teeth appears to be the only cure. It acts by taking off the tension upon the gums arising from the growth of the tooth, or by preventing ulceration. It often happens, particularly when the operation is performed early in the disease, that the gums will reunite over the teeth, in which case the cause will be reproduced, and must be removed by the same method. I have performed the operation ten times upon the same tooth, and every time with the absolute removal of the symptoms. The operation should not be done with a fine-pointed instrument, because most probably the point will be broken off against the tooth, which will make the instrument unfit for going on further, if more incisions are required. A common lancet, with its point rounded, is a very good instrument; something like a fleam would be a most convenient shape."

[The author then relates the following histories.]

Case 1.—A young child was attacked with contractions of the muscoli flexores of the fingers and also of the toes. These contractions were so considerable as to keep the fingers and thumb constantly clenched, and so irregular as to appear distorted; all the antispasmodic medicines were given for several months, but without success. I scarified the gums down to the teeth, and in less than half an hour all the contractions ceased. This, however, only gave relief for a time. The gums healed, the teeth continued to grow, and filled up the new place acquired by the scarification. The same symptoms appearing a second time, the former operation was repeated successfully.

Case 2.—A boy, about two years of age, was seized with pain on

making water, and voided matter from the urethra. I suspected this child might probably be affected by the venereal disease, and suspicions naturally fell on the nurse. These complaints advanced and abated according to the degree of inflammation of the gums; and on the gums and system becoming quiet, they entirely ceased.

III.

OBSERVATIONS ON A FEVER PREVALENT IN THE SPRING OF THE PRESENT YEAR. BY DR. ROUPPELL.

REFERENCE was made last week to the fever which had recently prevailed in some parts of London. The most clear description of this disease, which differs as much as does the plague from cholera, is contained in a paper read before the London College of Physicians by Dr. Roupell, for an account of which we are indebted to the Medical Gazette.

The author being physician to the Floating Hospital, moored off Greenwich, has had ample opportunities of observing this complaint, and the seamen whom he has had to treat seem to have been particularly obnoxious to it, predisposed, by their thoughtless improvident character leaving them subject to many privations, and by the unwholesome state of the neighborhood of Greenwich—notwithstanding the Institutions established in various parts of that eastern suburb of our city. There is in general a pretty good supply of fever (of no very peculiar character, however), in the quarter in question; but during the present spring the number of cases, as well as the special features of the disease,

claimed particular notice. A principal symptom in those attacked, was sudden prostration of strength, so decided and severe that even the stoutest, in twenty-four hours, would be unable to stand without support, or turn unaided in his bed. The countenance was generally dusky, in those presenting themselves for admission, but sometimes flushed and sometimes pale. More marked peculiarities were presently observed: a brilliancy of the eye, in which there was often a strange wildness, a fixedness and intensity of gaze, strongly contrasted with the other signs of debility. The intellectual functions were affected. On questioning the patients about their sensations, some denied that they were at all ill, while others were immoderately depressed, bursting into tears, and declaring their conviction that they should surely die. Some, when questioned, maintained for a time an obstinate silence, and then gave an incoherent answer in a loud voice and a maniacal manner. Their disordered feelings were variously described: torrents in the ears; flashes of light before the eyes; fire on the brain; thoughts rushing; images passing in rapid succession. The most intimate acquaintances were not recognised; memory in some (though without loss of consciousness) so completely gone, that no history of the complaint could be obtained; many doubted their identity, and one *thought he had died*. The pupil was dilated; the conjunctiva, in most cases, of a rose-red hue; the tongue broadly and thickly coated with a dirty-brown fur; the thirst was intense; the stomach bore food, though no appetite was felt; vomiting was rare; hiccough frequent. The bowels were usually constipated, but when open the evacua-

tions passed involuntarily; and the urine frequently was detained in the bladder from paralysis of its muscles. The pulse very weak and infrequent—often intermitting. While the pulse was being felt, the flexor muscles of the hand were noticed to twitch considerably. The muscles of the mouth, too, especially after speaking, exhibited the same appearance of twitching. The heat of skin generally was not above the common standard; that of the forehead, however, was increased. A rash was perceptible in general over the lower extremities, resembling strongly the eruption in measles, but not presenting the crescent-like aspect, and occurring in elderly persons, and those who had already had rubeola. Some had true petechiæ. The pains which seemed to be most distressing, were those of the limbs and the back of the neck; headach not so severe.

The general progress of the complaint was this:—Languor; pain in the head and limbs; horripilation, with chilliness; depressed pulse; despondency; watching, with confusion of ideas lasting many days. The next stage was marked by more active cerebral disturbance, by inflammation of the lungs, and the appearance of rash, or petechiæ; with little reaction of the heart and arteries. The third stage, by partial paralysis; coma; subsultus; dry tongue; thick sordes on the teeth; copious discharges of blood from the bowels; fixedness of jaw; cold extremities; death.

Of the successful cases, the majority terminated between the eighteenth and twenty-fourth days of the disease, which seemed to be the critical periods, as death, in the unsuccessful cases, generally occurred on the same days, though

the seventh and fourteenth were fatal in one or two instances. Perspiration, when it did occur in the course of the complaint, seemed to give no relief.

Convalescence was slow ; giddiness, deafness, and debility, remaining after the other symptoms had declined. The parotid glands, too (or the neighboring tissues), in five patients, swelled and discharged pus ; the inguinal glands in one, and the axillary in another. One man lost part of the greater number of his toes ; how much of the foot will remain to another, is yet to be decided ; in both, heat and redness, with acute pain, speedily gave way to mortification.

The strong tendency to hemorrhage during the complaint was remarkable : it occurred spontaneously from the nose and bowels, in some cases, and the leeches were observed to bleed copiously.

With respect to treatment: those were bled from the arm, or cupped, or leeched, in whom the cerebral symptoms were most urgent, who had most strength, and in whom the conjunctiva was diffused. Those with sore throat, weak pulse, and slight head affection, took subcarb. ammon. in camphor mixture or bitter infusion, or in the form of effervescing saline draught. Sulphuric ether, with dilute spirit of Mindererus, was given to those who, with weak pulse and cold skin, had an excited nervous system ; blisters, at the same time, were applied between the shoulders and nape of the neck, and opiates were exhibited at night. Cooling acid drinks were allowed.

Bleeding with leeches was found to be the most beneficial mode of depletion ; general bleeding was in general ill borne.

The benefit of mercury was very

doubtful, as the mouth, in some, became sore without any abatement of the symptoms, whilst many and severe cases did well under its free and continued use. Emetics, in the very early stage of the complaint, had a marked good effect, but at later periods were perfectly useless. In the way of purgatives, the powder recommended by Rush—ten grains of calomel and fifteen of jalap—was most suited to Dr. Roupell's patients.

The total number of fever cases admitted from the 1st of January to the 18th of April, was 119. Of these, the number in whom the disease assumed the peculiar type just described, was 75 ; of whom twelve died ; but Dr. Roupell calculates, upon a nicer scrutiny, that the mortality was but 5 out of 68.

The appearances on dissection confirmed the opinions which could not but be formed with regard to the inflammation of the membranes of the brain : turgescence of vessels ; great vascularity ; effusion of serum ; and deposition of solid lymph, varying from a quantity only sufficient to render the arachnoid opaque, to the thickness of a line. The effusion of lymph was, in all cases but one, between the arachnoid and pia mater, to which, in the excepted case, it was external.

It would be difficult to procure more positive contradiction to the theory of Broussais than these cases afforded. The mucous membranes of the bowels not only bore no marks whatever of inflammation, but there were no enlarged glands—no discoloration—no softening—no thickness—nor ulceration of any sort. On the other hand, to those who stop short and see only one disease, local inflammation, and calling fever "meningitis," insist upon the only cure being free de-

pletion—to those Dr. R. replies, that he was himself at first misled by the theory, but upon practising in accordance with it, and opening the temporal artery in a case or two which seemed to require such a step, temporary benefit was certainly derived, but sudden phrenzy, and rapid sinking, in these instances, soon satisfied him that he had more to treat than simple inflammation.

The blood was of a loose texture—often did not cup or buff. The pulse never rose during or after bleeding.

Peculiarities such as those described—particularly taking into account the rash, and the history of the complaint—clearly convince Dr. Roupell of its specific nature, and that it is well worthy of more ample discussion.

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FORMER PREVALENCE OF CHOLERA.

It is somewhat remarkable that the same disease which now commits such dreadful ravages in the armies of the north, should be but a second visitation of a malady which devastated the ranks of the army in Hungary during the 17th century. In Solvandez's History of Poland, may be found a letter from John Sobieski, King of Poland, to his wife. This letter was written shortly after the battle of Vienna, is dated Sept. 28, 1683, and contains the following sentences:—

“ ——— The half of our army is sick, and of a complaint as contagious as the plague itself: they call it the Hungarian fever. It is at-

tended with looseness and discharge of blood; after which come vomiting, fainting, and delirium. Almost all our nobles and officers are quartered at Presbourg: many of them are already dead: and what seems extraordinary, the disease has reappeared in some who had previously passed through it. God in his goodness will perhaps assuage our miseries: if they continue, there will need no other enemy to destroy us.”

And again:—“ It is so strange a scourge, that just after seeing a man going about, and full of activity, you hear that he is already insensible and beyond hope. We have remarked that intoxication was a means of safety.”

The above is sufficiently descriptive of the disease to establish its probable analogy to that which is now prevailing in Europe, and which excites scarcely less attention or alarm in England, and Russia, and Poland, than the political troubles in which the inhabitants of those countries are so deeply involved. Both the symptoms and rapidly fatal effects of the disease are the same now as then. According to the report of Professor Lichtenstein, of St. Petersburg (some account of which we have already given), it frequently terminates life in three hours, and the proportion of deaths is about one in three. During summer, the mortality has been much greater than in the colder months.

Respecting means of prevention, we have remarked that an English writer, who appears to have given much attention to the subject, states that brandy and laudanum have been