it appeared as though too far asunder to accommodate themselves, without creating as great a deformity as the one about to be remedied. On bringing the edges together with a ligature, the parts adapted themselves neatly, and the wound healed by the first intention. The eyelash continued in its proper position, and in a few days no trace of the incision could be seen. In this case, care was taken not to come too near the edge of the lid, as not unfrequently the ligature breaks its hold, and leaves an ugly scar.

ENCYSTED TUMOUR.

Mary Bell, æt. 25, Dukinfield, Nov. 5th, applied to have an encysted tumour removed from underneath the superciliary ridge of the right eye outer canthus; the tumour was about the size of a marble, and easily taken out by the scalpel and forceps. On opening the sac, it was found to contain, besides the transparent albuminous fluid, a tuft of small hairs, about three-quarters of an inch long, and apparently without any bulbous roots; they were in considerable

quantity, and longer than the hairs generally found in similar tumours. The wound healed without trouble; but I may observe, that a little pressure over where the tumour existed, is necessary after its removal, to prevent the integuments over the place appearing too loose and flabby; where the tumour is large, a section of the skin cut out improves the appearance afterwards.

PTOSIS.

Thomas Wood, æt. 22, was affected with complete ptosis of the upper lid of the right eye, and submitted to the operation on the 10th of October; a portion of the affected lid was cut away by the curved scissors, horizontally, and the edges of the wound secured by two ligatures. A difficulty presented itself, which it is necessary to avoid in similar operations; viz., the edge of the wound on the lower part came so near the edge of the eyelid, that the ligatures were, with great difficulty, retained by the additional support of adhesive plaster, so very liable are they to break out when so situated, from the great mobility of the part; thus the intended relief by the operation is often defeated.

ASCITES.

Mary Anne Handley, Dog-lane, Dukinfield, æt. 16, had been affected with ascites for nearly three years. When first the attack commenced she filled rapidly to an immense size, and then became stationary as to bulk. She had been under the treatment of various individuals, but no means adopted caused the slightest diminution of her size, or increased the discharge of urine. With the exception of the inconvenience of her bulk, caused by the tension of the parietes of the abdomen, and a suppression of the menses, no symptom of pain or particular uneasiness was felt. I tried the effect of various plans for reducing the fluid, but with no better success than my predecessors. As the case presented a favourable aspect for paracentesis, I proposed it, and she submitted to the operation on the 14th of October. This case was remarkable from the rapidity with which she got entirely well, passing her urine in sufficient quantity, and the reappearance of the menses on the 28th of October; as also from the immense quantity of fluid discharged by the operation, about 24lbs. 14 oz., independent of what was lost during the time it was discharging, amongst her clothing, [not less than another pound] in so young a person. It appeared impossible for the parietes of the abdomen to retain such a quantity. In this case the primary cause of the deposition must have ceased soon after the abdomen was filled. As no symptoms of any functional disturbance was observed up to the time of tapping, except the suppression of the catamenia, it