top of a syringe, and this forms the apparatus and means of introducing liquids into the mouth, *without unclosing the teeth*. The patient should be placed on a bed, an assistant inclining the head backward, and keeping it steady, at the same time compressing the nostrils with the finger and thumb. The pipe having been screwed to the syringe, its joint is to be immersed in the liquid to be injected, (whether food or medicine) and the syringe charged, by drawing up the piston. It is then to be introduced into the corner of the mouth, and passed along between the teeth and the cheek, the shaft of the pipe parallel to the front teeth; the point inclining downwards towards the gums, and in this direction the extremity slides into the space behind the last molar tooth, and is projected into the mouth by the pipe being brought to a right angle with the lips; a slight elevation of the instrument fixing the hook firmly behind the dens sapientiæ of the upper jaw. The fluid propelled by the syringe striking upon the *velum pendulum palati*, falls upon the root of the tongue, near the glottis, and the nostrils being closed, the patient is driven to the necessity of breathing by the mouth, previously to which, the fluid must be projected, by the action of deglutition, beyond the epiglottis into the pharynx. The fluid should be injected in small quantities, not exceeding a table-spoonful at a time, the operator waiting between each jet until he has ascertained that the previous portion has been swallowed; and of this he may be assured by observing the elevation of the larynx, as also by a slight murmuring sound, occasioned by the act of swallowing. In this cautious manner, a pint or even a quart of fluid if necessary, may be administered in a very short time, unaccompanied by pain or nausea, and without affording the patient the capability of rejecting any part of it.

In cases of trismus, the employment of this instrument would be often desirable; and in the administration of medicine to refractory children it may be rendered subservient to the object desired.

After repeated trials with various syringes, I find none so eligible as those furnished me by Mr. Read of Newington Causeway, the patent air pipe of which gives the operation a desirable cleanliness, facility, and power.

ACUPUNCTURATION

BY

MR. WANSBROUGH OF FULHAM.

HAVING witnessed the instantaneous, and, I may add, astonishing effect of Acupuncture as a remedial mean, in the first case that came under my notice, I resolved to give the operation a fair trial in every instance wherein its use should be indicated.

I was fortunate enough to meet with the cases here detailed, and the results of my practice have convinced me that acupuncture, under certain regulations, and in the hands of a skilful surgeon, is a powerful agent in the practice of surgery, whilst it conveys to the *liberal* mind, the pleasurable gratification of affording to human suffering instantaneous relief, by a more expeditious and efficacious mode than any other remedy in such cases hitherto known and employed. The introduction of the needle is seldom felt after touching the cutis, and then only when, perhaps, it encounters a filament of a nerve; the pain, in that case, is sometimes acute, but it is only momentary, and immediate relief is the result, at least I have found it so. I have never ventured beyond simply introducing the instrument, nor have I ventured near the trunks or larger branches of nerves. I confess, that with all my zeal for the remedy, I should not like to risk the pricking of either with an acupuncture needle; neither have I ventured to apply galvanism as an auxiliary; my cases prove successful without its aid, and I therefore leave that part of the subject to more experienced surgeons than myself.

CASE I.—Mr. A. W., aged 50, a very corpulent subject, of about eighteen stone weight, was violently attacked by lumbago; after undergoing the ordeal of bleeding, purging, and embrocations without relief, on learning that I possessed the means of affording him immediate ease, sent for me to come to him immediately, and bring my “needles” with me. I found the poor fellow writhing with pain, beneath three blankets and a thick counterpane, under which he had been kept until he was bathed in perspiration. The seat of the pain was precisely over the whole of the sacrum, and extended to the *alæ ischii*. I introduced three needles into the part, to the bone, immediately over the centre of it, each

two inches apart; the pain was instantly transferred to the left gluteus. I suffered the needles to remain half a minute, and then inserted them into that fleshy muscle, three-fourths of an inch deep, where the enemy had made a stand. *Two* needles routed him thence into the biceps, whence he finally posted himself in the gastrocnemii in the line of attack. *One* needle ultimately expelled him from this last position, and freed my patient from all pain. The operation lasted about five minutes. Mr. W. then got up and dressed himself, expressing the greatest astonishment at what he termed the "magical effect of the needles"!!!

Six hours after the enemy made a faint attack, but was instantly repulsed by one needle, and the patient left in quiet possession of the field, which he has enjoyed uninterrupted ever since.

CASE 2.—I was called to a poor woman, who had been confined to her bed three days by a severe attack of lumbago, suffering the most acute agony upon the slightest movement; the pain was referred to the back, on which she had lain since the attack.

With some difficulty and suffering she was turned on her face, and, on examination, the seat of the disease was ascertained to be in the *lower third* of the longissimi dorsi. I introduced three needles, an inch deep, into those muscles, two into the right and one into the left. The first needle was scarcely felt; the second occasioned acute pain, which excited a piercing cry; the severity of the pain, however, subsided entirely in a few seconds, and the third needle was passed insensibly; the distances observed in this case was the same as in the last, viz. an inch. In less than four minutes the needles were withdrawn, the patient no longer experiencing any inconvenience, save stiffness from having laid so long on her back. Although perfectly freed from pain, it was enough to excite a smile to witness the woman's scepticism on the success of the operation; she could scarcely credit the evidence of her senses, for when desired to turn on her back she obeyed with hesitation and doubt, dreading least she should encounter the "pain." She, however, at length succeeded, not only in turning, but sat up in bed, to the great joy of herself and her anxious husband, who witnessed the operation, and its happy effects, in breathless expectation. It was very gratifying to see the poor creature sit up; her countenance beamed with delight, equalled only by her astonishment and grateful thanks for

the "wonderful cure" I had wrought in her!

I saw her the next day up and about, attending to her family of six infant children. The pains had not returned.

CASE 3.—An old man, 70 years of age, came into my surgery, his body bent immoveably to almost a right angle, and walked, or rather hobbled, with difficulty; I at first attributed his appearance to the infirmity of years, but was surprised to learn from him, that he had come nearly a mile "to be relieved by my needles." He was suffering under a severe attack of lumbago in the longissimi dorsi.

Three needles introduced, as in the former case, performed a cure, and in five minutes the old man became again erect, and could stoop to the ground, which delighted him exceedingly. He walked out a very different being to what he was when he entered, and departed, leaving me his blessing.

CASE 4.—This old man, a few days after, met another in the same plight, whom he recommended to me for relief. The operation was performed on him in the same manner as his predecessor, and with the like result. He also left me his blessing!

I was sent for to another old man, 70 years of age, affected in the same manner. I succeeded with him in an equal ratio with the others, and left him to pursue his avocation as a labouring gardner.

In all these three cases, the attacks were occasioned by cold, from getting wet.

CASE 6.—A gentleman of strong muscular fibre, applied to me on account of a severe and distressing pain in the right hypochondrium, which affected his respiration. As the affection seemed purely muscular, I introduced two needles over the region of the right hepatic lobe; the second needle entered beyond the muscle into the peritoneal cavity. The patient felt a very acute pain for a moment, which rather alarmed me; I, however, suffered the instrument to remain about twenty seconds, when it was withdrawn, and all pain ceased. No unpleasant symptom has since occurred.

I know, if we are to credit the statements to that effect in the French Journals, that the abdominal cavity, in fact, almost *all* the *cavities* have been pierced, not excepting the pericardium, nay, even the heart has come in for its share; but this is nothing in an age of miracles: but —verbum sat.

The wife of the last mentioned gentleman complained of a pain in her shoulder, which prevented her from using the arm. I found the subscapularis muscle affected; a needle was passed obliquely up to the hilt, under the posterior inferior angle of the scapula, and into the muscle; a sharp pain was felt; an instant after the patient declared herself quite well, and moved her arm about with perfect ease. The needle was withdrawn at the end of half a minute: no further inconvenience was felt.

CASE 8.—A lady applied to me, suffering under violent pain in the deltoid, which had deprived her of appetite and rest for three days and nights. She had used embrocations without having received any benefit from them. Two needles introduced into the muscle, performed a cure in three minutes. She raised her arm to her head, and turned it about in every way, in wonder and astonishment, at the sudden and effectual relief she had so unexpectedly received.

This brief detail will, I trust, recommend acupuncture to the timid practitioner, with a success equal to my own. As respects the *modus operandi*, I have proceeded in every case according to the recommendation of Mr. Churchill, in his useful little work on acupuncture, to which I beg to refer the readers of THE LANCET for further information on the subject. I may just observe, that the cases on which I so successfully operated were all simple local rheumatism; in only one case did blood issue from the punctures made by the needles, and that but a small drop. I shall not here hazard an hypothesis of the *modus operandi* of acupuncture on the animal economy; but, at the same time, I am free to confess myself sceptical on the creed, that its effects are produced by the escape of air from the cellular membrane through the punctures made by the needles! This conclusion is not proved, neither do I believe it can be. The very form of the instrument is a barrier to the escape of air, and, moreover, the cure is often performed before the needles are withdrawn, and frequently by causing acute pain in the act of introducing them. These are premises that warrant a very different conclusion in the rationale of the effect of acupuncture, than the escape of air; but what that conclusion is, I know not, but I believe it to depend on some of those mysterious operations of nature that will ever be beyond the reach of human ken, and which by consequence constitute the *ne plus ultra* of physiological research. This may be considered a

gratuitous assumption, but is, nevertheless, true.

So much for "the magical effects of the needles," and their antipathy to the enemy—pain; which, being driven from the sacrum, flew to the glutens, to the "imminent breach," there making "a stand." Two needles "routed him thence into the biceps," whence he finally posted himself in the bastion of the gastrocnemii, in the line of attack. Expelled from this position also, the victory seemed complete. "Six hours after," however, the enemy made another attack, but was soon repulsed—*hastamque receptat ossibus hærentem*, "leaving the patient in quiet possession of the field!" Doubtless, the author receives all the "blessings" and thanks which successful generals are wont to receive. We only doubt, whether he ought not to have a *corona muralis*. His despatches are interesting.

TO SIR J. M'GREGOR, M. D., &c.

SIR,—In a late number of the *Morning Herald*, I observe a letter, signed SENEX, addressed to you, complaining of the very long period that surgeons of the army have to serve before they can retire. Senex deserves your thanks, and those of all army surgeons, for having brought the matter before the public; however, I must say, although his statement is uncontestably true, it is rather short; the subject ought to have been treated more in detail. He truly states that the military officer may sell his commission and retire, after having served 21 years; but he might have added, that the surgeon with a broken constitution cannot retire until he attains the age of 53, while the military man may retire still in the vigour of manhood, at the age of 37; and I leave you, Sir, to consider, the expenditure of time and money which must have accrued during the acquirement of classical and medical knowledge, as Senex truly observes, unassisted by any "public institution."