tively limited, and we are not able to meet it with that energy and vigor which the circumstances of the case require.

"Where bleeding has been carried to a great extent, symptoms frequently occur which in reality arise from the loss of blood; but which a superficial observer will be led to attribute to the injury itself, and concerning which, indeed, it is sometimes difficult even for the most experienced surgeon to pronounce, in the first instance, to which of these two causes they are to be referred. Repeated copious bloodletting is of itself adequate to produce a hardness of the pulse, which we shall in vain endeavor to subdue by persevering in the same system of treatment. In many individuals it will produce headach and confusion of mind, not very different from what the injury itself had previously occasioned. These things may be observed especially in young females who are disposed to hysteria, and whom I have often known to suffer from a continued aggravation of such symptoms as I have described, while the system of depletion has been continued; recovering immediately on the use of the lancet being laid aside, and on their being allowed to take solid nourishment, with occasional doses of the carbonate of ammonia."

IV.

SELECTIONS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Peculiar Affection of the Wrist, occurring in Hysterical Patients.

Described by Mr. BRODIE.

In a recent clinical lecture on a case of rheumatism of the hand,

Mr. Brodie, after reading the de-

tails, considered, *seriatim*, the history and symptoms, pointing out their similarity to those which denote inflammation of the synovial membrane. Having expressed his opinion that the patient labored under rheumatic inflammation of this membrane, Mr. Brodie observed, that when he first saw the case, being able to give it but a cursory glance, he suspected the existence of another affection.

Females, said Mr. Brodie, of nervous and irritable temperament, especially those who have suffered from mental anxiety, are liable to a peculiar affection of the wrist; and, unlike the generality of hysterical complaints, the married and unmarried are subject to it in nearly a similar proportion. The patient complains of pain in the wrist, which, after continuing a certain space of time, is followed by a kind of puffy swelling, extending up the forearm and down to the fingers. This swelling has many of the characters of that produced by synovial inflammation, but differs from it in this, that it is more diffused. Sometimes the swelling is extensive; sometimes so slight as barely to be seen. Having lasted some days or weeks, it subsides, whilst the pain remains, constant in its character, aggravated by every motion, and rendered worse by the patient's attention being drawn to it. To prevent that motion which she dreads so much, the patient keeps her hand in one position; in consequence of which the joint grows stiff and rigid, and the parts assume a very characteristic appearance, the skin being tense and glossy, and appearing to adhere pretty closely to the textures underneath.

The patient may continue for three

months, six months, or one or two years ; at the end of which time it in general subsides, leaving behind it a stiffness of the hand and fingers, from which the patient will gradually recover. In one case, however, and in Mr. B.'s experience only in one, the pain continued for three or four years, when the hand was left shrunk and withered, the fingers being contracted, and drawn into the palm. The nails had grown lank, scabrous, and rough. This was the case of a lady who consulted Mr. Brodie in the year 1819. Subsequently, she went upon the continent ; but when seen by Mr. Brodie on her return, a little while ago, the hand was in the condition above described. Mr. Brodie once saw a similar affection in the foot, which was distorted and useless ; the toe nails scabrous and rough, with ulcers at their edges.

Having touched on this affection, in illustration of the case which formed the subject of the lecture, Mr. Brodie thought it better to allude to the treatment. As the health is in general weak, remedies calculated to improve it are also of service to the local complaint ; and in two instances, bark was decidedly of use. From a scruple to half a drachm of the carbonate of ammonia in the course of the day, paying at the same time attention to the bowels, is often a powerful remedy. If the menstruation is irregular, that irregularity is to be corrected by suitable remedies, as the vinum alois, steel, and similar means. As a local application, the following embrocation will frequently lull the pain.

Mist. Camph. 3 viss.

Spt. Rosmarin. 3 iss.

This should be applied tepid on a rag.

A plaster, composed of equal parts of the emplastrum saponis, and emplastrum belladonnæ, is frequently useful ; at any rate, even when it does no good, it can do no harm. The vapor bath, especially in the advanced stage of the complaint, is also a serviceable remedy. At the same time that local or general measures are employed, the surgeon should bear in mind one important caution—never to draw the attention of the patient to her disorder more than is absolutely necessary.

Many remarks on the subject of rheumatic inflammation were made by Mr. Brodie, which we here omit, confining our report to our other malady.

Cure of Opacity of the Cornea by Insufflations of Calomel.

This practice is commonly adopted by the surgeons of Hotel Dieu. In M. Breschet's ward, a remarkable instance of its efficacy was seen in complete restoration of the transparency of the upper part of the cornea, which, previously to its use, was perfectly opaque. The patient, on being questioned, stated that on his admission, he was in a state of the most confirmed blindness, unable to distinguish light from darkness, although the transparency of the upper half of the cornea has been reproduced. The pupil is closed, and the patient is reserved for an artificial pupil. He is now susceptible of the impression of light to so great a degree, that, notwithstanding the occlusion of the pupil, he cannot remain in the courtyard exposed to the vivid rays of the sun.—*Lon. Med. and Phys. Journ.*

Cure of White Swelling by Frictions of Iodine, by Dr. LUGOL.

The use of iodine in scrofulous tumors is strongly recommended by the most eminent French surgeons. M. Breschet, in his lectures, speaks of it in the highest terms. The same treatment is pursued with advantage at the Hôpital St. Louis, from the records of which a recent cure of white swelling and tumor of the jaw may be cited as a proof of its efficacy.

The patient had white swelling, with several fistulous ulcers, on the knee; the leg was bent on the thigh, and utterly useless. He had also a large tubercular tumor on the right side of the face, which seemed to have its origin over the maxillary joint. The swelling was such that the man could scarcely open his mouth, and the flat edge of a penny-piece was the largest substance he could introduce between his teeth. These tumors have entirely disappeared, under the use of iodine frictions.

Journ. de Hopitaux.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 1829.

EDITORS' NOTICE.

WITH this number closes the first volume of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. The Editors embrace this opportunity to acknowledge their obligations to those of their brethren who have aided them in conducting this Journal. The labor of the Editors has not been so well executed as they could wish. The habits and duties of our profession are not favorable to a regular division of time or labor. It has, however, been accomplished on the

original plan, and a volume extending to beyond eight hundred pages is now completed.

The purpose of this work is the improvement of our profession. It is to present to our readers, regularly and frequently, useful, interesting, and novel facts. To accomplish this, the principal and best journals, both weekly and quarterly, are imported from abroad; and almost all our own medical journals are received.

The management of works devoted to periodical literature is an office of much responsibility. This is found in the influence such works may, and should have, upon the profession. If well conducted, they bring into frequent view established principles, by the new and important facts which they contain; and increase the amount of our resources of practice. True, the information they offer will consist much in the detail of insulated facts; but the accurate observer is a student of resemblances, as well as differences, and may frequently, with great advantage, adapt to his own case, the methods which others have found useful in the apparently similar. Every practitioner must have felt his obligations to periodical publications for the light which in this way they have frequently shed over his practice. He has, in short, been made a better practitioner, and must acknowledge the benefits he has derived from these works.

Another purpose of this work is to present a ready opportunity to all our brethren to communicate such cases or remarks as may be interest-