He was morose, taciturn, and insolent. He entertained an ungrounded dislike to his relations, and was subject to violent fits of passion.

After being some time in the Asylum, his delusion gave way, and the intellectual powers of his mind remained sound; his conduct, however, continued ungovernable, and his language abusive; while kind words made no impression on his wayward temper. He still complained of pains in the injured part.

On examining his head, I discovered a very distinct depression on the posterior superior margin of the right parietal bone, the situation to which he referred the pains.

In consultation with my colleague, Mr. Furness, of Percy-street, Newcastle, consulting-surgeon to the Institution, it was decided that the depressed portion of skull be removed by the trephine.

On the 3rd of January, 1846, the operation was skilfully performed by Mr. Furness. The patient bore it well, and the wound healed, without a bad symptom. The portion of the cranium removed was healthy in appearance on both of its surfaces. It adhered very firmly to the dura mater, requiring considerable force for its removal. It was altered considerably in form, appearing to have been indented, rather than fractured, which is not improbable, seeing the accident occurred to the patient when only thirteen years of age.

By the 1st of February, his conduct was, and had been since the operation, in every way improved. He had had no bursts of passion; answered civilly when spoken to, and was grateful for the relief afforded him. He looked forward with pleasure to his return home, which was promised to take place as soon as the weather improved. He had for the last fortnight been working in the farm, and stated that since the operation he had been free from the pain in the head, from which he formerly suffered.

On the 20th of March he was discharged 'cured,' having, since the performance of the operation shown no symptom of his previous malady."

This case has many features in common with that which I have quoted from Mr. Cooke's report.

In both, the result of a depression on the parietal bone supervened a state of moral insanity, attended by severe pains in the head.

In the case I have detailed as successfully treated by the application of the trephine, the mental disorder had proceeded (as is its general course) to monomania, while the depression was of ten years' standing.

The happy result attending the treatment I adopted leads me to augur a like issue in the less complicated and more recent case related by Mr. Cooke, had the plan of treatment I have suggested for such cases—viz., the application of the trephine—been had recourse to.

Perhaps these few remarks may induce Mr. Wakley, jun., the surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, should an opportunity present itself, to give, in this, or some similar case, the plan of treatment I have recommended a trial.

Military Lunatic Asylum, Yarmouth.

THE CAUSE, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT OF TYPHUS FEVER.

By I. PIDDUCK, M.D.

The cause of typhus fever is the exhalation of a specific poison from the bodies of the sick, by which persons in health become infected with the disease, as in cases of small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, &c.

This poison may be destroyed by a temperature of 212°, whether by boiling in water or by hot air; it may also be diluted by washing and ventilation, so as to be rendered inert.

The prevention of typhus fever consists—

1. In separating the healthy, particularly the young, from the sick.
2. In removing curtains and carpets from the room, and clothes from the person of the sick.
3. In boiling linen and cotton garments, blankets and rugs, in water before they are washed, and in baking woollen cloth garments, which cannot be boiled, put into a sack, in an oven.
4. In washing the bodies of the sick and the floors of rooms with soap and water, and the walls and ceilings with lime.
5. In lighting fires in fireplaces, and setting open windows and doors.

6. In keeping provisions away from the apartment of the sick.

But as this poison exerts a much more malignant and fatal effect upon persons whose health is impaired by exposure to malarious influence, it is of great importance that putrid effluvia from drains, dunghills, or middens, should be carefully obviated.

The drains from houses should be covered in, cesspools and necessaries should be emptied, stagnant ponds should be run off, and every cottage in the country should be provided with a bricked cistern, covered with a wooden flap-lid, for the reception of all solid and liquid manure, which should be emptied and carried out on the land, as soon as it is full.

If these precautions are taken, there is no need for chloride of lime or any other disinfecting agents, which only correct putrid effluvia: they have no power to destroy the poison. They are worse than useless when they lead to a false security, and occasion the neglect of these more efficient means. In like manner, drinking to excess, especially ardent spirits, eating unwholesome food, such as bad potatoes, decaying vegetables, half-rotten fruit, musty or sour meal, unsound meat, stale fish, and drinking stagnant water, should be carefully avoided. Great attention should be paid to personal and domestic cleanliness. The house should be kept dry, warm, and well-ventilated.

The treatment of typhus fever.—This is better left to the medical practitioner in the locality, who is best able to judge as to the remedies most suitable for individual cases.

The following are the principles which guide the practice in the typhus fever of London:—

1. To remove all offending matters from the stomach and bowels, an emetic of salt water or ipecuanha is administered; then a grain or two of calomel, and fifteen grains of rhubarb, followed by castor-oil if necessary.

2. After the operation of the emetic and purgative, the patient is washed all over with soap and water, and put into a clean warm bed, with a fire in the room and the window open.

3. Five grains of the chlorate of potass in a wineglassful of camphor mixture is ordered every six hours. The chlorate of potass seems to aid the vital energies in expelling the poison, evinced in the improved colour of the skin, and altered state of the secretions.

The diet consists of bread and milk, or gruel, seasoned with salt instead of sugar, light broth, and fresh, well-boiled vegetables; whey, sago-tea, or lime-blossom tea, and oatmeal toast-water.

The body-linen and flannel vest is changed daily, and the sheets once a week; the dirty-linen, cotton, and flannel, is put at once into cold water, and boiled before they are washed.

From this statement it is evident that the cure of typhus fever can no more be effected by medical treatment than the cure of small pox, measles, or scarlet fever. The disease, once set in, must run its course. It terminates naturally on or about the fifteenth day. The object of medical treatment, therefore, is to avert its fatal tendency, or, in other words, to conduct the patient in safety through its different stages. If the disease do not admit of cure, much may be done towards its prevention: 1. By separating the healthy from the sick. 2. By destroying or diluting the poison. 3. By avoiding all those causes which impair the health and weaken the powers of resistance.

Montague-street, Russell-square, Aug. 1847.

ACCOUNT OF A FATAL CASE OF UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

By THOMAS LLOYD, Esq., M.R.C.S.E.,

SURGEON TO THE EAST LONDON UNION.

THINKING the following rather rare case of midwifery might prove interesting to the readers of THE LANCET, I send it you for insertion. My immediate attention was requested by the Union midwife, on Thursday, the 28th of January, about three p.m., to the case of Ann S—, aged thirty-eight, of Little Moorfields, in labour with her tenth child. Labour had commenced about six a.m.; at ten a.m., the midwife was sent for, who stated, that the pains, which were moderate, occurred about every ten minutes, until one p.m., when the membranes ruptured spontaneously, from which time they became weaker, and she had constant hæmorrhage. The midwife administered two drachms of ergot of rye, in powder, without its producing the slightest effect. Finding the labour made no progress, the hæmorrhage continuing, and the woman exceedingly