tunity, slipped out of bed, and was off playing in the Hospital grounds, and never went to bed again but for his natural rest. It was necessary to excise the prepuce in consequence of *phymosis* supervening, much to the mortification of the little fellow, who could not be convinced that the doctor *had not* made a girl of him.

New York, Oct. 1, 1848.

A. C. CASTLE, M.D.,
Surgeon Dentist.

CASE OF CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN.

BY WILLIAM D. BARNETT, M.D., OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS.

ON the 1st of August, 1847, while sitting in church, my attention was drawn to a man behind me, who had apparently fainted; his attending physician, who was near, called on me for assistance. At the time I made no inquiry into the history of the case, but set to work endeavoring to relieve him of the present alarming condition.

The patient was nearly pulseless at the wrist, but the carotids were in violent action; his eyes presented a wild and furious appearance; the flexor muscles of the upper and lower extremities were thrown into powerful contraction, and occasionally he would utter a deep and agonizing groan, and grind his teeth powerfully together. A vein in the arm was opened, the blood ran out slowly at first, but gradually increased; with this increased flow of blood (when about a pint had been taken) the pulse rose and gained considerably in volume and strength. The vein was allowed to remain open until sixty-four ounces of blood had run out, when the pulse was reduced, and all the alarming symptoms disappeared. Cold water poured upon the head was used in conjunction with the bleeding.

After relief was obtained, he was conducted home, and I heard no more from him until about the 26th of the same month, when I called to see him.

-On inquiry, it was stated that in May last, while in a fit of intoxication, he had fallen from his horse and received a severe shock, from which he did not recover for several minutes. From this time up to the 6th of July he suffered from intense pain in the head. Anterior to this time, he had no manifestations of any derangement of the brain. He inherits no predisposition to mental derangement. The pain increased up to the 8th of July, when he had a fit similar to the one in which we first found him. He had frequent attacks of this kind, but would partially recover from them and go about his business. During the whole time his countenance wore the expression of some aberration of mind, and any excitement or sudden emotion would throw him into the apoplectic condition alluded to.

His present condition (16th of August) is very different from the one we have described, and is truly a singular one. He is lying upon his back sleeping, and talking continually of things that he has seen within the last three years, his thoughts not running upon anything or circumstance prior to this time. He is now relating, in the most pathetic man-

ner, the story of his love and courtship with a young lady to whom he had formerly paid his addresses. It seems to bear heavily upon his mind, and, in all probability, had some influence in the development of his disease. He would often imagine himself in Tennessee, his native State, surrounded by his friends, to whom he would recount the scenes he had witnessed in Arkansas, and would frequently, in a ludicrous manner, express his fears concerning the physician who attended him in Arkansas, saying, "that the cows would some day certainly eat him up, on account of his resemblance to *grass*." When he was talking, his arms were in constant motion. For several moments he would cease talking, when the pulse would be strong and full, but would gradually get slower and weaker, until it could scarcely be felt at the wrist. At this moment he would suddenly spring up and commence mocking a pet squirrel which he once owned, and after imitating this animal for awhile, he would commence dancing, going through every step, and giving orders as to the manner in which the dance should be conducted. He would frequently sing, and, in his imagination, play the violin; this was a sensitive point with him, upon which he was a monomaniac.

Upon one occasion, while he was singing, a musical-box was placed to his ear. The music threw him into ecstasy; he sprang from his bed, and in a loud voice cried out, "*play on!*" Such was the excitement produced, that I was fearful he would never recover from it. The instrument had to be taken out of the room, and the patient waked up. When aroused he was rational. He was not conscious of having talked any while sleeping, but was aware he had been dreaming about the subjects mentioned to him, and felt very much mortified when he was told that he had recited everything he knew. He would remark that he "would not do so again," but even while conversing he would fall to sleep and commence talking as he had done before. He would remain quiet longer upon either side than upon his back. There was extreme drowsiness. The carotid arteries were in violent action, and the face presented a full and florid appearance; his pulse (when aroused) was rather tense and frequent. The eyes had a fiery look; there was but little fever; the bowels were costive; appetite good.

He was bled to twenty ounces, and twenty grains of calomel given, followed in five hours by a dose of sulphate of magnesia. A stimulating foot-bath was directed to be used every night and morning; a seton was placed in the back of the neck. The bowels to be kept open with calomel, rhubarb and jalap. The patient to be bled whenever there is any pain in the head, or any other symptoms of a determination of blood to the brain; his diet to be light, and not to expose himself to the sun. Two days afterwards, I visited the patient and found him much better. He talks less in his sleep, and is altogether more tranquil than before. There has also been a remarkable change in his disposition—he being no longer the jovial and frolicsome man he formerly was, but entertains serious thoughts concerning religion; and seeming perfectly conscious of his danger. The antiphlogistic treatment was continued, and the seton directed to be frequently moved.

In the course of a month I again saw him, when he told me that he felt as well as he had ever done in his life. He had lost the maniacal expression of his eyes, and no longer talks in his sleep.

In October he rode twelve miles to see and bid me adieu previous to his starting for Tennessee. At this time he presented no symptoms whatever of disease, and I am inclined to believe that, with proper prudence, he will not have a return of this singular and distressing affection.

From want of sufficient evidence, I reject the idea of the disease being hereditary; but regard it as dependent upon an unnatural determination of blood to the brain, consequent upon the injury which he had received. In conclusion, the history of the case, the symptoms and the effect of the treatment, justify the conclusion that it was a case of concussion of the brain.—*Western Journal of Medicine*.

THE LATE BARON BERZELIUS.

THIS distinguished chemist, the father of analytical chemistry, expired on the 7th of August, at Stockholm. Baron Berzelius was born on the 20th of August, 1779, in Ostergothland, in Sweden, of a respectable family. At the age of 17 he entered the University of Upsala, where he made a rapid progress in his studies, particularly his favorite science—chemistry; after passing the necessary examinations, he received his diploma of Doctor in Medicine in 1804, and was appointed Medicinæ et Pharmacæ Adjunctus at the Collegium Medicum at Stockholm, and gave instruction in chemistry to young students, and, on account of his small income, was obliged to practise occasionally as a physician. In 1807 he was appointed Medicinæ et Pharmacæ Professor, and in the same year he instituted, in conjunction with seven other eminent men, the Swedish Medical Society at Stockholm, now a most flourishing institution, and constituting the very heart of the medical profession in Sweden.

In 1803 he was made a member of the Royal Academy of Science, in 1810 officiated as president, and in 1818 as perpetual secretary. On the occasion of holding this appointment for a quarter of a century, a dinner was given in the Academy by the members to this distinguished *savant*, which was presided over by his present majesty, then the crown prince, who, on proposing the health of Berzelius, expressed his grateful acknowledgment of his own obligations to Berzelius for the valuable private instruction he had received from him in his younger days. In the same year he was appointed a member of the Royal Sanitary Board, of which, at the time of his death, he was the senior member. As a proof of the magnitude of his laborious pursuits, it may be sufficient to mention that he first developed the electro-chemical system, and that he has also examined and minutely described the atomic theory of the elementary bodies. He discovered and examined several great classes of chemical combinations, as, for instance, the different degrees in which sulphur combines with fluoric acid, with platinum, columbium,