

100 drops of laudanum, and directed it to be repeated every two hours until I saw him again, if it did not produce sleep. Immediately after taking it he became excessively violent, but in three quarters of an hour sunk into a profound sleep, from which he was occasionally roused during the night to take small quantities of gruel and beef tea. When awake he was calm and rational, and slept quietly eleven hours. For several succeeding nights, however, he could not obtain sleep without the use of laudanum; and it was frequently necessary to give him as many as 300 drops before this could be procured. He has never had the disease since, but has continued to enjoy his health perfectly well to the present time.

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Case of Tetanus which terminated in recovery. By JOHN CHANDLER, M.D.

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AMONG the variety of diseases incident to mankind, few are involved in more obscurity as to their pathology, and perhaps no one has more generally baffled the skill of the physician and proved more fatal, than Tetanus. This fact must impress the mind of every student with the conviction that very much remains to be acquired in this department of Medicine.—To those who have never seen the complaint, the systems already written, and the methods of treatment proposed and described by medical authors, may be satisfactory; but to such as have watched the various changes in this disease at the bedside of the unfortunate sufferer, it is very obvious that we are not yet acquainted with any one medicine or application, upon which, from uniform experience, we can rely; nor are we possessed of any remedy that can be exhibited with confidence in its power to afford relief. The two varieties of the disease described by systematic writers, are those which arise from a puncture or *laesion* of a nerve, or that which takes place without any such exciting cause, but has arisen from exposure to violent cold, &c. The latter of these, which may be termed idiopathic Tetanus, has more generally yielded to *appropriate* remedies than the former.—That depending on local injury usually continues, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of medical skill, to increase its effects on the nervous system, until life is exhausted, and nature sinks. The happy issue of the following case, while it affords the highest satisfaction to the feelings of humanity, will I think, be deemed a sufficient apology for making the same public.

Tuesday, December 4th, 1821, Lieut. John Whitehouse, a remarkable strong, muscular man, received a slight injury in the right index finger, which separated the integuments, and partially divided the tendon. The day following, his business was such as to make it necessary that his hands should be continually wet, being frequently immersed in hot and cold water, and exposed to a cold atmosphere. The next day (Thursday) he felt considerable pain in his finger and arm, but not to such a degree as to induce him to keep house.—In the latter part of the day, however, finding the pain increasing, he was induced to retire early in the evening to bed, but could find no rest.—At eight o'clock (evening) the pain began rapidly to increase in the arm of the afflicted side, but no complaint was made, till nine, when the pain became intolerable, extending up the arm, accompanied with rigidity of the masseter muscles.—Supposing himself going into a fit, he sprung out of bed, and with difficulty forced the handle of a knife between his teeth. The morbid impression from the wound now rapidly extended its influence through the whole system. The muscles about the face and neck were in constant and rigid contraction, while the muscles surrounding the chest, loins and limbs were occasionally relaxed, producing various degrees of contortion. In this stage of the complaint I visited the patient, and never did I witness a more distressing scene; nor ever did I more feelingly deplore my own impotency, or that of the healing art.—Immediately I perceived that there was no time to loose, and that much might be done; although I had not the least prospect of rescuing my distressed patient from the jaws of death—I directed a warm bath to be prepared with all possible dispatch, and in the mean time, I let blood very freely from the arm, and gave laudanum and brandy as freely as the stomach would bear. The bath produced considerable amelioration of the spasms, but the jaws continued firmly fixed.—Deglutition was extremely difficult, and every attempt to swallow increased the spasms—A part of the medicines was of course ejected, which rendered it impossible to ascertain the precise quantity taken.—I therefore directed that brandy, and occasionally brandy and water be given for common drink, and that laudanum be given every half-hour in such quantity as would stay on the stomach. I likewise directed that opium and brandy be freely and frequently applied to the abdomen and spine, and that the wound be dressed with lint wet with spts. terebinth. and a soft poultice over the whole.—The warm bath was repeated, but without any sensible relief.—The spasms, however, in the course of three hours became sensibly less frequent and violent, and appeared to be confined to the chest,

neck and face.—At this time, my friend, Doctor Chadbourne of Concord, met me in consultation; and the result was, to make a complete division of the tendon; and persevere in the course I had adopted with the addition of ten drops of Fowler's solution to each dose of laudanum.—The next day but little change for the better—Injections are forced away with great violence, but produce no fecal discharge.—The difficulty of swallowing rather abated, but the irritability of the stomach increases. There being but little or no discharge from the wound, I applied cantharides to it, and to the back of the hand, which produced considerable inflammation, and in a short time, by the application of poultices, the wound discharged freely.—Cantharides was likewise applied to the pit of the stomach, as the irritability of this organ had now become very great. Fowler's solution was discontinued, and solution of opium was given per anum, and the other medicines continued.—The next day (Saturday) there appeared to be no very great change for the better, although the spasms rather abated, but the irritability of the stomach was so much increased, as to reject almost every thing received into it. The jaws continued to be firmly fixed, and the patient has not yet had sleep. Madeira wine was now given instead of brandy and water, and opium in solution continued externally.—The spasms recur with less violence and frequency. The propriety of the cold bath occurred, and feeling extremely anxious for my patient, I met Dr. C. again in consultation at six in the evening, when it was concluded to use the cold affusion immediately.—Two pails of cold ice water in which salt had been dissolved were poured over the naked body of the patient, and then he was immediately wrapped in warm blankets and put to bed. Perspiration soon commenced, and sleep immediately succeeded.—In the course of about half an hour he awoke with the jaws so much relaxed as to enable him to speak distinctly.—I now gave opium more sparingly, intending to repeat the cold affusion should the spasms return. I also gave pills of calomel every two hours, till free evacuations were procured, and then gave wine and brandy as the stomach would bear. He rested comfortably during the night—The progress of the disease appeared evidently checked, and hopes of recovery were now indulged.—From this time convalescence was rapid, and his recovery under a mild course of tonics was complete.—The above case I conceive to be a very interesting one.—The access of the disease after the injury was much sooner than usual, and appeared to be making progress to a fatal issue with much greater rapidity than in common cases of the kind. As the whole routine of remedies, most relied on by those experienced in the

disease were had recourse to, it may be improper to assign the cure to any particular one ; although the cold affusion appeared to have the greatest effect in severing the chain of morbid actions, which we had every reason to believe would soon have terminated the existence of the patient. I do not feel disposed to attempt an explanation of the pathology of a disease which is left involved in so much obscurity and doubt by the first medical characters. This disease, like every other which usually proves fatal, has much excited the attention of physicians, and led to the adoption of such a diversified round of remedies, as to have diminished the confidence of the faculty in respect to the practice, which ought to be adopted in the case.—Fortunately for the profession and mankind, it is a disease of comparatively uncommon occurrence, and few physicians, very few can say that they are experienced in it.—Should the treatment of another case fall to my lot, I should have more confidence in the application of cold water than any other remedy ; but still I should not use it to the exclusion of all others.

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Operations for Cataract. By SAMUEL W. WYMAN, M.D.

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P. B. of Ipswich, a man of about 54 years of age, of a good constitution, had been blind with cataracts between three and four years : the iris in both eyes moved very freely in light of different intensity, indicating a perfect sensibility of the retina : no object was distinguishable by either eye, in any degree of light ; the opaque lens seemed to obstruct every direct ray, even when the pupils were dilated to their greatest extent. The most that he could discern was the difference between night and day, and objects that were very bright and luminous, but not the forms of any of them.

On the 15th of July, 1819, the operation was performed for the depression of the opaque lens in the left eye. With the cataract-needle of Sir William Adams, introduced, after the usual manner, through the sclerotica, the capsule of the lens was lacerated, the opaque lens detached from its situation and very readily depressed in the vitreous humour. Immediately on the depression of it some light flocculi arose into the area of the pupil and a few of them passed into the anterior chamber. The flash of bright light which immediately burst in, on the removal of the cataract, occasioned considerable faintness,