46. *Perchloride of Iron as an Hæmostatic.*—A correspondent of the *Moniteur des Hôpitaux* (No. 24, 1856), states that one of the principal elements of his success in the difficult and dangerous operations M. Maissonneuve is famous for undertaking, is the remarkable use he makes of hæmostatics during their performance. He cites a recent case, occurring in a lad of sixteen, of fungous tumour of the dura mater, the growth of which, after having been temporarily arrested by ligation of the carotid, took on enormous proportions, and was accompanied by exhausting hemorrhages. M. Maissonneuve determined upon its removal, but the tumour bled on the slightest contact, and the patient would not be able to bear the slightest loss of blood. The line of incision extended from the anterior parts of the ear to the summit of the head, and descending along the nose, was carried backwards, and then upwards to the base of the jaw, and its point of departure. A great number of arteries were thus divided, five or six of which, by reason of their anastomotic enlargements, had acquired almost the size of the radial artery. Intelligent assistants immediately compressed them with the finger, but it was impossible to thus continue the dissection without exposing the patient to the danger of death from syncope. M. Maissonneuve therefore applied to each vessel a little plodget of charpie soaked in perchloride of iron, which was allowed to attach itself to the wound. At every stroke of the bistoury or scissors he applied a new plug, so that during the operation the patient scarcely lost a spoonful of blood; and when the tumour had been entirely removed, the entire surface of the wound was found completely dried and tanned, and was at once dressed, without the necessity of the application of a single ligature. The brown eschar which covered the wound was detached about the 20th day, without giving rise to any hemorrhage; and although the cure can scarcely be expected to prove radical, the patient for the present is perfectly well.—*Ibid.*

47. *On the Influence of Phosphate of Lime in the Production of Callus.* By M. A. MILNE-EDWARDS.—The question of aiding the formation of callus by the administration of phosphate of lime has recently been revived in Paris, and the author of this paper alludes to some experiments tried by M. Gosselin at the Hôpital Cochin, especially in cases of fracture of the arm, which are sometimes so long in uniting. In the six cases observed by him the result seemed satisfactory, inasmuch as the apparatus could be removed in from twenty-seven to thirty days, the fracture appearing quite consolidated. As, however, in these cases, the condition of the callus could not be verified, M. Edwards undertook a series of comparative experiments on animals. Fractures as nearly as possible alike were executed upon dogs and rabbits of the same size and strength, to some only of which the lime was administered. The phosphate employed was prepared by the calcination of bones, and consequently was combined with carbonate. The results were decidedly favourable; and the author believes that the phosphate may be usefully employed as an adjuvant, expediting the union in ordinary fractures, and tending to prevent the non-consolidation of others.

From another communication,¹ it appears that in one of M. Gosselin's cases of fracture of the lower third of the humerus, complete consolidation occurred in thirty days. He administers as a minimum dose half a gramme per diem.—*Ibid.*, from *Comptes Rendus*, xlii.

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

48. *Difference between Coloration of the Lens, Incidental to Old Age, and Cataract.*—MR. HAYNES WALTON, in a paper read before the Harveian Society (June 5th, 1856).

Coloration of the lens, Mr. W. states, is not a disease, not a progressive affection, that destroys sight, but a slight natural change, incidental to age;

¹ Gazette des Hôpitaux, No. 150. 1855.