and after the lapse of scarcely two years the second stage commenced. In the course of about a year the disease became general; and, although it was still far from having attained any great development, a comparatively slight cause sufficed to suddenly and greatly accelerate its course, and to bring on the final result—death.

(To be continued.)

CLINICAL RECORDS.

Hospital Notes from County Londonderry Infirmary. By THOMAS H. BABINGTON, M.D., T.C.D., Surgeon to the Infirmary.

Tetanus—Nicotine.—Three cases of tetanus—one traumatic, two idiopathic—were received into hospital in 1863. The first consequent on a compound fracture of left tibia, in a woman aged sixty-six years. Tetanic symptoms appeared on the morning of Thursday, the tenth day from the occurrence of the accident, and proved fatal on Saturday night, sixty-four hours from the first appearance of the symptoms. Notes of this case have been published in the *Dublin Medical Press*.

The idiopathic cases appeared to be occasioned by exposure to cold. One continued for four days. The second felt his first symptoms—stiffness of his neck and jaws—on Monday morning at breakfast, and he died on Tuesday evening at seven o'clock. In each of these cases *nicotine* was used, in one-third of a drop doses, every third hour; and although it failed to cure the disease and arrest its fatal progress, I have no doubt it effectually lessened the sufferings of the patients. In the third case there was a complete cessation of the spasms for several hours before death, which was occasioned by exhaustion.

Wound of Abdomen.—John Vancuelen, a Belgian sailor, admitted at 12 o'clock on the night of Tuesday, 13th January, having been stabbed a few minutes before in the left side, below the last rib over the spleen. A portion of omentum protruded through the wound. This was returned without much difficulty. There was great sinking, faintness, prostration, incessant vomiting, and coldness of surface—in fact intense depression of all the vital powers. These symptoms continued until 5 o'clock, a.m., on the 15th, when he died.

On *post mortem* examination, the abdominal cavity was full of blood. The dagger-knife with which the wound had been inflicted had passed through the spleen, dividing its blood-vessels, and penetrated the descending colon.

Fractures and Dislocations.—As usual, a considerable number of cases of fractures and dislocations came under treatment. One case of dislocation of the humerus into the axilla, of three weeks standing, was satisfactorily reduced.

A case of dislocation of the hip into the ischiatic notch, of two years standing, was admitted. The patient had a recent contusion on the formerly displaced joint, and by his want of candour and false statements led us very much astray in coming to a correct conclusion as to the real nature of his case. It was not until after he had been placed under chloroform, and the limb subjected to very considerable traction with pullies, and on failing to replace it in its normal position, that he informed us he had been lame for two years from the effects of an old injury occasioned by a fall from a horse.

The fractures of the thigh and leg, both simple and compound, were all treated in the straight and extended position, a practice which I have invariably adopted, and with the best results.

Poisoning by Oxalic Acid.—J. G., a shoemaker, aged thirty, in the horrors from excessive drinking, on 15th February swallowed a penny-worth (about 240 grains) of oxalic acid.* About ten minutes after a mustard emetic was administered. He vomited, and was brought to hospital about 7 o'clock in the evening. I saw him immediately after his admission. He was in a state of complete prostration; pulse very small and weak, scarcely perceptible; surface of his body cold and pallid; spoke in a low whispering voice; intense thirst; burning pain in epigastric region; and immediate vomiting of the fluid which he incessantly called for and drank to allay his thirst. In fact, he seemed in a moribund condition. A sinapism was applied over the stomach and epigastrium—indeed a very large one. Heat applied to the extremities and every part of the body; milk and lime water given to drink; stimulating enemata administered every six hours, and a mixture of tinc. opii, magnesia, and water, given at intervals. The next morning there was some reaction, but the vomiting continued. He was ordered draughts with hydrocyanic acid; to continue the mixture, and to have a large blister applied to the epigastrium. Under this treatment the irritability of the stomach gradually subsided, and he was able to retain small quantities of cold chicken-broth and beef-tea. Along with the irritability of stomach there was a most obstinately constipated state of the bowels, which were with difficulty opened by enemata; and there was, for nine days from his admission, total suppression of urine. Under a continuance of the treatment he gradually recovered, and left the hospital on the 17th March in a state of convalescence.

* Oxalic acid, being used by shoemakers and bonnet-cleaners, is sold in packages for one penny or two pence each, and hence is readily procured.

Nevus.—Two cases of nevus were under treatment—one a large one of the upper eyelid; the other above the right temple, about the size of a fourpenny piece—but were effectually treated by the frequent insertion of hot needles, as recommended by Mr. Wordsworth in the *British Medical Journal*, December 25, 1858, a practice which seems the best yet introduced for the removal of these very unsightly affections when of small size.

Polypus Uteri.—The patient was brought to hospital much exhausted from repeated hemorrhages, and stating that she had prolapsus uteri. On examination the existence of a large polypus protruding into the vagina was detected. A ligature was applied, with Gooch's canula. The polypus separated on the fourth day. The woman's health is perfectly re-established.

Hernia, in a woman aged sixty-five; had been strangulated four days. She sank, and died six hours after the operation. On a *post mortem* examination the intestine was found gangrenous, and open about three inches above the situation of the stricture.

Rheumatism.—An unusually large number of cases of acute rheumatism came under treatment. One of the patients stated hers was the ninth attack. Her heart was frightfully engaged, having been very much damaged by previous attacks. In all cases the alkaline treatment was adopted, and proved very satisfactory; and where the heart was engaged the application of a few leeches, and afterwards a small blister, afforded much relief. Under the alkaline treatment, when adopted early, I have observed that cardiac complications are much less frequent than I have found them when I have treated the disease with colchicum, or with calomel and opium. The mixture given was as follows:—Bicarbonate of soda, half an ounce; bicarbonate of potash, two drachms; nitrate of potash, one drachm; camphor mixture, ten ounces; an ounce was given every fourth hour. Covering the pained joints with cotton wool, and with Dr. Fuller's alkaline lotion, with tincture of opium, afforded very marked relief.