of necessity be produced. Chassaignac, also, claims for it that less inflammatory action and less suppuration attend its use than that of the knife; and, consequently, that the wounds resulting therefrom heal more readily, and are less likely to be followed by pyæmia. On these latter points I will not now offer an opinion; but as to the smallness of the resulting cicatrix—a great desideratum in all operations about the face,—and as to the freedom from hæmorrhage, even when dealing with large growths of this kind, I am quite decided.

CASE 1.—Mrs. L.—'s child, aged seven months, had a purple subcutaneous nævus, as broad as a crown-piece, on the left side of the head, which, when filled with blood, was elevated to the size of a large walnut. Pressure with elastic pad had been tried, but without success, when Dr. Suffield, the ordinary medical attendant, asked me to see the case. I ligatured the tumour in four segments on Nov. 11th, 1868; but, owing to the ligatures becoming loose, very little reduction in the size of the tumour took place. On the 18th I encircled the base of the nævus with a ligature. On the 22nd I introduced two strong pieces of whipcord through the centre of the tumour, and tied it in two segments. These also became slack; and very little benefit having been obtained, I resolved on using the *écraseur*. Having first passed two hare-lip pins through the base of the tumour, I applied the chain of the *écraseur* below them, and, gradually working the handle of the instrument every twenty seconds, succeeded in removing the whole mass, which was as large as a walnut, in the course of fifteen minutes. No bleeding of consequence occurred, the wound healed up rapidly, and a very small cicatrix, which was perfectly free from all trace of nævoid tissue, resulted.

CASE 2.—Elizabeth L—, aged forty-seven, was admitted into the Queen's Hospital on April 26th, 1869, with a dark pigmentary nævus on the right cheek which had existed from birth, but had recently increased greatly in size, and which reached from the outer canthus to the angle of the jaw, and measured two inches and a half in length by one in breadth. I removed it with the *écraseur* the same day, first making an incision through the skin around the tumour to the depth of a quarter of an inch, in which the chain of the instrument might lie. This procedure facilitates the operation, as the *écraseur*, though it freely divides mucous membrane, rather tends to tear the integument, and is at any rate some time in cutting through it. Three silver sutures were introduced after the operation. These were taken out on May the 1st, and two days after, the wound being perfectly healed, she went home, having a very small linear scar on her cheek.

CASE 3.—Mrs. B—, of Bromsgrove, came to me with a strawberry-like pigmentary nævus as large as a chestnut on the left cheek, just below the zygoma. Dr. Mackey, Professor of Materia Medica in Queen's College, gave chloroform, and I applied the *écraseur*, first making a slight incision in the skin around the tumour as in the former case. Scarcely any blood was lost by either patient. Three silver sutures were introduced, which were taken out on the fourth day, and on the seventh day after the operation she was able to return home. This growth also had existed from birth as a mole, but had lately developed greatly and become very vascular and sensitive. The cicatrix which resulted was linear, and was so slight that when she presented herself in my consulting room a few months after, I did not at first distinguish it at all.

Birmingham, February, 1871.

A CASE OF

TETANUS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY THE HYDRATE OF CHLORAL.

By A. G. LAWRENCE, M.D.

Mrs. A— had been under my care for the past two years, suffering from myelitis, and had derived considerable benefit from rest, support, counter-irritation, and tonics, with the iodide of potassium, leaving her with partial disuse of the lower extremities. On Dec. 28th, the day being bright and sunny, she went for a drive, and expressed herself as better than she had been for a couple of years. While

undressing, the same evening, her maid allowed her to fall into the sitting position, which produced acute pain up the spine into the back of the head. She passed a very wakeful night, complaining of stiffness in the jaws, which continued all through the next day, and for which I prescribed two blisters, of the size of a shilling, to be placed over the articulation of the lower jaw; also a mixture of the iodide of potassium and aromatic spirit of ammonia in an infusion of gentian, three times daily; hoping that entire rest in bed, with quietude, would overcome the untoward symptoms. However, early on the morning of the 30th I was summoned to my patient, and was told she had passed a very restless night, and had not slept till 6 A.M., and awoke at 6.30 with her jaws firmly fixed and unable to open her mouth in the slightest degree. She complained of great stiffness and pain in the neck and jaws, accompanied with sharp spasm. The muscles of the back and legs were also rigid, the spasms never entirely ceasing, but being aggravated every quarter of an hour, and then partially subsiding. There was no hardness or rigidity of the muscles of the abdomen. Her voice was husky; she had the greatest difficulty in swallowing, and the saliva trickled down her chin. She had a careworn expression and anxious, painful smile. The sensibility of the skin was so much diminished that she did not feel the effect of the blisters which had been placed on the jaws the night before, and which had risen considerably. I immediately ordered three drachms of Ferris & Co.'s syrup of chloral hydrate in half an ounce of water every three hours, and, should the spasms relax, as much beef-tea and milk to be given as she could take. Half an hour after the first draught a feeling of glow had come all over the body, and, from being exceedingly cold, she became quite warm; the tonic spasm of jaw and legs began to subside, and she was able to open her mouth sufficiently to admit the handle of a teaspoon, and could with difficulty swallow a little beef-tea, though the act immediately excited spasm. After the second dose the pain and spasm in the legs and jaw were much lessened, and she was able to open her mouth sufficiently to admit the end of a pencil-case; but no sleep was produced, although a calming influence had set in. After the third dose the spasm and pain subsided, so as to allow the mouth to be opened wide enough to admit a teaspoon, and beef-tea and egg-flip were constantly given.

Dec. 31st.—I found my patient had slept all night; the spasm and pain in jaws and legs had entirely gone; she was able to swallow well without producing spasm, and only complained of great soreness of the muscles of mastication and of the lower extremities; she was, however, quite unable to use the former. Has had one dose of chloral this morning, which is to be repeated at bedtime.

My patient continued to improve till Jan. 3rd, four days after, when, in having her bed made, the maid wrenched her back, which in one hour brought on all the former symptoms in an acute form. The chloral was again administered every three hours, and after the second dose the tonic tetanic symptoms once more entirely subsided.

The point of greatest interest in this case, next to the favourable influence of the chloral, is the production by shock directly affecting the spinal cord of the train of tetanic symptoms which are commonly due to traumatic peripheral irritation. This, no doubt, is to be accounted for by the antecedent myelitis. My patient has continued to improve under a tonic treatment, with chloral only at bedtime, which she describes as producing a most pleasant feeling, and in half an hour after taking it a warmth comes, first in the hands and arms, then in the feet, and in three-quarters of an hour it produces an uninterrupted sleep of two hours. She then awakes to change her position, and falls asleep again, arousing in the morning very much refreshed, free from headache, sickness, or other uncomfortable feeling, and says that she would like to live constantly under its influence. I have tried in her case every anodyne in the Pharmacopœia, all of which deranged the system so much that I abandoned their use; but the chloral has admirably answered my purpose in procuring for my patient a good night's rest without any drawbacks.

Chepstow, Jan. 1871.

WE understand the Admiralty intend transforming two sailing corvettes into hospitals, one to be stationed at Kingston and the other at Queenstown, for the reception of patients suffering from infectious diseases.