it naturally exists in that fluid. In no case has this solution, when thrown into the blood or into a vascular tumour, shown a tendency to produce suppuration, but in slow inflammation of an adhesive kind and limited extent. In one case, where it was inadvertently pressed in small quantity into the subcutaneous cellular tissue, instead of into the vein as intended, a hard swelling having all the appearance of a boil or small carbuncle was the result; but even this effect will not be produced by it, when used in that manner, unless the solution be in a certain degree concentrated.

CASE OF STONE IN THE BLADDER; LITHOTOMY.

By THOMAS A. FURNESS, Esq., M.R.C.S.,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

On the 11th of November last, John P—, a boy of five years of age, was by his mother brought to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Eastern Dispensary. She gave the following account of the ailment of her child:—"That for upwards of twelve months he had complained on passing urine. Latterly his sufferings had much increased. He had a frequent inclination to micturate, when, from the pain experienced, he cried bitterly; it would occasionally stop, and at such times, by his straining to empty the bladder, fœces would be forced away from the gut. In the midst of his play he would be seized with an irresistible desire to pass urine; and in walking, or more particularly in running, he would stop suddenly with the same impulse. He worked much with his fingers at the glans penis, pulling and pinching at it, and complained of pain there. During the night he was frequently obliged to get out of bed by the urgent wish to empty his bladder, and cried and moaned with the pain. Latterly his general health had become affected; he had lost his appetite; had become thin and weak; showed a disinclination to move; had ceased to play with his companions as he used to do, and lay constantly about the house." To an inquiry as to whether he had ever passed any bloody urine, the answer was in the negative.

The child looked very unhealthy; the face pinched and pallid; the belly tumid; and the limbs shrunk, flabby, and crooked.

The symptoms detailed being the usual ones proceeding from a calculus in the bladder, a catheter was passed to try and ascertain its presence. The urethra was very small, and it was with difficulty that the smallest-sized silver catheter could be insinuated along it. A stone was not felt at that time; but a few days after, upon repeating the operation, I felt the calculus. A little medicine was ordered, to try and improve the child's general health; and a sound was ordered to be passed twice a week, with the view of dilating the urethra, so that a larger-sized staff might be got into the bladder when the operation was performed.

On the 22nd of November, assisted by Mr. Rayne, I proceeded to perform the lateral operation of lithotomy. The patient was put under the influence of chloroform: it took a considerable length of time before he was affected by it. Owing to the small calibre of the urethra, the staff used was perforce a very small one, and some difficulty was experienced by me in directing my knife satisfactorily into the groove. After making the incision through the membranous portion of the urethra and left lobe of the prostate gland, and having had the director withdrawn, the stone—not a large one—was felt lying in the base of the bladder, and very easily extracted.

Immediately after the operation was finished, the child's countenance assumed a death-like appearance; the head sunk back; the lower jaw dropped; there was that filmy appearance came over the eyes which bespeaks death; the surface of the body became cold, the pulse at the wrist vanished, and respiration was suspended. It was no common faint fit, but something more serious. The lithotomy garters were quickly loosened, hot dry flannels wrapped round the extremities, warm turpentine applied over the chest and stomach, friction kept up, and brandy-and-water poured cautiously into the mouth in small quantities at a time. The liquid at first rested in the mouth for a few seconds, then the muscles of deglutition would act, and it would be carried onward to the stomach. Whilst this state continued, there were moments when the child seemed certainly lifeless; but we never relaxed our efforts, and at length we had the satisfaction of seeing animation slowly returning. Still at intervals there was a tendency to relapse into the same state; but the patient began to swallow the brandy better, and after two glasses had been taken, some reaction set in.

The state described continued for nearly half an hour, and

it was not until an hour and a half had elapsed that it was deemed safe to leave the house. At the end of that time the child was sufficiently recovered to take a little warm tea.

The question might be asked—To what cause was the sudden sinking attributable? Was it to the chloroform, a large quantity of which was administered; or was it to the shock on the nervous system, and necessary loss of blood produced by the operation on a debilitated system? From each death has frequently proceeded. All present ascribed it to the latter cause. The chloroform was given with every known precaution; its effects had partly gone off ere the operation was finished, the child having cried out, sensible of pain, several times. Suddenly, and without the least previous symptom of such a thing, the moment after the stone was extracted, which was done very gently and by the first attempt, the boy fell back lifeless, or all but so.

The patient got all his danger over at once, for from this time he never had a bad symptom. On the fifth day part of his urine passed by the natural way, and on the eighth the whole of it did so. By the sixth week the wound was almost healed, and the child walking about.

August, 1853.

LIGATURE OF THE SUBCLAVIAN ARTERY.

By DR. DOMENICO CACCIOPPOLI, Naples.

(Communicated by ARCHIBALD M'LAUGHLIN, Esq., Liverpool.)

THIS operation was performed by Dr. Caccioppoli on the 13th of February, 1853, in the Hospital of Incurables at Naples. The patient was a singer, thirty-three years old suffering from a large spontaneous aneurism under the left armpit. After the *electro-punctura* and other means had been tried without success, a transverse incision was made over the clavicle, and the ligature of Scarpa was applied at the subclavian artery immediately at its exit from the scalenus muscles. At the expiration of one day the pulsation of the tumour reappeared. The operator suspecting that the ligature was relaxed, to avoid the danger of a new ligature, three days after the operation, introduced a small ivory tube as large as a quill, guided by the lancet, into the wound as far as the artery. He was then enabled to contract the artery at pleasure. At the expiration of seventy hours the ivory tube was easily removed. Thirteen days afterwards the ligature fell, and in forty days the wound cicatrized, sense, warmth, and motion existing in the left arm equally with the right. The tumour dispersed both by absorption and by evacuation of dissolved blood from two suppurated punctures. The individual went out of the hospital on the 3rd of April, and continues perfectly well up to the present time.

Naples, June, 1853.

THE CASE OF THE NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

—At a sale of autographs, by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, on the 15th ult., several most interesting and unpublished letters of Nelson were disposed of. Among them was one of three pages, addressed to Lady Hamilton, from Deal, September 24th, 1801. In the concluding portion of this letter, as showing his exalted opinion of naval medical officers, Nelson proposes to spend thirty guineas to purchase "a silver cup, gilt inside, with an inscription, as a mark of esteem to Dr. Andrew Baird, for his humane attention to the gallant officers and men who were wounded at Boulogne, August 16th, 1801, from their Commander-in-Chief Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, Duke of Bronte, &c. What do you think of this? Will you order it?" The letter is signed "Nelson and Bronte." To Dr. Baird he also wrote as follows:—"Mr. (now Sir George) Magrath, whom I admire for his great abilities every day I live, gives me excellent remedies; but we must lose such men from our service if the army goes on encouraging medical men, while we do nothing. I am sure much ought to be done for our naval surgeons, or how can we expect to keep valuable men. I look to you not only to propose it, but to enforce it, who must be anxious to preserve such a valuable set of men to the navy."—Clark and M'Arthur, vol. ii. p. 307. It is a pity there are not any officers at the present time in the navy disposed to follow the example of the illustrious hero of Trafalgar, who well knew how much the health and comfort of his sailors depended on his medical officers. The neglect of this important branch of the service by the executive is likely to be remedied by Parliament, if not in the present, at least in the ensuing session; for not a night passes without petitions from all parts of the kingdom being sent in, most numerous signed, not only by the members of the medical profession, but by the bankers and merchants.—*Woolwich Gazette*.