three months, but not such an amount as to warrant me in withdrawing the seton until May 25th, 1852, more than eleven months after its introduction. Finding him that day in his garden, steady-ing his hoe with his left hand, I ventured to remove it, but prematurely. For visiting him a few days afterward, I found the swelling gone, and a considerable degree of motion at the point of fracture. Fearing I should soon lose whatever ground had been gained, and not having with me a seton needle, as the best substitute for it within reach I thrust into the old aperture, which had not yet entirely closed, a common turkey's quill. As this extemporaneous seton, by its effects, seemed to answer as good a purpose as one composed of any other substance, I let it remain until the following July, when the cure seemed to be perfect, and when both it and the apparatus were entirely removed, and the patient went about his business, which the present winter is very laborious, that of logging.

The seton no doubt was the principal means of accomplishing this result; and its occasional failure, hitherto, in these cases, I am inclined to think has been often due to the removal of it before it had remained a sufficient length of time to produce its full effect. It may be mentioned, that in the case of this patient, the seton was inserted some time in 1849, by the advice of the late Dr. Twitchell, but withdrawn at the end of *nine* days. The very efficient aid derived from the apparatus ought not, however, to be forgotten. It seemed to meet satisfactorily every indication, not restricting in the least the liberty of the patient, affording free access to the seton, keeping the fractured extremities in exact coaptation, preventing all motion of them, which it would be difficult entirely to obviate by any mode of applying bandages, from their liability to become loose—and, lastly, supplying the desired pressure or compression.

HENRY BARNES, M.D.

Northboro', Feb. 15th, 1858.

CHOREA TREATED WITH ARSENIC.

BY DAVID RICE, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WITHIN a period of five years, a number of severe cases of chorea have come into my hands for treatment, all of which have yielded to a certain management in a short space of time. I had regarded the disease in question as an inveterate one, and obstinate in not yielding to the action of remedial agents. Experience has taught me the reverse—that with the right application of remedies, it is quite as curable as many maladies of less note. I have succeeded in curing all my cases in from two to six weeks, by the use of arsenic, with a few other remedies, used either in conjunction with the

arsenic, or for preparatory or after-treatment. I will give the history of two or three cases, to illustrate my method of treating the disease.

CASE I.—Mary M., aged 10 years, of delicate formation, light hair, and blue eyes, nervo-sanguineous temperament, was taken with chorea during her eighth year. It gradually increased upon her, so that she was put under treatment during the ninth year, and kept upon various remedies, administered by a number of physicians, up to the time I saw her. She had suffered greatly, and obtained no relief. I could not ascertain from her friends *what* remedies had been tried. When I first saw her, she was lying upon a couch, with dishevelled hair, and every muscle and limb in continued motion. It was with great difficulty that she could articulate words so as to be understood. If she attempted to walk, she would often fall. Deglutition was very difficult. Her parents considered the disease confirmed. I commenced immediately with the arsenic, and a laxative occasionally, as follows: Fowler's solution, three times a day, in doses of ten drops, for three days; then, eleven drops for three days, three times a day, &c. &c., adding one drop to the dose every third day, until the effects of the remedy were visible in the system, and upon the malady. I gave a slight cathartic every third night. (℞. Calomel, pulv. jalap, pulv. aloes, soap, āā ʒij. Make into pills, each containing five grains; give two or three every night.) In three weeks the little girl came ten miles, in a carriage with her father, to tell me she was well. She is now 15 years old, and has had only one slight attack since, which was cured by taking the *same remedy* for a short time.

CASE II.—Mary F., aged 12, with dark hair, eyes, and skin, of bilious temperament, was attacked in the latter part of last autumn with chorea. It gradually increased upon her for two months, at which time I was called. I found her making all manner of gesticulations and grimaces imaginable, yet she could walk, and use her hands to some extent. I gave her a brisk purgative of the above-mentioned pills, and commenced the use of the arsenic (Fowler's solution) as in the former case. In three weeks, the muscular action had nearly ceased. The arsenic had produced a slight soreness of the eyes, and swelling of the lids, and I suspended its use and administered Griffith's myrrh mixture, to complete the cure.

CASE III.—Romaine G., a girl aged 9; of rather scrofulous aspect, but, in the main, of ordinary health; with sandy hair, and grey eyes, and of sanguineous temperament, was attacked violently with chorea. In the space of three days, she became perfectly helpless, and could neither speak nor swallow; she lay upon the bed with all her muscles and limbs in a state of lamentable contortion and spasmodic action. It was with the greatest difficulty she could swallow anything, and then only fluids, a little at a time. Her friends became alarmed; they supposed there was no help for such

a severe case. I confess it was doubtful, in my own mind, what the issue might be. I began with my favorite remedy, preceded by a cathartic of four of the pills above mentioned. Fowler's solution was then given, commencing with eight drops, three times a day, increasing *one drop* daily, for one week. At the end of that time, she was taking fifteen drops, three times a day. I continued the remedy five days longer, giving fifteen drops three times a day. On the twelfth day, the eyes began to grow sore, and the lids to swell, at the same time the chorea jactitations began to subside rapidly, and in twenty-two days had entirely ceased. I suspended the arsenic on the twelfth day, substituting Griffith's mixture in small doses for one week, after which I left the case to nature. The girl is now 15, and has had only a very slight attack, in her thirteenth year, and which yielded in a couple of weeks to the arsenic.

I might mention many other cases of chorea, occurring at different ages, and in both sexes, all of which I have treated with arsenic, with complete success. In fact, I have never known it to fail of curing. I am no believer in specifics, but I think arsenic is *as* sure to cure chorea, as the Peruvian bark is to cure intermittent fever. The remedy must be watched, and used with caution, and then it is entirely safe.

Leverett, Mass., February, 1858.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM EDINBURGH.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—It is some months since I left home, and many incidents have fallen under my notice, which I should have read with interest had I been there and they been reported by another through your pages.

Two or three months were spent as an "interne" in the Dublin Hospital, where I often thought of you, and wished you had a good correspondent there. He would send you very many notes of interest in the course of the year, not to say in the course of every week. But where you are on tip-toe all day, and called up nearly every night too, and sometimes four times between 12, P.M. and 8, A.M., or deliver and see delivered eight women before a breakfast, as I have done, one has not much time or inclination for quill-driving.

You had a very fine report from a correspondent at the Vienna Lying-in Asylum, a few months ago, which made me feel that I must surely go there. But in the Dublin Hospital more women are delivered annually (upward of 2,000) than in the one at Vienna, and here the student does not labor under the inconvenience of a foreign language. Here are also two wards, for uterine and intra-pelvic diseases, where the student can add to his capital in that department of medicine; but for this branch, see below.