should have caused the rejection of the name of ganglionic system of nerves, given to his nerves of organic life. But his error was not merely the misapplication of a name : there was misconception and radical error throughout the whole system. Although Bichat's *ganglionic system* was presented with the aspect of novelty, there was, in truth, no actual discovery. Anatomists had already convinced themselves that the sixth nerve was not the root of this sympathetic nerve ; that a filament so small could not be the trunk of that system which, expanding into larger branches, and furnished with numerous ganglions, was seen to pervade the whole viscera, and to connect itself with every nerve of the body. The opinion had been propagated that it was a system of visceral nerves extending every where, and not depending upon the encephalon.

But the most remarkable misconception of Bichat was, in imagining that he saw, in the ganglionic system, or the sympathetic system of man, the developement of that series of nerves which is seen in the lower creatures : thus considering those nerves which, in them give sensation and volition, to be the same system which, in the human body, even by his own showing, give no token of being either the organ of sensation or of voluntary motion. But of this more hereafter.

The Professor, having brought up the review of the opinions on the nervous system to this point, concluded his Lecture with a view of the structure of a nerve—the membranes which cover it, and enter into its composition—its vascularity—the dependence of its powers upon the circulation

through it :—he observed, that the impression on any part of a nerve in its course, was always referred by the sufferer to the extremity of the nerve. He stated that the membranes investing the nerves were subject to be inflamed in patches, or parts, and that such inflammation produced pain remote from the seat of the disease : he gave an instance of a tumor formed in the nerve of the ham being mistaken for a disease in the sole of the foot : he illustrated the same order of symptoms, by cancerous disease in the pelvis, often affecting the ischiatic nerve ;—he then detailed instances to show that when two nerves are bound together in the same sheath, one diverging to a part internal, and the other to a part external and cutaneous, the irritation upon the former is ever attributed to the part supplied by the latter ; and of this he gave the examples of sympathetic pains attending inflammations of the throat, affections of the heart and lungs, of the liver and duodenum, of the colon, the uterus, and ovarium.

III.

Aneurism of the Innominata and Root of the Carotid, successfully treated by tying the Carotid Artery.

By D. EVANS, Esq., Surgeon at Belper, Derbyshire.

WILLIAM HALL, ætat. 30, a butcher and horse-dealer, an athletic and spirited young man, about five feet six inches high, has been accustomed to laborious exercise, frequently riding from 70 to 100 miles a day, and has always enjoyed excellent health, until the

appearance of the following symptoms :—About fourteen months ago he was seized with shortness of breath, troublesome cough, and tightness over the chest, after much exertion, especially in walking fast up a hill. These symptoms continued until the 6th of March, when he had an attack of bronchitis, which he attributed to cold. His expectoration was copious, consisting of mucus slightly streaked with blood, and his cough came on in violent paroxysms, which were followed by a sense of suffocation.

On the 10th of March, after a fit of coughing, a soft pulsating tumor, about the size of a walnut, suddenly made its appearance behind, and extending a little above the right sterno-clavicular articulation, and covered, externally, by the sternal portion of the sterno-mastoid muscle. The tumor was greatly diminished by firm pressure, but could not be made to disappear entirely.

The pulsation of the tumor, which was synchronous with that of the heart, was increased in force by pressure upon the right subclavian artery, and was diminished, and sometimes completely arrested, by pressure upon the right carotid, above the tumor. The pulsations of the right carotid and subclavian arteries, were stronger than those of the left ; but there was no apparent difference in the pulsations of the radial arteries.

As soon as the tumor made its appearance, the cough and dyspnoea ceased to be troublesome, and his health was soon reestablished. His chest sounded well upon percussion, and the respiratory murmur was distinctly heard all over it. No unnatural pulsa-

tion could be detected, by the use of the stethoscope, between the tumor and the heart. A loud and powerful pulsation was heard over the tumor, unattended with any unusual sound.

In taking into consideration the situation of the tumor,—its sudden appearance, after a violent paroxysm of coughing, and its soft pulsating character, together with the symptoms above enumerated,—little doubt could be entertained of its nature, and I concluded that the root of the carotid artery was the seat of the disease.

Considering this a favorable case for the operation lately revived, and so ably advocated by Mr. Wardrop, I was induced to obtain the opinion of two eminent surgeons in London respecting its propriety. Both, however, disapproving of the operation, it was, therefore, determined, with the approbation of my friends, Mr. Bennet, and Mr. Brown, of Derby, that a fair trial should be made of Valsalva's plan of treating aneurisms.

The nature of the disease was fully explained to the patient, who, fortunately, was a man of strong sense and most determined resolution, and, from his employment leading him to study the diseases of horses, there was no difficulty in making him comprehend the dangerous tendency of the disease. He therefore submitted, with perfect confidence, to the proposed plan of treatment ; and I cannot sufficiently admire the fortitude and cheerfulness with which he bore the long privation which it was necessary to enforce, and the implicit faith which he placed in all the remedies adopted for his relief.

April 3. He was accordingly

ordered to bed, to be bled, to the extent of eight ounces, every third day; his diet to consist of small quantities of gruel, broth, and tea. Small doses of digitalis were likewise administered. This plan of treatment was continued until the 13th of July. During the first month, there appeared some little improvement; his pulse was frequently as low as 47 in the minute, the tumor became harder, its pulsation less forcible, and more remote; from which it was supposed that coagula might be forming. The blood hitherto had seemed perfectly healthy, and it was noticed that, if the bleeding were delayed beyond the usual time, the symptoms were aggravated.

In the beginning of May, a great alteration, for the worse, took place, which was supposed to be owing to his taking a small quantity of animal food. The blood, after each bleeding, became buffed; pulse 80 in the minute; the tumor rapidly increasing in the course of a few days, and becoming very painful upon pressure. Twenty leeches were applied, without any relief. A few days afterwards a diarrhœa supervened, the inflammatory state of the tumor abated, the pain ceased, and the swelling, in some degree, subsided. After this attack, his pulse was never less than 80 in the minute, although the same plan of treatment was rigidly adhered to.

From this time until the 1st of July, the tumor remained stationary; but, from the latter date, until the 20th, he gradually got worse; the tumor increased, and now reached as high as the cricoid cartilage, and, by its pressure upon the trachea and œso-

phagus, partially impeded respiration and deglutition. His shirt-collar, which, prior to his illness, would button comfortably, could not now be made to meet by more than three inches; his countenance became bleached; pulse more feeble; and it was evident that the lowering system had been carried as far as it could with safety.

Under these circumstances the operation was recommended, as the only remaining chance. Its advantages and disadvantages were fairly stated, and the chance of success, although small, made him anxious that it should be performed. Dr. Bent, of Derby, saw the patient on the 17th, and concurred in the propriety of the operation, as a last hope.

On the morning of the 22d of July, the day proposed for the operation, the patient became so agitated, that the pulsation of the tumor of the heart, and the large arteries, especially the abdominal aorta, was perceptible to the eye. The operation was performed in the presence of Messrs. Bennet and Brown, of Derby; Mr. Ingle, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and Mr. Walne, of Chancery Lane,—Surgeons. In consequence of the tumor extending so high up the neck, there was some difficulty in getting down to the sheath of the artery, which was opened to the extent of half an inch. The artery appeared healthy, and was easily secured by a single ligature of strong silk. Immediately after tightening the ligature, the pulsation in the different branches of the external carotid artery ceased, except a slight fluttering in the extreme branches of the temporal. The pulsation of the tumor continued without diminution.

23 and 24. He went on well. The pulsation in the tumor was stronger than it was before the operation, and the pulsation of the right radial artery was observed to be more forcible than that of the left.

25. He became feverish; pulse 120 and full; the right lip of the wound swollen and painful. Six ounces of blood were taken away from the arm, and some saline medicine administered. The blood was much buffed.

26. Morning.—Much better; pulse 92; stronger in the right radial artery than in the left; pulsation in the tumor still very forcible.

Evening.—The fever and pain in the tumor returned. He was again bled. Blood still buffed.

27. Better again this morning. He was taken worse at nine o'clock in the evening. Pulse 100; delirious; anxious countenance, and sickness. No diminution in the size of the tumor.

28. Much better, and continued so all day.

29. At seven, A.M. he was taken suddenly worse, and appeared to be dying; his countenance ghastly, and covered with perspiration; tracheal rattle, and inability to swallow. He appeared conscious, but could only speak in a whisper; pulsation in the tumor still forcible; the pulse in the right radial artery scarcely perceptible, whilst the left pulsated as strongly as it did the previous day. These symptoms were accompanied by a profuse ptyalism. He remained in this state for several hours, at the expiration of which time he rallied, and by the evening (with the exception of the salivation, which continued,) he appeared quite as well as on the preceding day.

As he continued to improve from this period, it will not be necessary to enter into a daily report of the case; I shall therefore content myself with noticing the most prominent symptoms which occurred. One of the most remarkable was the obliteration of the arteries of the right arm and forearm, which was first observed in the arteries of the forearm on the 29th of July, the eighth day after the operation, for until that day the arteries of the right arm pulsated with greater force than those of the left. The process of obliteration was attended with severe intermittent paroxysms of pain, chiefly felt in the course of the brachial and axillary arteries. The brachial artery, after its obliteration, was hard and painful to the touch, and felt very like an inflamed absorbent vessel. The right arm wasted, and became partially paralysed, and continued to diminish for three weeks, at the expiration of which time several arterial anastomosing branches were observed pulsating on the back part of the arm. As these vessels enlarged, the limb improved very slowly, not having yet (Oct. 19) perfectly acquired sensation, nor its muscles the power of obeying volition.

On the 11th day after the operation, he was attacked with intermitting paroxysms of pain in the right side of the head and face, of the same character as the pain in the right arm, though not so violent: this pain ceased within a fortnight. The right side of the head and face became emaciated, and any one looking at him would immediately discover that the right half of the face was much smaller than the left. The

blood having since found its way into the temporal and facial arteries, the right side of the face is now nearly as plump as the left.

The ptyalism, which began on the 29th of July, continued until the middle of September, during which time he spit daily about a pint of saliva; a more generous diet, and a small quantity of ale, were then allowed, and the salivation subsided.

Three weeks after the operation he was able to sit up to his meals. The first time that he got out of bed, he perceived that the whole of the right side was numbed, and weaker than the left. The pulsation in the tumor, which had hitherto been more powerful than it was before the artery was tied, now (Aug. 15) began to diminish rapidly, and by the 23d of August, the thirty-third day after the operation, had so much subsided, that it was doubtful whether it arose from the passage of blood into the tumor, or from the impulse given to it by the subclavian artery beneath.

In five weeks after the operation, he was sufficiently recovered to be able to take daily exercise in a gig, or on horseback, and from this time he has continued to improve in health without interruption.

The obliteration of the right brachial artery is now complete, and above the insertion of the latissimus dorsi, the pulsation of the axillary artery can be easily felt. The pulse in the radial artery is scarcely perceptible in the right arm, increases daily, but is yet far from being of the size of the left. Sensation and susceptibility of the influence of volition are more perfect on the whole of the right side of the body, but still

that side is more feeble than the left. The tumor is hard and firm, and has diminished about one-third since the operation. By pressing it from above downwards, a feeble, deep-seated pulsation is felt, but in grasping the tumor and using lateral pressure, no pulsation can be perceived.

On the 13th of October the wound was nearly healed; the ligature had not come away, and as it acted as a source of irritation to the small wound, it was cut off level with the skin.

The most peculiar features which this interesting case presented, were—1st, the obliteration of the arteries of the right arm; 2d, the profuse salivation; 3d, the disposition to paralysis of the whole of the right side of the body.

The two first symptoms commenced on the 8th day after the operation; and I think there can be little doubt that the obliteration of the arteries of the arm was accomplished by inflammation extending from the aneurismal sac to the internal membrane of the subclavian artery, and thence to the brachial artery. Might not the active obliteration of such large arteries as those of the arm and forearm, be the cause of the unpleasant train of symptoms which occurred on the 8th day after the operation? The salivation appeared to be connected with the state of the digestive apparatus; for, as soon as ale, and a generous diet, were allowed, it gradually subsided. I am at a loss to assign the cause of the numbness and debility of the whole of the right side of the body, (which were only observed when he first left the bed,) unless they originated in a greater quantity of

blood circulating in the left hemisphere of the brain than in the right, which undoubtedly would be the case after the application of a ligature to the common carotid. What tends to confirm this opinion is, that now, thirteen weeks after the operation, the balance of circulation in the brain being reestablished, the numbness and debility of the right side of the body have nearly disappeared.

In conclusion, it is worthy of notice, that, since the operation, he has become more irritable in temper, and his memory is evidently weaker.

So far as this case has yet proceeded, it amply justifies the operation; and the man probably owes his life to Mr. Wardrop's fortunate suggestion. Should any untoward circumstance occur, leading to any other conclusion, it shall be communicated.

It is now five weeks since he resumed his usual avocations, and he regularly attends the markets and fairs of Derby, a distance of seven miles.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1829.

At the last session of the Legislature of Massachusetts, a gentleman of talents and education, of his own free motion, laid before that honorable body a proposition for legalizing the dissection of dead bodies for the benefit of the living. The Act which he proposed was not well understood; nor was the subject discussed with sufficient freedom to bring the merits of the case fully into view. An unfavorable turn was given to it, by the representation that it would be a hardship on the poor, and render their last days very unhappy.

The House appeared to receive a disagreeable impression on the subject, and the principal clause was at once struck out; while that increasing the penalties for exhuming dead bodies was retained. On a subsequent day, however, the subject having been more fully explained, the House almost unanimously agreed to reject the bill imposing additional penalties; and thus the affair rests.

So far as the poor are concerned, it is of great importance to them that physicians in general should have an opportunity of dissection. If they are not permitted to do so, a few physicians whose circumstances allow them to visit foreign countries will be employed by the wealthy; while the poor must be made the unhappy victims of the ignorant and unskilful.

To give our medical friends at a distance an opportunity of enjoying the enlightened views of a Boston Editor, we insert the following sketch of the debate:—

A bill was reported by the Committee on the Judiciary, in the state legislature, which was ordered to make inquiry into what alterations were required in the laws to prevent the violation of the sepulchres of the dead, which contained two important provisions:

1st. That any person or persons detected in stealing a body, or in receiving or disposing of a stolen body, should be sentenced, on conviction, to imprisonment not exceeding three years, or to pay a fine not exceeding a thousand dollars.

2d. That when any pauper, who had been supported at the town or state charge, shall die, it shall be the duty of the selectmen to give notice to any kindred or friends, within a reasonable distance, and if no person