a half, and the length of the fit itself was certainly not less, during which also respiration was in complete abeyance from spasm of the glottis. There was, therefore, a period of complete apnoea of five minutes. By the aid of bleeding from the arm, and the subcutaneous injection of bromide of potassium, he so much improved that he survived five days, during which he was at times able to converse rationally with members of his family, who—also by the treatment adopted—were afforded time to come from a distance. He died at length from asthenia, notwithstanding every effort to combat it. As a last resource, ammonia was injected into a vein, but with no good result.

Mr. CALLENDER wished to know the character of the convulsions; whether the rigidity affected both sides of the body equally or unequally, and whether the mental faculties were, or were not, much impaired.

After some brief remarks by Dr. Douglas Powell,

Dr. HANDFIELD JONES said that, in a case that had come under his notice, the respiration after the fit numbered 50, and the temperature was 103° Fahr.; that rapid respiration in coma is commonly coincident with elevation of temperature, as also in cases of fever and paralysis.

Dr. HERMANN BEIGEL remarked that the term epilepsy was used in too wide and loose a sense, and that it should not be presumed that the cause of every death with coma was due to epilepsy.

Dr. HANDFIELD JONES and Dr. LEARED both objected to Dr. Beigel's remarks, and maintained that neither case had ever been classed as one of genuine epilepsy.

Dr. LEARED replied that at the outset of his case there was rigidity, which state, however, was not subsequently maintained, that the mental faculties were wholly in abeyance during the first twenty-four hours after the fit, and that, without doubt, the bleeding had done good service.

Dr. BUZZARD concluded the discussion by making some remarks on the extreme importance of gleaning the antecedent history of these cases, indicated his own theory as to the physiological action of artificial respiration in these cases, and thought that its advantage had been somewhat lost sight of in the discussion of the question.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY.

MARCH 3RD, 1870.

DR. W. F. CLEVELAND, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

MR. W. F. TEEVAN read a paper on "Some of the Functional Derangements of the Male Genital Organs." 1. *Abnormal erections in children* might occur at the earliest age, and were caused by some local irritation, as very acid urine, gravel, calculus, worms, prolapse of rectum, or cutaneous eruptions. Children who were forced to lie much on their backs, as in hip-joint disease, suffered from erections through the pressure of the urine on the most sensitive part of the bladder. A tight foreskin was a fertile cause of evil, and ought to be removed. 2. *Too frequent nocturnal emissions in young men* often caused much alarm; but the mental anxiety, rather than the seminal loss, was the cause of the depression. Drachm doses of the tincture of sesquichloride of iron would entirely check these emissions. 3. *Nocturnal emissions in married men* were of common occurrence, and arose from debility and irritation, the results of marital excesses. Local applications of mild solutions of the nitrate of silver would be necessary to effect a cure. 4. *Seminal discharges during defecation* took place in most men at some period of their lives, or some prostatic fluid only might be pressed out. When, through indigestion, the semen became attenuated, or there was constipation, the powerful contractions of the levator ani would press out some fluid. Laxatives, &c., would cure these cases. 5. *Diurnal emissions* were of serious import, and might be occasioned through the slightest mental or physical excitement. Suppositories of camphor, belladonna, and opium, were of great use, but a solution of the nitrate of silver would have to be applied to the verumontanum. 6. *True lethargy of the sexual organs* was sometimes observed in powerful young men who had led continent lives, and generally manifested itself as loss of sexual desire. Phosphorus, ergot of rye, cantharides, and strychnia were indicated in these cases.

Dr. POLLOCK thought the functions of the genital organs

were so influenced by moral causes that nothing could be predicated regarding the action of drugs in these cases.

Mr. HICKMAN could quite confirm the value of iron in the cases referred to.

Dr. GIBBON thought the occasional passage of the bougie useful in cases of irritation causing nocturnal emissions.

Dr. WILLIAMS believed incontinence of urine was always caused by some local irritation.

REPORT

OF

The Lancet Sanitary Commission

ON THE

STATE OF MARLAND WORKHOUSE, ROCHDALE.

"On hearing the magistrates' decision, there was some attempt at applause in court."* Such was the termination of a charge of assaulting a pauper brought against the master of the Marland Workhouse on the 23rd ultimo. Although the gravity of the charge was lessened, in the opinion of the magistrates, by the occurrence of great provocation, and the fine inflicted was consequently nominal, yet when it is remembered that such charges are brought under great disadvantages, we can scarcely wonder that conviction of any sort is regarded by the pauper as a subject for applause. From this and other information we received, it was thought necessary to look into the condition and management of the Marland Workhouse; and our Commissioner was despatched to pay a visit.

On his arrival in the town of Rochdale, he found that the news of his coming had preceded him. The chairman of the House Committee kindly undertook to conduct him through the house, and the results of a first visit were confirmed by a second, made in the company of a local magistrate and *ex officio* member of the Guardian Board.

On the 24th ultimo Mr. Basil Cane, Poor-law inspector, attended, and the master of the workhouse was censured both by the guardians and by Mr. Cane.

The Marland Workhouse was erected about six years ago. It was originally intended to accommodate 210 inmates. But the architect arranged that the paupers should sleep two in a bed; and, as this was not sanctioned, the accommodation was reduced. There are now 194 inmates. Fever wards were subsequently built, in which there have been treated a large number of cases of infectious fever, as many as 14 patients being occasionally under treatment at the same time.

In the Report of Mr. Cane presented to Parliament in 1867 all the usual defects of workhouse accommodation were stated to be in existence. The inmates were still sleeping double; the medicines were administered by paupers who could not read; the proper diets and the stimulants ordered by the medical officer often failed to reach the sick; venereal diseases were treated in the body of the house; the means of washing were deficient; and the books generally were in an unsatisfactory state. This report reflects great credit upon the Poor-law inspector, and it became a question of great interest to examine the result.

The main building is erected on the defective plan of a central corridor. The day-rooms are on the ground-floor, where also are the sleeping rooms for imbeciles. There are 24 male imbeciles; of whom 9 are epileptics. Several were at work, and a few confined to bed. There is not an able-bodied person, properly so called, in the workhouse; and, at a recent meeting of the guardians, the necessity of hiring

* Report of magistrates' proceedings in the *Rochdale Pilot*.