as to the possibility of effecting a cure without extirpation, but without something on which to ground my argument, some facts to communicate, I prefer observing silence.

In the case of this patient pressure is the only remedy which I have not employed among those Mr. Brown has referred to in his paper, but as I am daily anticipating a return of her symptoms, I shall make a trial of his favourite *pressure*, after the spontaneous effort of nature, should that reoccur, or after tapping, if I am compelled to have recourse to that.

Sloane-terrace, Chelsea, May 17, 1844.

STRONG LIQUID AMMONIA IN FACIAL NEURALGIA.

By THOMAS BARRETT, Esq.

SOME months since I read an article in one of the foreign journals on the application (as a means of relief) of the strong liquid ammonia to the fauces in facial neuralgia. Since then I have tried this remedy in five cases with so much success that I am induced to mention it through your Journal.

I apply the strong liquid ammonia, by means of a camel-hair pencil, to the palate and fauces, and I have found by it most severe cases of facial neuralgia lessened and relieved in a very few minutes.

Bath, May 20, 1844.

PASSAGE OF A FOREIGN BODY THROUGH THE PRIMÆ VIÆ.

By FRED. RICHARDSON, Esq., Cheltenham.

THE following case may prove interesting, as showing how large a body may pass the several constrictions of the primæ viæ without causing any serious mischief:—

Sunday, May 19, three, p.m. Grace Symes, aged nine years, swallowed a halfpenny; it occupied about half a minute in passing the œsophagus, its passage through which was attended with considerable pain. About two hours afterwards vomiting commenced, and continued unabated until five o'clock the next day (twenty-four hours), at which time the child suffered excruciating pain, and I have no doubt it was then passing the pylorus, for from that time the pain and vomiting ceased; at five o'clock on Tuesday (fifty hours after it had been swallowed) it was voided with the fæces, but not without considerable difficulty. The halfpenny is not at all altered in appearance by the juices of the stomach, but the edges are brightened by mechanical attrition in its passage.

EXTIRPATION OF DRACUNCULI FROM THE EYE.

By Dr. WILLIAM LONEY.

In looking over some cases which I noted while acting as surgeon in her Majesty's brigantine *Dolphin*, on the west coast of Africa, in the years 1841-42, I lighted on two cases of dracunculus, which, from their very great rarity, appeared to me worthy of being recorded in THE LANCET. The patients were both natives of Africa (Kroomen), and their cases being in every particular alike, one description will suffice for both. They applied to me, one in April, and the other in June, 1842, with itching, and a sensation as if something was moving about in the eye. On examination, I observed a worm moving round and round the cornea, beneath the conjunctiva, causing very little, if any, irritation, for up to the dates of their applications to me they appeared to have been unconscious of the presence of a foreign body. The extraction was performed without any difficulty by snipping off a small portion of the conjunctiva, raised on a tenaculum, over the centre of the worm. In conclusion, I would state that neither of the dracunculi, when extracted, were found to exceed two inches in length.

Royal Naval Hospital, Woolwich, May 18, 1844.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

ITALIAN JOURNALS.

PUTRILAGINOUS SOFTENING OF THE FUNDUS OF THE UTERUS AT THE LAST STAGE OF PREGNANCY. (*Annali di Metaxa.*)

THE wife of a barber, thirty-seven years of age, of an irritable temperament, had arrived at the latter period of her first pregnancy without anything peculiar having presented itself, with the exception of a sensation of burning, which she had experienced during the last month. The labour commenced in the morning, but from twelve o'clock until the evening the pains became less frequent and less intense, and ceased at six. The patient then suddenly appeared anxious and agitated; the face became pale; the body was covered with perspiration; and the form of the abdomen changed. The pulse was small, the features were contracted, the sight became dim. The orifice of the uterus was closed; on exploring the abdomen, the trunk, the nates, and the spinal column were felt very near the hand. No other symptom of hæmorrhage or of uterine lesion existing, the only treatment resorted to was warm fomentations and a cordial mixture. At eleven o'clock the patient expired. Gastro-hysterotomy, which was performed a few hours after death showed that the child had escaped from the uterus into the abdomen, through the fundus of that organ. The fundus presented a putrilaginous softening, from five to seven inches in circumference, irregularly circular, that had given way under the influence of the uterine contraction. The amniotic sac was ruptured; the child, full-grown, appeared to have lived unto the time of the rupture. The entire trunk had passed into the abdominal cavity, the head only having remained in the inferior segment of the uterus. The placenta, of a green colour, was still adherent to its place of insertion.

Two months afterwards the same physician, Dr. Pavetti, was called to another female, thirty-two years of age, very corpulent, mother of four children, who had arrived at the end of her fifth pregnancy. She was taken with labour-pains in the evening, and the labour progressed naturally until two o'clock in the morning. Suddenly the pains ceased; the woman became anxious and agitated, and wished to rise. The neck of the uterus, which was previously dilating naturally, closed. Dr. Pavetti recognised the same symptoms as in the former case, with the exception that the fœtus was not to be felt through the abdominal parietes, which were very thick. At eight in the morning the woman appeared about to expire, but only died in the evening. The Cæsarean operation was immediately performed, and showed the fœtus and the genital organs to be exactly in the same state as in the former case. This woman had presented no unusual symptoms during her pregnancy.

In the above cases the symptoms of rupture of the uterus were so evident that they could scarcely be mistaken. Under such circumstances an effort ought certainly to have been made to save the life of the women by effecting forcible delivery. They appear to have been allowed to die without an attempt having been made to save them. In the latter case the closing of the neck of the uterus was the natural result of the expulsion of the fœtus from its cavity.

CEREBRAL APOPLEXY, WITH PARALYSIS AND EFFUSION ON THE SAME SIDE. (*Bulletino delle Scienze Mediche.*)

M. Freschi narrates an example of hemiplegia occupying the same side as the effusion. A woman, fifty years of age, had experienced, some years previously, an attack of paralysis of the *right* arm, from which she had recovered. On the 2d of September, 1842, she suddenly cried out for help, stating that she felt her *right* arm and leg dying, then lost all consciousness, and expired in the evening. At the autopsy the left cerebral hemisphere was found completely healthy. That of the *right* side was transformed into an immense cavity, containing a solid coagulum and fluid blood. The other regions of the brain were quite healthy.