

I determined upon giving Dr. Hamilton's purgative plan of treatment a fair trial, and commenced by giving hydrarg. submur. gr. iij., p. jalap. gr. vj., p. zingib. gr. iij., in pulv.; this dose to be repeated every other night, which kept the bowels in a state of excitement, so as to produce three or four stools every day. I continued this plan of treatment, varying the ingredients occasionally till the middle of May, which was about seven weeks. The symptoms, during this period, rather increased than diminished, and he now complained of a fixed pain in the back part of the head; his face was more affected than ever, and he had a most frightful grin, &c.

I determined now upon adopting the same plan of treatment which proved effectual upon a girl at St. Thomas's Hospital, recorded in No. 191 of your LANCET. I gave carbonate of iron, two drachms, to be taken three times a day. About a week after this, the boy had a severe attack of ague, which readily yielded to liberal doses of quinine. I should remark, that during the continuance of the ague, the former disease was much exasperated. The lad continued to take the carbonate of iron four times a day until June the 10th, when I considered him quite recovered, as did all his friends. A gradual improvement was observed for the last three week, and his bowels have kept regular without taking one dose of aperient medicine; his appetite is good, his intellects unimpaired, and his mother says he is quite as well as before the attack. The *pain in the head* has also quite left him, and up to yesterday he has had no return of the complaint. He has taken, in all, four pounds six ounces of the carbonate of iron!

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#### AMPUTATION AT THE CARPO-METACARPAL ARTICULATION.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Having read in the last LANCET, No. 204,\* some remarks upon an amputation at the carpo-metacarpal articulation, with preservation of the thumb, wherein it is considered by M. Lisfranc to be the first operation of the kind ever performed upon the living body, and having performed the operation myself as early as the summer in the year 1819, whilst surgeon to the Bangor Infirmary; I beg the insertion of the following case, should you think it worthy of a place in your valuable Journal:—

Master Heyland, ætat. 9, son of the late Major Heyland, residing at Bangor, had his right hand so shattered by the explosion of a horse pistol, that a portion of the two

middle metacarpal bones were actually carried away, and fractured the metacarpal bone of the little finger, with considerable injury to the os magnum. Having examined the nature of the accident, and finding the thumb and fore finger had sustained no other injury than laceration of the soft parts, I was induced to hope that such useful members of the hand might be preserved; in this opinion I was supported by the concurrence of my friend Mr. Thomas Roberts, the family surgeon. We accordingly first made an incision along the radial side, close to the metacarpal bone of the middle finger, carefully preserving its muscles and tendons, then dissected the mass of muscles and integuments off the cubital side of the metacarpal bone of the little finger, and dividing the three metacarpal bones of the fingers from their three corresponding bones of the wrist, and lastly removed the os magnum, which was attended with some difficulty; we then took up two or three arteries, and brought the dissected mass of the metacarpal bones of the little finger in apposition with the metacarpal bone of the under finger, which was secured by slips of adhesive plaister lightly applied; and thus the parts united by the first intention, without a single untoward symptom, so much so, that he was enabled to write a letter to me five weeks subsequent to the operation. As a further proof of the important advantage of this mode of operating, I need only say he now holds a commission in the British army, and is enabled to perform the broad-sword exercise, &c.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. EVANS RIADORE.

7, Tavistock-square, July 30, 1827.

P.S. I beg to leave, with your permission, a rough cast of the hand at THE LANCET Office for any gentleman's inspection. The cast was taken a few months ago, when I had the pleasure of introducing him to my eminent friend Mr. Brookes, the celebrated anatomist.

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#### UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Allow me to inform Mr. Searle, that the mode of restraining uterine hæmorrhage suggested by him in the last Number of your admirable Journal, is by no means novel. It has been taught for some years by Dr. David Davies, as the only efficient treatment of *flooding after delivery*; and, in conjunction with plugging the vagina, a necessarily successful mode of arresting that dangerous discharge.