his pulse being feeble and weak, in consequence of his previous illness, and the treatment to which he had been lately subjected. I, therefore, ordered that his temple should be rubbed night and morning with an ointment consisting of mercurial ointment and opium, for the purpose of relieving pain; that belladonna should be applied to the eyebrow, to produce dilatation of the pupil; that five grains of Plummer's pill should be taken night and morning, to improve the secretions, and to cause absorption of lymph; and that he should take half a drachm of carbonate of iron, three times a day, to strengthen him.

July 6. No improvement; pain still continues.—Blister to the temple; ung. lyttæ, to keep the blister open. Let two leeches be applied, and let the other remedies be persevered in.

10. Feels less pain in the temple; has been much fatigued during the last two days; thinks he can see a little; pupil still *in statu quo*.

14. Remedies continued.

18. Less pain in the head, the blister being healed.—Let the tartar emetic ointment be applied until pustules are produced on the temple. Continue the other remedies.

22. Much the same.—Apply two leeches.

28. Two large and angry-looking pustules on the temple; iris improved in colour; pupil dilating, the adhesions giving way; can now distinguish objects.—Continue the remedies.

Aug. 2. Vision very much improved; can count the fingers on the hand when held up; adhesions rapidly giving way; pupil dilated and irregular; iris nearly of the same colour as that of the other eye.—Continue the remedies, and let the tartar emetic ointment be left off.

7. Examined the eye to-day with a powerful lens; saw the adhesions binding the iris to the capsule of the crystalline lens; capsule itself opaque, consequently, vision in the eye affected will never be so good as in the other; no redness of conjunctiva or sclerotic; says he can see nearly as well as ever.—Continue the remedies.

14. Iris of the natural colour; pupil much dilated and circular.

16. Vision very good; pupil circular, and sensible to the stimulus of light. Tired of physic; wishes to discontinue; granted.

This case is valuable on two accounts; in the first place, it teaches the necessity of never despairing of doing good in cases of iritis, even should blindness exist,—a rule forcibly inculcated by all the best writers on ophthalmic surgery; and, in the second place, it points out the necessity of enforcing the regular attendance of patients, and taking care to see the remedies put into execution, a circumstance too often neglected by patients if left to themselves (hence the reason of so many complaints amongst the out-pa-

tients of our hospitals and public institutions), for, in my humble opinion, the favourable result of this case entirely depended upon the above-mentioned cause.

September 1st, 1839.

CALCULUS IN THE FEMALE.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE BISTOURIE CACHÉE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—As calculus in the female is of rare occurrence, and as the following operation for its removal is extremely simple and safe, I have considered it my duty to record it. I must, in justice, state that a distinguished surgeon, Mr. Hodgson, was the first who adopted the practice of using the bistourie cachée, before introducing Weiss's dilator.

I forward the case for insertion in your valuable Journal, and am, Sir, your obedient servant,

PYE HENRY CHAVASSE.

12, Old-square, Birmingham,
Sept. 5, 1839.

July 25, 1836. Mrs. Mills, ætat. 45, a washerwoman, has been afflicted with stone in the bladder for twelve months. She, at times, suffers most severely; so much so that the strongest opiates will not relieve her, and she is brought into such an ill state of health that she is incapable of following her employment. After sounding her and ascertaining the presence of the stone, I proposed an operation, to which she gladly acceded; and on August 2nd, 1836, I performed it, assisted by Mr. Bindley, an intelligent surgeon of this town. A door was laid on the bed, and covered with sheets, upon which she was placed and secured in the same manner as for lithotomy. After sounding her again, "to make assurance doubly sure," I introduced the bistourie cachée in the urethra, and then drew it out cutting obliquely upwards and dividing the mucous membrane and muscular fibres of the canal, for about two or three lines. Having withdrawn the bistourie I then introduced Weiss's female dilator, and gently turned the screw, allowing a few moments to elapse between each turn. After about a quarter of an hour's cautious dilatation I found there was sufficient room to introduce a good-sized pair of forceps; and with a little care I was enabled to extract a calculus of the size of a large pigeon's egg, and of the weight of six drachmas and a half. On examining its chemical composition it was found to consist chiefly of phosphate of lime. She rapidly recovered from the operation.

After the operation the urine was thick, and of a milky appearance, but it soon became clear under the administration of the following mixture:—

Muriatic acid, forty minims ;

Comp. infusion of gentian, half a pint.

Two dessert-spoonfuls every four hours.

Sept. 2, 1836. She is now quite well with the exception of *partial incontinence of urine*.

Sept. 2, 1839. She has continued in good health up to this date, and she is gradually recovering from the incontinence of urine, so that in time I hope she will quite get the better of it. She can now hold her urine for three or four hours at a time in the day, and for the whole of the night. She expresses herself as extremely well pleased at the success of the operation.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

TRIAL FOR MURDER.—QUESTION OF DEATH BY SUFFOCATION, OR FROM APOPLEXY, DURING INTOXICATION.—CONTRADICTIONS IN MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

Held at Lancaster, August 21st, 1839, before Mr. BARON MAULE.

(Abridged from the "*Liverpool Mercury*" of Aug. 23.)

FROM the interest attached to the disputable points in the trial for "the Bury murder," by which name the present case was indicated, the Court was densely crowded during the whole of the day. The trial lasted nearly fourteen hours, and is reported at very great length in the "*Liverpool Mercury*" of August 23rd, from which paper we make the following digest:—

James Heywood, 22, was indicted for the wilful murder of *Mary Heywood*, at Bury, in April last. The general count was, that death had been produced by *suffocation*.

The prisoner was an inoffensive-looking young man.

Mr. BRANDT and Mr. BAINES conducted the prosecution. Mr. WILKINS defended the prisoner.

Mr. BRANDT stated the particulars of the case.

Margaret Walker examined.—In April last I lived as servant with prisoner and deceased, at the White Bear, in Bury. On the 15th of April prisoner came home about half-past seven in the evening, in liquor. He went to bed about half-past twelve. The prisoner and his wife had to go through my bed-room to theirs. The child, three months old, was taken to bed with them. Soon after I heard the prisoner say, "If yon young devil's in the house in the morning, I'll kick him out." This was in allusion to a boy by a former husband. They then began to count up the money they had taken that day, 24s. He said, "Is that all you have drawn, and yonder kegs were filled up last night?" She said "Yes." He said "Is that all, thou nasty, drunken w—e!"

She said she was not drunk (I saw her before she went to bed, perfectly sober.) Immediately after I heard a scuffle. She said "Oh, Jem, you will break my arm; don't punish me so bad." He said she was drunk. She said "Well, Jem, I have had only one gill of ale to-day." He said "What makes thee tell me those lies?" She said, "If I've told you a lie I beg pardon." I never heard her speak after this. I heard her groan for about four minutes. I then heard the prisoner say, "D—n thy soul, if I can find a stick I'll make thee to rise." He found a stick, and I heard him strike three times. All was then silent for about a moment. Prisoner asked his wife to get up, and said if she would not he would set fire to her, and she might smother. All was silent again. I then heard a sound as if he was lifting her up, and then a noise as if she *lumped* down; and he said she might lay there until she rotted before he lifted her up again; about four minutes after I heard a noise as though he was getting out of bed. He went to her, and said, "Mary, Mary, get up. Wilt thou not? Get into bed,—the child wants you. Get up, or else I will call up Margaret." He came to my door, and called out, "Margaret, come into the room, and see what's the matter with the mistress." I went in. The rush-light was still burning. The deceased laid on her back, with her feet towards the head of the bed. She had her night-cap and chemise on. Prisoner asked me if she was dead, and I said, "Yes, quite dead." He asked me to fetch John Parks and Mrs. Crompton. When I was going out of the room he said she had fallen off the bed. Before I left the room I observed the bed, and thought that only one grown person and the child had been in it. In the morning the prisoner said, "Margaret, was you asleep? Did you hear your mistress fall off the bed?" I said, "No; mistress never was in." He said, "Yea, she was; and added, that if I was going to tell those tales I should do him at once; I should get him into a hobble." I said, "I shall tell the truth." He said I was lying. I said, "Oh, Jem, where are those sticks you struck her with?" He said he never lifted a hand up to her.

Cross-examined.—I lived with the prisoner a month. He appeared to live comfortably with his wife. There is a door on the landing of the stairs which leads into the "big room," in which a soldier, *Moses Fry*, went to bed. When I went into the room, at the call of my master, I saw in an instant that mistress was dead; she looked very pale, and was stiff. The doctor lives next door but two to my master. When I heard what was going on in mistress's bed-room the nurse-maid was in bed with me. We did not either of us get out of bed until called by master. My master spoke in an affectionate tone when he said, "Mary,