has proved as successful as I hoped, and her former condition of miserable deformity is so much mitigated, that she will be able to get her own living as a domestic servant."

Since then, I have seen her every now and then, and have been gratified at the gradual improvement which has taken place in her appearance. The flaps on the sides of the neck have become much wider, and she has now at least three inches of *sound* integument in the vertical direction on each side. The colour and puckered appearance of the cicatrices have also in a good measure disappeared, and the band in front interferes very little with the movements of the head and jaw.

REPORT OF

A SINGULARLY COMPLICATED CASE.

CONVULSIONS. DELIVERY BY TURNING. JAUNDICE AFTER TAKING CHLORIDE OF LIME BY MISTAKE. GRAPE DIET. RECOVERY.

By CONWAY J. EDWARDS, M.R.C.S.E., Bath Easton, near Bath.

THE subject was a married woman, between twenty-eight and thirty years of age. On the third of October last, I was requested to see her. She complained of a burning pain in the forehead, slight intolerance of light, and some thirst. The pulse ranged between ninety-five and one-hundred, full, and metallic. Tongue dry and faintly brown. She was between six and seven months advanced in pregnancy; and the movements of the foetus were strong and lively. I prescribed a dose of calomel, jalap, and scammony, and a mixture of neutral salts, potassio-tartrate of antimony, and aromatic water. On the morning of the 5th the husband called to say that his wife was well, and further assistance unnecessary.

Early on the 7th I was requested to ride quickly to her, it being supposed she was dying. She was in a semi-comatose state; pulse 120, full, and bounding; the eyelids moving spasmodically, and the muscles of the mouth twitching rapidly. There were two other women in the room. To examine the condition of the retina, I had placed her head on my left arm, with the face towards the light, when a sudden flow of foaming saliva rushed from the mouth, and springing up in a tremendous convulsion, she fell back on the bed, and to all appearance seemed dead. The women screamed; so sending one for the husband, and the other for water, I opened both temporal arteries, of which the right bled in a good stream most freely. As the blood flowed, the carotid arteries began to heave, visibly. I again placed her on my arm, and as the husband arrived, a slow but very gentle inspiration was taken. He informed me, that in the middle of the night she complained of a violent burning pain on the crown of her head, and he fancied that she had had a slight convulsion; the pain abating in half an hour, he went to sleep, and awoke to find her looking very wild, and muttering in an incoherent way. She, however, had sense enough to point to her head, and to state that her pain was there. He also informed me that the urine had been scanty and high coloured, and the bowels not relieved since the 4th. I ordered the head to be shaved; a blister placed on it, and a second between the shoulders; mustard cataplasms to the stomach and thighs; hot bottles to the feet; five grains of calomel and a drop of croton oil every three hours, until the bowels were fully relieved.—Twelve A.M.: Consciousness returning. The bowels not responding to the first powder, a second was given.—Four P.M.: Medicine acting well; she recognised me; complained of weight and tightness over the whole head, and violent pain in the bowels, shooting to the back. This I attributed partly to the remedies—partly to incipient uterine action.—Ten P.M.: Improving; purgation ceased; the blister between the shoulders rising well. Ordered thin water gruel, and a mixture with neutral salts, and potassio tartrate of antimony.

October 9th.—Ten A.M.: Improving; but complained of a cutting pain over the forehead; renal secretion pale, and in large quantities; pulse soft, but nearly 100; skin and tongue moist. Ordered leeches to the forehead; a powder of calomel, jalap, and scammony; the mixture to be continued.—Nine P.M.: Pain in the head gone; felt better in every respect; uterine action (if there had been any) ceased.

From the 10th to the 12th she improved, and gradually took more solid food; but on the morning of the 14th she was reported by the nurse to be dying, and I was urged to ride over without delay, as she had given her something which she thought had killed her.

I found her lying on her back, the face bloodless, features collapsed, skin cold and damp, and pulse scarcely to be felt.

The nurse had given her a large tablespoonful of Beaufoy's solution of the chloride of lime instead of castor oil. This happened about one A.M. At six A.M., the oil not having operated, the dose was on the point of being repeated, when the woman was found to be almost lifeless. I obtained a teacupful of brandy and sherry, and mixing them with hot water, poured it down the patient's throat, but not without some difficulty. I applied hot bottles to the feet, and friction to the surface, until the circulation was aroused. As the action of the heart increased, a dreamy consciousness came on, and in little more than an hour the respiration became deeper and more natural. The skin was suffused with a gentle perspiration, and sleep seemed to have set in. In this condition she remained until twelve o'clock. On awaking, she complained of burning pain in the epigastrium, and shooting thence to the lumbar region. Ordered hot milk and castor oil, with wine and milk at intervals. At eight P.M. uterine pains came on; and making an examination, I found the uterus dilated, and membranes advancing. I ruptured them, and a hand and arm presented; but as the foetus lay, as it were, doubled, I had no difficulty in finding a foot, by which I immediately turned the child, and extracted it without trouble. The placenta followed directly, and no flooding supervened. Causing her to be comfortably put to bed, I gave a quarter of a grain of acetate of morphia in camphor julep, and left her.

15th.—She complained of violent pain in the region of the liver and right shoulder, sensations of sickness and fainting, and great distention of the abdomen. The bowels had acted freely, but the tympanitic distress was very great; the urine muddy and high coloured. Ordered a mustard poultice, small doses of blue pill and James's powder, and a gentle aperient with a carminative. In the evening, the tympanitic symptoms had passed off, and only a dull weight remained where the pain had been.

16th.—Thoroughly jaundiced. No yellow of a more intense kind could be prepared by a colour-maker than that which pervaded her skin. I prescribed a mixture of tartrate of potass, iodide of potass, and manna, to be taken every four hours. Diet, barley-water.—Eight P.M.: The dull weight continuing, and being persuaded that the cause of these untoward and unexpected symptoms was spasm of the ductus communis, produced by the chlorine evolved in the intestines, I ordered a grain of the acetate of morphia, with James's powder.

17th.—Passed an excellent night; does not complain of anything except thirst; tenderness gone from the region of the liver; alvine secretions clay-coloured; renal secretion turbid, and of a dark mahogany colour. She did not remember anything about the chloride of lime being given in mistake; nor recollect whether or not she had been conscious of its taste, or any burning feeling in the throat. I ordered a pound of grapes to be taken every day, and a diet of biscuits and weak barley-water. Medicines: mixture of citrate of potass, and small doses of potassio-tartrate of antimony; a tablespoonful to be taken every three hours. A blue-pill at night, with morphia; and a gentle aperient of tartrate of potass, senna, and manna, every morning.

18th.—Alvine secretions dark; renal less turbid. Grapes *ad libitum*. Continue medicines.

19th.—Alvine secretions charged with bile; renal clear and dark.

20th.—Secretions natural; the skin losing its yellow tinge.

21st.—Progressing rapidly to convalescence. Chicken-broth added to the diet.

23rd.—Yellowness has almost disappeared; leave off morphine and all medicines except the morning aperient. Continue the grapes; broth; and take a little sherry.

24th.—Yellow colour quite gone. This was my last visit. I gave a few general directions as to medicine, diet, and exercise, and left her convalescent.

The interesting points connected with the case are the following: the symptoms premonitory to the puerperal convulsion; the state of collapse which the dose of the solution of the chloride of lime had produced; the dose which had caused it; and the icterus caused by spasm of the ductus communis, which spasm was in all probability brought on by the irritating and poisonous nature of the liberated chlorine gas. And here I hope, without assuming anything to myself, I may point out that portion of the treatment bearing on the jaundice, in which grapes were freely given. I attribute the rapid loss of the yellow colour in some measure to it, and for the following reason: I had shortly before met, at an evening party, a German lady; and in the course of a conversation she informed me that she had suffered very severely from jaundice, and her

German physician ordered her to eat eight and ten pounds of grapes a day. The attack was very severe, but she lost the yellow tint very rapidly, and her medical attendant assured her that it was in consequence of the regimen which he had recommended.

REPORT OF A

CASE OF COMPOUND FRACTURE OF THE RIGHT LEG, WITH EXTENSIVE LACERATION; SECONDARY AMPUTATION; DEATH.

By E. S. CROOK, M.D. Edin., Leyland.

I WAS hastily summoned, about half-past five P.M., April 1st, to visit Catherine B., aged ten years, whose leg had been severely injured in the "cog-wheel" of a "bark-grinding mill" at a tan-yard. On my arrival, I found an enormous wound involving the whole of the integuments of the anterior, interior, and posterior aspects of the right leg; the course of the wound was diagonal, from the outer side of the patella to the posterior of the ankle, the internal surface of the tibia was denuded for three or four inches, as also the whole patella, with its ligament; the fibres of the gastrocnemius muscle were considerably lacerated. The detached flap at its central and broadest part was seven inches in width, and had the appearance of having been crushed after laceration, synovial fluid seemed to be escaping from the inner side of the knee-joint, but no distinct wound was apparent. The anterior edge of the tibia was splintered; a fracture extending nearly vertically, and involving some inches of the bone, was visible, but as some portion of it had not been denuded, it was impossible to ascertain the extent with accuracy. A great quantity of blood had been lost, and there had been considerable vomiting before I arrived, which was about two hours and a half after the accident; the residence of the child being close to the site of injury, a distance of three miles from my house. The hæmorrhage and vomiting, however, had then ceased. The surface of the body was cold, the pupils were slightly dilated; but the pulse was between 90 and 100, of moderate tone, and equal in rhythm. As reaction appeared to be commencing, I did not think it right to administer stimulants, with the exception of the application of warmth. As far as the irregularity of the laceration would allow, by means of sutures and adhesive plaster, I brought it into the condition of an incised wound, applied a bandage tolerably firmly over the whole limb, placed it in "Liston's double inclined-plane," with foot-piece, and ordered the bandage to be kept continually moistened with cold water; at the same time expressing my apprehension to the friends that mortification would supervene, and render amputation necessary. The following medicine was prescribed: mercury, with chalk, four grains; extract of hyoscyamus, two grains. Mix for a pill to be taken immediately. Solution of acetate of ammonia, an ounce; tincture of hyoscyamus, two drachms; camphor mixture, three ounces. Mix. A table-spoonful to be taken every two hours.

April 2nd.—The child has had no sleep; is very restless from the excruciating pain, and complains of the limb being numb; the leg is much swollen, and has an inflammatory blush extending some distance above the knee, especially in the ham. There are great thirst and headache; the pulse is full, but soft, and about 120; the bowels have not been moved; drink is rejected. Warm applications have been substituted for the cold. Five grains of calomel, with a tablespoonful of castor oil, are to be taken directly; a tablespoonful of an eight-ounce effervescent mixture, containing twelve minims of prussic acid (P. L.), with three drachms of solution of the muriate of morphia, is to be taken every hour.

3rd.—The limb is more swollen, and less sensible to feeling; the blush is of a very livid hue, and now occupies the whole ham; the pulse is about 120, soft, small, and irregular; the vomiting is very troublesome; the skin dry and hot; the pupils are irregular, one contracted, the other dilated; the bowels have not yet been moved; the tongue is but slightly furred; there is considerable pain in the abdomen. The child dozes a little, and has been very delirious and restless; the features are sunken, and appear about to assume the hippocratic expression. A table-spoonful of a warm aromatic aperient is to be taken every hour until the bowels are opened. The dose of morphia in the effervescent mixture is lessened one third. The sutures have been taken out, and warm poultices applied. A tablespoonful of port wine and water every three hours.

4th.—The bowels have been opened three times since yesterday; the sickness is not so urgent; the delirium is less; she

has slept four hours at once; she complains of no pain; the facies hippocratica is now evident; she has asked for and eaten some bread-and-butter; the thirst is not so troublesome; the pulse is about 130, weak, and small; the surface of the body is cooler, and the girl expresses herself as feeling more comfortable. The temperature of the leg has increased; it crepitates under the finger; the wound gapes widely, and discharges a fætid, sanious pus; sensibility to touch has still diminished; a distinct line of demarcation is forming immediately above the patella in front, and from the commencement of the ham posteriorly to within four inches of the foot anteriorly, and behind down to the ankle. The port wine is to be increased in quantity; a tonic medicine with an opiate prescribed. Yeast poultices are to be applied, and to be changed every four hours. The father is informed that amputation is indicated.

5th.—Detachment of the slough has commenced; the hamstring muscles are visible, and it is evident that the whole of the integuments, probably the muscles as well, will slough off. The pulse is as yesterday; the tongue clean; the skin cool; the vomiting has ceased; the appetite improved; the bowels have moved twice since yesterday, and the abdominal pain is relieved. The necessity of amputation was again urged upon the father, but refused. The medicine, wine, and poultices are therefore to be continued as yesterday.

6th to 13th.—The process of detachment has proceeded, and is now completed. The limb is bare to the extent before mentioned; the muscles, both of the anterior and posterior regions, are involved, and can be detached piecemeal with a sponge. The tibia is seen fissured and splintered; no reparatory process is visible. The child is rapidly weakening, in spite of arrow-root, port wine, broths, and the medicine. To-day (13th) the father has requested me to operate, if I see any chance of recovery. I consented to do so, provided the child had not materially altered by my visit on the morrow.

14th.—The child is in very great pain; her pulse is 120, soft and small; the bowels are not loose; the surface of the skin is moderately cool; the appetite is not so good as it has been; she slept but little during last night; is not at all delirious, but perfectly conscious, and converses with her family. Confident that from such a source of irritation nature must soon yield, I considered it incumbent to have recourse to the operation, and strive to save my patient even at the eleventh hour. I amputated the thigh through the middle, by the lateral flap operation, this morning. The hæmorrhage was very trifling; four vessels required ligatures, and the flaps were brought into apposition by the usual means. She was then placed in bed. During the operation she fainted, but speedily came round upon the administration of a stimulant. For about half an hour afterwards she appeared to be doing well; the pulse was the same as before the operation; she suddenly jumped up, and complained of a pain in the cardiac region; when laid down she cried loudly to be raised, the pulse became smaller and quicker, her pupils dilated, the surface, in spite of internal and external stimulants, gradually became cold, pneumonia of the dying was evident, and in exactly one hour after the operation she expired.

Remarks.—Had the patient been an adult, I should have performed immediate amputation; but knowing the reparatory power of nature in young children, I felt anxious to give her every possible chance of struggling through the consequence of the injury. I believe, that had the operation been consented to four days after the injury, when it was pressed and urged upon her parents, the girl would most probably have recovered.

COLLEGIATE LIBERALITY.—In addition to the invitations which we mentioned on a former occasion, the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons had caused to be sent to all the foreign ambassadors and consuls general to visit their magnificent museum, we have now to announce that it is the intention of the President and Vice-Presidents to give a series of Conversazioni, for the purpose of receiving such distinguished members of the profession as may visit London during the present season, and to which the members of the college will be admitted on presenting their cards. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 11, on which occasion Professor Owen will deliver a lecture on Metamorphosis and Metagenesis, to be followed, on Wednesday, July 9, by Professor Paget, who will give a lecture on the Recent Progress of Anatomy and its Relation to Surgery. On Wednesday, August 13, Mr. Quekett will deliver a discourse on the Organic Basis of the Vegetable and Animal Skeletons, with microscopic illustrations.