and had taken steel and bitters, the disorder remained the same.

On the 25th of October she applied to me at the Paddington Free Dispensary. The patient was weak and exhausted, but not chlorotic; she had just passed a menstrual period; there was an absence of pain and of other symptoms of uterine disease; therefore, notwithstanding a discharge of which she complained, I omitted all *local* treatment, and ordered the following pills and mixture:—Sulphate of iron, two scruples; sulphate of quina, ten grains; extract of hyoscyamus, a scruple: mix for twenty pills, one to be taken night and morning. Camphor mixture, six ounces; liquor potassæ, four drachms; tincture of hyoscyamus, six drachms; tincture of cardamoms, two drachms. Half an ounce to be taken thrice daily. An opium plaster to be applied to the pit of the stomach.

The patient's general health improved, menstruation returned to its wonted type, and from that time she only took one pill every night, until the approach of the ensuing epoch, which passed on as it ought to do; and the patient was discharged on the 26th of December.

Miss M. A. L.—, aged sixteen, with dark hair, grey eyes, slender, and of middling height; has lived in town all her life. She first menstruated between fourteen and fifteen; and regularly, for four months after its first appearance, did menstruation adopt the monthly type. Since seven or eight years of age she had been subject to leucorrhœa, which for the last three months has preceded and followed the menstrual flow; the latter has made its appearance every fortnight. Still there was no intermediate leucorrhœa; there were no pains in the back, none in front, and none were determined by pressure on the abdomen; but the thighs were so painful that she could scarcely walk, and her legs were at times much swollen. For this symptom my opinion was requested by her mother. The girl had very much fallen off, was much debilitated by loss of blood, and the undue influence of the generative organ on her system had caused catamenial headache, heaviness for sleep, momentary loss of her senses, and often fits of lowness and shedding of tears.

I thought I could safely promise a speedy return to health, and I ordered the following pills:—Sulphate of quina, ten grains; extract of gentian, a scruple; extract of aloes, ten grains; extract of hyoscyamus, a scruple. Mix for ten pills, one to be taken night and morning. I prescribed the compound camphorated mixture, and belladonna plasters to each of the ovarian regions.

The symptoms rapidly abated, and menstruation was forthwith brought back to its original type.

The preceding cases are, in my opinion, samples of an idiopathic aberration from the normal type of menstruation, and perfectly independent of any *inflammatory* lesion of the ovaries or uterus. They are illustrations of similar cases which have come under my care—cases in which various preparations of steel had been fruitlessly tried, and which soon yielded to the use of sulphate of quina alone, or in combination with other remedies; and I therefore strongly recommend this practice to the profession, premising that the treatment will not be so rapidly effectual, and may even be attended by mischief, if the remittance of the menstrual flow depends, as it sometimes does, on ovarian or uterine subacute inflammation, as in the following case:—

Eliza H., aged twenty-one, of florid complexion, full habit, and of middling stature, applied to me at the Paddington Free Dispensary for Relief. For the last two years she had been living in London, menstruation first appeared between thirteen and fourteen, became regular from the first, was very abundant, and lasted five days at each period.

A few months ago the patient was attacked by a severe cold with fever, which stopped menstruation for two months. When the latter returned it was scanty, and accompanied by more than usual pain in the back, the stomach and head; and, attended by these symptoms, it made its appearance every three weeks instead of every month, giving rise also to sensations of weakness, trembling, and lowness of spirits, with which she had previously been wholly unacquainted.

The patient localized her pains in the ovarian regions, pressure increased them, so did walking or any unusual exertion; she was slightly feverish; the tongue was furred, and the bowels were costive.

I considered this case as one wherein the remittance of menstruation was dependent on subacute inflammation of the ovaries, and I ordered six leeches over each ovarian region; poultices to be kept to the same regions at night; and a

flannel sprinkled with camphorated liniment to be applied over the abdomen during the day. Aloetic purgatives and a sedative mixture were also prescribed. The pain subsided; the patient felt well; but menstruation returned at the morbid period of three weeks, and was still painful, and left behind it a certain amount of abdominal pain. After giving a brisk purgative, I applied belladonna plasters to the ovarian regions, and gave pills similar to those taken by Miss M. A. L. The patient now says, she feels well, and as menstruation has resumed its physiological type, I believe her to be cured.

York-street, Portman-square, Jan. 1851.

ON THE DETECTION BY THE AID OF MAGNETISM OF NEEDLES EMBEDDED NEAR THE SURFACE OF THE BODY.

By JAMES H. AVELING, Esq., Surgeon, Aberdeen.

It has long been an established principle in the practice of surgery, when needles have become embedded in the living tissues, not to make any exploratory incisions in search of them, but to wait until their presence can be distinctly felt, either by the probe, or by the finger of the surgeon. This expectant mode of treatment, while it was the most judicious that could be adopted, so long as the exact situation of the foreign body was indicated only by the vague and indefinite, though sufficiently painful and distressing sensations of the patient, may, I think, be considerably curtailed in its duration; and when the intruding body is at all near the surface, it can, I believe, be completely dispensed with, by the following simple method:—A needle is to be magnetised, by drawing a magnet along its surface about fifty times; it is then to be suspended by a fibre of silk attached by a piece of sealing-wax to the centre of the needle, so that neither the eye nor point may dip more than the other. This suspended magnet should then be held over the suspected part, which should be shaved if very hairy; when this magnetic indicator arrives over the part, the needle will dip and adhere to the skin, showing the exact point under which the body lies.

In two cases in which this mode of detection has been tried, the portion of needle sought for has been discovered and extracted, one of the needles having remained embedded for three months.

Aberdeen, Jan. 14, 1851.

REPORT OF A SINGULAR CASE OF APOPLEXY.

By EZRA HARLE, Esq., Surgeon, Islington.

ON Wednesday night, January 15th, I was called to a poor "woman in a fit." A few minutes after she had fallen in the street, I was on the spot, and found her dead. At the post-mortem examination, we found the following, as I apprehend, unusual appearances conjoined. The brain was surrounded with blood, the ventricles filled, and a quantity at the base—in all about four ounces. This was sufficient to account for the death: but on examining the chest, we found the left lung unusually smaller than the right, marked with long-standing disease, and gorged with blood, sufficient of itself to account for death, as in ordinary pulmonary apoplexy. The other viscera were healthy.

The woman being of so spare habit, and about sixty-five years of age, causes the case to appear more unusual; so much so, that one can agree with the words of the deputy coroner, that "we should hardly suppose she had so much blood in her whole body." Thus proving that persons of very spare habit may be subject to *sanguineous* apoplexy.

In justice to the case, it must be said, that shortly before her death she had taken a "glass of gin," on returning from her "ironing work" in her usual health.

Cross-street, Islington, Jan. 21, 1851.

HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS DURING THE WEEK ENDING Feb. 1.—Deaths registered 1041 (in the previous week they were 956), the increase being amongst persons above middle age. Small-pox was fatal in 19 cases, measles in 30, scarlatina in 16, whooping-cough in 51, typhus in 48, and diarrhœa in 25—there being an increase in the deaths from the two latter causes. Births in the week, 1537. Mean height of the barometer 29.49 inches; mean temperature, 40.1°, or generally above the average of the same period in ten years, though it fluctuated considerably. Wind generally south-west, and on Saturday, north.