ART. XXIV.—*The late Epidemic of Scarlatina, as observed in the Mater Misericordiæ Hospital.* By THOMAS HAYDEN, Fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians; Physician to the Hospital.

It was originally my intention to lay before the Medical Society of the College of Physicians the following brief abstract of the cases of scarlatina, treated in the Mater Misericordiæ Hospital, during the year commencing January 4, 1874, and ending January 4, 1875. Circumstances prevented the fulfilment of that intention, and I now submit these notes as a supplement to the recent discussion on scarlatina before that Society. The cases have been classified under three heads, viz.:—

(a.) "Mild," in which the eruption was florid, the throat but slightly engaged, and no complication existed.

(b.) "Severe," or those in which the fever was high, and accompanied by a copious and florid eruption of a somewhat miliary character, diffuse inflammation and ulceration of the tonsils and fauces, delirium, and diarrhœa.

(c.) "Malignant," or cases in which the eruption was dusky and imperfect, the surface in some degree livid, the temperature low, the throat in a sloughy condition, and in which, moreover, diarrhœa, vomiting, suppression of urine, and coma, were exhibited.

The total of cases was 105—viz., "Mild," 73; "Severe," 24; "Malignant," 8.

The "Mild" cases, of which, in twenty-four instances, the patients were over four and under ten years old, and in forty-nine, over ten years, all recovered.

The "Severe" cases yielded a mortality of fifteen out of twenty-four; of the fatal cases four were under ten years, and eleven over that age.

The "Malignant" cases amounted to eight—viz., three under ten years, and five over ten years. All these were fatal.

No case was presented under four years of age.

The treatment adopted in the "Mild" cases consisted in the administration of the chlorate of potash with dilute hydrochloric acid (five to ten grains of the former, and five to ten minims of the latter, with syrup and water, every third hour); astringent gargles, compound powder of chalk as demanded by the state of the bowels, and fifteen to twenty grains of the bromide of potassium at night. The average period of illness was twelve days.

In the "Severe" cases the same treatment was pursued, with the addition of the free application of the glycerine of carbolic or of tannic acid to the fauces, and of poultices to the neck. Average duration of illness twenty days.

The "Malignant" cases were treated chiefly with diffusible and alcoholic stimulants; the average duration of illness was twenty-six hours.

The complications were almost exclusively anasarca, glandular inflammation and suppuration in the neck, and bronchitis. Anasarca was exhibited in a very large number of cases, chiefly those of a mild character, during convalescence. Consecutive abscesses in the neck were of very frequent occurrence; but, in almost every instance, the patients recovered. Bronchitis, which was occasionally attended with interstitial congestion of the lungs, was developed in the course of the fever. Most of these cases terminated favourably, but pulmonary tuberculosis followed in a few instances.