

a copious diuresis succeeds to its exhibition. With so many examples of the beneficial effects of this remedy given in this manner I am sometimes almost inclined to consider that palsy depends upon effusion. You may, perhaps, be astonished that the cantharides in these cases does not produce violent strangury; however, I have never known the accident to occur. Should such a case as this happen to you in practice, be careful that your patient has not a stricture, or other affection of the urethra, for then you must not give this medicine, or if you have given it, and you find afterwards that the patient has stricture, suspend its exhibition for a few days. It must not be administered to women, from its peculiar effect upon the uterine system, and its appendages. But if you have given it, and in spite of your efforts to prevent it, strangury does arise, what should you do? In some books on this subject camphor is recommended in such cases; but camphor is very slow in its operation. I do not, therefore, recommend it; but I do advise you to give from twenty to thirty drops of tincture of opium, in a starch injection, and then this unpleasant strangury will almost immediately disappear.

FRACTURES OF THE PATELLA AND FEMUR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to offer the following suggestions as an improvement in the mechanical proceedings used for fracture of the patella, in addition to the usual means employed:—

The leg to be placed on a fracture-splint, and a strong leather band, padded, to be buckled on behind the upper portion of divided bone, having a ring inserted on each side, and a similar band to be placed behind the lower portion of bone, having a catch on each side, corresponding with the rings in the opposite band, from which catches a strong cord to commence, and pass through the rings in the upper band; then proceeding down to a screw-frame, similar in action to the tourniquet, only larger, which is fixed on the back of the foot-board attached to the splint. The advantage of this plan appears to me that the divided portions of bone can be brought together with the greatest nicety, and that the relaxation (if any) can be recovered with so little disturbance of the parts. I imagine, also, that the same means, modified, might form a powerful adjunct in fracture of the femur lower down. By using the upper band only the traction upon the lower portion of the femur would tend greatly to counteract the exertion of the muscles, which proves so troublesome in cases of this kind. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. WALKER, Surgeon.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, May, 1843.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS.

By JAMES RICHARD SMYTH, M.D.,
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CASE.—May 27, 1839. William Kates, Bennett's-yard, Marsham-street, Westminster, aged three years and two months, was born healthy and stout, and continued to be so until he was three months old, when his teeth began to appear, and he had an attack of inflammation of the lungs. At that time, or shortly after it, he was transferred from his mother to her sister, to be brought up by feeding. The child's health then became much impaired, and he has been always sickly and weak since. His present condition is as follows:—Skin anæmated and pale; flesh scanty and soft; legs and thighs bowed and emaciated, and body altogether approximating to a state of marasmus; can make no effort at standing or walking, and creeps but feebly; spine curved laterally; left side of thorax enlarged, and projecting laterally and posteriorly; clavicles distorted; head has always appeared larger than ordinary, and at present there is a soft fluctuating tumour situated on the left parietal bone. His mother states that previous to the appearance of this tumour the sutures of the skull were very open, that he had a fall a few days ago from a bench about two feet high, on which she had placed him, and pitched upon his forehead, and the next day the tumour appeared. Had a ravenous appetite, and had slept well before the fall but not since; bowels stated to be regular, and the excretion of urine frequent; expression of countenance precocious; pulse rather quick, but respiration normal.—*Rx Mercury with chalk*, three grains; *powdered rhubarb*, four grains; *powdered cinnamon*, two grains. Mix. Six powders. One every other night.—*Rx Spirit of rosemary*, half an ounce; *cold water*, five ounces and a half. Mix, for a lotion, to be constantly applied to the tumour. A leech to be applied to the left temple.

29. Tumour considerably decreased; no perceptible change otherwise. Continue the lotion and the powders, and apply a leech again to the temple.

June 1. Tumour of head almost disappeared, and some little improvement otherwise. Continue the lotion and the powders, and let the child have a warm salt-water bath every other night, at bedtime, and also let him be well rubbed with a dry cloth, both on the body and limbs, for ten minutes, after coming out of the bath.

5. The tumour on the head has entirely disappeared, and the parietal bone on which it was situated, that was fully a line depressed below the others, has become elevated to its proper position. Head much