found evident appearances of membranes and placenta. I afterwards was informed by the patient, that she had supposed herself to be pregnant for about eight or ten weeks before this sickness took place. In twelve hours from the time I plugged the vagina, the hemorrhage appearing to have stopped, and some animation being restored to the countenance, I suffered the bed clothes which were wet, hard and uncomfortable, to be carefully removed, and the woman placed upon others, which were dry and clean. The astringent medicines, the broth and a little wine and water were continued. Some rest was obtained during the night and the next day she was much more comfortable. At the expiration of twenty-four hours, I removed the cloths from the vagina, no bleeding took place afterwards sufficient to excite alarm, and no diseased state remained, except great debility and loss of strength, which continued for several weeks and was gradually remedied by tonic medicines and a restorative diet. Some œdematous appearances took place after a few days, but were principally confined to the lower extremities and disappeared upon the return of strength and the use of proper exercise.

How far in this case astringents taken into the stomach, and local applications in a liquid form might have been successful, it is impossible to determine. The stomach, as is usually the case under such circumstances, was capable of receiving but a very small quantity of any medicine, without producing sickness and vomiting, which the patient in her present exhausted state, was wholly unable to bear. Injections would probably have been washed from the uterus and vagina, for some time, before they would have permanently constricted the mouths of the bleeding vessels, and might at last have been ineffectual. External applications were used freely, of as cold a temperature as could be procured. The urgency of this case seemed to require every exertion, and I think in all extreme cases of uterine hemorrhage, of this and similar kinds, where other means do not readily take effect, or where we have not time to employ them, this most powerful means should be resorted to without reluctance.

Buffaloe, (Erie co. New-York,) Nov. 1823.

Case of Tetanus. By JOHN PHILLIPS, M.D.

[Communicated for the New-England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.]

ABOUT a year since, I was called to visit Mr L. P. about thirty years of age : he was of a nervous temperament, and very susceptible of impressions from medicines, and external objects

in general ; though an industrious farmer. About two years before, I was called to visit him ; at which time he had a tetanic affection from a wound on the patella, with an axe, which opened the bursa or synovial sack, which contains the patella. He called upon me soon after the accident. I applied a simple dressing ; and charged him to be very careful not to expose himself so as to excite inflammation in the wound. This counsel, however, by accident or inattention, was not properly regarded, and tetanus was the consequence. I saw him once, about four or five days after I had dressed the wound. He had exposed himself to a shower ; the evening air, or in some other way ; which I do not now particularly recollect : but a high degree of pain and swelling in the wounded part, and great constitutional sympathy were the consequences, when I visited him. When I saw him, he was perfectly insensible of my being present, as also to all about him. His pulse was small and tremulous. He said nothing ; and appeared to take no notice of any thing when spoken to. I conceived he was in a state of indirect debility ; and ordered a strong decoction of chamomile ; to which I added an ounce of the tincture of opium, to be applied as a bath, by wringing flannels out of it of sufficient size to cover the affected knee both above and below the joint, as far as the inflammation extended, as hot as the attendants could handle them ; and proceeded, in the mean time, to let blood. He resisted the operation : I succeeded, however, in the attempt, and obtained, as I had wished, a full bleeding, from a large orifice ; which brought him immediately to his senses ; and relieved the depressed state of the circulation. The hot bath above directed, was repeated until the pain subsided, and he seemed quite relieved. I was called the next day from home ; and he was put under the care of another physician ; who informed me that tetanus came on the next day after I saw him. I saw him no more until he recovered.

When I was last called to visit him, [in a subsequent sickness,] tetanus had already taken place. I was informed that he had been at work on his farm, in the rain, a few days previous, and had taken cold, which had affected a carious tooth ; that the tooth had been very painful ; and that when the pain subsided, which was very suddenly, he was taken with tetanus. The paroxysms, when I first saw him, were from six to ten, in twenty-four hours ; and lasted him from ten to fifteen minutes : his head was drawn to the left, and backwards ; his countenance distorted ; his arms drawn down to his sides, and his hands firmly shut ; his lower extremities and feet drawn down as in death ; he breathed at the commencement of the paroxysms, stertorously and laboriously until it ended. I do not recollect to have seen any convul-

sive motions while the paroxysm lasted ; but he remained motionless and immoveable as a statue. As he made no complaint of the tooth when the paroxysms were off ; though it was in a very bad state, he being unwilling to have it meddled with, I did not insist upon extracting it ; though I had no doubt it had been the exciting cause of the disease. I ordered him opium in doses of from one to two grains, to be repeated often enough to keep him constantly under its influence. Brandy was also recommended to be taken at the same time with the opium to assist its operation ; but not being able to obtain it, rum was substituted. I first saw him on Tuesday in the afternoon ; Wednesday continued the practice, without any alteration in the symptoms. Thursday ordered a cathartic, which necessarily caused a suspension of the opium, it operated well, when the opium was again given ; to-day the paroxysms were not so severe as yesterday. Friday, continued the opium and rum. The paroxysms more severe ; and followed by faintings and hiccups ; which led me to suspect that the nerves of the organs of organic life had become affected. I felt alarmed for the safety of my patient ; and requested that the gentleman who had attended him before, [that is, in the former indisposition] might be called in. Saturday much the same—had a consultation with the gentleman alluded to : he proposed bleeding, which, though I had no faith in, was done. He recommended pushing the opium, and getting the patient completely under its influence ; as being more to be relied on than all the anti-spasmodics together ; but thought it proper to assist it by the other articles of that class : and among others, the cicuta [*conium maculatum*]. After the patient was bled, the paroxysms seemed to be more frequent and severe than before. Sunday noon : having lost all confidence in the course which had been pursued, I left off the opium and determined to put him under the full operation of the extr. cicuta. [con. mac.] This I commenced with a dose of ii grs. a paroxysm was evidently forming when I gave it, and which took place in about fifteen minutes. I waited an hour, to see if the medicine would produce any evident effect. I then gave him iii grs. and in about half an hour, the paroxysm returned. I waited thirty minutes, and then gave him iii grs. more. In about twenty minutes there was another paroxysm. This afternoon the paroxysms had been much more frequent than before ; and I began seriously to charge the cicuta with being the cause, and to distrust the propriety of my practice. I had however, fancied, that though the paroxysms were more frequent, they were not so strong ; and determined to put him under its full influence ; believing that it would certainly suspend the action of the disease. I, therefore,

as soon as he came sufficiently out of the paroxysm, gave him iii grs. more; and in fifteen or twenty minutes, another paroxysm formed; but so weak that I could bend any of his joints. He soon came to; but in a few minutes, fell into a state of the most perfect insensibility; every sense was dead; and every muscle relaxed: he, nevertheless breathed natural, and easily; and his pulse was perfectly regular. From this state he roused up in fifteen or twenty minutes. This was preceded by two profound sighs. He complained of the medicine for the first time since he was taken with the tetanus. He was perfectly relieved; said that he felt better, and has had nothing of the disease since. He was able to take charge of his business in a week. I ordered the cicuta to be given in the dose of a grain and an half, every two hours through the night, and Monday, till night. I suspect that the opium had not been given in sufficient quantities while it was given; but from the result of this case, I shall give the cicuta the preference until it shall fail me.

Dixmont, Maine.

Remarks on Tetanus. By Dr ABNER HOWE.

[To the Editors of the New-England Journal of Medicine, &c.]

FEW diseases for which the physician is called to prescribe, more frequently baffle his efforts, than tetanus; and few in their nature are less understood. From the time of Hippocrates to the present, we have little more than histories of cases, in which certain modes of treatment have been followed by success, or failed of accomplishing a cure. No temperament or state of the system has been described, as forming a predisposition to this disease; and even at the present day, physicians are not agreed whether to rank it with diseases of debility or inflammation, whether it is in its nature, sthenic, or asthenic. While some have considered it to consist in, or to be attended with, high morbid action of the blood vessels and nervous system; and in accordance with such opinion, have used the lancet, cathartics, and other means of depletion; others have deemed it to be a disease of weak morbid action, and have placed their confidence in the use of stimulants and tonics from the commencement of the symptoms. Cullen does not attempt a pathology of this disease; but when directing his means of cure, observes, 'we must be satisfied with having learned something useful from analogy confirmed by experience.'

Tetanus so seldom occurs in New England, that some of the

Vol. XIII.

G