DISLOCATION OF THE EXTERNAL SEMILUNAR CARTILAGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case of a rather rare accident seems to be worthy of record :—

On the morning of the 17th inst. I was summoned to Thomas Mills, ætat. 30, a well-proportioned man, resident in this town. He stated that whilst in the act of "cutting his corns," with his foot and leg somewhat twisted inwards, he felt as though something had given way in the knee, and immediately found that he had no longer the power of extending the limb, every attempt at so doing producing severe pain in the joint. He told me that the same accident had occurred to him twice before; the first time in the country, when two surgeons were with him for several hours before the limb was made to resume its normal condition. It again occurred in London, where he applied at St. Thomas's Hospital, and he states that the late Mr. Tyrrell and several others were a long time trying to "put it right," but failed; the plan adopted was by making very powerful pressure over the patella, which caused him severe suffering, and produced much swelling. He was directed to go home, leech freely, apply cold lotions, and keep in bed. On the third day, whilst making a sudden movement in bed, he suddenly recovered the power of straightening the limb or placing it in any position without pain. He felt that "all was right," and resumed his occupation.

I found the leg flexed, and any attempt at straightening produced pain, referred to the situation of the external semilunar cartilage. I fancied (it might be fancy) that I could see a slight elevation of the supra-incumbent tissues, and supposed it to be a partial dislocation of that cartilage. I immediately made extension at the ankle, at the same time adducted the tibia, making the knee of the opposite side a fulcrum, the tendency of which would be to separate the external part of the articulating surfaces of the tibia and femur; his wife, at the same time, was directed to make firm pressure over the cartilage. After keeping up extension for about ten minutes, the parts resumed their normal condition, and, much to his delight, the patient found he could walk with ease, and, in spite of remonstrance, immediately returned to his occupation. The only after treatment was that of directing him to wear a bandage over the knee. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CALEB TAYLOR.

High-street, Deptford,
Aug. 20, 1843.

CASE OF
POISONING WITH ARSENIC,
DETECTED
SIX MONTHS AFTER DEATH.

BY
G. D. HEDLEY, Esq., M.R.C.S., Bedford.

ON the 23rd of October, 1842, William Dazley, a labourer, twenty-four years of age, living at Wrestlingworth, Beds, was taken ill, and Mr. Sandell, a surgeon, was called in to see him. Mr. Sandell describes his symptoms as vomiting, pain in the stomach with slight tenderness on pressure, sense of constriction in the throat, feeble pulse, clean tongue. He prescribed a saline mixture, and visited him again on the 25th, when he found but little alteration in the symptoms. The bowels not having acted, an aperient powder was ordered.

On the 26th the man was a great deal better, and Mr. Sandell gave him a tonic mixture; but it appears that the only medicine taken by him was one of three pills which his wife had been seen to prepare in the morning, and afterwards to substitute for some she had requested Mr. Sandell to give her. Dazley was unwilling to take the pills, and a girl, fourteen years of age, took one, in order to show him how easy it was to swallow them. About an hour afterwards both he and the girl became sick, vomited, and complained of pain in the chest and constriction of the throat. The girl continued ill for some days, but had no medical aid, and at length recovered. The matters vomited were emptied into a yard in which a pig was kept, and the following morning the pig was found dead. On the 27th the man was better, but still complained of tightness of the throat, which was relieved by the application of two or three leeches. On the 29th Mr. Sandell found him better than he had been at any period of his illness. He prescribed an aperient powder, containing ten grains of rhubarb, a drachm of tartrate of soda, and two grains of powdered ginger. About half-past nine in the evening a white powder, mixed with water, was administered to the patient by his wife, in the presence of his two brothers, who, with a third witness, who saw the powder before it was mixed, positively swore that it was as white as flour. About an hour after taking the powder Dazley again became sick, retching violently, and complaining of heat and constriction of the throat, and thirst; this continued, the man becoming weaker, and the vomiting at last bloody, until half-past five in the morning of the 30th, when he died. Mr. Sandell, surprised at the man's death, requested permission to examine the body, but the friends declined having this done. It was buried in Wrestlingworth churchyard, which is an elevated spot, the soil a kind of red clay, not

SOME attacks of epilepsy, preceded by vertigo and the *aura epileptica*, are arrested by compression of the facial nerves.—*Ducros*.

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