

Medical Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1874.

DR. E. H. SIEVEKING, VICE-PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

MR. SAVORY showed the Upper and Lower Jaw-bones from a case of Necrosis from Phosphorus, and gave an account of the case.

MR. JOHN BIRKETT said the case was a very remarkable one, and he thought this was the first time in which the whole of the lower jaw had been replaced. He referred to the case of a young child he saw many years ago who suffered from cancrum oris, and a part of the lower jaw exfoliated and the lost part was reproduced; the patient did well, and was now about thirty years old and had a useful lower jaw. The fact which he had just ascertained from Mr. Savory, that sensation remained in that part of the face supplied by the nerve passing through the mental foramen, was interesting. In the case he had referred to sensation was as perfect as before, though it could scarcely be believed that a piece of the jaw extending posteriorly to the mental foramen could be removed without injury to the nerve.

DR. DRYSDALE asked the cause of the patient's death; and if from the effects of phosphorus, what was the state of the viscera.

MR. COOPER FORSTER thought the case was worthy of a more detailed account, and hoped Mr. Savory would favour them with it. He would like to know how he had removed such large pieces of bone entire.

THE PRESIDENT said he was much interested in this question, and would be glad to know if phosphorus disease was as frequent now as formerly. About twenty-five years ago he was engaged in an inquiry on this subject, and had visited most of the match manufactories in the East-end of London. He found that the frequency of the disease was in direct proportion to the badness of the ventilation. In one manufactory where this was attended to there was not one case. He remembered seeing one man who had himself removed the whole of the lower jaw by sawing it across in the middle; he did not think the condyles had come away; the bone was reproduced.

MR. SAVORY, in reply, said that as the disease had been recorded, he thought an abstract was sufficient. With regard to the removal of the lower jaw, this was very simply effected; it was performed seven months after the first symptoms of mischief about the face; he divided the bone in the middle line, and each half was drawn out without force or hæmorrhage. When the jaw was removed there was no evidence of new bone, but a few weeks after new bone was felt in the left angle. The boy was about eighteen, stunted, and looked about fourteen; he was 5 ft. high. He had been employed in Bryant and May's factory for five years. During the last two he had been employed in preparing the phosphorus paste; this is made by heating over hot water phosphorus and gum, the mixture requiring to be kept constantly stirred. The following points were to be noticed: first, the extent of the necrosis, all the lower jaw and condyles, and both upper jaw and the adjacent bones, being involved; secondly, the very complete reproduction of the lower jaw, which was reproduced in six months. On carefully examining the specimen, a normal periosteum was found in contact with the bone, so that probably it had been separated, and so took part in the reforming of the bone. Then there were two teeth in the lower jaw, one of which was carious; all the teeth were in the upper jaw. The patient died of exhaustion from the great discharge.

ON THE RELATIONS OF ASTHMA TO SKIN DISEASE.

BY GEORGE GASKOIN,

SURGEON TO THE BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

After mentioning that the hereditary character of psoriasis has been much exaggerated, according to the usual acceptance of the term hereditary, the author affirms that its connexion with asthma forms the most conspicuous feature of this complaint, being discoverable in the history of at least one-third of the cases. In a continuous inquiry, asthma has been sought for in 2000 cases of skin disease,

exception being made for those of a parasitic and syphilitic class; and the result has been its appearance in 141 cases, of which 65 are cases of psoriasis. Further observations in the course of the paper affirm the dependence of skin disease on the phthisical and arthritic diatheses in the great majority of cases; their influence being observable, with very few exceptions, in those families which present instances of hereditary transmission.

DR. DRYSDALE said he had seen hereditary ichthyosis accompanied with emphysema in four members of the same family. He had also seen a case of alopecia of the whole scalp accompanying emphysema. Other cases of chest disease were attended with skin diseases. He did not understand in what way Mr. Gaskoin used the term asthma.

DR. CHURCH said he, too, would be glad to hear a definition of asthma. Mr. Gaskoin had spoken of a large number of cases in his paper; he did not know if he referred to the spasmodic form; if so, in his experience it was very rare. But if by asthma Mr. Gaskoin meant emphysema and pulmonary catarrh, which was very common, then the connexion between cutaneous diseases and chest complaints was explicable.

DR. SYMES THOMPSON said the relation between asthma and psoriasis had been pointed out before, but no statistics, as in the paper, had been brought together; and he thought the paper was valuable in this respect, provided we knew what was meant by the term asthma. Since arsenic was said to have been of benefit in the cases, he would suppose the asthma was of the spasmodic kind, as arsenic had proved of great service in such cases.

MR. GASKOIN said he had met with psoriasis associated with asthma much more frequently than was generally supposed. The relation to phthisis was not so frequent. He had taken as asthma what was called so by the people, and did not often find it was the dry spasmodic kind. He had taken every proper precaution to ascertain the facts.

A paper followed "On the amount of Carbonic Acid found by experiment in the Air on board Wooden Frigates." By LEONARD H. J. HAYNE, M.D., R.N., Surgeon to H.M.S. *Doris*. (Communicated by Dr. SYMES THOMPSON.)

CLINICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH, 1874.

MR. PRESCOTT HEWETT, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

DR. BUZZARD showed a patient, aged forty-six, who had recovered from an attack of General Paralysis, supposed to be of Syphilitic Origin. The man had been brought to the National Hospital for Paralysis on January 8th, 1873, with paralysis of both facial nerves, of all four extremities, and incomplete paralysis of respiration, deglutition, and of the right sixth nerves, together with general cutaneous anæsthesia. His condition was so grave that he was at once admitted. He could not lie down, and could only take fluid nourishment by spoonfuls. His attack had commenced one month previously with numbness in the finger-ends, and weakness of the legs and arms, which progressed so rapidly that in three days he could not leave his chair. One week after the onset his speech became thick, and he felt a sense of constriction round the waist. After another week his powers of deglutition and breathing were involved. He continued to get more and more feeble, so that when admitted he could not move his legs, and had only the slightest power of using the muscles of his thighs and arms. He was permanently lame in the right leg, from an attack of infantile paralysis in childhood. His health previous to the attack had been uniformly good. There had been no injury, nor diphtheria, nor exposure to cold; and the attack was unaccompanied by fever, pains, or muscular contractions. His pulse on admission was 76, and his temperature 99°. He had suffered from a chancre and bubo fourteen years before, which were not followed by sore-throat or skin-eruption. On admission he was placed on a water-bed; beef-tea, eggs, and wine were ordered, and ten-grain doses of iodide of potassium given three times a day. Within twenty-four hours he had improved, and in a week could lie down, could close the right eyelid to some extent, and could swallow solid food. The muscles of the legs, in which contractility to faradism had been abolished, now responded slightly to the induced current. In four days more the right eye could be com-