

back, all of which, with many others on the floor, had been saturated in turn with the profuse hæmorrhage. Upon cautiously removing this accumulation, so as to expose the wound, a small jet of blood streamed over my face, which was temporarily restrained by pressing my finger firmly over the orifice. At this juncture some wine was given him; and, upon very gradually elevating the side of my finger, I arrived at a small fungus, or large spongy granulation, about the side of a hempseed, which had formed, with others more healthy, near the under edge of the wound, and from this small excrescence the hæmorrhage issued profusely. Taking the scissors, and separating it, I placed a stick of nitrate of silver upon its foundation, and not the slightest disposition to any return of hæmorrhage followed. After remaining several hours assisting to reanimate my patient, I merely placed a piece of lint under adhesive plaster upon the wound. This gentleman, with all the advantages of a country life, pure air, horse exercise, nutritious and well-regulated diet, and a frequent change of residence upon the coast during two health-giving seasons, was many months before he at all rallied, from the immense loss of blood he had thus accidentally sustained.

From this interesting case I was led to infer that hæmorrhage, occurring after the extraction of teeth, which had, perhaps, long been a source of irritation in the socket, acting as foreign bodies in the vascular situation where their natural connection was destroyed, might occasionally produce such unhealthy growths into which a large vessel might enter, and thus become the cause of excessive hæmorrhage, or even death. Neither in these cases, nor those offered by Mr. Smethurst, is there the least evidence of any fibrinous deficiency in the blood; nor is there any corresponding particular, such as hæmorrhage after an incision, puncture, scratch, or leech-bite, that could substantiate the hypothesis of so peculiar a condition; or what is strikingly characterised in this diathesis, the great distress, throbbing, and irritability, occasioned by compression. In Dr. Burne's cases (*LANCET*, Dec. 12), the nitrate of silver seems to have been the only advantageous application; and in these, also, the blood seems to have been naturally fibrinous, as large *spontaneous* coagula collected upon the surface; their porous or spongy structure, and the pale and less viscid or watery appearance of the blood, is unquestionably a usual result, when their formation is subsequent to long-repeated hæmorrhage, especially where exhaustion is extreme. The cause in his cases seems to consist of either a deficiency of the natural fibrous tissue of the vessels, or an absence or depression of the nervous energy necessary to that structure: either or both of these circumstances will account for the accelerated

No. 914.

pulse of early life, as well as for the difficulty in restraining hæmorrhage in infants after leeches, their application being almost invariably to relieve nervous depression, existing as a symptom of cerebral affection, or some internal congestion.

It would be interesting to ascertain the exact character of the pulse during health in persons of this unfortunate diathesis; its impetus, frequency, and fulness, should materially certify the existence of such a predisposition. I am, Sir, yours, &c.

CHARLES RAY.

Elizabeth-street, Eaton-square,
Feb. 20, 1841.

VACCINATION IN ST. MATTHEW'S, BETHNAL-GREEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—The legally-qualified medical men of this district have requested me to acquaint you with the following facts:—First, that at a general medical meeting, it was unanimously resolved to send the following unalterable declaration of our sentiments to the board of guardians:—

Gentlemen:—We, the undersigned, constituting the whole of the legally-qualified members of the medical profession, resident in the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal-green, understanding that you intend to offer one shilling for each successful case of vaccination, respectfully beg leave to say that we consider two shillings to be the minimum remuneration we can receive. We, therefore, earnestly request of you to reconsider the matter, as we cannot, in honour, accept any less. (Signed)

J. Smith.	George West.
R. Griffiths.	— Hayes.
Samuel Pearce.	A. S. Vandenbergh.
Edward Moore.	James Phillips.
Thomas Taylor.	C. Weston.
H. C. Langley.	— Butler.
Hector Gavin, M. D.	William Taylor.

Secondly,—That the board, after the receipt of the above declaration, advertised for four vaccinators, at one shilling per head, without the gratification of having a candidate.

Thirdly,—That the guardians, being compelled to re-advertise, stumbled at last upon a Mr. Colson, M.R.C.S., of Wilson-street, Finsbury, who, ever anxious to uphold the honour and dignity of the profession, pounced with avidity on all four divisions. Begging of you to insert this in your forthcoming Number, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS TAYLOR,
Honorary Secretary of the
Bethnal-green Medical Association.
January 13, 1841.

3 H