monia, which brought him very low, but he is now well enough to ride twenty-five miles a day.

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYELID, AND CHEMOSIS OF THE CONJUNCTIVA, CAUSED BY THE STINGING OF WASPS.

BY DAVID RICE, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

INEZ, a little girl thirteen years old, when about retiring at night, was stung by two or three wasps, upon the shoulder, immediately over the upper edge of the right scapula; also upon the middle finger of the right hand. The pain at the time was not severe, nor was there much tumefaction. I applied a cloth wet with diluted aqua ammonia, and the child went to bed, and slept soundly until morning. The above occurrences were on Saturday evening. On Sunday the child seemed as well as usual; in the evening she complained of itching of the right eyelid, and there was very slight tumefaction. Monday, the eyelids were more swollen, and somewhat painful, yet the child kept about her plays as usual. Tuesday, the swelling had increased, and there was considerable pain in the eyeball. Applied cloths wet with acetate of lead, $\mathfrak{z}$ iss.; water, $\mathfrak{z}$ viii. Changed them as often as they became dry through the night. Pain in the lids and through the eyeball very severe all night. The child got no sleep. Pulse small and quick. Wednesday morning the lids greatly tumefied, with what seemed to be erysipelatous inflammation. The whole side of the face swollen and painful, and pain in the shoulder in the region of the wasp stings. Glands in the right axilla swollen. Upon opening the eyelid I discovered almost complete chemosis of the conjunctiva, it being raised upon the sclerotic membrane, more than half over the eye to the border of the cornea, as if a fatty matter were underneath it, caused by the effusion of lymph. The case had really assumed a formidable aspect, and called for prompt treatment. Applied leeches to the temple and eyelid. Leeches did well, and the subsequent bleeding was encouraged by the application of wet cloths. Followed the leeches by linseed cataplasm, applied over the eye and cheek, and changed as often as dry. Applied every six hours a collyrium: Acetat. plumbi, gr. v.; tinct. opii. gtt. xl.; aquæ puræ, $\mathfrak{z}$ ii.—a few drops into the corner of the eye before applying the poultice. Gave a cathartic of Epsom salts.

Thursday, an abscess opened upon the inside of the upper eyelid about its centre. Continued the applications as on Wednesday, substituting for the cathartic a laxative of Rochelle salts. Friday the swelling began to abate, and the chemosis to flatten down, assuming, instead of a semi-transparent, a reddish hue, as in common ophthalmia. Discharge from the abscess profuse. Coat be-

gan to disappear from the tongue, and the fever to abate. After this, all the abnormal conditions subsided gradually, and in fourteen days the chemosis had entirely disappeared. During the whole progress of the case there was much pain and soreness on the shoulder blade where the stings were received, and it subsided only with the other symptoms. There is not the least doubt, in my own mind, that the whole train of symptoms came from the virus inoculated into the circulation by the stinging of the wasps.

Leverett, Mass., Oct. 1857.

ATTEMPTED ABORTION BY THE USE OF VERATRUM VIRIDE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—The following case was interesting to me; perhaps it may be so to the readers of the Journal generally.

On the 6th of April last, I was requested to visit, as hastily as possible, Mrs. B., about four miles distant from my residence. I arrived at her house about day-break. Before I had warmed myself sufficiently to approach the bed-side of my patient, one of the ladies said to me, "I think you are too late, I believe she is dead." I found my patient a young woman about twenty-four years of age, the mother of one child then but a few months old. Mrs. B.'s appearance upon the bed certainly indicated that life was extinct; but on applying my finger to the artery at the wrist, I found the pulsations quite full, but the heart's action slow, not exceeding 48 beats to the minute. The surface of the body was generally cold. I then learned from her husband that she had been well until the evening previous, when at about midnight she commenced vomiting, and thus continued until she seemed too prostrate to vomit more. On inquiring what she had taken the evening previous, it was asserted at first that she had taken nothing but her usual food and drink. On assuring her husband and friends, however, that I knew she had taken some powerful drug into her stomach, and that perhaps I could detect the article, one of her lady friends beckoned me aside and handed me a parcel, marked, in large letters, " $\frac{1}{4}$ lb *American Hellebore*," and, said she, "Mrs. B. took only *two teaspoonfuls* of this powder on going to bed last night, for the purpose of procuring abortion upon herself."

The free administration of wine and morphine, internally, soon brought my patient to rally, and in about three hours I left her in a half sitting posture upon the bed—not willing to try the veratrum again by the teaspoonful, but still desiring something more *effectual* to accomplish her unlawful designs.

In August last, about five months after this transaction, Mrs. B. was delivered of a full-grown, healthy female child.

Deer River, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1857. H. S. HENDÉE, M.D.