she was sixteen, as the cicatrices on the chest were not recent. There are numerous instances of malingering on record of curious detail, but I think malingering involving much physical suffering in anyone so young as was this patient is rare. Hysterical high temperatures form a difficult physiological problem, but any disquisition on this subject is beyond the scope of the present communication.

Stratford-place, W.

EFFECT UPON THE HUMAN BODY OF A DIET CONSISTING ENTIRELY OF LEAN MEAT AND WATER.

By J. W. GOOD,

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IN THE LANCET of Nov. 9th I notice an interesting article on the above subject. To the question "Can life and health be sustained indefinitely on a diet consisting of meat and water?" the reply must be in the affirmative. Not only is this true of natives of certain districts whose progenitors lived on such a diet, and where no other was obtainable, but it is also true of Europeans who locate in such places. In the Athabasca district and in the Mackenzie River region of North America the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company habitually live some of them on a diet of meat alone, and some of them solely on fish, this depending on the natural food supply of the country in which they happened to be stationed. They have lived in the full possession of great bodily and mental vigour on such a diet for periods of twenty and thirty consecutive years. Those living on fish alone enjoyed, if anything, slightly better health than those whose diet was limited to meat. They were singularly free from constipation and all digestive troubles, as well as every other indisposition. No vegetables of any kind were used. They were allowed one pound of flour in the year, which was always consumed in the form of a pudding on Christmas Day. They were also allowed tea; but in the Mackenzie River district the amount supplied to each man was only one pound in the whole year, so that this article may be fairly disregarded. The experience of diet thus gained throws much light on the etiology of scurvy, which is unknown where the diet is thus limited to fresh fish or meat, while it is quite prevalent at a post known as York Factory. It is accounted for by the following circumstances. At this post the diet consists largely of geese which migrate there late in the spring, returning south in the early autumn. Hence the inhabitants kill and salt a sufficient supply to last until the supply of fresh geese again becomes accessible. Scurvy always makes its appearance in the winter, and especially in the spring, thus affording strong proof of the view popularly held that scurvy is chiefly due to the use of salted meats, as bacon &c. The life led by these men is one of great activity in the winter and comparative ease in the summer, while those stationed at the posts in the capacity of clerks and officers take little exercise at any time. These are facts which can be fully proven by the testimony of numerous gentlemen who live here, some of whom have had the experience of such a diet themselves. One gentleman is Mr. James Stewart, a druggist, of this city, who lived on fish alone for four years; and another Mr. Wm. Brass of St. Andrew's, Manitoba, who lived and enjoyed unimpaired health for twenty consecutive years. They are both gentlemen verging on seventy years, and are in the full enjoyment of a green old age.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

DISLOCATION OF THE INTER-ARTICULAR CARTILAGE OF THE LOWER JAW.

By HENRY LEE,

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A YOUNG GENTLEMAN four years old fell some twenty feet out of a window in the year 1883. His under lip was badly cut, and some teeth were so loosened that they had to be removed. A most intelligent surgeon who examined him at the time reports that there was no fracture, and that the jaws could be brought evenly together. Subsequently

the submaxillary glands became very much enlarged, and for many months there was a constant dribbling of saliva. He became subject to frequent attacks of earache and deafness. In October last I had an opportunity of examining this patient. The dribbling of saliva still continued to some extent. The submaxillary gland of the left side was still enlarged. He could open his mouth only to one-half of the natural extent, and he had lost all power of rotating the lower jaw. A distinct depression could be felt at the place naturally occupied by the inter-articular cartilage of the left side. There was a difficulty in pronouncing some words distinctly. The jaws came evenly together when the mouth was shut.

In connexion with this case it must be remembered that the chorda tympani nerve comes from the cavity of the tympanum through a foramen at the inner side of the Gasserian fissure. It then meets the gustatory nerve and accompanies it to the submaxillary gland. In the glenoid fossa it is in close relation with the inter-articular cartilage, and a displacement of this would necessarily stretch or irritate it. As in other instances, the effects of the irritation of the nerve would naturally be manifested principally in its terminal branches, and hence the constant dribbling of saliva in this case, and the corresponding enlargement of the submaxillary gland. It has been experimentally proved that stimulation of the chorda tympani produces dilatation of the bloodvessels of a salivary gland and a flow of saliva.¹ The movements of the condyle of the lower jaw, by means of the inter-articular cartilage, are very extensive. It may be carried from side to side, forwards or backwards. In mastication, a rotatory motion is performed, and when the jaw is much depressed the condyle comes forwards out of the glenoid cavity, bringing with it the inter-articular cartilage. In the case now recorded none of these movements could take place; the lower jaw could be moved only in one plane, and that to a very limited extent. That this was a real displacement of the inter-articular cartilage is proved by the depression which could be felt in the natural site of the cartilage and by the corresponding symptoms. It is probably the only recorded instance of this dislocation. Should a similar case present itself the cartilage might probably be made to resume its natural position by an operation similar to that for ordinary dislocation of the jaw. It might be supposed that if the inter-articular cartilage on one side only were displaced, that side of the jaw would be a little higher than the other; but it must be remembered the centre of this cartilage is very thin and often perforated, so that its removal would make very little if any difference in the position of the condyle.

Savile-row, W.

CASE OF RUPTURE OF LEFT VENTRICLE OF THE HEART.

By J. HEDLEY CROCKER, L.R.C.P. LOND., M.R.C.S.

THE interesting article by Dr. Naismith, which has recently appeared in THE LANCET, induces me to send the following report, as, like the case reported by Dr. Noble, there was no pain referred to the abdomen.

On Oct. 11th, 1889, at 8 P.M., I was called to see Mrs. S—, aged seventy-two, a widow. She said she had for some years been troubled with rheumatism (rheumatoid arthritis), otherwise has had fairly good health. Never had rheumatic fever. On the morning of the above date, after doing a little work and walking gently around the house, she felt short of breath and giddy, and was troubled with flatus; she rested awhile and went a little easier, but this evening, her pain having become much worse, she sent for me and went to bed. I found the patient in bed "huddled up," inclined to left side. Anxious expression and restless. She states she has one of her attacks of "wind," which she is often troubled with, and if I will only give her something to cause her to "rift" (belch) she is sure she will soon be all right. Upon asking her where the pain is, she pointed to the sternum and præcordial region, the most acute area being in line with the juncture of the third, fourth, and fifth costal cartilages with the sternum, extending from the right border of the latter to the left nipple line. No pain in abdomen. Pain upon pressing deeply

¹ Foster's Physiology, fourth edition, p. 259.