acetate of alumina prepared by mixing alum with acetate of lead in adequate proportions, to which a little aromatic water may be added, is advisable. The formula I am in the habit of using is—acetate of lead, 240 gr.; powdered alum, 330 gr.; distilled water, 16 oz.; aromatic or peppermint water, 8 oz. Dissolve the lead and alum salts separately in the water; mix and stir well together; either filter or let the precipitate settle, and decant the clear solution, to which add the aromatic or peppermint water. It may be used diluted with water if necessary, and the mouth is to be regularly rinsed out from the beginning of the treatment to the end ten or twelve times a day, or even more, and in urgent cases during the night. By so doing salivation is prevented, and if by any means it should occur its ill effects are counterbalanced by the use of the mouth-wash. I might here say that preparatory to any mercurial treatment, whether external or internal, it is always well for any old stumps of teeth to be extracted, particularly if they are in the habit of giving trouble.

(To be concluded.)

CASE OF LYMPHO-SARCOMA IN THE GROIN.

OPERATION; RETURN OF THE GROWTH.

By F. R. FAIRBANK, M.D., L.R.C.P. LOND.,
SURGEON, DONCASTER INFIRMARY;

AND

F. WALLIS, M.R.C.S. ENG.

THE case reported in THE LANCET of December 19th, 1885, from Westminster Hospital, as having been operated upon for recurrent lympho-sarcoma, is of sufficient interest to warrant a more detailed report of its earlier history.

For several years the patient had suffered from a small tumour in the right groin, below Poupart's ligament. This had given him no trouble, and he was advised by his then medical attendant to leave it alone. As it began to increase in size in the early part of the summer of last year, he sought Mr. Wallis's advice, who requested a consultation with Dr. Fairbank. On July 17th they together saw him. He was an emaciated young man, having an anxious look. He stated that during the last two months the tumour had increased rapidly in size. He had consulted a surgeon in the town where he had been staying, who offered the opinion that the tumour consisted of a hernia with a suppurating gland over it. Poultices were applied and an incision made, which gave vent to hæmorrhage, but nothing else. He then came under Mr. Wallis's care, who ordered ice to be applied locally until the consultation had been held. On examination a tumour was found in the right Scarpa's triangle, measuring about six inches in length by four inches in breadth. It was of the shape of the figure 8—two portions joined by a neck. The upper and deeper-seated portion was soft; the lower portion was firm and implicated the skin, which was of a deep red colour over it. The tumour was movable, and, with the exception of the skin over a part of it, was felt to be distinct from the surrounding tissues. The diagnosis was sarcoma, and immediate removal was recommended.

On July 21st, at his own home, in the presence of Mr. Wallis, Mr. J. Gelston, house-surgeon to the Doncaster Infirmary, and Mr. W. Nicholls, Dr. Fairbank removed the growth. Mr. Gelston administered the anæsthetic known by the letters A. C. E. A lozenge-shaped incision was made round the tumour, which enclosed the whole of the skin implicated. The tumour was found in the subcutaneous tissue, and entirely separate from the surrounding tissues, and external to the deep fascia. There was only one artery supplying it, and this was readily secured. The removal was very carefully and thoroughly carried out. The tumour weighed over 2 lb. When the operation was completed the patient fell into an alarming condition: breathing ceased, and the pulse was imperceptible at the wrist. Artificial respiration and faradisation were kept up for about two hours before he appeared out of danger.

The wound healed rapidly and well up to a certain point. In the centre, where there was the greatest tension, a part about the size of a florin remained open. The patient improved rapidly in general health, and was able to go away from home fourteen days after the operation. There was then no increase in the size of the wound, or any sign of

other tumour. About Aug. 22nd, while at Ripon, he noticed a fresh lump in the lower part of his body on the right side, and in consequence came home to see Mr. Wallis. When Mr. Wallis then saw him the wound was about the size of a crown-piece, with the edges irregular, thickened, and hardened. A small tumour, about the size of a pheasant's egg, was noticed above Poupart's ligament. The wound increased rapidly in size. On Oct. 1st another consultation was held. There was then an open wound over Scarpa's triangle, the size of the palm. The edges were indurated and undermined. The floor of the wound was clean and glazed. The femoral vessels were only thinly covered. There was a tumour above Poupart's ligament, the size of a small hen's egg. His general health was then good. Subsequently to this he went to Westminster Hospital, and the case terminated as reported in THE LANCET of Dec. 19th.

Portions of the tumour from Scarpa's triangle were forwarded to Dr. Ernest H. Jacob of Leeds, who has supplied the following report of his examination: "The growth was of varying consistency, from that of a normal lymph-gland to that of encephaloid softness. One portion was adherent to the skin. Microscopically, in some parts the growth was ordinary-looking lymphoid tissue, but there was a large amount in which the cell element was in excess, and presented the appearances of lympho-sarcoma rather than lymphoma simple. There were also signs of caseation and breaking down in the softer parts."

Mr. A. A. Bowlby, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, also has sent the following report:—"Microscopic description of tumour: It is composed mainly of cells, which are larger, more irregular in outline, and more granular than ordinary lymphoid cells or leucocytes. Here and there a little fibrous stroma may be seen and a few bloodvessels. It is evidently a round-celled lympho-sarcoma."

The report of Mr. Walter Arthur deals chiefly with the condition of the nervous and circulatory systems. It would be very interesting to read what was the condition microscopically of the soft parts removed from Scarpa's triangle, and what was also the condition at the time of death. This case is interesting specially as showing that a comparatively innocent enlarged lymph gland may assume malignant characters of most virulent description.

Doncaster.

INHALATION IN PULMONARY DISEASES.¹

By W. H. BLENKINSOP, M.D., M.K.Q.C.P.

IN the treatment of pulmonary diseases our efforts, as I need only in passing observe, are directed more or less to a threefold method of cure—(1) by the administration of internal remedies, (2) by the employment of various external agents, and (3) by the introduction of medicated vapours into the air-passages by the process of inhalation. I am desirous here of drawing attention more particularly to the last-named method, the importance of which was recognised by the older physicians, and was developed early in the present century by Scudamore and others, who severally recommended the use of iodine, chlorine, and tar vapours. In whatever way we regard the action of this special mode of treatment, the fact remains that it is by far the most rational, possessing many obvious advantages over others, particularly in phthisis, and being capable of much further development. Notwithstanding the generally encouraging results, however, of this aid to our other methods, there are certain details connected with its employment which are somewhat indefinite at present, and upon which I think we require a distinctly pronounced expression of opinion. Let me for convenience' sake place my observations under the following headings.

First, I find it of service in speaking of inhalation—which will be further discussed as we proceed—to include within it two allied processes—viz., vaporisation, where hot air or steam is generated, and fumigation, where drugs or scents are volatilised. As regards the last-named process, we are sufficiently conscious of its potency in destroying noxious odours and germs in a sick room; but as to its effect upon the air-tubes of invalids suffering from pulmonary mischief, there is little aid that we can hope to gain from it. For example, if a specific action is required upon the lungs,

¹ Paper read before the Harveian Society, Jan. 7th, 1886.