

connected with the tumour appeared healthy, and naturally firm in structure.

The bladder was singularly condensed in capacity, its parietes being extraordinarily thickened and separable from the disease, although in immediate contact with it.

No traces of disorganisation were demonstrable in any other situation.

The mass presented all the characteristics of fungus hæmatodes, some portions being more or less firm, and of various red shades; others pulpy, and of a pale or yellow hue, together with some distinctly insulated, much resembling in colour and consistence boiled yolk of egg.

Thus with all the appliances of medical science, with all the scrutiny of our highest practical experience, this case clearly illustrates the imperfection of our most perfect knowledge, even when aided by the scarce erring sense of touch.

CHARLES RAY, Surgeon.

Elizabeth-street, Eaton-square,  
December, 1841.

## GLANDERS AND FARCY IN MAN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following statement is translated from a paper read on the 15th November in the “Académie des Sciences at Paris.” Yours respectfully,

B. DANIEL.

Hull, Dec. 3, 1841.

Glanders and farcy are two diseases of a similar nature to which horses are particularly liable: these affections may be either acute or chronic, and may also be converted from one to the other. Horses affected with either of these disorders ought to be equally objects of dread, as rabid animals, because, if these affections be not equally as contagious as rabies, yet they are so to such a degree as to command the greatest precautions. Cases of acute glanders and farcy are found to be more contagious than chronic, although the contagious property of these diseases amongst horses has been disputed, from the fact that out of a given number of healthy animals lodged in the same stable with horses affected with these disorders, all have not contracted the disease. This only proves that the power of its contagion is variable, and facts recently observed have proved, in a most convincing manner, the communication of this disease from horse to man. This will also prove *à fortiori* its contagion from horse to horse. During the last four years, medical journals have recounted more than forty cases of acute and chronic glanders and acute farcy having been developed in men who had been in contact with animals affected with those disorders. Thus the ignorance of the contagious property of

these evils has cost those persons their lives, and unless the danger be rendered obvious will still continue to make victims, since medicine has not the power of curing those who may be attacked; all we can hope, and that is of much importance, is, the discovery of means for preventing the development of so cruel a disease. It may be communicated by inoculation or by infection—by inoculation, when the groom or person who attends the horse may have a slight sore by which some portion of the matter discharged from the animal may be absorbed; by infection, when a person, without having any wound, contracts the disease solely by habitation with the affected animal.

This abridged history of glanders and farcy, which M. Littré has written in a popular treatise, is now illustrated by the following case, which M. Berard has communicated to the Academy. It is without example, at least up to the present time, of a man affected with acute glanders communicating the malady to the person who approaches him, and from whom he was receiving aid. M. Rocher, medical student at the hospital of Necker, was charged with the dressing of a patient affected, first, with chronic farcy, subsequently, with acute glanders, under which he died last month (October). The dressing of the patient occasioned daily contact between him and the pupil; moreover, the latter, too zealous in the pursuit of science, prolonged the time of his relation with the patient in examining all the symptoms of the disease minutely. M. Rocher took also an active part in the examination of the body after death, and during the time that the nasal fossæ were being sawn he maintained the head immovable by placing his hands over the integuments of the temples and face, which were the seat of the gangrenous eruption of the disease. Such, then, are the circumstances under which M. Rocher contracted the malady. Previous to the death of the groom the pupil had already suffered from an attack of diarrhoea and colic, but it was only in the night after the post-mortem examination that the disease really commenced. M. Rocher awoke in the night with shivering, to which succeeded fever and general pains; the two following days, though he felt much pain in his joints, he yet rose and left his chamber. The third day the pains became much more acute, and fixed themselves in the left thigh, the right shoulder, and the right side of the chest. On the fifth day M. Berard discovered in the thickness of the thigh and shoulder two tumours, having the characteristics peculiar to farcy, and from that time he prognosticated the most unfavourable termination of the malady. During the following days the tumour of the shoulder was absorbed, whilst that of the thigh became soft and fluctuating. Six days after its appearance it was opened, and the liquid discharged; it consisted of

pus mixed with blood. The discharge was collected and given up to M. Leblanc, a distinguished veterinary surgeon, who inoculated a horse with it on the same day. In the mean time a new tumour, preceded by excessive pain, made its appearance on the internal malleolus of the right foot, and in the course of three days it arrived at supuration. Finally, a fortnight after the commencement of the disease the skin of the nose became inflamed and painful; the following day the inflammation extended to the cheeks, to the eyelids, and as far as the middle of the forehead; gangrenous phlyctænæ and pustules appeared scattered over the red and swollen parts of the face; the latter symptoms were more marked the following day, when a copious bloody liquid was discharged through the nose; numerous pustules then appeared all over the body, and on the ensuing night M. Rocher died, being sixteen days from the commencement of the disease. The horse inoculated by M. Leblanc died on the same night as M. Rocher, after having exhibited all the symptoms of farcy and acute glanders. The examination of the nasal fossæ presented those lesions which particularly characterise the latter affection. The case which has been just related, says the author in concluding, proves the contagious property of glanders from man to man. It was not by inoculation that M. Rocher caught the disease, he had no excoriation on the fingers or hands during the whole of his attendance on the patient; he neither punctured nor cut himself during the post-mortem examination, but always washed his hands carefully after touching his patient. The disease therefore must have been contracted in consequence of a miasmatic infection analogous to that of variola or scarlatina. In the point of science this fact presents great interest, but it is of more importance as regards the public health, it shows to what dangers those persons are exposed who approach individuals affected with these disorders; it will induce medical men to take and recommend precautions for avoiding the contagion: even here it ought not to rest, it calls for the interference of Government. Let us hope that the authorities in giving more attention to that part of public hygiene which concerns domestic animals, and by causing horses affected with these disorders to be destroyed, may thus put a limit to this horrible disease, which, up to the present time, has always proved fatal whoever it has attacked.

### THE BICHLORIDE OF MERCURY IN SYPHILIS AND GONORRHOEA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having perused regularly the pages of THE LANCET since the session 1825-26, I

have frequently been tempted to reply to medical observations and assertions developed in your columns. I have arrived in my practice at quite opposite conclusions from those of Mr. Clay, in his paper on small doses of mercury, particularly with reference to the bichloride; and, indeed, I am surprised that, to use his own words, "he never saw a decided case of ptyalism from the exhibition of the bichloride alone." I have myself seen numerous instances of the preparation producing that effect, and know that salivation could have been carried to any extent by a repetition of the doses.

I also differ from my preceptor, Dr. A. T. Thomson, who states in his "Dispensatory" of 1830, "that it sometimes succeeds, but as often fails, in curing the primary symptoms of syphilis." I never use any other preparation, in nine cases out of ten, in venereal disease, and succeed quite as well as my brother practitioners; always having found it a cheap, uniform, and successful method, if the case indicated mercury for its cure.

I may also add, that in gonorrhœa, in order to prevent the exhibition of the balsam of copaiba from affecting the testicles by stopping too suddenly the urethral discharge, in consequence of its heating and irritating quality, I frequently administer minute doses of the bichloride with beneficial effect, commencing with the twelfth of a grain, showing that I am quite as much an advocate for small doses as Mr. Clay, in the treatment of disease.

I believe, also, in the success of Baron Van Swieten and Maximilian Locher, in the use of this preparation in venereal disease. The latter states, that at St. Mark's Hospital, Vienna, in eight years "he cured *four thousand eight hundred and eighty* patients affected with the venereal disease, and never saw the least painful or dangerous symptoms in consequence of its use;" and, as regards the administration of the *bichloride* to animals generally, the mercurial foetor and salivation have been observed in horses, dogs, and rabbits.

I trouble you with these brief remarks, in order that the employment of so useful a preparation should not be unceremoniously condemned; and may add, that the observations I have made can be verified by a pupil of mine, who is now living with Dr. George, Sandgate, Kent. I beg to remain, Sir, yours very respectfully,

JAMES BLAND.

Park-Green, Macclesfield.

\*.\* We beg to apologise to our correspondent for mislaying his communication, which we only recovered this week, and insert immediately.