

opened his eyes, and could perceive objects, though very indistinctly. From this time the sensibility to light gradually became less, and his vision improved. The eyes through the whole sickness were uninflamed, but very sore; pulse natural; tongue but slightly furred and no fever. He regained his health as quick as he had done from former attacks, and has had no return of the spasms; but at times has been afflicted with headach; when severe his sight has been much affected; generally, however, it has been nearly as good as before he lost it.

I have no remarks to make upon the above singular case; but would barely suggest the idea, that possibly the blindness might have been owing to a compression of the optic nerves: whether the long continued nausea and vomiting, occasioned by the arsenic, had any effect in removing the compression or whatever caused the blindness, I am unable to say. It would seem, however, that it was owing principally to the spasms, since each eye recovered its sensibility immediately after having been affected with a severe one. But, that the nausea and vomiting had some influence we might conclude from the fact, that in several of the former attacks the eyes suffered equally as much as in the present, without any effect on the sight.

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*Case of Hydrocephalus.* By JONATHAN SHERWOOD, M. D.

[Communicated to the Editors of the New-England Journal.]

**A** SON of Mr. Jason Francis in his eighth month, a healthy, robust, corpulent child of a very lively disposition, on the 1st day of January, 1821, was burned on the side of his face, and on the 4th of the same month an erysipelatous inflammation appeared on the forehead, extending over the left eye, accompanied with great febrile action. In the course of eleven days the erysipelas spread over the whole surface of the body, attended with heat, thirst, coma and delirium. The eruption advanced rapidly over the scalp, thence down over the neck, back, breast, abdomen and the superior and inferior extremities, leaving a tumefaction on every part which the redness had occupied. After pursuing the usual mode of treatment in such cases, the disease subsided in about eleven days, in so much that there appeared no obstacle to a rapid convalescence. But I soon found, I had a more formidable complaint to encounter, for in the course

of two days, the symptoms of internal dropsy of the brain made their appearance. He was at first restless and uneasy, drowsy and feverish. He cried much and slept little; the skin was hot and dry, especially towards evening, there was a perpetual moaning, and he would frequently start from sleep and scream out as if he were terrified. His eye-lids were half closed. He rolled his head on the pillow, and there was often a hectic flush on one cheek. The bowels were not confined as usual, in this disease, neither had he at this time the slow pulse mentioned by writers. On the contrary it was quick and weak. After the above symptoms had continued a few days, strabismus made its appearance, the axes of both eyes being turned in towards the nose, and the pupils very much dilated. There was coma, and delirium of the most violent kind. His eyes were deprived of their vivacity by the filmy covering of the cornea. He was continually thrusting his tongue out of his mouth as if endeavouring to remove something disagreeable to the taste. There was a troublesome cough, and his head was sometimes drawn backwards.

From the above symptoms, I had no doubt that the disorder was internal dropsy of the brain, and therefore lost no time in adopting the mode of treatment recommended by the late Doct. Rush, except blood-letting, which operation I should have performed, but I could not find a vein.

18th. I gave him a large dose of jalap and calomel, and after shaving the head, a large blister was applied to the occiput and neck.

19th. His mother informed me that the cathartic had operated eight times, and that he became much stronger after every evacuation. His pulse had become slow and full, the delirium was not so violent, and there was less strabismus and dilatation of the pupils. Another dose of jalap and calomel was given, and blisters were applied to the temples.

20th. I learned that the cathartic had produced a number of copious evacuations from his bowels with obvious benefit. There was not so much strabismus, and the pupils were considerably diminished since yesterday, and there was neither coma nor delirium. His pulse was slow and soft. The cathartic of jalap and calomel was again repeated; and on the 21st, I found the pupils contracted to their natural size, the eyes had assumed their vivacity, and there was no strabismus. From this time until the 25th, he was extremely restless and uneasy, and by turns seemed to be in pain. During this period, laudanum given in appropriate doses, and at regular intervals, kept him quiet and easy.

25th. He grew worse, the stupor and drowsiness returned accompanied with pyrexia, and his tongue as before mentioned was in continual motion. But another dose of jalap and castor oil removed every symptom of the disease, and from this time his appetite returned and he mended rapidly.

24th of February. He is now alive and in good health.

Champion, Jefferson County, (N. Y.) Feb. 27, 1821.