EXTRACTION OF FOREIGN BODIES

FROM THE

ŒSOPHAGUS, URETHRA, &c.

By M. BENIQUÉ.

THE instruments hitherto employed for the extraction of foreign bodies from the different passages in which they may become engaged, present the disadvantage of not preventing laceration or other injury of the organ with which the foreign body is in contact. To avoid this inconvenience, M. Beniqué has imagined a very ingenious process, which, however, requires the sanction of experience to determine its actual value. If a foreign body be engaged in the œsophagus, for example, he takes an elastic bougie of small dimensions, and attaches to its extremity of a small bladder of *baudruche*; when this is empty, it is not broader than the bougie, but, when inflated, it can occupy a space of two to four lines in diameter. When the sound has passed beyond the foreign body, this little bladder is filled with water, and thus forms behind it an obstacle to its further passage downwards. The foreign body might now be extracted, but, to prevent any injury to the mucous membrane of the canal, M. Beniqué introduces a larger bladder, which, when filled, occupies a larger volume than that of the œsophagus. The foreign body is thus comprised between the two bladders, and easily follows them when the tubes to which they are attached are withdrawn.

TREATMENT OF VARICOSE VEINS
BY EXCISION.

VARICOSE tumours of the veins are produced by a retrograde motion of the blood in those vessels. Signor Rima considers this to be proved by the following facts:—First,—If a portion of a varicose vein be divided, the blood issues in a jet, as from an artery. Secondly,—If a ligature be applied below the knee, or on a varicose vein, the veins situate above the ligature swell and dilate, an effect which can be referred only in part to simple gravitation of the blood. S. Rima prefers excision to every other method of treatment. He carefully exposes the vein about an inch above the highest varicose point, and then excises from ten to twelve lines in length of the vessel. The bleeding is easily arrested by pressure. He has treated thirty-four cases of varix, or simple varicose ulcers, after this method; of these ten (four complicated with ulcer) were cured; thirteen much relieved; six slightly improved; two not relieved; and two died. Palotta and Ghidella have employed the same mode of treatment with success.—*Zeit. für die Ges. Med.*, Vol. v., No. 2.

VALUE OF VACCINATION AS A
PREVENTIVE OF SMALL-POX.

AFTER giving a table of the total deaths under ten years of age, and the deaths under ten from small-pox, in Glasgow, for thirty years, and divided into three equal periods, Dr. Cowan observes:—

The ravages of small-pox were never before more vividly illustrated than in the foregoing table.

In the first period of ten years, the total deaths under ten years of age amounted to 9919, and the deaths from small-pox to 3466, being 34.94 per cent., and rather more than one-third of the whole deaths under ten.

In the second period, the total deaths under ten are 9080, and the deaths from small-pox 2894, or 31.87 per cent.; and in the last period, the total deaths under ten are 20,913, and the deaths from small-pox 1013, or only 9.28 per cent.

The saving of human life in infancy by the introduction of vaccination is thus most satisfactorily established, as the table shows an improvement to the extent of 25 per cent., and if to this be added the lives saved above ten years of age, which we have no means of exhibiting from the Glasgow Mortality Bills, we will be able to judge of the benefits conferred on society by Jenner.

The immunity of the Irish from small-pox is a remarkable fact. Dr. Cowan attributes this, and we think, justly, to the general practice of vaccination among the lower classes by the surgeons of the county infirmaries and dispensaries of Ireland. Out of ninety-five patients treated by Dr. Cowan in 1836, four only were natives of Ireland; while ninety-one were Scotch, of whom seventy were Highlanders, and twenty-one natives of the Lowlands. A very large proportion of the Highlanders were from the remote islands, and all had recently arrived in Glasgow. Fifty-five of the patients had apparently been vaccinated; but forty never had the operation performed. No death occurred in any individual who presented the appearance of having been properly vaccinated.—*Dublin Journal of Medical Science*, &c., January, 1838.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. M. The reply is in the affirmative to both questions.

The letters of *Dr. Sorley* have been received, but we are unwilling, by giving insertion to them, to revive a personal discussion.

The communications on the Continental Military Hospitals, and on the Average of Life in the Bengal service, shall appear in our next.