

higher than could be borne in ordinary fomentation, for the insensibility produced by the tightening of the cupping-glass soon overcomes even a slight sensation of scalding, which the patient may feel at the moment the cup containing the hot water is applied. But the use of the hot water in cupping is not limited to that species of it in which blood is abstracted, for its farther advantage can be well conceived in the kind called "dry cupping." In cases requiring that operation you may have the combined effect of the dry cupping and the hot water, although it is a little paradoxical to speak of *dry cupping* when an ounce of hot water may be used, or less, or more, as may be thought proper.

From the easy mode in which this form of cup can be applied, I recommend it to those who have not tried it. It can be used at all times, and with the utmost delicacy, which cannot be affirmed of that form which requires the spirit of wine. It is no small advantage attending this peculiar form of cup, that in its application the degree of pressure can be increased by a nice gradation, in accommodation to the sensibility of the part to which it is applied, either with or without the hot water, and if thought proper it can be used equally well as the other form with the spirit of wine. Nor is it necessary to remark farther, that this form of cup, with the addition of hot water, is exceedingly convenient, and no less useful for promoting a copious flow of blood after leeches have been removed. As I said above, the degree of pressure can be accommodated to the sensibility of the part, and under ordinary circumstances the cup with the hot water applied to recent leech-holes, almost any quantity of blood may be obtained.

Dunoon, Argyleshire, April 26, 1843.

## THE RESUSCITATION OF APPARENTLY LIFELESS CHILDREN.

(For THE LANCET.)

MRS. ALLAN was confined to-day of her seventh child, after a short labour; the child was apparently lifeless, flaccid, and below the average size. Immediately after birth, on exposure to the air of the apartment, there was a convulsive movement of the mouth and chest, which was probably caused by the sudden impress of air on the nervous system. I immediately plunged the infant into very warm water, keeping merely the mouth above, and rubbing it in the usual way. It still continued perfectly flaccid, and to all appearance dead; so much so, that the attendants begged me to give it up as hopeless. I then commenced smart friction all down the spine. The bowels and limbs, as my hand traversed the different regions, now became stiff, and more life-like, the pulsations of the carotids, were felt dis-

tinctly under my fingers as my hand supported the head; the gasps at breath gradually became inspirations, which were soon followed by cries and full resuscitation. Although this child was no doubt restored so speedily through the medium of the spinal nerves, it might, perhaps, have been recovered by the usual methods, but that tried on this occasion was so very successful that I am induced to report it. The idea was suggested from the writings of Dr. Marshall Hall.

WILLIAM HENDERSON, M.D.  
Corstorphine, Edinburgh,  
May 6, 1843.

## OCCUPATION OF THE UTERUS BY HYDATIDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case of hydatids in the uterus has lately occurred in my practice:—

On Sunday, the 16th of April ult., Mrs. P., ætat. 31, married, and the mother of five children, applied to me in consequence of pain and slight uterine hæmorrhage, stating that she had twice miscarried, the last time about eight months since. She considered herself now to be pregnant, having quickened on Friday the 14th, but was apprehensive she should not go the full time. As the hæmorrhage was not profuse I recommended quiet and the recumbent position, and a sixth part of the following mixture every four hours:—

R *Sulph. of magnes.*, three drachms;  
*Dilute sulph. acid.*, one drachm;  
*Tinct. of opium*, one drachm;  
*Water*, six ounces. Mix.

17. No increase of flooding, and the pain subsided.

18. Better. Again told me she was confident she felt her child. To continue the mixture.

20. Considerably better. Told me she did not require further medical aid.

24. I was again called, in consequence of hæmorrhage returning (which she attributed to some exertion she had undergone during the day). On arriving I found she had lost a considerable quantity of blood, and was complaining of much faintness. On placing my hand upon the abdomen I found an enlargement, much greater than is usually the case in a woman who has only advanced four or five months in pregnancy, and I stated to her that I considered she must have made some mistake, and was further advanced than she expected. I then made an examination per vaginam, and found the os uteri rather low in the pelvis, its lips thick and undilatable, admitting only of the introduction of the forefinger; I could discover nothing but a soft yielding substance. The hæmorrhage at this time having sub-

aided, I left her, and ordered a pill containing powdered opium one-third of a grain, acetate of lead one grain, to be taken every four hours, with a sixth part of the following mixture:—

R *Acetic acid*, three drachms;  
*Tinct. of hyoscyamus*, one drachm;  
*Water*, six ounces. Mix.

25. No return of flooding, but slight pain in the body.

36. Better, and entirely free from pain.

27. Continuing to improve.

28. Early in the morning I was summoned to attend, by her husband, who stated that he thought his wife was dying. On my arrival I found her face quite blanched, and the pulse scarcely perceptible. After giving her stimulants I lost no time in ascertaining the extent of hæmorrhage, and on making an examination per vaginam I found, as nearly as I could guess, a half handbasinful of coagula, mixed with a substance resembling frog-spawn, and of an amber colour. The os uteri was low in the pelvis, and dilated, so that I could get my three fingers in, and I could then discover the uterus filled with this substance. The introduction of the fingers caused the uterus to contract, and, in the course of ten minutes, it emptied itself of a handbasinful more of hydatids mixed with coagula. My patient, I feared, for some hours, was sinking, but by administering stimulants she rallied, and although now exceedingly weak is doing well. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. NUNN FITCH.

Little Hedingham, Essex,  
 May 12, 1843.

#### RARE ANIMALCULES IN THE BLOOD OF A DOG.

In February last, M. Gruby brought under the notice of the French Academy of Sciences some vermiform animalcules which he had met with in the blood of a healthy and strong dog, ten or eleven years old, and which had been fed on horseflesh and fat for the previous three weeks. The worms were transparent, and about one-hundredth of an inch in length. Their anterior extremity was the larger, and presented a fissure, which appeared to be a mouth; the tail tapered off to a fine point. They were very active, living for ten days after the removal of the blood from the circulation. Examined in a drop of this fluid under a microscope, they were observed to shape their course between the globules, by an undulating motion, and to curve and twist themselves frequently and with much rapidity. For twenty days MM. Gruby and Leblanc found them in blood from any part of the body of the above dog, but they have failed to be seen in the blood of nearly one hundred other dogs since examined for the purpose.—*L'Experience*.

No. 1029.

#### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday, May 9, 1843.

EDWARD STANLEY, F.R.S., President.

#### *Observations on the Medicinal Properties of Indian Hemp.* By JOHN CLENDINNING, M.D.

THE author commenced his paper with general observations on the importance of narcotics, but especially of opium, in the treatment of disease. After having referred to numerous examples of the successful use of opium in acute and chronic disease, he adverted to the inconvenience occasionally attending the employment of opiates, especially to the derangement of the stomach and bowels and kidneys, and the vertiginous and other painful conditions of the nervous system they so frequently produce, and he then stated that in his experience those inconvenient effects had occurred so frequently, and had been found in many cases so difficult to obviate without the abandonment of the use of a class of remedies of the utmost importance in a large number and variety of diseases, that he had been recently induced to make trial of the extract of hemp, recommended by Dr. O'Shaughnessy, of Calcutta, as a substitute for opium in numerous instances.

The author's object in making this communication was to bring under the notice of the society the results he had obtained, as in his judgment important to be made generally known, with a view to further and more extended trials by other practitioners, more especially at this moment, when there was some prospect of a new edition of the *London Pharmacopœia*, upon which he understood a committee of the Royal College was actually engaged.

The author then gave details of eighteen cases from a much larger number in which he had given trial to the new remedy with satisfactory results. These trials included cases of acute and chronic disease, and persons of both sexes and of very various ages. The number of cases detailed, although necessary to substantiate the claims advanced by the author in favour of the new narcotic, was yet such as to preclude any analysis of them in this place. It will be sufficient to say, generally, that the indications for its use in these cases appear to have been more especially to relieve neuralgic pain; to relieve irritation and spasms of chronic bronchitis, of rheumatism, &c., and to subdue sleeplessness or disturbed rest, from whatever cause, if not arising from inflammation in the head. The author found the remedy highly useful in checking cough in phthisis, and cramp and irritation in the limbs, &c., in rheumatism, without any interference with the digestive processes or intestinal action or secretions, yet with an