advantage, procuring tranquil sleep, diminishing restlessness, and the appearance of anxiety and suffering, from which the little patient awakes refreshed and tranquil.

This treatment was pursued in the following case:—

An infant, about twelve months old, was attacked with severe and rapidly-increasing bronchitis; there was frequent and suffocative cough; great difficulty of respiration; acute fever. The chest, on auscultation by percussion, sounded equally well on either side, but there was pretty general moist respiration on both sides,—small below, large above. These symptoms were removed by leeching and the internal employment of tartar emetic; subsequently, a mustard poultice to the sternum. But to these symptoms of thoracic inflammation succeeded those of exhaustion with coma; the child, after being unusually irritable, became pale, with collapsed features, drowsy, and at length comatose, the pulse being very rapid and readily compressible; but every now and then the irritability returned, and the mother remarked, that although quiet and apparently insensible, it never slept; it moved perpetually.

The breast-milk, small quantities of white wine whey, and any other nutritious article of diet suited for an infant, were directed to be administered frequently, and a teaspoonful of a draught, containing five minims of the aromatic spirits of ammonia, and one-eighth of a minim of tincture of opium to a dose, to be repeated every hour until tranquil sleep was induced, when it should be discontinued until further instructions should be given. This treatment answered perfectly, sleep was procured, and the infant awoke refreshed and much improved, with increase of tone in the pulse and diminution of its velocity. Subsequently the ammonia was used alone, the laudanum being added once or twice to compose and tranquilise; but by stimulants and nutritious food the cure was completed, and health perfectly restored.

The mother stated that he had generally enjoyed good health, and that he had only suffered occasionally from diarrhoea, until the commencement of the last three days, when he became incapable of discharging his urine, and from that time to the present he had only been capable of discharging it *guttatim*.

The urethra was distended and dilated; and, on pressing with the fingers upon any part of its course, the regurgitation of urine was felt, excepting upon the course of the fossa navicularis, which gave the sensation as if some foreign substance was situated therein, having a short, thick body, and two extremities.

During the examination he pulled violently, several times, his prepuce. His mother, on being interrogated, stated that, during the last three days, he had done so frequently, but never before, nor had he previously presented any symptom of stone.

I extended the foreskin forcibly backwards upon the penis, and kept the orifice of the prepuce as nearly as possible parallel with the external orifice of the urethra. To retain the parts in this state I compressed the foreskin against the penis with my thumb and finger, the one placed behind the corona glandis, and the other behind the fossa navicularis. Having the parts so fixed, I introduced a probe through the orifice of the prepuce, which immediately grated upon a stone, and, subsequently, a pair of narrow forceps, between whose blades I seized the stone, and, by gentle traction, gradually extracted it.

The stone was ovate, and nearly as large as an ordinary pea.

The prepuce was œdematously inflamed, and its aperture small. The parts were in such condition as probably might interrupt considerably the free discharge of the urine. Such, in the present case, might be considered to have been the cause of the retention of the urine, had it not been properly scrutinized.

STONE.—CHILD AGED EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—By inserting the following case in your valuable Periodical you will oblige your obedient servant,

M. D. THOMPSON, M.R.C.S., L.
Staleybridge, Feb. 6th, 1840.

On the 31st ultimo I saw, in this neighbourhood, a male child, aged 18 months, labouring under a congenital phymosis, and an œdematous inflammation of the prepuce. The body was attenuated, but the child apparently healthy.

THE MORE FATAL YEARS OF LIFE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I enclose an extract from the First Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Deaths, which I suspect has hitherto escaped your observation. It was drawn up by an esteemed friend of mine, and inserted in the "Hampshire Telegraph" of Nov. 20, last, and as I agree with him in thinking that it will be highly interesting to the general body of your readers, and "open a large field of medical and surgical inquiry," you will not, perhaps, deem it unworthy a place in the columns of your valuable publication.