

court "blow-fly," Sir Henry Halford,—the once wriggling maggot, Vaughan.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

SAMUEL YOUNG.

Strutta, East Looe, Cornwall,

Dec. 26, 1835.

FREE GASES IN DIABETIC URINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For some months I have been much interested with respect to the free gases *supposed* to be contained in healthy urine, and have put the question to the test of experiment, by submitting the urine of different healthy persons to the action of my air-pump, in the manner formerly explained in the pages of your very valuable Journal, but I was not enabled to extricate a single bubble of gas from any specimen of urine experimented on.

Not deterred, however, by this, I was again induced to experiment on the urine of a sailor, belonging to this port, who had long been afflicted with that incurable and most severe disease, diabetes. This person, a dependant in the Sunderland Workhouse, came at two different periods to our infirmary, and in my presence passed twenty ounces of urine each time, in the most steady and correct manner, so that no gases were lost during micturition. The exact proportions of gases which ten ounces of this urine contained at the first micturition, were as follows:—

	Cubic Inch.
Oxygen gas.....	.06
Carbonic acid gas02
Nitrogen gas19
	—
	.27

From the second of the two micturitions, which was performed about five days afterwards, I obtained from a similar quantity of urine the following gases:—

	Cubic Inch.
Oxygen gas03
Carbonic acid gas02
Nitrogen gas26
	—
	.31

I need not point out to the medical faculty the importance of these facts. I beg that they may be compared with what I have published in the pages of *THE LANCET*, with respect to human arterial and venous blood. I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. REID CLANNY.

Sunderland, Dec. 24, 1835.

P.S. I forgot to mention, in a former communication, that in every experiment with my new safety-lamp, I used bladders of coal-gas, or explosive atmospheres of coal-gas and atmospherical air.

MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS OF MANGANESE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Among the numerous metals which have been introduced into the class of medicines, I have never observed any preparation of manganese. This metal is principally employed in the art of dyeing, and for chemical purposes, but I now wish to introduce it as a remedial agent. About two years ago I prepared a chlorine solution of that metal, and introduced it as an alterative and tonic, but afterwards found it a valuable medicine for epistaxis. Several remedies are now employed for this complaint, under the name of styptics, but I believe they are not to be relied on in severe cases of hemorrhage; and the acetate of lead is frequently objected to, on account of its irritating property.

It will be useless to mention the number of cases of epistaxis which have effectually yielded to the chlorine solution of manganese, as I have given the form for preparing it, and will leave the surgeon to judge of its application from his own experience.

To prepare the chlorine solution of manganese, put into a bottle which will hold about two pints, one ounce of carbonate of manganese previously mixed with three ounces of distilled water. Let a current of chlorine gas be slowly passed immediately upon the mixture (by means of a glass tube connected with the retort whence the gas is distilled) until the manganese is dissolved. The solution must then be put into a flask, and a gentle heat applied for a short time, when the mixture will become clear. Filter when cold, and add one ounce of alcohol.

This process occupied a great deal of time, and was attended with some little trouble; therefore, instead of using the chlorine gas, I have since prepared a muriate of manganese, which is not attended with trouble, and its medicinal properties appear to be precisely the same. To prepare the muriate, take one ounce of carbonate of manganese and two ounces of muriatic acid, mix them together in a flask, and apply the heat of a lamp for a few minutes. Allow the mixture to cool; filter, and add one ounce of alcohol.

With respect to the alterative properties of this medicine, I have not received sufficient proofs to enable me to speak much in its praise, but in some instances it has

proved a very good substitute for mercury, antimony, &c. For syphilitic eruptions it may be given, in combination with sarsaparilla, with a very good effect. In some obstinate cases of chronic rheumatism, it has also been given with advantage. The following will be the best mode of administering the muriate of manganese :—

As an alterative, ten or fifteen drops may be given twice or three times a day in water.

For epistaxis the same dose may be given, to be continued for a week or ten days, or until a sensation of vertigo comes on, which usually takes place. If the hemorrhage continue for some time without intermission, and the surgeon think it necessary to check it immediately, give ten or twenty drops every quarter of an hour, until the bleeding stops, or until vertigo is produced, and continue its use for several days after. In every case which has yet occurred, the second dose has always succeeded in stopping the discharge, and without producing any subsequent unpleasant sensation. The muriate will sometimes produce nausea, when the bowels are in a disordered state; therefore a dose of some aperient medicine should first be given, if time will allow, and also after vertigo is produced an aperient must be given.

For hemoptysis this preparation has not yet been given with success. However, it has only been tried in two or three cases. When combined with Sp. Æth. Nit. and Inf. Anthemidi, it has proved serviceable in some cases of hematuria, but it must never be given when fever is present.

By giving to the foregoing a place in your valuable journal, you will, Sir, oblige your obedient servant,

HENRY OSBORN, Chemist.
Southampton, Jan. 5, 1836.

AMAUROSIS,

FOLLOWING

SUPPRESSED FEELINGS OF PASSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I send you the following case, thinking it worthy of a place in your journal; it occurred in the *Hotel Dieu*, Paris, last summer, where I was then studying. Your obedient servant,

J. I. IKIN, Surgeon.
Halifax, Yorkshire, Jan. 4, 1836.

Henry Forester, ætat. 35, tailor, of Paris, of a sanguineous temperament, was admitted under the charge of Dr. Recamier on the 11th of June 1835, for an affection of the head, accompanied with amaurosis. He

states that he has been subject to violent pain of the head for two years and a half, but that it has become much worse lately, and that he has been totally blind for five months. The immediate cause of his blindness he attributes to a violent mental emotion, experienced whilst at a review of the National Guard, of which he is a soldier. Being strongly, and, as he considered, unjustly reprimanded by his captain, and not daring to reply to his superior officer, he was obliged to contain his violent feelings, in consequence of which partial blindness, attended with a strange sensation in the head, was the immediate result. This blindness rapidly became worse, and at the end of a month he was *perfectly blind*. For this affection, as well as for the pain of the head previously, he was repeatedly bled, both in the arm and the foot, and had cauteries applied to the head &c. but without the slightest benefit resulting.

His symptoms at present are, intense pain of the head, great heat of the scalp, watchfulness, agitation, vacant amaurotic stare, with dilated pupils, and numbness of the right arm, approaching to paralysis. Pulse 50, regular, but weak; tongue rather furred; appetite bad; skin cool; bowels regular; urine natural, and in proper quantity. Indeed it is only of the pain of the head that he complains. He answers questions rationally, though the other patients state that he is occasionally delirious.

The treatment at this time employed by Dr. Recamier was very simple. It consisted in the constant application of cold to the head, by means of a tube communicating with a tub of cold water placed just above his head; the exhibition of purgatives, when necessary, and in keeping him on low diet. These means have not the effect of relieving his intense sufferings, though the sensation of cold, from the constant application of a stream of water to his head, is very agreeable to him.

I watched this case very attentively for a considerable time, but no improvement took place, at least with regard to the affection of his eyes. The pain of the head did, indeed, occasionally abate, but only for short times together. He grew exceedingly emaciated, and, finally, decided symptoms of mental derangement ensued, in which state I lost sight of him, as he left the hospital.

Observations.—Here we have a case of amaurosis which was decidedly produced by congestion of the brain, causing paralysis of that part of the brain from which the optic nerve takes its origin, the exciting cause being a fit of passion; the predisposing cause his sanguineous and plethoric temperament, apparently not hereditary, as he informed me that his parents were healthy old people. The congestion appears to have been of that form which is described by M. Andral as the "*first variety of cerebral con-*