the seat of the pain. When he was first visited by his physician, the pain was felt on a small spot between the seventh and eighth ribs of the right side, a few inches from the spine; the whole breast and side of the chest were much swollen, the swelling being evidently emphysematous, and when the tumor was pressed down with the finger, over the seat of the pain, it was at once restored with the next fit of coughing. The emphysema was gradually extended day after day, till the whole trunk and head, both arms, and even the right thigh were affected. As suffocation seemed then to threaten the patient's life, incisions were made in various parts, and air escaped from the apertures when the body was moved, or when pressure was made around them. On the back, where the swelling was greatest, incisions could be made an inch and a half in depth without coming in contact with the muscles. The difficulty of breathing was thus removed; but the disease continued some weeks longer, till at length an incision was made near the spot where it was presumed the air escaped from the chest. Inflammation of the part was thus induced, terminating in induration of the cellular tissue and closure of the opening.—*Rust's Mag.*

III.

ABSTRACTS AND SELECTIONS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Case of Injury of the Head. By Dr. ROGERS.

THE injury was in the forehead, and was produced by the bursting of a gun, July 10th; patient aged 19 years:—The aperture was of the size of a crown piece, and through it a considerable quantity of the brain was oozing, and as much as a table spoonful adhered to the hair and integuments around. Much hemorrhage

had followed, and when seen by Dr. R. convulsions were present. No bone was found within the aperture or any other foreign substance. V. S. ad 3xvj. Light dressing to the wound. Next day more tranquil, sensible. July 12th. Pulse 40, extremely tense, and full. V. S. ad 3xiv. Cathartic. Diet, tea and thin gruel. 21st. V. S. ad 3xij. on account of febrile heat and irritation. 25th, 27th. Increased pain in the head, and stiffness in the lower jaw. These symptoms went off in a few days. Discharge from the wound large and offensive; strength diminished; cinchona and better diet. Aug. 2d, 4th. Foreign body discovered in the cavity of the brain; extracted with great difficulty on the 5th. "The body extracted proved to be the breech-pin of the gun, consisting of solid iron, three inches in length and exactly three ounces in weight." Small portions of bone came away after this; on Dec. 10th the patient is reported to be in good health.

Case of Hydrophobia. By A. T. THOMSON, M.D.

This was a boy of eight years of age, who was bitten on the naked hand by a cat, Sept. 28th, 1826. Hydrophobia appeared Nov. 7th, forty days after the wound. Various means were employed with some partial relief of the symptoms. This was of but short continuance. On the 8th, at 8 P. M. as the disease was aggravated, and its violence increasing, it was determined not to delay longer the trial of a remedy which the attending physicians had previously thought of employing. This was the prussic acid. A drop was directed to be given

in a tea-spoonful of gruel every fifteen minutes. The convulsions were evidently diminished by the first drop. He begged for another dose before ten minutes had elapsed. Another was given with similar relief. At 10 he had taken six drops. It was continued, and towards morning he drank freely from a cup, for the first time since his illness.

9th. 8 A. M. The hydrophobic symptoms have rapidly abated. But from the state of the pulse, 130, and so small as scarcely to be felt, the pallid face, and cold clammy state of the hands, it was determined to discontinue the acid. 12, noon, has taken acid against morning orders, on account of restlessness, has drank freely of wine, and some porter, eaten oysters and bread. Acid to be discontinued. 4 P. M. Still better. 11 P. M. Bad symptoms returned; emprosthotonos; case hopeless. The acid however was again tried, wine, and opiate frictions employed. Some intermission of convulsions after the acid; but he died quarter past 2 A. M. Nov. 10th. Sixteen drops of the acid had been given in all. Dissection discovered the theca vertebralis and the parietes of the canal loaded with suffused blood, which, in several places, lay in black coagula. Evident signs of inflammation on the base of the brain. The lungs were gorged with dark colored blood.

The following contains some of Dr. T.'s remarks on the treatment of this disease.

"In the instance now before the Society, from an evident relief which followed the administration of the prussic acid, it might be supposed that I would strongly urge its employment in

future cases of the disease; and I am disposed to do so, regarding it as a powerful auxiliary for the abatement of the convulsive action which is so distressing; but I am far from considering it in the light of a specific in hydrophobia, or as a remedy at all likely to do more than it effected in Lange's case." Dr. T. recommends in the first instance to diminish excitement in the medulla oblongata and spinal cord; to remove every cause of irritation both internal and external; and as soon as intermission occurs to employ the most powerful tonics. Cupping in the whole course of the spine; blisters; calomel in large doses, with tartar emetic; prussic acid, and sulphate of quinine, are the means recommended to meet the indications.

Dr. Nichol, in a paper on the *Treatment of Caries*, has the following on the use of lunar caustic in this disease.

"Short of the actual excision of the parts, I consider the lunar caustic to be the sheet-anchor in the treatment of affections of the bones. In the hands of all practitioners it has proved of the highest value, but, like every other remedy of established reputation, is sometimes liable to abuse. If too liberally applied, or too often repeated, severe inflammation will inevitably follow; an irritation intended to be contiguous or remote will become continuous. But if confined to one point, or where fistulous outlets have been established, or if it is introduced to a very limited depth into one or more of them, no mischief need be apprehended; on the contrary, the inflammatory tendency will be subverted. I have observed this

in a remarkable manner confirmed in a case of caries of the orbital ridges of the superior maxillary bones, when the eyes were exceedingly prone to inflammation. A few hours after the introduction of the lunar caustic, (reduced to the size of a crow quill,) this would entirely disappear, but was always sure to return, if by any chance it happened to be intermitted, and was invariably aggravated if too freely used. The same thing I have often observed in caries of the bones of the hand and foot, and was consequently obliged to have the caustic cast into rods of much smaller dimensions than usual,—accommodated both to the size of the opening, and the extent of the affection. Where the carious or necrosed bone could be readily reached, I usually passed the caustic to it; but where the soft parts intervening were greater than half an inch in thickness, I never penetrated deeper; and the greater the depth, the less free use in turning was observed, at all events till the parts became accustomed to the application.

“When inflammation supervenes in cases of caries or necrosis, either from the too free use of the caustic or other causes, the application of fomentations, with decoction of poppy capsules, will be found among the most tranquillizing. At all times, indeed, whether inflammation exists, or threatens, or not, I have found fomentations of great advantage. In those cases where the action of the parts have become languid from long-continued discharges, and the constitution is weakened, the local energies will be considerably improved by fomentations; and they are further

attended with another advantage of no mean importance, viz. that of keeping the parts always clean. Under these impressions, I have continued to use fomentations for a few minutes or longer, before each application of the caustic; and I may observe, that I have not found the same advantage from immersion into, or pouring the tepid infusion or decoction over the parts, as from wringing flannel cloths dipped into it, and applying them as hot as the patient could comfortably bear.”

Talma's Heart.

The great French tragedian died of stricture of the rectum, which reduced that intestine to the diameter of two lines, causing great accumulation above it, and ultimately rupture of the coats, with effusion into the peritoneal cavity. He labored under another complaint, however, which must sooner or later have caused his death, and which is more interesting as having been more immediately connected with his profession. The heart adhered to the pericardium at its apex, forming a dark-colored tumor, connected with the left ventricle, and which in reality was a true aneurism. The walls of this sac appeared to consist of the pericardium and serous membrane of the heart glued together, and containing layers of fibrin, while the muscular fibres of the ventricle, considerably attenuated, were partially extended over the tumor. The size of the aneurism was about that of a small egg; it had displaced the point of the left ventricle, which was thus thrown a little forward. The origin of this pathological condition of the heart, which was not suspected

during his last illness, may perhaps fairly be dated from the following occurrence related by Talma's family :

Some years ago, after great exertion in playing the character of Hamlet, he suddenly felt a sensation of burning heat in the region of the heart, and an uneasiness which lasted one or two days, but which did not attract any serious attention. From this time he frequently suffered from palpitation, particularly after professional exertion.

It is probable that, in a mind like Talma's, passions, though artificially excited by the cunning of the scene, and the intense and absorbing manner in which he entered into the character he represented, may have produced the same effect upon his frame, as moral impressions from external causes are wont to do on others ; thus assimilating in their effects the real and imaginary in the miseries of life. It is probable, too, that had this great tragedian not labored under the obstruction which proved fatal, he would have expired in one of those tempests of passion which held the spectators in dreadful admiration, and thus (to borrow the enthusiastic language of his countrymen) he would have died *au lieu de la gloire !*

Sulphate of Quinine.

M. Bland, physician to the hospital of Beaucaire, has observed, in some cases of intermittents, that the use of this remedy, when given to the amount of twenty-four grains a day, produced considerable deafness on the second or third day of its employment. This effect was particularly observed in weak and nervous pa-

tients, who had labored under tertian ague. The difficulty of hearing ceased on the eighth or twelfth day. During the deafness, the patients complained of rather severe headache. M. Bland suggests the propriety of being very cautious in the use of this valuable remedy in large doses.

Sulphate of Copper in Chronic Diarrhœa.

Dr. Elliotson on the treatment of *Chronic Diarrhœa* says, "I am satisfied that the *Sulphate of Copper* is superior to every other astringent in chronic diarrhœa,—that it will cure the disease more quickly than any other, and often when all others fail." "Three grains three times a day is the largest quantity I have prescribed ; but this I have frequently given. The dose usually borne and required varies from a grain and a half to three grains. It may be taken for an indefinite time without any fear of constitutional ill effects." Cases of a very severe kind, with bloody and purulent discharges are referred to, in which the long continuance of this medicine was curative. In two, after six months' use of it. Dr. E. always combines the sulphate with opium. A grain and a half will prevent even three grains from griping. He is satisfied that it is not to the opium that the curative effects of the copper are to be ascribed. To prevent sickness he gives it in pill, and upon a full stomach. He cautions against its being regarded as universally applicable, or that it never fails. Two curious cases are named in which it and all other means failed, when a removal from town cured the disease in a

few days, and in which a return to the metropolis was invariably followed by a return of the diarrhœa.

Sulphate of Quinine in Ague.

Dr. Elliotson refers to near 150 cases of this disease in which various serious local diseases existed, some of them requiring venesection, but every one of which, to use his words, was cured by this remedy. He has given five, and in some cases, particularly in London, ten grains at a dose.

Carbonate of Iron in Chorea.

Dr. E. regards this medicine as almost a specific for chorea. He enumerates nine cases, every one of which yielded to the carbonate. His dose is from three to four drams. He treated a genuine case of traumatic tetanus with it, in doses of half an ounce every two hours, in treacle with beef-tea, "and the mitigation of the disease," he says, "upon its exhibition, was too obvious for me not to ascribe the cure to the remedy."

Acupuncture in Rheumatism.

Dr. E. has given a fair trial to this remedy. He has tried it in private practice and at St. Thomas's Hospital. He has found it chiefly useful in the rheumatism of fleshy parts,—rheumatism; and the more so, as the disease is less inflammatory. One needle left an hour or two in a part, is more efficient than several used but for a few minutes.

A new Mode of Treating Aneurism.

M. Moreau de Jonnès read, for Baron Larrey, a memoir at the *Institute Royal de France*, on the 10th of September last, relative

to a new method of treating aneurisms of the ascending or descending aorta. It is that of Valsalva, conjointly with the constant application of ice to the tumor. The following is one case among several others said to have been cured by this method:—A soldier suffered, in consequence of a wound, from a varicose aneurism of the crural artery. The size of the tumor exceeded that of the fist. Every operation was impracticable (we cannot tell why), and the patient was expected soon to die. He was, however, subjected to Valsalva's method (low regimen, rest, and frequent bleedings carried to marasmus), and the application of ice, then of several moxas. In the space of a few months the tumor was considerably reduced. It was also judged from different signs that its walls were thickened in proportion to the reduction of its volume. In the end, a complete obliteration of the crural artery took place; and the patient was radically cured in less than twelve months.

IV.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

Hæmorrhagia Hæmoptysis.

M. Morrison, æt. 31. Entered the Hospital Aug. 7th, 1827. Stiffness and soreness of the joints, soreness about and within the chest, headache, cough, with free expectoration, followed sleeping in wet clothes about nine weeks ago. About a week ago, while coughing, was seized with hæmoptysis, and says he raised about three pints of blood; has had slight bleeding since.—Now, appetite small; tongue coated; vomits when he takes much food; one stool daily; urine light colored; pulse 60, small; has frequent cold