This case corroborates the opinion of Arnemann, Richerand, and Delpech, while it is directly opposed to the contrary views of Fontana, Cruickshanks, and others. Arnemann found that, after 150 days, nerves had not united. The great length of time which has now intervened since the occurrence of the accident, would almost preclude a hope of regeneration in this case, and certainly goes to prove, that in all cases nerves do not regenerate, the knowledge of which ought to make us guarded in proposing their division. Nevertheless we find in Tiedemann's "Zeitschrift für Physiologie," that Dr. Schott, of Frankfort, divided the ulnar nerve in a female affected with neuralgia, and cut out a portion of it immediately behind the internal condyle of the humerus; the neuralgia was temporally cured, the ring and little-fingers were merely deprived of sensation, but in six months the numbness had left, and the nerve is said to have regenerated. It must be immediately seen how striking the differences are in these two cases; in Dr. Schott's case, no contraction of the fingers is said to have taken place; in this case the contraction forms the most prominent symptom.

The deductions are as follow:—

1st. It clearly proves the function of a spinal nerve and its compound nature, as first demonstrated by that distinguished physiologist Sir Charles Bell.

2nd. It points out the interesting fact, that sensation returned after the lapse of two years, while at the end of almost four, volition was wanting. I imagine it is difficult to explain the reason of this.

3rd. And lastly, it shows that sensation does return, without the actual regeneration of the divided nerve.

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA IN THE HÔPITAL NECKER, PARIS.

M. Bichetau has recently published the results of his practice in the treatment of pneumonia for the last nine months. The cases are all relative to the use of tartar emetic in large doses (not beyond eighteen grains daily). "I consider," says Bichetau, "the tartar emetic to be the most energetic and expeditious mode of cure in a vast number of cases; and I think further, that is the only remedy at all useful during certain medical constitutions which contraindicate bleeding. The remedy is, in short, the more valuable because it prevails in cases intractable by any other method." This testimony is the more valuable, as M. Bichetau originally was quite a sceptic respecting the value of the Rasoria method. —*Archives Générales de Médecine.*

THE

VACCINE VIRUS AND SMALL-POX,

BOTH EXISTING IN TWO CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME.

The Variolic Eruption commencing, in one case, without the usual precursory Symptoms.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by inserting the following cases in your valuable journal.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

H. S. CALDWELL, M.D.

Camberwell, January 1st, 1833.

CASE I.—Miss C—, aged two years, daughter of a dissenting minister in Southwark, was vaccinated in three places on each arm, at my house, on the 5th of November last, from a very healthy infant, and with a lancet used for that purpose only. Next morning I was sent for, with information that she had become sick in the night, and that an eruption had appeared on the skin.

On the preceding days the child had relished her food, and being fully as cheerful as formerly, no symptoms of her being indisposed attracted the attention of any one around her. However, when I now saw her, there existed some degree of that lassitude which generally accompanies eruptive fevers; as also hot skin, quick pulse, anorexia, tongue partially red, &c., and a few pustules forming on the left cheek, eye-lid, and on the instep of the right foot, which, from their appearance, must have been coeval with the first symptom above mentioned. On the following day (7th Nov.) the eruption became general, and had all the appearance of variola; but the want of the usual precursory symptoms rendered it very doubtful whether it was not a case merely of *chicken-pox*. By the fifth day, however, the pustules became thick, and in some parts confluent; the face much swollen, and the palpebræ entirely closed up.

In the midst of this pustular eruption the vaccine vesicles arose, and went on maintaining their usual characteristic features. In a few days some of them seemed to be absorbed by the large pustules; but one on the left arm proceeded distinctly through all its stages, until the eighth day, when, with its round elevated edges and depressed centre, it died away more rapidly than is generally the case, leaving only a very slight mark of its previous existence.

On the 9th day the child had much fever, accompanied with delirium. On the 10th and 11th days, considerably better, the pustules on the face beginning to dry, those

on the extremities very yellow and remarkably developed. From the 12th day the eruption gradually subsided, and as soon as was prudent, warm-baths were used.

Thus while all appeared to go on well, the tender surface of the lower extremities began to discharge a serous fluid, which, upon minute inspection, was found to proceed from small vesicles, forming in their progress from their humid to their dry incrustated state, all the characteristics of *eczema rubrum*. This affection proceeded afterwards to the back, arms, shoulders, and head. And this again was soon followed by *rupia*, the bullæ arising, principally, on the legs and thighs; and, progressively a few about the radii, neck and loins; some advancing to suppuration, and others receding previous to reaching the purulent state. The child has just recovered, and is slightly marked by the small-pox.

CASE II.—Andrew Laffey, aged two years, son of an Irish labourer, residing in King's Gardens, Gravel-lane, was recommended to my notice while attending the former case, and has since been under my care at the City Dispensary. In that district the small-pox was then prevalent, and Laffey's parents, frightened by the mortality it produced among their neighbours, hastened to the Institution at Surrey Chapel, on Tuesday (6th Nov.), and had him vaccinated. The vaccine took remarkably well, and went on in the most regular and perfect manner through all its stages. On Sunday, however, the child became sick; on Monday he had much fever, lassitude, &c. On Tuesday (the eighth day after vaccination) the variolic eruption became general. Still the vaccine went on unimpeded in its progress, the ulcers, particularly those on the left arm, producing much uneasiness by their united and intense inflammation. At this period the case was seen by Mr. Odling, surgeon, in Union-street, and by another member of the profession.

The small-pox now continued its regular course, and, whether modified or not by the vaccination, was very severe, and did not take the turn before the twelfth or thirteenth day. After the variolic eruption had become dry, and the skin nearly cleared of that substance, the *eczema*, as stated in the first case, but *unaccompanied* by *rupia*, broke out all over the body, proceeding, in like manner, from the lower extremities to the head. At the same time, one of the vaccine ulcers, large enough to admit a good sized pea, remained open for many weeks, with much chronic hardness around it, discharging a limpid fluid, which raised the surrounding epidermis, after the manner of cantharides. The child is now well, and bears, at once, indelible marks of small-pox on his face, and of vaccination on his arm.

OBJECTIONS TO MR. COW'S

CAOUTCHOUC FRACTURE BAG,

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A

NEW MODE OF TREATING FRACTURED LIMBS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As your LANCET is the channel through which much useful professional information weekly flows, I beg to request that you will, through its medium, give publicity to the following new mode of treating fractured limbs. I am, Sir, your obedient servant and constant reader,

JOHN BROWN, C. M.
Assist.-Surgeon Royal Navy.

8, Samuel-street, Woolwich,

Jan. 1, 1833.

About a year and a half ago, an apparatus, for the cure of fractures, was invented by a person of the name of Cow, a foreman of shipwrights in Woolwich dock-yard, and sent to the different naval hospitals for trial by order of the Board. To this apparatus, which is merely a sort of bag, made of caoutchouc, and filled with air, I have lately paid considerable attention, and have found so many objections to its use, that every scientific man must, I think, at first sight, clearly perceive, that it never can answer the purpose for which it is intended. The idea, however, of curing fractures by means of an inflated apparatus, which, at the time I first saw Mr. Cow's *bandage*, made an impression on my mind, has since led me to think of a method by which the principle may, I conceive, be advantageously applied to that important part of practical surgery. Before I proceed, however, to give a detail of this plan, I shall take the liberty of mentioning a few of the objections which I have to Mr. Cow's *new fracture bandage*, as he calls it.

In the case of an oblique fracture of the middle of the femur, this apparatus of his, which completely surrounds the whole of the thigh, from the groin down to the knee, but which does not reach the superior extremity of the bone, makes, when inflated, equal pressure over the whole of the surface it covers. Now this must certainly prove hurtful, because the injured part is compressed all round, and the muscles are forced upon the fractured ends of the bone, which, of course, must irritate them, cause pain, and, in some cases, inflammation and swelling, while such pressure can have no tendency whatever to prevent the inferior end of the broken bone from being drawn up by the irritated muscles, unless, indeed, it be so great as to impede the circulation of