cases in which previous modes of treatment, of almost every possible kind, had been found to fail.*

I will now bring to a close the observations which I have put together on the subject. To resume: After continuing to use the galium in several cases subsequent to my first visit to the Asile at Tain, I determined to pay a second visit in the autumn of last year, hoping to find the expectations regarding the enlargement of the institution realized. This I did in August, but found that in most respects things were much in the same condition as when I was there previously. Some slight alterations had been effected, but I did not learn that the accommodation for patients had been to any great degree enlarged. One patient whom I mentioned as having met and talked with at my first visit, in 1858, was still there, deriving, as he thought, benefit; and I was glad to find that they were building a handsome solid stone chapel for the use of the Asile, apart from the building itself. This was provided with two separate large recesses, for the accommodation of patients when attacked with seizures during Divine service. I have no doubt that not only will the provision of a chapel conduce to the comfort of the patients, but that the administrations connected therewith will contribute towards the success of the general treatment pursued. I believe that the non-accomplishment of the contemplated enlargement of operations is owing to the calls upon public sympathy being less readily responded to than was anticipated. Moreover, I found that Dr. Piolla, whom I before described as having contributed by his courtesy towards my understanding so much of what was being done there, had left the neighbourhood. In his place was Dr. Perriat, a gentleman practising at Tournon, who kindly showed me several cases of much interest amongst the inmates.

As regards the galium, I found that since my previous visit, in addition to the pâtes, two other preparations of the juice were made—namely, one combined with chocolate, and one in the form of a syrup. These were made for the convenience of those who visited the Asile periodically; to be used, like the lozenges,† in the interval. The syrup is sold under the term, “Sirop anti-spasmodique,” and is described as having been employed with success in all affections of the nervous system, in the case of irritable persons, and of those who are fatigued after prolonged exertions, or by chronic disease. It is said to possess to some degree the advantages of opium without its inconveniences, “calming, without acting upon the brain,” producing quiet nights, and replacing all narcotic preparations, “which,” it is said, “ought always to be excluded from the treatment of nervous affections.” It is to be taken morning and evening, two hours before and after food, in doses of one or two tablespoonfuls, in an infusion either of the lime or orange-leaves. Moreover I found that since my previous visit, M. Larnage had had prepared a number of questions, printed on paper, to be answered by patients who apply for relief, so that in time he may procure a series of regular and valuable statistical observations. The questions are on the following heads:—Name, residence, age, profession, height, state of life (married or not), temperament, character, state of intelligence, state of memory, health of father and mother or cause of their death, age at which the attacks appeared, cause of attacks, period of time of their occurrence, at what intervals, mode of access of the attacks, duration of attacks, condition of patients after the attacks, what remedies have been used and with what effect, whether the attacks occur in the day or night. It is clear that replies to these queries from so many patients as come to Tain twice a year, would furnish interesting scientific results; yet

* I would here allude to a popular description of the galium system of cure recommended at Tain, which I have just had pointed out to me, to be found in a little periodical called “The Monthly Packet” (see number for January, 1862). This account is written by one who had been a patient at Tain, and contains allusion to several cases of benefit and cure. It is stated: “Last year I saw a young lady who had been entirely cured. She had come indeed (to Tain) to take the medicine as a continuance of precaution, but had not had a fit for a year and a half. I knew a young gentleman, also, who came to stay at the Hospice, where, also, there was at the time another Englishman. Both were cured. In the letter that I have referred to before there is an account of a French priest of Toulouse, who had become quite idiotic from having suffered for six years from this disease. There was another of a Piedmontese gentleman, who had been a sufferer for thirty years, and was reduced to the same melancholy condition. By the persevering use, however, of this system both were eventually cured: their faculties were restored, and they were able to resume their occupations.”

† As in the case of the pâtes or lozenges of galium, the syrup and chocolate are only to be bought at the Pharmacie du Bureau de Bienfaisance, Maison de Secours des Seigneurs de St. Vincent de Paul, where it is sold for the good of the poor, and given gratuitously to all who can produce a certificate of poverty, signed by the mayor and curé of their district, and of the epileptic nature of their case by the physician. The lozenges are sold at three francs a box, containing twenty-four. The “sirop” is sold in bottles, at eight and four francs each, of about the size of wine bottles.

considering the amount and kind of research which has been of late devoted to the study of epilepsy and kindred affections, and the numerous alliances and connexions which it has been found to possess, more comprehensive and particular questions might advantageously have been proposed in addition.

Such, then, is the sum of the information which I am in the position to offer regarding the Asile at Tain, and what may be called the galium treatment there afforded. I will not now be so bold as to give any definite opinion regarding the claims of the treatment upon the attention of the profession. Whether the supposed anti-epileptic virtues of the galium are due to eliminative or to sedative properties—or whether, indeed, the method of treatment adopted derives any considerable measure of its success from the galium, or is only valuable by reason of the hygienic accompaniments, the attention to diet, the well-ordered life in reference to exercise, sleep, mental emotions, &c., regulation of the secretions, &c., which are very strictly enforced*—I will not take upon myself to determine. I am well aware of the valuable effects of these hygienic and common-sense precautions in the treatment of epilepsy, *whatever strictly therapeutic line is followed out* (advantages which, however, the crowds who flock to Tain yearly can hardly be supposed to possess to any extent); and I also well know what effect, of a longer or shorter duration, the use of anything like a *new remedy* has upon many patients. Yet, with all these considerations, I have felt that the manner in which the galium treatment has been from time to time for many years spoken of, and the use of it in my own hands, afforded ample reason for its being well considered and brought prominently forward, in order that, by abundant and simultaneous trials in diverse cases and under various circumstances, its expected properties—the *rationale* of its action—may be thoroughly tested.†

I would press the galium album upon the attention of the profession as at any rate not wholly unworthy of trial, not merely in reference to epilepsy, but also in reference to other diseases in which the class of remedies termed sedatives and anti spasmodics are usually considered necessary.

Upper Brook-street, May, 1862.

CASES IN PRACTICE.

By FREDERICK DALTON, Esq., M.R.C.S.

THE following cases have lately been under my care, and may, perhaps, be of some interest:—

The first case is that of a lady, aged sixty, single, suffering from a painful sore at the side of the right labia minora. It commenced early in February, 1859, slowly increased, and resisted the usual remedies, including caustic and black-wash externally, with mercury and opium internally. By the month of May the sore was about an inch and a half in diameter, situated on indurated tissue, the edges everted, with a slight irritating discharge. Its severe lancinating pain rendered the contact of dressing unbearable.

May 14th, 1859—I commenced using a lotion, composed of one drachm of trisnitrate of bismuth, with an ounce and a half of olive oil, to be dropped on to the sore every hour or two; my patient taking a draught containing five grains of iodide of potassium three times a day. In the course of a few days the pain somewhat diminished; and at the end of three weeks the sore looked less unhealthy. The treatment was continued till October, when the sore was completely healed.

The second case is one of cancer, occurring in the breast of the housekeeper of the above lady. The patient was unmarried, aged forty-nine. Menstruation had ceased two years previously. A swelling was first observed in July, 1861. This

* “Aer, esca, quies, repletia, gaudium, somnus—
Hæc moderata juvant, immoderata nocent.”

† I find from the Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions, edited by Jacob Bell, vol. xii., p. 190, 1852-3, that Robert Schwarz analyzed the galium verum, and found it to contain the same principles as the galium apurine—i.e., besides chlorophyll, starch matter, and other principles common to all plants, three distinct acids—namely, a variety of tannin which he terms gall-tannic acid, citric acid, and a peculiar acid previously discovered by Schwartz and Rochleder, and named rubichloric acid. Now it must be remembered that the uses of the galium apurine have long been known as aperient, diuretic, and antiscorbutic (see Wood and Bache's Dispensatory of the United States of America, eleventh edition, 1853, p. 1414). Possibly, from all this, the view that the action of galium verum or mollugo is eliminative, may receive strength. Another variety, the galium rotundifolium, was considered as to its medical properties, which are described as being “blood-purifying,” in an Inaugural Dissertation by Selig at Erlangen in 1802.

slowly increased till the middle of December, when its growth became more rapid. When first examined on the 3rd of Jan. last, it felt as a hard, irregular, rounded mass, about four inches in diameter, and free, except at the portion to which the nipple was retracted.* The superficial veins were enlarged, and the integuments becoming slightly inflamed. The axillary glands were not affected.

On the 9th of January (my patient objecting to chloroform) I removed the tumour by transfixing the breast for the outer flap, and then dissecting as usual. On the third day the wound was healed, with the exception of a small portion, which has since granulated healthily.

Under the microscope the tumour exhibits the cells considered diagnostic of cancer. My patient, who is in good health, is now taking liquor arsenicalis, in small doses, with her meals.

Doughty-street, May, 1862.

A Mirror

OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN THE HOSPITALS OF LONDON.

Nulla est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quam plurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tam aliorum proprias, collectas habere et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI. *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. 14. Proœmium.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

CARCINOMA OF THE SPINE, HEART, INTESTINES, AND OTHER ORGANS, IN A BOY AGED FIFTEEN YEARS; PARAPLEGIA; DEATH.

(Under the care of Dr. REES.)

THE following case is full of interest on account of its extreme rarity. The spinal symptoms were manifested only five weeks before admission, having produced complete paraplegia. The reader will obtain much information, with the details of several cases of cancer affecting the spinal column, meninges, and medulla, in Dr. Walshe's valuable monograph on this disease. This physician mentions, that when cardiac cancer is associated with cancer elsewhere, it is always secondary; and of twenty-five cases which he had brought together, in two only was it affirmed to be limited to the heart.

Samuel J.—, aged fifteen, was admitted into John ward on the 17th of December, 1861. About five weeks before this he began to feel pain in his back, and soon afterwards weakness in his legs. This had increased to total paralysis when he was admitted. There was paraplegia, of motion complete, and loss of sensation as high as the knees. The paralysis gradually increased upwards until the respiration became affected, but the arms remained free. A tumour could be felt in the lower part of the abdomen. He died on the 31st.

Autopsy, twenty four hours after death.—The body was spare, and on the buttock was a slight bed-sore. Spine: On cutting through the skin, a mass of cancer was seen infiltrating the muscles over the upper part of the dorsal region. This cancer had penetrated between the arches of the vertebræ, and had entered the spinal cord. To the outer surface of the sheath at this part cancerous growths were attached. On opening the sheath the arachnoid appeared quite healthy, and the cancer had not entered. At one or two spots on the cord slight projections existed, which suggested the presence of some distinct deposits of cancer; as, however, the cord was here much softened, this was not satisfactorily ascertained. On passing the finger along the whole length of the cord, the projections in the cervical and lumbar regions were found to be of their na-

tural hardness; but the whole of the cord between these was remarkably soft. When incised, the softened medullary matter squeezed out in a semifluid form. This was most apparent in the upper part of the dorsum, where the disease existed outside. Numerous granular bodies were seen by the microscope.—The lungs were in a state of chronic lobular pneumonia. The lower lobe was solidified, the section showing masses of grey hepatization scattered through them, and the intervening tissue the subject of a more recent inflammation. No cancer was discernible. The heart contained the usual coagula; but growing from the septum auriculorum was a carcinomatous tumour about the size of a small walnut, and attached by its long axis. It grew from the lower border of the foramen ovale, and projected into the right auricle. This growth did not appear in any way to interfere with the heart's action.—Abdomen: At the lower part of the belly, and lying more on the right side, was a tumour covered by omentum. On removing the latter, it was found quite movable, being a cancerous growth of the large intestine. The tumour was about the size of a closed fist, and was formed by cancer of the coats of the bowel and cancer of the mesentery and its glands. On cutting through the intestine, the disease was seen to affect its coats throughout, and the intestine, being distended, formed a large cancerous surface the size of the open hand. The walls were nearly a third of an inch in thickness, and apparently composed entirely of the new substance. The mucous membrane was in parts destroyed, but the peritoneal coat remained, the disease appearing through it as a milk-white tumour. The walls of the diseased part were very hard, and the cancer did not suddenly cease by a defined edge, but was continued upwards and downwards in the submucous coat; and, as a consequence, the valvulæ conniventes, being thus infiltrated, projected as hard ridges across the bowel. The mucous membrane being here intact, it required the finger to feel how the usually soft folds of mucous membrane had become changed into these hardened ridges. The cancer extended into the mesentery, and some of the neighbouring glands were enlarged. The adventitious substance was soft, but did not emit so opaque and milky a juice as in the most marked cerebiform; it appeared to contain much delicate fibrous tissue. At this part it was not apparent in which tissue the disease had commenced; but a short distance from it, another portion of bowel was affected in a less degree, which clearly showed that the disease had commenced in the coats themselves. A white hard mass, about the size of a half crown, was observed in the coats of the intestine, and, on cutting open the bowel, this was seen to be formed in the coats opposite the mesentery. It had not quite encircled the bowel, and thus the side attached to the mesentery was free. The mucous and serous membranes being free, the disease appeared to be formed in the sub-tissue either of mucous or serous membrane. The disease was situated at about the lower end of the jejunum. The liver and spleen were healthy. Kidneys contained several large nodules of cancer. Both testes contained cancer, or rather the epididymis of both, and the vas deferens of the left.

CANCER HOSPITAL.

CARCINOMA OF THE SPINE AND OF BOTH BREASTS; FATAL RESULT.

(Under the care of Mr. WEEDEN COOKE.)

J. B.—, aged forty-five, was admitted in April, 1860, with scirrhus of both breasts. The induration was extending across the sternal interval, the "*scirrhe en plaques*" of Velpeau. She improved in her general health, and no progress in the disease was apparent until about two months after admission, when she began to complain of pain in the region of the first lumbar vertebra, with much loss of power in the lower extremities. This increased until she became quite unable to rise from or turn in her bed; faintings and great general prostration of strength, with sleepless nights, supervened, and she lost all appetite for food. The bowels acted with great difficulty, but there was no retention of urine. There was slight enlargement over the first lumbar vertebra, and pain on pressure. Unfortunately no post-mortem examination was obtained in this case. She wished to go home to die, and that event happened a few days after she left the hospital. Although the proof was wanting, the symptoms notably pointed to cancerous deposit in or around the lower part of the spinal cord.

* This nipple, and the one of the other breast, had been retracted some years.