out to our patient that this had given rise to much of his suffering, and that the only chance of his perfect restoration was the removal of the calculus; that in his present state he could not be cured, nor live long. He expressed his alarm and surprise that others should have passed this over without discovery; and on his wishing to undergo the operation—"for," he added, "his life was a perfect misery"—it was deemed prudent that our own convictions should be supported by a third party, whose claims upon the public were established, and whose merits deserve the distinction he so generously receives; that gentleman was Mr. Coulson, who examined the patient, and confirmed our discovery. On account of our patient's excitement and the nervous irritability under which he laboured, it was thought prudent to perform the operation at once, he having had the necessary medical treatment in contemplation that such would be the case.

On June 21st, the patient having been subjected to the influence of chloroform by me, the operation, as remarked by Mr. Coulson, was "admirably performed" by Mr. T. Wakley. The calculus was lodged in a sac, and proved to be exceedingly friable, and separated into numerous fragments. In four or five minutes, however, the whole of them were removed, and the bladder carefully injected. Besides Mr. Coulson, Mr. Wakley, and myself, Mr. De Méric, Mr. Cartwright, and Mr. Coulson, jun., were present. The case progressed most satisfactorily; no hæmorrhage, no peritonitis; the urine flowed in six hours through the urethra and wound, and continued to do so till his decease. The patient, the same evening, acknowledged his emancipation from the enemy and his comparative ease, and congratulated himself that his strength of mind, in combination with the skill that had been exercised and the kindness he had received, had rescued him from so fierce a tormentor. He continued to do well until the third day, when symptoms of exhaustion set in, with retching. He was given effervescing medicines, with morphia, and injections of beef-tea and stimulants were administered with little or no effect; and he sank on the fifth day from complete exhaustion.

A post-mortem examination was proposed by Mr. Wakley, but not acquiesced in by the landlady, on account of the oppressive heat of the atmosphere, and having other inmates occupying her apartments. That the bladder was extensively diseased cannot be doubted. The urine was highly ammoniacal and fetid and its muco-purulent and jelly-like character was maintained, despite the antidotes and remedies adopted.

It is very unfortunate that the calculus remained undiscovered for so long a period, and until Mr. Wakley was consulted and examined the patient. By means of the tubular bougies the stricture was removed with great rapidity; and had not all the symptoms been referred for several years to the existence of that disease, the stone might have been discovered and extracted, and the life of the patient much prolonged. The case is instructive, and proves most indisputably with what care examinations of diseases of the genital organs should be made before a diagnosis be pronounced or a prognosis given.

July 3rd, 1856.

ON A

CASE OF ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY NUX VOMICA.

By JOHN HORAN, Esq., M.R.C.S.L., &c.,
Beaminster.

ON the morning of June 10th I was called to a labouring man, aged thirty-five, the father of several children, and of very intemperate habits. On my arrival, at half-past one, A.M., I found him bathed in perspiration; the breathing was slightly accelerated; pupils regular. He looked very excited, and complained of twitchings all over his body. I had not been long present when I observed a strong and general tetanic spasm, and which was very much increased when an attempt was made to wipe the perspiration from his face. My suspicions of the case were now roused, and on questioning him, he at once acknowledged that he had taken poison. The patient was quite collected and rational, and during the intervals of the spasm he answered questions freely. He could not tell what the poison was, more than that a fortnight previously he purchased one pennyworth at a druggists for the purpose of poisoning rats, &c.

I examined the vessel, and found traces of a brown powder, which, with the symptoms present, at once revealed the case to be one of poisoning by nux vomica, or its alkaloid, strychnine. He further stated that he had taken the poison at eleven

o'clock, soon after which he undressed and got to bed, where he had not long been till he was seized with the spasm.

Now, upwards of two hours elapsed before I had seen him, and then the spasm was not so continuous or violent as it had been previous to their sending for me. I at once gave him a strong emetic of sulphate of zinc, which had the effect of unloading the stomach, mixed with the contents of which was a large quantity of green and undigested cabbage, which no doubt shielded the mucous membrane, and prevented the quick absorption of the poison. After sickness was produced, the tetanic spasm entirely ceased. On inquiry next morning at the druggist's, I was informed that they usually sell a quarter ounce of powdered nux vomica for one penny; and on reference to medical works, I find only one case of recovery recorded from so large a dose, and that by Mr. Iliff.

I have every reason to believe that he took the whole quantity, which he purchased, very little traces remaining on the vessel; and furthermore, my firm conviction is that the man's life was saved through the quantity of cabbage which the stomach contained.

At my visit next morning the patient said he was quite well, but felt stiff and tired, as if he had been beaten, or after some unusual or severe exercise.

June, 1856.

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.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

LARGE FIBROUS TUMOUR OF THE SCROTUM, INVOLVING THE
LEFT TESTICLE, AND EXTENDING INTO THE INGUINAL CANAL;
SUCCESSFUL REMOVAL.

(Under the care of Mr. FERGUSSON.)

FIBROUS tumours occasionally present themselves in the cellular tissue of the scrotum, either singly or combined. They may attain merely to the size of the testis, or, more rarely, to a bulk of considerable magnitude, as in the case we have the pleasure of recording to-day, the notes of which were furnished to us by Mr. Goodall, the house-surgeon to the hospital.

Mr. Curling speaks of the development of small fibrous tumours in the scrotum, and refers to an example, removed by Mr. Fergusson some years ago. But the case which is subjoined is one of considerable interest, both from its history and its dimensions, and appears to be somewhat analogous to an enormous diseased mass, composed of fibrous tumours of a stony hardness, removed from the scrotum of a man, aged seventy-three years, by Dr. Mott, of New York, also quoted by Mr. Curling in his valuable work on the Testis.

The details of the present case show the removal of a tumour from the scrotum four years ago, which did not at that time involve the testis, but the cord was much elongated, and stretched across the tumour. It was a question then, as Mr. Fergusson said, whether the testis and cord ought to be removed with the tumour, more especially as to the possible future service of the cord. Both were, however, preserved, the patient made an excellent recovery, and returned to the country, everything appearing as if no operation had ever been performed. Their was no specific trouble in preserving the testicle and cord, and there was no loss of time in the operation, although there can be no doubt a surgeon has often lost the life of his patient, in his endeavours to preserve the organ, from the time taken to perform the operation, with the extensive hæmorrhage, and other consequences.

Curiously enough, four years after, the same patient is re-admitted under Mr. Fergusson's care, the scrotum having attained the size of a pretty large child's head, being more or less lobulated, nothing being felt in the mass of the shape of the testicle itself. So far as the appearances went, Mr. Fergusson did not believe it to be malignant, although, as he re-