nia. As it was, the result was favorable, yet the ordeal was truly fearful. I will not detain the reader with further remarks upon this case.

I have used the veratrum since the first of January last, in thirty cases of inflammation, and, with some exceptions, I regard it as a safe remedy in the hands of a careful physician. But I do not think it safe at all when given *ad libitum*, or in the hands of nurses. On the contrary, its effects should be constantly and carefully watched, and by the physician himself. Its powers as an arterial sedative have not been over-rated. It possesses alterative qualities, also, which are by no means inconsiderable.

SUTURE OF THE EXTENSOR TENDONS OF THE FINGERS, WITH A CASE OF CURE BY THIS TREATMENT.

BY M. MOURGUE.

[Translated from the *Gazette Médicale*, May 16th, 1858, for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

SUTURE of the small tendons, like the extensors and flexors of the fingers, is a triumph of modern surgery; and the happy results which have followed its use have given it a place among legitimate operations. The case of M. Mourgue adds another instance of success to those already recorded.

CASE.—A maker of wooden shoes received on the back of his left hand, on the 10th of December, a blow of a hatchet, which divided the extensor tendons of the fore and middle finger at the metacarpo-phalangeal joint. The lower ends presented at the wound, but the upper were retracted beneath the skin to the extent of nearly an inch. An incision carried up to the ends of the retracted tendons, allowed them to be seized by forceps and pierced by a needle armed with a waxed thread; this needle was then passed through the corresponding ends of the tendons below, and they were thus brought into contact with those above, and tied. The external wound was also closed with sutures. The hand was extended on a wide, flat splint, and the wound covered with a linen bandage spread with cerate, and compresses wet with cold water.

12th.—There is considerable swelling of the wrist and great redness; it is necessary to remove the sutures from the wound. In a few days, the inflammation subsided.

20th.—The wound, which is open, but free from redness and inflammation, is in good condition. The edges were brought together with sticking-plaster.

The ligatures of the tendons came away on the 24th and 26th; the external wounds cicatrized at once. On the 8th of January, the splint was dispensed with.

Jan. 22d.—The man has resumed his work, the fingers having gradually recovered their strength and mobility, and having complete power of extension and flexion. In a word, the suture of

the extensor tendons has been attended with all the success which could be desired. A.

Reports of Medical Societies.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL OBSERVATION. BY ROBERT WARE, M.D., SECRETARY.

APRIL 19th, 1858.—*Cases of Lead-Poisoning.* Dr. BOWDITCH mentioned a series of cases of lead-poisoning, which occurred in the country. The resident physician, under whose charge they were, stated that before being called to them he had heard that one child had died of supposed marasmus. On visiting them, he found one of the children much wasted and debilitated, without any very distinct symptoms, and he attributed its condition to the miserable poverty of the family. Shortly after, and during his attendance upon this child, another of the family was taken ill with symptoms of lead colic, and on examination he found the blue line well marked upon the gums of the whole family. In a few days, wrist-drop occurred in the last-mentioned patient. The water used by the family was examined, and found to contain a large quantity of lead. During his attendance, all the members of the family were more or less affected—some have had colic, others wrist-drop, and there has been more of an effect upon the mind than is usually observed, some of the family having become semi-idiotic. Other families had used the same water without any bad results. Dr. Bowditch said that the attending physician had promised him a more detailed account of these cases.

MAY 3d.—*Scarlatina a Second Time.* Dr. C. D. HOMANS reported three cases occurring in children of one family. The three children had scarlatina in February last, the disease being well marked, with accompanying sore throat, swollen glands, &c. Three weeks ago, the oldest child, a boy of 6 years, had a similar attack, and then the other two had the disease even more severely than when they first suffered from it.

MAY 17th.—*Idiopathic Tetanus.* Dr. S. A. GREEN reported a case of tetanus, occurring without apparent adequate cause. The patient, an Irish laborer, took off his winter flannels on Saturday, and worked all day in his shirt sleeves without any feeling of chilliness. Saturday, he drank lager beer in considerable quantity. Yesterday (Sunday) morning, he began to have symptoms of tetanus. These increased in violence during the day; and, when seen this morning, his condition was sufficiently marked, and he died about 5, P.M. In reply to questions from several members, Dr. Green stated that the spasmodic action began about the mouth and temporal muscles, that there was a good deal about the larynx, and that opisthotonos occurred. The attacks of spasm came on every few minutes, even without any jarring of the body; the mind was not affected; there was at no time any relaxation about the muscles of the jaw, so that he was wholly unable to open his mouth, and liquids were introduced through a hole worn by his pipe-stem in the teeth. He was able to swallow in the intervals of the more severe convulsions. Death occurred by asphyxia. No wound of any description was found.

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