much bruised, and many of the bones of the foot broken in several pieces; these were mostly removed. After sloughing of some pretty large portions of tissue, healthy suppuration set in, and a steady progression towards cure followed, with the fortunate possession of a really useful foot. It is a matter for much congratulation at this time to witness the praiseworthy efforts that are being made by all our hospital surgeons to save as much as possible, and spare the use of the knife. We intend shortly to commence a series of such cases from different hospitals, amply illustrating the good effects of conservative surgery; in truth, it may be justly said that the present time is the "conservative era" in surgical science.

William V—, aged eighteen, admitted March 17th into No. 1 ward, with severe laceration of the left foot. He is a miller's apprentice, and works at Maldon, in Essex. A week before admission, when at work in the windmill, his foot became entangled in the machinery, and was severely and slowly crushed, as he could not disengage his foot until the boot was torn off. He was seen by two surgeons after the accident, by whom some vessels were tied, and some portions of bone removed. A week after the accident he was brought up to town in an invalid carriage, and admitted under Mr. Fergusson. On admission, it was found that the outer half or more, of the left foot had been most severely crushed, the soft tissues being nearly destroyed, and the metatarsal bones broken and projecting. The toes had escaped injury in great measure, and the mischief did not appear to extend to the ankle-joint. There was no suppuration in the wound, which was excessively painful, having been aggravated by the motion of the railway carriage. A yeast poultice was applied, and the weight of the toes supported by means of a sling. Poulticing was continued until the sloughs, which were of considerable size, separated, and suppuration fully established. The patient's health being considerably shaken, he was ordered liberal diet and six ounces of brandy, under which treatment he rapidly improved.

April 5th.—Considerable pain was felt below the inner malleolus, where matter was evident, but not implicating the joint. An opening was made into it, and a quantity of pus evacuated. The surface of the sore is healthy, and the edges beginning to cicatrize. Pain prevents sleep, unless induced by a night draught; the patient's health otherwise is satisfactory.

14th.—Everything going on favourably. The abscess has nearly filled up; wound very healthy, and filling up by granulation. The two outer toes are regaining sensation. Wound dressed with red wash.

21st.—A small piece of the metatarsal bone of the little toe, which had been projecting since the accident, became loose, and came away to-day. Wound rapidly cicatrizing. As the red lotion seemed too stimulating, the lead lotion was substituted.

29th.—The wound continues to heal up fast; foot swung on a Salter's swing.

May 1st.—Cicatrization going on rapidly. He is able to move his toes pretty well when resting on his heel, and there appears to be every probability of his having a useful foot and making an excellent recovery.

17th.—Cicatrization is now complete, and a very useful foot has been preserved, with the use of the toes. He to-day left the hospital.

SEBACEOUS TUMOURS OF THE SCALP; ONE OF THE SIZE OF AN ORANGE EXISTING TWENTY YEARS; REMOVAL.

(Under the care of Mr. BOWMAN.)

Obstruction of the excretory duct of the sebaceous glands gives rise to the formation of encysted tumours, which include the various forms known as atheromatous which are met with on the surface of the body, especially upon the scalp, face, neck, or back. They vary in size and number, and in consistence. In former "Mirrors" (THE LANCET, vol. i., 1855, p. 289 and 624) we recorded examples where they, in one instance at this hospital under Mr. Bowman's care, covered the entire body, constituting the rare disease known as molluscum; and in another, under Mr. Erichsen at University College Hospital, where several were removed from the scalp. The accompanying case was one of the latter, where the growth of the tumour was slow and remained stationary for many years, until it became a source of annoyance, and its removal was sought for.

The patient was an elderly man, with a large sebaceous tumour, on the very top of the scalp, the size of an orange; it had been growing twenty years; its surface was quite bare and free from hair. Towards the left of this were two others, the size of marbles, of more recent growth; making three altogether. Chloroform was given on the 17th of May,

when Mr. Bowman made a section of each, transfixing them with a long-bladed scalpel and cutting upwards, and with a pair of forceps enucleating the cysts with the utmost facility. The large tumour was a little soft in its interior, and possessed, as well as the other two, the usual white atheromatous character. It had distended the skin, and had become almost pedunculated; and although the skin was very thin, it had not become firmly adherent.

Mr. Bowman remarked to the pupils that these tumours, developed in the sebaceous glands of the head, are always situated external to the occipito-frontalis muscle, and their removal was seldom attended with any danger, but sometimes erysipelas sets in.

The covering of these tumours contracted, as is usually the case, and healed up in a remarkably short space of time.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

CASES OF SCIATICA, TREATED PRINCIPALLY BY CUPPING AND TONICS.

(Under the care of Dr. SEPTIMUS GIBBON.)

THE causes which are said to produce sciatica are very numerous indeed, and oftentimes require no ordinary amount of skill on the part of the physician to detect the true one. This not unfrequently leads to the most varied and opposite treatment, and accordingly we find a great diversity of opinion prevailing amongst writers as to the remedies which ought to be employed in this affection. This has been clearly shown by Mr. Hancock in a former volume of this journal. (THE LANCET, vol. i. 1854, p. 241.) He thinks the most common cause of sciatica is the irritation of the nerve within the pelvis, either from a loaded colon or cæcum, or from tumours formed within that cavity, and acting mechanically upon the nerve in that situation. There can be no doubt whatever that the state of the bowels is perhaps the most common cause within the pelvis. Sometimes, however, this condition is associated with a disordered state of the kidney, and when treated by turpentine, yields very speedily, from its influence upon this organ. Amongst the poor and lower orders of society, again, who are exposed to privation, cold, damp, and moisture, sciatica depends most generally upon an inflammatory condition of the nerve or its sheath, and from the low state of health met with in such persons, local depletion, with tonic treatment, proves very beneficial. It is this last form of sciatica to which we would draw attention in our "Mirror" of to-day, which is illustrated by several cases, in which the treatment was tolerably successful.

We cannot refrain from adverting, while upon this subject, to the revival, a few years ago, by M. Malgaigne, of a remedy in popular use in Corsica—namely, the application of the actual cautery to the tip of the ear. Upon what principle the cure is effected here we are at a loss to determine, but several reported successful cases were given in the French journals at the time. We rather suspect the remedy had the effect of frightening away the pain.

CASE 1.—*Double Sciatica, arising from sleeping in damp sheets; treatment by cupping solely.*—Thomas B—, aged twenty-two, a healthy-looking lad, of light, florid complexion, was carried up into Harrison ward, on the 17th of March, 1856. His skin was cool; pulse 105, moderate volume, and compressible; tongue was clean; bowels opened regularly once a day. He complained piteously of paroxysms of severe lancinating pain down the backs of both legs, extending from the buttocks to the ankles. He had no spasm or cramp of the legs, but was unable to move them, on account of the pain which followed the least motion. There was marked tenderness over the ischiatic notches, extending over the course of the sciatic nerve in the middle of each thigh. He was unable to sleep without taking opiates.

The history he gave of his complaint was, that two weeks ago, after sleeping in damp sheets, this severe pain came on, and quite incapacitated him from following his employment as a grocer's assistant. He has since almost entirely kept his bed, and, under medical advice, applied many remedies, with temporary relief to the pain.

Dr. Gibbon, judging that the pain depended upon an inflammatory condition of the nerve or its sheath, ordered twelve ounces of blood to be taken by cupping over the most tender parts of both nerves. No other remedies were given. The blood was drawn from the integuments over the sciatic notches, with a very marked and almost magical relief to the pain. To have middle diet.

March 22nd.—Feels great weakness in his legs; is scarcely

able to walk; has slight pain, without tenderness, extending from both knees to the ankles; general health good. Ordered to have a mustard foot-bath every night.

29th.—Able to walk well; no pain or tenderness about the hips and thighs, but slight pain continues to lancinate between the knees and ankles. To have two grains of quinine thrice daily, and turpentine liniment to be rubbed into the painful parts.

April 7th.—The pain continues, but is so slight as to be scarce worth mentioning. Discharged at his own request.

CASE 2.—*Sciatica and Lumbago, arising from damp and cold; treatment by iodide of potassium and steel.*—David B—, aged fifty-six, by occupation a coalwhipper, admitted on the 18th of March, 1856; is a stout, healthy-looking man; skin natural; pulse 84, moderate volume; tongue thinly furred; abdomen soft and natural; sleeps indifferently, owing to pain in left hip; appetite good; thirsty; complains of pain across the loins, which is very acute on motion; there is considerable tenderness on left side of the sacrum, and he complains of frequent lancinating pain, extending along the course of the sciatic nerve as far as the toes.

History.—Of temperate habits. His occupation exposes him constantly to damp and cold. For the past nine weeks he has had twinges of pain across the loins. Ten days ago, the sciatic pain commenced, and has prevented his either sleeping or walking. Ordered, cupping to the extent of eight ounces over the left hip; a mixture of iodide of potassium (three grains) thrice a day; and middle diet.

March 19th.—The cupping relieved him. He has since continued free from the sciatic pain, and slept well last night.

26th.—Left leg continues very weak, so that he requires crutches to walk with. In other respects, he is nearly well.

April 2nd.—Power in left leg returning, but slowly. Bowels costive. Ordered, fifteen minims of muriated tincture of iron, and five minims of nitro-muriatic acid, in an ounce of infusion of calumba, three times a day, and a pint of porter; ten grains of compound colocynth pill on alternate nights.

23rd.—Quite free from pain, but is not able to walk well on account of weakness of left leg. Discharged.

CASE 3.—*Sciatica from cold, treated by cupping, quinine, and iron.*—William C—, aged sixty-one, a stout, not unhealthy-looking man, applied as an out-patient on account of a sharp darting pain down the back of the right leg. There was marked tenderness over the right sciatic notch. He stated that the pain causing lameness commenced suddenly a fortnight ago. In his daily occupation as a brewer, he was exposed to great vicissitudes of temperature, but he unhesitatingly assigned his illness to having sat a considerable time at stool on a cold and windy privy. Ordered, cupping to eight ounces over the right hip, and a pill, three times a day, of two grains of quinine, one grain of sulphate of iron, and a sufficiency of extract of conium.

April 16th.—By mistake he was cupped over the loins. The pain continues very acute, especially on first rising in the morning. He sleeps well. To have a hip-bath on alternate days, and a liniment of opium to be rubbed over the right hip and thigh, morning and evening.

19th.—No improvement. To be cupped to four ounces over the most tender part of the right hip. The pills were continued.

23rd.—The cupping has afforded marked relief; and he is very much better. To go on with the pills.

27th.—Very little pain in the course of the ischiatic nerve. Pills to be continued.

May 3rd.—Discharged cured.

CASE 4.—*Sciatica and Rheumatic Fever, treated by cupping and colchicum.*—Margaret K—, aged forty, admitted on April 12th, 1856, from the out-patients' room, on account of the severity of the pain and her inability to walk. She complained of excruciating pain in the course of the left sciatic nerve, extending as far as the ankle; this pain recurred in paroxysms, or was excited by movement of the limb. There was considerable tenderness in the track of the left sciatic nerve to the commencement of the lower third of the thigh. There was rheumatic swelling of all the large joints of the right arm, with marked febrile disturbance.

History.—Has had several attacks of rheumatic fever. The present attack commenced one week since, followed two days ago by the sciatic pain. Ordered, cupping to six ounces over the left thigh, a saline mixture, with a drachm of the acetum colchici, and half a drachm of sulphate of magnesia, three times a day. Milk diet.

April 16th.—Great relief was afforded by the cupping, so

that she was enabled to walk a few hours afterwards. Slight tenderness over the sciatic notch. Pulse 90; tongue thinly furred. Complains of pain in the right shoulder joint. Bowels relaxed three or four times in the course of the day. Omit medicine.

19th.—Bowels became regular as soon as the colchicum mixture was discontinued; skin natural; pulse 84, full and soft; rigors; has slight pain in shoulder-joint; there is but trifling tenderness over the left sciatic notch. To have two grains of calomel, and one of opium at night.

23rd.—Sleeps well; no return of rheumatic pain in any joint; pulse 80; tongue clean; bowels regular; is able to walk about without feeling the least pain or inconvenience.

26th.—Discharged cured.

CASE 5.—*Sciatica and Facial Paralysis, induced by Salivation; treatment by cupping, quinine and iron, and iodide of potassium.*—Thomas W—, aged forty six, a healthy-looking man, of fair complexion, came into the hospital on March 19th, 1856. His face was drawn to the right side; he was unable to close the left eye, or to compress the left side of his lips, but there was no impairment of sensation on the left side of his face. He had, moreover, but little use of the left leg. Skin natural; pulse 96, moderate volume; tongue protruded in a direct line, tremulous, indented at edges, moist, and thinly furred. He says that in masticating he occasionally bites the left cheek. Abdomen soft; bowels constipated; has partially lost the use of the left leg, but can raise it freely from the bed and flex it upon the thigh; has acute lancinating pain in the course of the left sciatic nerve. Every other night has severe throbbing pain on the left side of his head which almost deprives him of his senses. There is no tenderness of the scalp.

History.—A letter carrier by occupation, of temperate habits, always enjoyed good health until five months ago, when he had an attack of orchitis in the left testicle, from a strain. He attended as an out-patient of this hospital; he was greatly benefited by the treatment, but enlargement of the organ continued, and mercurial ointment was applied to it. Severe salivation was quickly the result, followed by the paroxysms of hemicrania, with, as he states, a swelling over the left mastoid bone. In less than a week, without any fit or loss of consciousness, he discovered that his face was drawn to one side, and the severe darting pain in the left leg incapacitated him from moving it. He remembers to have had a similar pain down the back of the left leg four years ago. Ordered, full diet, and a pill of two grains of quinine, one grain of sulphate of iron, with a sufficient quantity of extract of conium, every four hours.

20th.—Pain is less acute down the leg, but he is unable to leave his bed. General health improving. There is some tenderness over left sciatic notch. Ordered to be cupped to two ounces over the left hip. Continue pills.

26th.—Experienced relief from pain in left leg after being cupped; pain now is limited to the posterior tibial nerve. Pain has not returned to the left side of the head for the last three nights. Ordered a hip-bath, and an opium liniment to be rubbed into the leg night and morning. Repeat the pills.

April 2nd.—Suffers no pain whatever, except in left leg, after taking much exercise.

5th.—Facial paralysis continues, without any marked alteration. Ordered to omit the quinine pill, and to take five grains of iodide of potassium in an ounce of infusion of gentian three times a day.

16th.—No improvement in the palsy of face; in other respects he is quite well, except that the left leg is weak and painful after much exercise.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

MELANOSIS AFFECTING BOTH GROINS, AS WELL AS OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY; RECURRENCE AFTER REMOVAL SIX YEARS AGO BY MR. LAWRENCE; REMOVAL A SECOND TIME BY MR. HEWETT; MALIGNANT FORM OF THE DISEASE; PRESENT RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. PRESCOTT HEWETT.)

ONE of the most singular, and at the same time one of the rarest of the heterologous formations is the melanotic, for the first correct account of which we are indebted to that distinguished man, Laennec, in 1806, in the *Bulletin de la Faculté de Médecine de Paris*. It has been carefully studied by many zealous pathologists since his time, both in this country and on the continent of Europe. Its consideration at all times possesses a painful interest in the mind of the surgeon, from its recognised fatality, even after surgical interference, the duration of life on the average being set down at two years. The