

of comminution of bone or laceration of muscles, unless very extensive, any fracture into a joint, or compound dislocation of a joint, can justify the abandonment of the case, so long as the structures are capable of some general replacement, and the patient can submit without suffering to the restraint necessary to his recovery.

Grosvenor-street, September, 1856.

REPORT OF

THREE SUCCESSFUL CASES OF WÜTZER'S OPERATION FOR THE RADICAL CURE OF REDUCIBLE INGUINAL HERNIA.

By CHAS. VAUDIN, Esq., M.R.C.S., Jersey.

CASE 1.—Monsieur le T—, aged forty-two, consulted me for an oblique inguinal hernia of the left side, which caused him much inconvenience. Upon examination, I discovered a strong tendency to the same affection on the right side. Being a remarkably healthy person, of temperate habits, I recommended Wützer's procedure to him, he being extremely anxious to be radically cured of this affection.

A brisk purgative of calomel and jalap having been given to him two days previously, on the 12th of May, the instrument was introduced, the plug coated with firm grease, and all the hair on the part to be invaginated plucked away. The needle was not protruded before I had the plug firmly in the canal, and in so doing, I managed to transfix the internal pillar of the external ring, or the structures immediately behind it, so that I was quite sure the integumental plug might be firmly opposed to the parts until it fairly adhered to them.

The patient kept his bed eight days, during which time I removed the plug once, wiped it and applied fresh grease, and returned it. The pressure of the instrument he regulated himself according to his feelings, so that he always felt it comfortably firm. Not a single unpleasant symptom occurred.

On the ninth day, the instrument was removed; a compress of oiled lint and a T-bandage was applied. He sat up the three following days a few hours each day, and then gradually resumed his former habits.

On the fourteenth day, the wound made by the stylet was quite healed; he preferred the bandage to a truss, and it was applied every day up to the twenty-eighth, when, the parts being so firm and well consolidated, the impulse on coughing being no more perceptible than in the normal condition, I enjoined him to wear a suspensory bandage, and to abstain from any exercise demanding extraordinary respiratory efforts.

Up to this period (Sept. 2nd) he is, as well as myself, perfectly satisfied with the results of the operation, and wishes to be operated upon on the other side, even before the hernial descent is complete, a proceeding I have of course advised him to leave until circumstances render it more requisite.

At the request of my friend, Mr. G. M. Jones, I append the two following cases, he having kindly furnished me with his notes of them.

CASE 2.—N. N—, aged thirty-six, a labourer. Had inguinal hernia of the right side of eight years' standing, caused by lifting a heavy weight. He was a man of very intemperate habits. He had occasionally worn a truss, but only for a few days at a time. Trusses given to him by institutions were always sold in a few days, to procure drink. He was operated on January 5th, 1856. The instrument was removed on the ninth day. He remained in hospital six weeks, and wore a truss during that time. He was seen for the last time two months ago, and was then quite drunk. Had sold his truss the day after his discharge, and had not worn one since. He was examined then, and anxious to prove how well he had recovered, nothing would satisfy him but coughing as loud as he was able, and jumping from a shop counter on his feet; this he did several times.

CASE 3.—Thomas G—, aged fifteen, a Canadian; oblique inguinal hernia, two years. Operated on the 1st of April, 1856. The instrument remained in eight days, followed by no unpleasant symptom. The patient was heard of two months ago, and was then pursuing the active duties of a cabin boy, and wore no truss.

The paper by Mr. Wells in the "Medico-Chirurgical Transactions," vol. xxxvii., affords information to those desirous of testing the merits of this new proceeding. In conclusion I will add, that it has struck me in my ob-

servation of these three cases, that only just sufficient pressure should be applied, by means of the upper plate and screw, to keep the parts in close apposition. Undue pressure not only gives severe pain, but produces a retardation of the union process. I would suggest, also, the liberation, by incision, of the margins of the invaginated integument, including the dartos and cremaster; the action of these, even independent of that of the other perineal muscles, in ordinary and extraordinary respiratory efforts, seems to have a tendency to draw upon the integumental plug; hence I am led to think this liberation might be an improvement, and mean to give it a trial. Adhesion of the parietes of the plug might also be a desirable occurrence, and this could be effected by the actual cautery, or the chloride of zinc.

Mr. Coxeter kindly modified the instrument for me in the following way:—The needle, or stylet, was strongly gilt to prevent its corrosion, and its extremity eye'd to allow of its more secure fixture to a cork. The handle was also made to unscrew, so as to prevent its entanglement in the patient's dress, or in any movements.

St. Helier's, Sept. 1856.

THIRD QUARTERLY METEOROLOGICAL REPORT AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL FOR 1856.

By ROBERT DUNDAS THOMSON, M.D., F.R.S.L. & E.,

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL COLLEGE,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, ETC.

THE atmosphere has been characterized during the quarter by a lower mean pressure than in the two preceding years. This is peculiarly exemplified in September, which afforded in 1854 and 1855 a mean elevation of the barometer of above 30 inches, while in the past month its average height was 29·793. September, which in the two preceding years was a dry month, yielding respectively ·65 and 1·15 inches of rain, with 5 and 7 rainy days, has this year afforded a rain-fall of 2·07 inches, and 11 rainy days. This result has been obviously connected with the south-westerly wind, which has predominated during the quarter. The greatest rain-fall was ·83 inch in twenty-four hours, on the 16th of August.

The mean temperature of July was less than last year, while that of August was higher, respectively 63°·9 and 65°·4; that of September was, however, lower, 57°·5 and 56°·2. The mean temperature of the whole quarter was nearly the same as last year, 61°·5 in 1855, and 61°·2 in the present year; the average for 65 years was 60°·6. The thermometer on 12 days rose above 80°, a circumstance which only occurred once in the corresponding quarter of last year. The maximum temperatures occurred on the 23rd, 30th, and 31st of July, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th in September; the heat on these days being respectively, 83°·8, 82°·2, 85°·7, 86°, 88°·2, 86°·8, 82°·8, 80°·4, 80°·5, 84°·7, 81°·2, 83°·3. It is to this elevated temperature that may be ascribed the predisposition to infantile diarrhoea, which was so fatal during the middle of the quarter, particularly in the parish of Marylebone, where it seems to have assumed the form of an epidemic, upwards of 300 cases having been attended by the parochial surgeons alone. At one period, indeed, some of the symptoms of a choleraic accession were threatened; but these gradually moderated with the depression of the maximum temperature, which descended in the course of a few days about 20°, since on the 13th of August the highest thermometer stood at 83°·3, and on the 18th, at 63°·4, equivalent to a fall of 19°·9.

October, 1856.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.—The annual dinner of the students of Queen's College was held at the Union Inn, Union-street, on Thursday, the 2nd inst. There was a very numerous attendance of visitors. The chair was occupied by Mr. Josephus A. Williams, the student who has gained the most distinction during the year, having carried off the gold medal of the London University. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman, in an appropriate speech, proposed "Prosperity to the Queen's College," which was responded to with great warmth. In reply to various toasts, the company was addressed by Drs. Davies and Heslop, and by Messrs. Bolton, Neale, Cox, Crampton, &c.