signs had passed away, and there were no longer any clinical symptoms of cancer. Microscopical evidence on the subject was, however, still wanting. This was furnished at the end of January, when a slough was expectorated from the very spot which had presented such a highly suspicious appearance in November. This slough was most carefully and repeatedly examined by Professor Virchow, and the result (which is now published) again shows that cancer could not be detected.

To recapitulate. In my opinion, the clinical symptoms have always been entirely compatible with non-malignant disease, and the microscopical signs have been in harmony with this view. I need only add that, although in nearly every case of laryngeal disease it is possible at the first inspection to form an accurate opinion as to the nature of the disease presenting itself, yet in a few rare instances the progress of the complaint alone permits its character to be determined. Unfortunately, the case of His Imperial Highness is among the latter number, and at this moment medical science does not permit me to affirm that any other disease is present than chronic interstitial inflammation of the larynx combined with perichondritis.

San Remo, February 12th, 1888.

REPORT OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE SLOUGH FROM THE LARYNX OF HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

BY PROFESSOR RUDOLF VIRCHOW.

On the morning of Jan. 26th, 1888, Dr. Wegener brought me a sealed box, with a letter dated Jan. 23rd, from Dr. Shrader from San Remo. It was accompanied by a report dated Jan. 17th, from Dr. Krause, respecting a large piece of tissue which had been expectorated on the same day from the larynx of H.I.H. the Crown Prince.

The portion sent was the whole of the matter expectorated, with the exception of six small particles removed by Dr. Krause for examination in the fresh state. The piece of tissue was in a sealed bottle containing absolute alcohol. In addition to the large portion referred to, there were also two other separate and somewhat harder pieces—a larger and a smaller. The former, according to Dr. Krause, was originally a part of the principal mass. The examination offered great difficulties, the nature of which could not have been anticipated either from the form or the appearance of the pieces submitted for investigation. The large mass greatly resembled certain portions of imperfectly masticated pieces of meat, which are sometimes rejected in vomiting after being swallowed. This view seemed to derive support from the presence here and there of small yellow and brownish particles of fine cellular vegetable structure, and from the existence in the innermost portion of the large piece (expectorated) of an abundance of elastic fibres.

In consideration, however, of the very precise information conveyed by Dr. Krause to the effect that the substance had been observed before its separation (from the larynx) extending from beneath the left ventricular band from the middle to the anterior angle, and also below the glottis and even round below the anterior part of the right vocal cord, there could be no doubt, on further examination, that we had to deal with a large slough spontaneously separated from the inner surface of the larynx, and not with a purely exudative (fibrinous) mass. In the substance, which, according to the report of Dr. Krause, when first expectorated, measured three and a half centimetres in width, whilst at the thinner end it was half a centimetre in width (its thickness being four millimetres), and at the thicker end one centimetre wide, a small smooth semicircular spot in its long diameter could be seen. All the rest of the surface was occupied by long and very closely arranged fibres. Although there was no epithelium on the smooth spots and no glands beneath it, it cannot be doubted that this was the free surface of the mucous membrane. For beneath it could be seen microscopically a thin layer of almost homogenous connective tissue and a great mass of elastic fibres. Beneath this there was deeper down a very thick layer, consisting especially of tubules with granular amorphous contents. From this thick layer originated the long fibres observed with the naked eye. It was not once possible to recognise in these tubular layers

and transverse stripes, but they seemed to contain only amorphous matter, in which, on more minute examination, numerous micrococci were found. Here and there numerous, but very small, clear blown bodies or crystal-like deposits were observed. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that these tubular layers and fibres are primitive muscular fasciculi, which through a necrotic process have been destroyed. The slough must therefore be regarded as a necrotic and decomposed part of the larynx, which in parts has been separated from the surface to a depth of four millimetres. The very rich muscular structure could only be attributed to the thyro-arytenoid muscle.

I could not determine what kind of morbid process had caused the gangrene, nor what kind of process had produced the demarcation and exfoliation of the substance. Neither pus-corpuscles nor granulation-cells could be distinguished, and, in fact, in most places there was nothing of a heterogeneous nature to be discovered. Only in the larger (of the two smaller pieces), which had been cut off the main mass by Dr. Krause from a somewhat hard spot, and which had the form of a flat wart on section with the naked eye, a central whiter and an external and opaque rather thick covering could be distinguished. In every microscopic section so-called nests (*Zwiebeln*) of epidermoidal cells, for the most part of a homogenous character, were seen. As a rule, these nest-cells were in the most external layer or in that lying immediately beneath it. The external layer had also most likely consisted of an epidermoidal formation, though these cells could only be here and there partially distinguished. I could not find epidermoidal cells in the deep parts, and distinctly isolated alveoli were nowhere to be discovered, in spite of assiduous researches.

These examinations will be continued, and if any further result is obtained I will send a report instantly.

(Signed) RUDOLF VIRCHOW,
Jan. 29th, 1888. Director of the Pathological Institute, Berlin.

Professor Virchow has since sent several private letters, in which, however, he has not been able to add anything to his original report. Nevertheless, he remarks that he has not found any cartilage in any portion of the slough.

THE DEATH OF MR. McNEILL.

BY ALFRED CHUNE FLETCHER,

SURGEON TO THE CHARTERHOUSE AND TO MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL.

THIS case has received such extraordinary publicity that it would be passing strange if the truth had not been liberally spiced with fiction. The actual ascertained facts have been masked by gossip, friendly and otherwise. A simple record of the circumstances may present sufficient facts of medico-legal interest to justify its publication.

Archibald McNeill, aged thirty-seven, was one of the best known and most popular of London journalists. He was instructed by the proprietors of the daily *Sportsman*, of which he was assistant editor, to write a report of the surroundings of the prize fight between Smith and Kilrain. Ignorant of the science itself, he was chosen merely as a brilliant descriptive writer. He accompanied the other journalists to Paris, and thence to the scene of action, a small island near Rouen. The fight over, they returned to Paris, and left for Boulogne on Tuesday morning, Dec. 20th. On the arrival of the train the boat was prepared to start. McNeill embarked with the rest of the party. Immediately afterwards he asked a colleague to mind his rug and bag, and went ashore again. He was seen later on, by the quay attendants, running to catch the boat, which, however, he lost by a few seconds. They aver it is a frequent thing for passengers to rush back to the train for something left behind, and to lose the boat as a result. It has, indeed, been carefully ascertained that the signal for the boat's departure may be of the vaguest, and that it is exceedingly easy to be on the quay and not be aware of her departure. This has been specially tested by the English detective. A pier attendant states that a man whom he recognised as McNeill lost the day boat, and asked him where and when the night boat would start. He then proceeded to the office on the quay, and sent off this telegram to the editor of the *Sportsman*: "Have missed the boat; in fact, I am afraid my head has gone wrong. Jim is coming up to Charing-cross by the train at 5.40. He will