II.

SELECTIONS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

On the Tic Douloureux. By Sir Henry Halford, Bart.

Sir Henry Halford having politely given us the permission to lay before the readers of the Gazette an account of his interesting observations upon this subject, we subjoin a pretty full analysis of the paper read at the College of Physicians on Monday last, in which, strong evidence will be found in support of the position which it was the object of the learned President to establish—namely, that tic douloureux is frequently connected with, and dependent upon, an affection of the bone.

He observed, that the severest form of the disease was that which occurred in the 5th pair of nerves, and that it might be distinguished by its intensity from the milder species affecting the nerves of the extremities, or other parts, and which often depends upon impaired digestion. The latter, for the most part, yields to general remedies; the former seldom does so. The fact of the division of the nerve, and cutting off its communication with the brain, so frequently failing to cure the disease, was mentioned as sufficiently proving that the seat of the pain is not always the seat of the disease; and the unsatisfactory nature of all the pathological explanations hitherto proposed was briefly alluded to.

"May I venture (said Sir Henry) to throw out an opinion, founded on the observations with which my experience has furnished me, that the disease is connected with some preternatural growth of bone, or a deposition of bone in a part of the animal economy where it is not usually found, in a sound and healthy condition of it, or with a diseased bone?"

"The following cases have occurred to me, and seem to give a degree of probability to this surmise; and I throw it out for the consideration of the profession, in order that a number of facts may be collected, from which a safe inference can at length be drawn.

"A lady, 40 years of age, suffered under the violent form of tic douloureux, at Brighton, notwithstanding the careful attention and skill of a very judicious physician there. On returning to town, it was observed that the rending spasms, by which the disease is marked, were frequently preceded by an uneasiness in one particular tooth, which exhibited, however, no signs of unsoundness; but the constancy of this symptom was enough to justify the extraction of the tooth in this instance, (though the failure of this expedient to afford relief in general does not encourage recourse to the operation,) and on its being drawn, a large exostosis was observed at the root of the tooth, and the lady never suffered more than very slight attacks, and those very seldom, afterwards.

"The D. of G. was attended by Dr. Baillie and myself, for six weeks under this disease, in its most marked and painful form, without deriving benefit from our prescriptions. At length we thought it best to advise him to repair to the sea-coast, in hopes of renovating his shattered system by taking bark there. After he had sojourned a month by the seaside, a portion of bone exfoliated from the antrum bighmorium, and the D. recovered immediate-
The late Dr. P. fell a sacrifice to this dreadful disease, after sustaining its tortures for some years, with a constancy which attracted all our pity and esteem, and died at last under apoplexy. No assistance which the experience of any of us could afford him, gave him relief, or controlled the violence of his attacks. On examining his head after death, there was found an unusual thickness of the os frontis, where it had been sawn through above the frontal sinuses, and at its juncture with the parietal bones. There was discovered also on the falciform process of the dura mater, at a little distance from the crista galli, a small osseous substance about \( \frac{3}{4} \) of an inch in length, rather less in breadth, and about a line in thickness. The vessels of the pia mater were turged with blood, and about an ounce of fluid occupied the ventricles. I lamented that the frontal sinus had not been examined, for I remember he replied to a question which I once put to him, as to his ever having experienced any suppuration within any bony cavity, that he had twice suffered suppuration in the frontal sinuses. Dr. P. had submitted, with great patience, to a division of several branches of the 5th pair of nerves, under the judicious operation of Sir A. Cooper, who, on my mentioning to him the notion I entertained of the cause of tic douloureux, was so obliging as to show me the skull of a person who had died of this disease in the country. The internal surface of the frontal bone is a perfect rock work."

All the preceding cases had fallen under Sir Henry's own observation, and he added one communicated to him by a physician.
of high character, in which a lady suffered from this complaint for nearly ten years, and at length died of apoplexy. An enormous thickening of the frontal, ethmoidal, and sphenoidal bones was found; there was also general thickness of the cranium, but not to so great an extent.

In these instances, there certainly is every reason to believe that the preternatural condition of the bones had proved the exciting cause of the disease: but, as the learned President observed, there are other cases in which no such immediate cause of irritation can be discovered, so that it is probable that the nerves, in these, are affected by sympathy with various parts. Several examples were mentioned in illustration; among others, that of a boy, 11 years of age, in whom a dose of rhubarb was followed, three different times, by an epileptic fit; and that of a lady, in whom the same medicine produced severe strangury, which she stated to be the constant effect of that medicine on several of the members of her family. Sir Henry also alluded to the disturbance sometimes produced by an issue, mentioning that Dr. Darwin was once called to a young lady laboring under epilepsy; finding that she had an issue on the arm, "without one word of remark, he filled the pea from its place, and the young lady never experienced an epileptic attack afterwards."


Example for leaving the Body for Dissection.

We have been favored by our Dublin correspondent with the following document, which has just been solemnly prepared in the University School of Anotomy in the Irish metropolis. A solitary individual, leaving his body for dissection, as we mentioned in our leading article last week, has been only looked upon as a mark of eccentricity: but the example of a body of men is perhaps calculated to have a different effect upon the public mind—marking, as it unequivocally does, their zeal, sincerity, and disinterestedness. We hope to return to the subject next week, and to lay before our readers some thoughts on the disposal of the dead. Meanwhile we join the document alluded to.

"We, whose names are hereunto affixed, being convinced that the study of anatomy is of the utmost value to mankind, inasmuch as it illustrates various branches of natural and moral science, and constitutes the very basis of the healing art; and believing that the erroneous opinions and vulgar prejudices which prevail, with regard to dissection, will be most effectually removed by practical example; do hereby deliberately and solemnly express our desire that, at the usual period after death, our bodies, instead of being interred, should be devoted, by our surviving friends, to the more rational, benevolent, and honorable purpose of explaining the structure, functions, and diseases of the human body."


The paper lies for signature at Dr. Macartney's Museum, and it is not intended to be exclusively confined to medical men.

Ibid.
**Herpes cured by Hydrocyanic Acid.**

A woman, aged 50, who was affected with herpes on the genital parts, accompanied with extremely painful itching, was completely cured by Dr. Schneider, in the space of fifteen days, by the topical employment of an alcoholic solution of Prussic acid, used in the proportion of from a drachm and a half to two drachms, in six ounces of alcohol. This physician obtained the same result from the acid in the case of a woman four-score and four years of age, in whose case it was employed in the same proportion, diluted with rose-water instead of alcohol. He likewise relates three other cases, in which the same remedy succeeded in curing the disease.—*Hufeland's Jour.*

**Amputation of the thigh, at the Hip Joint.**

This formidable operation has now been performed several times, and with success too. In the present case, however, the patient died a few days after. The operation was performed by M. Roux, on a young man, 17 years of age, who was affected with a fungous tumor of the periosteum of the upper part of the femur. The femoral artery was first tied below the Fallopian ligament; then two flaps were formed, and the femur dissected from its articulation with the pelvis. Nothing remarkable was found in the examination of the body; the cotyloid cavity and the coxo-femoral articulation were healthy. —*Now. Bibl. Med.*

**Exirpation of the Womb.**

Dr. Blundell performed one of the boldest operations that ever was attempted, on the 19th of February last. This consisted in the complete extirpation of the uterus, *per vaginam*. The patient was fifty years of age, and had ceased to menstruate. She was affected with cancer of the womb. Very little blood was lost in the operation, and no ligature was applied. We find from *The Lancet*, that the patient, up to the sixteenth day, had not a single untoward symptom. There had been, throughout, very little discharge from the part, and the wound was healed to within the extent of a shilling; the woman was free from pain, she slept well, and her appetite was good. —*Lon. Med. Repos.*

**Critical Plica Polonica.**

A woman had, for ten weeks, been affected with very violent headache. The head perspired abundantly, and was covered with lice, although the patient was very cleanly in her habits. At length the disease termed plica polonica was completely formed, and the headache disappeared. In leaving her bed, she happened to place her naked feet upon the floor. Shivering succeeded, followed by furious mania. The muscular powers were considerably increased; the eyes fierce, with turgid conjunctiva; the pulse was hard and full. Free bleeding was had recourse to; the head was rubbed with soapy and aromatic embrocations; blisters were laid upon the neck, and sinapisms applied to the feet. Two grains of calomel were also given every two hours. During the first two days of this treatment, the symptoms were somewhat abated. On the third day, the bowels were very freely opened, and diarrhoea was established. Eigh-
ty-five grains of calomel had been administered. She was now directed to take the liq. ammon. succin. every two hours. Profuse perspiration was again produced upon the head, and a fresh stock of vermin appeared. From this time the delirium and headache ceased. The patient has subsequently remained in good health.—Hufeland's Jour.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1828.

BOSTON MEDICAL DISPENSARY REPORTS.

For the Month of May, 1828.

During the first thirteen days the weather was clear, pleasant, and for the most part warm, with the interposition of a slight rain on the 3d. A storm commenced on the 14th, which continued, with some relaxations and changes, until the close of the month; the temperature of the air and the face of the sky were very changeful.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Whole number of cases, 74. Of

Abortus - - - 2
Arthrosis chronica - - 3
Bex convulsiva - - 2
Catarrhus communis - - 3
Cauna - - - 8
Cephalæa gravans - - 5
Cephalitodes ebriosus - - 2
Cholera - - - 2
Contusio - - - 4
Diarrhoea - - - 3
Dysenteria - - - 1
Dyspepsia - - - 2
Ecze#m - - - 1
Epilepsia irritatæ - - 2
Helminthia alvi lumbricoides - - 2
Herpes labialis - - 1
Hydrops cellularis - - - 1
Hysteria - - - 2
Icterus cholæus - - - 1
Icterus spasmodicus - - 1
Odontia dentitionis - - 1
Ophthalmia glutinosa - - 1
Paramenial obstructionis - 3
do. superfba - - 1
Parturition - - 3
Peromelia contorta, plauta - - 1
Phlegmone - - - 4
Pleurialgia chronica - - 1
Pleuritis - - - 2
Pneumonitis notha - - 1
do. vera - - - 1
Polypus plasticus - - - 1
Struma - - - 2
Sympoüs - - - 1
Ulcus - - - 2
Varicella - - - 1
Vulnus laceratum - - - 1

Of these cases 51 were females, 28 males. 45 cases occurred among adults, 29 were under puberty.

The cases of cholera presented themselves at the beginning of the month, and were more severe than are generally seen at this season. The cases of cauna were severe, and well marked, and generally appeared to arise from gastric or hepatic irritation. If seen at an early stage, a powerful emetic of antimony, followed the next day by calomel and rhubarb, broke up the disease on the third day. If not early attacked by medicine, the febrile symptoms continued from eight to eleven days, and left the patient considerably reduced by weakness,

J. W. McKea#n.

EASTERN DISTRICT.

The number of cases was 79: of these, 4 were vaccinia, and 9 were puerperal; 79—13=66 cases requiring medical or surgical treatment. Of

Abortus - - - 1
Anetus quotidianus - - 1
do. tertianus - - 2
Arthrosis acuta - - 2
Bex convulsiva - - 8
Blenorhœa simplex - - 1

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