

thought her only chance of safety depended upon the uterus being able to expel its contents into the vagina, so as to allow of their being removed from thence by ligature.

One morning in April, 1850, her mother (who is a very sensible woman) showed me a whitish substance, like a shred of fibrine, which had passed per vaginam; it was very tenacious, and not offensive. From this time, many of these shreds or masses continued to be expelled, some requiring to be extracted from the vagina, till a quantity escaped more than sufficient to fill a pint basin. Three months elapsed before the whole of this mass was voided; two or three days sometimes passed without any more escaping. As it came away, the tumour proportionately diminished in size, the hæmorrhage ceased, the pains gradually disappeared, and she began to obtain rest, and to recover her appetite and strength: at the end of June, 1850, she was able to walk out of doors. In about three weeks more, the catamenia again appeared naturally, and have since continued to do so, without any discharge in the intervals; and at the present time, and for so many months past, she pronounces herself to be quite well, and has the appearance of being in perfect health.

I should mention, that during the last twelve months of her sufferings, in opposition to the earnest entreaties of Dr. Lever and myself, she (thinking her recovery impossible) would not permit any vaginal plug to be used, and refused, almost entirely, to take any kind of remedy, even morphia or opium.

Dr. Lever informed me that he considered this a very rare case, there being only three or four upon record of a similar kind.

Lower Tooting, Surrey, May 13, 1851.

ON SULPHURIC ACID.

By DR. SHERIDAN MUSPRATT, F.R.S.E.,

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It is mentioned in several of the leading works upon chemistry, that sulphuric acid, with a specific gravity of 1.78, contains 68 per cent. of anhydrous acid. I infer, from some recent experiments, that *commercial*, and not the *pure* acid is meant. Liverpool "oil of vitriol," having a specific gravity of 1.784, yields me 68.47 of dry acid; but it contains the following impurities: *hydrochloric, nitrous, nitric acids, potassa, lead, selenium, titanium, lime, magnesia, arsenic, tin, iron, copper, organic matter, &c.* No recent experiments have been made upon this subject, so that many persons have only the data of Dalton, Vauquelin, and Berthollet, to go by, arrived at many years ago.

Having been lately consulted by a manufacturer, with respect to oil of vitriol of a certain density, I investigated the subject, and found that pure sulphuric acid, at 32°, specific gravity 1.767, gave the annexed:—

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|-----------------|---------------|
| Dry acid | 72.97—73.01 |
| Water | 27.03—26.99 |
| | 100.00 100.00 |

Corresponding to the formula



Its boiling point was 251.5°.

When dilute sulphuric acid is boiled, only water is evolved at first, no fumes mixing with the aqueous vapour until the residue becomes 2 H O, S O₃. This, I believe, has also been noticed by Graham.

Pure oil of vitriol, specific gravity 1.84, contains, theoretically, 81.63 per cent. of anhydrous acid. Dalton only gives 81.00. I have obtained, by experiment, 81.68 per cent.

The preceding results will, I think, prove interesting to many of the readers of this valuable journal.

College of Chemistry, Liverpool, May 27, 1851.

FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.—About ninety of the governors and friends of this charity entertained his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge at dinner on Friday last, within the walls, on the appointment of his Royal Highness to the office of President of the Corporation. The Lord Chief Baron Pollock took the chair. The objects and purposes of the charity were feelingly and appropriately stated by his Royal Highness and the Lord Chief Baron; previous to which about 400 of the poor children paraded the dining-hall.

A Mirror OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE HOSPITALS OF LONDON.

Nulla est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quam plurimas et morborum, et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum proprias, collectas habere et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI. *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. 14. Proœmium.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

Cancrum Oris; Recovery.

(Under the care of Dr. BURROWS.)

PATHOLOGISTS have not as yet determined how it comes to pass that mercury has a direct action on the salivary glands, and produces more or less severe stomatitis; nor is it much clearer why, under certain circumstances, the mouth of young subjects is attacked with a gangrenous inflammation which often destroys the patient. Whatever may be the final cause of the latter phenomenon, it is of a very important nature, both to the physician and the surgeon; for in this affection, as well as in a few others, medicine and surgery are closely blended.

We are accustomed to look for cancrum oris in children aged from five to ten years, or from two to eight years, but it would appear from the age of the patient (thirteen years) lately under the care of Dr. Burrows, that a very early age is not an invariable circumstance. Adults, however, seem quite free from this peculiar affection, for it is stated by Taupin, that in a total number of 1900 cases attended by him at the Hôtel Dieu at Paris, in 1837, only one adult suffered with cancrum oris. The latter manifestation is generally said to attack children exposed for some length of time to debilitating causes; and what Richter calls the metastatic species supervenes on acute exanthematous diseases; it is likewise maintained that measles take the lead as a predisposing cause. To these opinions should be added, as will become apparent by the subjoined case, that common continued fever may be accompanied by gangrene of the mouth, though it would seem that in such cases the ulcerative process does not go so far as to cause the perforation of the cheek.

That the disease is very dangerous and frequently proves fatal, has been acknowledged by all observers, the proportion of deaths depending very probably on the variety of the affection, namely, whether it be:—1st, peculiar to infants at the breast; 2nd, attacking children enfeebled by some previous disease; or, 3rd, confined to the cheeks and lips (Cumin.) We now beg a few moments' attention to the following case.

Emma H—, thirteen years of age, was admitted into Faith ward, under the care of Dr. Burrows, Dec. 18, 1850. Her countenance is pale, languid, and heavy, the pupils dilated, the conjunctivæ suffused; the skin is warm and rather moist, but no rash or sudamina can be observed upon it. The tongue presents a dry and brown fur in its centre, the abdomen is soft, moderately painful on pressure in the lower portion, and especially round the umbilicus.

Alvine evacuations have been liquid, dark, and bilious, there has been some vomiting, and the patient states that she has been ill three weeks, the complaint having begun with pain in the limbs and back; delirium had set in two days before admission, and purging and vomiting had continued for the same period.

Dr. Burrows ordered wine and beef-tea; the hair to be shaved, and cold lotion applied to it, if necessary; four leeches to the abdomen, and a mercurial purgative. From this period to the twelfth day after admission, the patient went through the different phases of mild typhoid fever without maculæ, when she appeared much improved; but the right cheek was now noticed to be swollen, the patient having the night previously been rather restless. The patient complained, however, of no pain, though the face continued to swell, and was becoming red. She was ordered to take chlorate of potash with bark, and to use a gargle of chloride of soda. Mr. Stanley being consulted, advised the application of nitric acid, if the cheek did not improve.

There was now noticed, on the internal aspect of the cheek,