108°, or even to 113°. Thus it may remain for from four to six hours, being usually higher at the thigh and abdomen than in the heart; then it gradually subsides to the temperature of the surrounding medium. The cases are said to have all occurred in the summer, in a temperature of at least 80°, but they are very imperfectly related.”

J. R. T.

Fort Pitt, August, 1853.

REPORT OF A CASE OF ADVENTITIOUS BANDS CONSTRICTING THE INTESTINES.

By WALTER WATSON, M.D., Ratho.

THE publication in THE LANCET of the 3rd of July of a fatal case of obstruction of the bowels, reported to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, has induced me to send the following notes, which may be of pathological interest, though not in the least of therapeutical value.

J. C—, aged fifty-seven, toll-keeper, a man of regular habits, and who had always enjoyed good health, was seized with pain in the bowels on the afternoon of the 30th of October, 1856. Two hours afterwards he was preparing to have a motion of the bowels, when he was suddenly prevented, and called to attend his toll. On his way home that evening, the pain was so great that he had to lie down several times on the roadside. After reaching home he began to vomit; he had constant desire for motion, and several simple laxatives were administered without effect. He passed urine, however, freely. The pain continuing severe, a medical man saw him at midnight, who prescribed an anodyne antispasmodic, with local soothing applications, and on the following day a jalap purge. Partial relief was thus gained within thirty hours from the seizure, and he had regular daily motion prior to that day. Mild mercurial laxatives were continued for ten days following, when he came under my observation, as assistant to Mr. Craig. He was now put upon a quassia tonic, with Epsom salts and dilute sulphuric acid. An occasional carminative purge was prescribed, and stomachic powders.

In the course of the third week of November, both his daughter and he were seized with symptoms of general fever, which in the former developed during the subsequent five weeks the characteristics of enteric typhus. (The eruption was not seen, and but seldom looked for, as the other symptoms sufficed.) A febrifuge expectorant was given him, and in a few days his tonic was renewed.

On the 29th of November, while as yet he had never been out of bed, though feeling himself slowly improving, he was seized with a severe rigor, to which succeeded pain in the bowels and constipation. The general abdominal pain was moderate, but the cæcal region was very tender and tumid. Local peritonitic inflammatory action was diagnosed, and the patient put upon calomel and opium. Enemata were used to move the bowels, without effect; then purgative doses of calomel, aloes, and croton oil, but fruitlessly. Three days of obstinate constipation had elapsed, when, after an enema containing tincture of assafoetida, he said he felt as if a girdle round his loins had been broken and loosed, and his bowels were about to act. He passed then, and for many days thereafter, what was compared to “black burnt corks.” He used for some time a carminative purge, and got gradually better; but for the whole year 1857 he was a sufferer, though he never came under our care. Severe colicky pains would suddenly arise, and sickness. Relief was gained when diarrhoea set in, or when he had drunk freely of tepid water and vomited; and thereafter diarrhoea was sure to follow. One curious feature in the case was the regularity of the return of suffering between Saturday night and Monday morning. It could not be accounted for by the least alteration of diet, nor did exercise taken on Sunday morning in the least avail to alter its course. Never did three weeks pass without additional intercurrent attacks of diarrhoea, rousing him five and six times by night, which his wife treated to most advantage with castor oil, laudanum, and essence of peppermint. The cæcum was always the seat of pain “like to double him up;” but the moment that “roaring” began in that region, he knew relief was at hand, and diarrhoea about to supervene. During daytime, he felt “corded” round the abdomen, and on stooping, he felt as if “his bowels fell forward in a large knot.” He expressed a

hope that, if he were ultimately to “die by the bowels,” it might be from looseness, and not from “stoppage.” In December, 1857, the vomiting, colicky pain, and diarrhoea had been more troublesome and debilitating.

Early in January, 1858, he requested our attendance; but all varieties of simple and tonic astringents, with stimuli, were plied in vain, till he died on 30th January. For the last ten days of his life the copious vomitings of grass-green material, and the drenching mucous diarrhoea were truly incredible in amount, and bore no relation to the quantities of fluid swallowed. The effect of a simple laxative was perfectly well marked, proving, if need were, the permeability of the bowels throughout their entire length. He sank from pure asthenia.

On inspection, about thirty-six hours after death, the epiploon was found tied down to the inner surface of the abdominal wall, just above the inguinal fossa, to the small and large intestines in the neighbourhood and to their mesentery, and to the iliac fossa. How much was the normal epiploon wholly divested of its fat, and how much was the old fibrous lymph,—a transformation from quondam inflammatory exudation,—it was difficult to say; but there were no evidences on the surface of recent inflammatory action. In the right iliac and the right lumbar regions, coils of small intestine were tied together, peritoneal surface to peritoneal surface; and when the surfaces thus applied back to back were forcibly separated, the lymph that glued them together seemed to be suppurating; a dirty grey fluid oozed away, and exposed an ulcerating looking surface. The coats of intestine were, however, found to be quite sound at those places. The fibrous material not only tied one piece of intestine to another many inches distant, but tied intestine to its own corresponding part of mesentery in such a manner as to give the appearance of diminished calibre and stricture. On passing the forefinger along, it was caught at those points. But on tearing these fibrous bands, and releasing the intestine from its abnormal attachment to the mesentery or other part of the intestine, the canal regained nearly its normal size, and on slitting it open no organic change of thickening or ulceration was visible. The descending colon seemed to end in a cul-de-sac before reaching its sigmoid flexure; but on tracing it, it mounted up to the level of the upper lumbar vertebrae, and then descended rather on the right side of the middle line to form the rectum.

I have taken no note of the condition of the ileo-cæcal valve, and would not trust to memory regarding it. But during the first illness his was one case of three where I have felt satisfied of being able to pass something, gaseous or fluid, from the large to the small intestine at pleasure.

August, 1858.

SECOND QUARTERLY METEOROLOGICAL REPORT AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL FOR 1858.

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THIS quarter is distinguished from the corresponding period of last year by having in each month a more uniformly elevated atmospheric pressure. The rain, which fell during 34 days, compared with 31 last year, was greater during the present season—4.79 inches, against 4.61 last year. The mean temperature of April was 1°.1 higher in the present than in the preceding year; in May it was 2°.3 lower; and in June it was 4° higher, than last year. The greatest heat (94°.8) was attained within the twenty-four hours ending at noon of the 17th of June; and the lowest night temperatures were 31°.5, 39°.5, and 53° respectively, on the 11th of April, 7th of May, and 5th of June. The total heat of April, May, and June of the last year were respectively, 1389°, 1705°, and 1920°—numbers obtained by multiplying the number of days in each month by the mean temperature. The corresponding numbers for the year are 1422°, 1652°, and 2040°; while the total heat of the quarter in 1857 was 5014°, and in the present year 5114°, exhibiting a difference of 100° in the total amount of heat, or equal to nearly two days' temperature in favour of the present year. The highest temperature in the more open parts of the metropolis was considerably inferior to that at St. Thomas's