

here we have six operations and six deaths. All the children under two years are to be found in the column of deaths; and all those who died, except two, were just a little more than two years old. M. André thinks that these facts may be explained by the greater amount of resistance with the older children, both as regards the disease and the operation. He also conceives that debilitating means, as leeches, blisters, &c., should be sparingly used, so as to husband the strength for tracheotomy.

38. *Treatment of Hemorrhoids.*—Dr. VAN HOLSBECK recommends the following formula as of remarkable efficacy in the various forms of hemorrhoids, providing that these are uncomplicated: R. Sulphuri loti, sacchari canarini, of each  $\bar{\text{z}}\text{j}$ ; ext. strychn. nux vom., gr. vj. To be mixed with a sufficient quantity of tragacanth so as to form twenty-four lozenges. Of these two are to be taken the first day, the number being increased by one every day, until six are taken daily. The patient is then to keep at that number during four days, when he is to diminish it gradually until only two are again taken daily. If a radical cure is not by this time effected, he must follow the same course again. The amendment is, however, usually so rapid that the treatment at farthest lasts a week.—*Brit. and For. Med.-Chirurg. Rev.*, Oct. 1857, from *Presse Méd. Belge*, 1857, No. 22.

39. *The Present State of Surgical Science in reference to Cancer and its Treatment.*—Mr. HIRD read before the Medical Society of London (Oct. 10th) a paper on this subject. It was not his intention, the author observed, to enter into a detailed report of individual cases treated by the escharotic applications which of late have been revived by many members of the profession besides himself, but to inquire whether recent experience has shown that we can control the progress of this destructive disease with more certainty, and on sounder surgical principles, than our predecessors were enabled to do. The questions whether carcinoma ever originates and continues as a local disease; whether it ever spontaneously disappears without the interference of art; whether a tumour, originally innocent in its character, is susceptible of cancerous transformation; whether it possesses anatomical, chemical, physiological, and pathological characters, by which we can infallibly distinguish it from other growths, which we are unable to do by the senses of sight and touch; whether, even supposing the constitution to be affected, the ablation of the local disease may not arrest or retard its fatal course; whether removal ever accelerates it by bringing into activity a force which previously had lain dormant in the system; whether we possess remedial agents, by which we can retard or resolve the disease, he considers, embrace subjects of vital consequence, on the solution of which the life of the patient, the truths of science, and the reputation of the surgeon depend. In his observations on the forms of cancer, the author included the epithelial variety along with the encephaloid, scirrhus, and colloid, and objected to its removal from the cancerous group, although it has less tendency to contaminate the lymphatic glands and the system generally than the other three forms of cancer, and differs slightly in its histological elements. After briefly reviewing the important subjects embraced in the origin and development of cancer, in which the preceding questions were answered so far as the present state of science would admit, he proceeded to discuss the treatment. In this section the author dwelt on the means of arresting cancerous growths by medicinal agents, and contrasted the comparative advantages of removing the local disease by caustics and the knife. In reference to medicines, the author believed that if any remedy possessed a power of retarding the progress of the disease, it was arsenic, which he administered with cod-liver oil, and has not found the latter objectionable, on the ground of animal oils tending to encourage the fatty matters in the system, on which cancerous formations are supposed to feed. Arsenic as a preventive of secondary formations after removal of the local disease, he (Mr. Hird) had great confidence in, and in combination with iodine it was strongly recommended by the late Dr. Anthony Todd Thompson; Dr. Copland and the late Mr. Hill witnessed great advantages from its use. The great question of