LITHOTRIPSY.

CURE OF STONE IN ONE SITTING.

By W. B. COSTELLO, Esq.

THE pages of THE LANCET already contain several cases of lithotripsy in which I have performed a cure in *one sitting*, and I send you another in which relief was obtained by a single application of the instrument, the duration of the operation not exceeding three minutes. The subject of this case is Mr. Rorke, of Usher's Quay, Dublin, aged 70, a man of full habit, and suffering occasionally from gout. About eighteen months since, he suffered great pain in his loins, and voided some small calculi. In October last the lumbar pains increased, and extended to the bladder, the urine becoming bloody. In fact he had all the symptoms of stone in the bladder, with this peculiarity, that he could neither walk across his room, nor stand upright. He remained in this state until the 20th of April last, when he came to me. The existence of a stone in the bladder had been ascertained previously to his leaving Dublin, by Mr. O'Reilly, a distinguished surgeon and lithotomist of that city, who did me the honour of placing him under my care. I operated on the 21st of April. The bladder was capacious and columnated. A small stone was felt at one of the posterior angles of the trigona, apparently fixed in the orifice of the ureter. The instrument employed was a small, short-curved percussor, which being inverted, its blades were brought together on the stone, and the calculus was thus detached from its situation. My next step was to secure it in the instrument, and then to crush it, which I did with my hand only. The patient uttered no complaint during the operation. In the course of the next twenty-four hours, he voided two small entire calculi of the size of a wren's egg, and began to use his feet without experiencing the horrible pains which had for six months before debarred him from all such exercise. On the next day some fragments were voided, and he felt himself quite well. On the third day he had great pain in making water, the pulse became frequent, the urine high-coloured and glairy, though not fetid; fragments and debris of stone were still passing; the use of the copaiba mixture had increased the frequency and pain of micturition; the tepid hip-bath was used at night, and he had an opiate suppository; the pain in the urethra, and the scalding, still continued. Taking his gouty diathesis into

account, and seeing no reason why this morbid principle might not invade the urinary apparatus, I ordered *lig. opii sed. gtts. x, cum gtts. xxx vini colchici*, and all his pain ceased in a single night. The urine became natural, and he returned to Dublin on the 8th inst., after having walked and amused himself about London and its environs for a week.

From the circumstance of the two small calculi being expelled whole, immediately after the largest had been detached from the extremity of the ureter, I conclude that they had been imprisoned behind it in the ureter. If it were not so, they might have been expelled long before. If this supposition be correct, it may explain the circumstance of his inability to walk without excessive pain.

This case gives token of the triumph which lithotripsy is destined to achieve, when its application shall be more extensive, and it is resorted to at a more early period of the affliction.

7, Parliament Street, Westminster,

May 24, 1833.

 DERANGEMENTS OF THE FACULTY OF
LANGUAGE

FROM INJURY TO THE

ANTERIOR LOBE OF THE CEREBRUM.*

By W. A. F. BROWNE, Esq. Surgeon.

THE chief inducements to collect the following facts were, that they have never before been systematically arranged, many of them never published, and none referred to their true explanation; and that they tend to elucidate the general question of insanity, by exhibiting an individual power under disease. Could the unhealthy manifestations of each faculty be thus separated, our notions would become clear, not merely of insanity abstractly considered, but of each example of insanity submitted to our care. We should then be enabled to trace the disease to its origin, to estimate its extent, and to adapt our treatment to the peculiarities presented. At present, lunacy is regarded as a disease of the whole mind, not of one, two, or more powers of that mind; and the cure is attempted, in all cases, by one and the same means, though it would be equally rational to treat pneumonia, asthma, and phthisis, by the same medicines, because they all impede the performance of the respiratory function.

* Condensed from the Phenological Journal June, 1833.