and would only remark, that in the present case the consequences of opium-eating were great debility, disturbed cerebral functions, as manifested by hemiplegia, impairment of the mental faculties, and a certain pain in the lumbar region, which would point to morbid effects of the spinal cord. The case, as noted down by Mr. Baker, one of the resident medical officers, presents the following features.

George N—, aged thirty-five years, a surgeon's assistant, was admitted into Albert ward August 12th, 1853. He states that for the last eight years he has been in the habit of ingesting large quantities of opium. In the first instance he took it to prevent his feeling the want of food, as he was often obliged to wait several hours without getting anything to eat. He began by about twenty drops of laudanum daily, and gradually increased the dose till at last he consumed a quarter of an ounce of crude opium (more or less) in a week, besides one ounce of laudanum per diem.

The man tried to leave off this baneful habit, but was in such pain and so very sick when he omitted to take his opium, that he again continued its use. For the last two or three months he has felt a pricking sensation in his left hand and arm, and a dull, aching pain across the loins, especially when standing or walking. He has lost flesh and felt weak, his memory is much impaired, and the nervous system generally affected. About a fortnight before admission, the patient had a slight paralytic attack on the left side, which yielded to treatment; but he is, however, still troubled with a sensation of numbness and pricking along the left arm and leg.

The man was ordered a purgative, and after the effect was obtained he took quinine three times a day, and five grains of soap-pill at night.

On the second day the patient was extremely low, and looked very melancholy; he had some sickness, and complained of severe pain at the epigastrium. He was therefore ordered strong beef-tea and four ounces of wine.

The vomiting persisted on the third day, when Dr. Chambers ordered the following draught to be taken three times per diem: chloroform, ten minims; compound tincture of camphor, half a drachm; rectified spirit, half a drachm; solution of gum, half an ounce. The sickness was by this means much relieved, but the appetite remained very bad; there was hardly any sleep, and the patient complained of severe pain in the dorsal region. He now took half a drachm of liquor opii and ten minims of chloroform in an emollient vehicle. This draught relieved the patient considerably; it was repeated, with a less quantity of chloroform, and the quinine mixture continued.

He went on improving for the next few days, though he at times had a distressing sensation of sinking; but the appetite improved with the quinine and sulphuric acid, and on the eleventh day the patient could eat a mutton-chop and drink porter. His memory and intelligence, which on admission were considerably impaired, resumed their normal activity when he left his bed and took exercise in the wards. On the thirteenth day, slight diarrhoea came on, which was arrested by the usual means, and on the nineteenth day the patient was discharged, much relieved both as to the debility, pain at the back, deficient memory, and faltering mental powers.

DISCHARGE OF HYDATIDS IN THE URINE.

By JOHN SIMON, Esq., F.R.S.,
SURGEON TO ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

THE LANCET of September 3rd contains a case recorded by Dr. Sieveking, in which it appeared that fragments of a disintegrated hydatid cyst were passing by the urethra. Recently, with my friend Mr. Eastes, of Folkestone, I have had the opportunity of seeing a still more conclusive case, the particulars of which, since I believe it to be of extreme rarity, I beg to place at your disposal. I may mention that, though my attention has always been awake to the possibility of finding echinococci in the urine in various obscure affections of the kidney, it has never happened to me till the present case to find unequivocal evidence of their discharge.

W. S—, aged forty-four, an out-door labourer in Folkestone harbour, began about two years ago to suffer symptoms of his present disease.

Previously he had considered himself quite healthy, having had no severe illness within his recollection. For the last four or five years, however, he seems to have had the habit of passing gritty urine (probably with crystals of lithic acid) and has had occasional stiffness in a knee and shoulder.

Never to his knowledge has he discharged any worms from the intestinal canal, or had any signs of their presence there. His occupation has exposed him to various kinds of weather, but his habits appear to have been moderate and careful.

Two years ago he began, and has ever since continued, to experience occasional severe pain, shooting sharply across from one hypochondrium to the other. This "pain in the ribs," as he called it, would often be excited by strong exercise,—would be much felt, for instance, while he was working a heavy hammer, and it would recur in paroxysms several times during a day. Though the stabs of pain cut across from one side of his body to the other, affecting both of them, the left hypochondrium seems to have been regarded as their starting place.

Thus matters had gone on for about six months, when he was suddenly seized with acute sufferings, such as might have belonged to the passage of a calculus from the right kidney. There was the well-known sharp pain running through the right iliac region to the groin, testicle, and thigh, accompanied by spasm of the cremaster and extreme irritability of the bladder. At the end of six hours this attack terminated in his passing, with some effort and probably for the first time (what may now be assumed to have been) a single hydatid vesicle, associated with some of his ordinary gravel.

Nine months afterwards he underwent a similar attack, the paroxysm lasting for two hours, and resulting as before in the discharge of a single (presumed) hydatid, with gravel, and perhaps (as the urine was discoloured) some blood. The symptoms were again referable to the right kidney.

In both of these attacks he was out of medical observation; they can therefore be fully interpreted only by what occurred on a third occasion, when I was able to verify the nature of the discharge.

This attack began on July 21st, when he was again seized with extreme pain in the course of the right ureter, extending to the groin, testicle, and thigh, with frequent micturition and with contraction of the cremaster. For forty-eight hours these symptoms continued with the utmost severity; they then somewhat subsided, and in their milder form, with occasional exacerbations, continued for another week, at the end of which time a considerable discharge of hydatid vesicles took place,—probably as many as could be piled in a table-spoon, and varying from the size of a filbert downwards. In examining these, I found swarms of perfect echinococci in different stages of growth, together with innumerable hooklets of similar parasites dead and decomposed at some earlier period.

During the ten days for which this paroxysm lasted, the bladder continued exceedingly irritable, and there was likewise (especially during the earlier days) some general disturbance and feverishness; but the belly was not tender on pressure, nor was there any vomiting. No inflammatory products were admixed with the urine.

Four days after the large evacuation, a single hydatid vesicle escaped, with very little distress to the patient.

From that time to the present he has been well. The stabbing pain across the hypochondria (which had never left him for two years) has been very considerably lightened; he speaks of it as "not more than a tithe" of what it has been at any time since his first suffering.

Specimens of his urine, which I have examined during the last ten days, contain no trace of animalcules, nor any other morbid appearance than some crystals of oxalate of lime. With careful exploration of the abdomen, I have been unable to detect, either about the right kidney or elsewhere, any morbid induration or tumour.

Upper Grosvenor-street, Sept. 1853.

ON THE USE OF PROTEINE IN SCROFULA.

By J. TAYLOR, Esq., L.A.C.

It was asserted in the year 1849, in your "Answers to Correspondents," that there were no remedial properties in proteine. *Nous verrons*. The same might be said of "milk," and yet, in some cases, this simple agent affords us very conspicuous evidence of its therapeutic quality, as the following case will show:—

Mr. W—, aged thirty-three, a tall and well-proportioned man, with blue eyes and light hair, had always enjoyed excellent health; he had lately invested a considerable sum of money as a coach proprietor, and being desirous of turning the affair to the greatest possible advantage, became the driver of his own coach, took long journeys, and was very irregular in his habits; says his