

passing a number of long worms. She states, also, that about a week ago she observed a still further alteration in the child's temper and habits, inasmuch, as her usual good and playful spirits had entirely left her, and there was an evident disposition in the child to mope and avoid the company of her playfellows; that on Saturday, the 9th, four days prior to my seeing her, she ran in a hurried manner towards her mother, to whom she clung convulsively, and then fell down suddenly in a state of insensibility, from which it does not appear she ever for a moment returned to consciousness, further than on one occasion giving her mother a kiss. I found, on inquiry, that during this long state of insensibility, she had had occasional vomiting; that a few leeches had been applied to the temples on Monday, the 11th, without any relief having been obtained, and that something had also been given her in the form of a mixture, but whether it was opening medicine or not they were unable to tell me.

When I saw her, I found her in bed, lying quite insensible, with the eyes imperfectly closed, and the mouth slightly open; respiration natural; pulse 60, small and irregular; the extremities and body warm and comfortable. On examining the eyes carefully, I found the left pupil fixed and contracted, the right one also fixed, but irregularly dilated. I ordered immediately a blister to the nape of the neck; *calomel*, grs. iij.; *castor oil*, 1 drachm, immediately. I gave her also an injection, containing *turpentine*, 3 drachms; *castor oil*, 4 drachms; and another powder, with castor oil, I ordered to be given an hour afterwards. Up to a late hour in the night, which was the last time I saw her alive, there was no improvement or alteration in the symptoms, though the bowels had been freely acted upon, and she died about seven o'clock on Thursday morning, the 14th.

Post-mortem Appearances.—On opening the cranium and removing the calvarium, the ruptured dura mater let escape at least an ounce of blood; there was, in short, general venous congestion, the sinuses being all gorged with blood. In slicing the brain in situ, from above downwards, the cerebral substance was observed to be firm, and rather more vascular in the posterior lobes than natural; with these exceptions, there was nothing peculiar seen, until the brain was removed, when the pineal gland was found distended with fluid to the size of a large hazel nut. The tunica arachnoidea was separated from the gland without difficulty, leaving it entire; the colour of this body was lighter than natural; the pedunculi not apparently implicated; the sac was of various thickness, being thinnest at its upper part, where the density was about a line; in the inferior part, or the basis, it was about two lines in thickness.

The enlarged body pressed in a conspicuous manner against the nates of the corpora quadrigemina, and laterally against the thalami optici. The tubercula quadrigemina, and pons varolii, were in a state of ramollissement, probably arising from the pressure described.

A preparation of the modified parts has been formed.

IPECACUAN IN HÆMOPTYSIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—The following communication is given to illustrate the efficacy of nauseating doses of ipecacuan in hæmoptysis. I have delayed making the statement public, until my experience in several cases had confirmed the utility of ipecacuan in arresting hæmorrhage from the lungs, when other means had proved ineffective.

Mr. C., a stout robust gentleman, of florid complexion, about thirty years of age, had enjoyed excellent health, except for the last month or five weeks previous to August, 1830, when he complained of a slight difficulty of breathing, accompanied with a short cough, when walking quickly. To this he paid little attention, as he thought it arose from his becoming corpulent. He arose in his usual health in the morning, and went down stairs in great haste, when he was seized with a sudden fit of coughing, accompanied with a great flow of florid blood. When I arrived the coughing and expectoration of blood were still going on. At this time the quantity amounted to about four pints. On the first day he was twice bled from the arm, to the extent of twenty-four ounces each time, digitalis ordered, the bowels to be kept freely open, and quietude and the recumbent posture enjoined. Next morning he complained of much heat about the chest, cough, and tightness of breathing, with a slight expectoration of bloody mucus, for which a large blister was applied to the chest. The same night the hæmorrhage attacked him with great severity, when he lost about two pints of blood. He was again bled, and a grain of acetate of lead was ordered to be taken every two hours with digitalis. The next morning he was again seized with hæmorrhage, when the doses of the lead and digitalis were increased, and he was directed to take dilute sulphuric acid in considerable quantities. He was now unable to raise his head to receive sustenance without inducing cough and expectoration of blood. In this state he continued for about eight days, attacked at intervals of twenty or thirty hours with fresh hæmorrhage. His breathing now became very difficult, his feet cold, and his strength so reduced, that it was deemed unsafe to depend farther upon these means, when the tartrate of anti-

mony was ordered to be taken in doses sufficient to keep up a constant nausea. This proved an immediate check to hæmorrhage, and other distressing symptoms, and gave every indication of a speedy recovery; but after the antimony had been taken four days, I was not a little astonished to find that, even when given in very large doses, it had ceased to stop the hæmorrhage, since it had lost its effect of producing nausea, the body, at the same time, being in a state of profuse perspiration. The advantage previously derived from this medicine, induced me to continue it with the expectation that the benefit might arise independently of producing nausea. It was, therefore, continued three days longer, during which time he had several returns of the hæmorrhage. From the beneficial influence produced by the antimony before it lost its nauseating effect, I was induced to expect a similar good result from ipecacuan, all hope of preventing the hæmorrhage by further depletion, being done away with, as the patient was becoming very feeble, losing all his muscular power, and the cough and difficulty of breathing rapidly increasing.

The first dose of the ipecacuan controlled the circulation, and allayed the coughing, hæmorrhage, and difficulty of breathing. He was ordered to keep up the nausea, as he could generally, till the approach of the hæmorrhage, by a slight augmentation of heat about the chest; he was directed, when that sensation was experienced, to take the ipecacuan freely. This plan of treatment the patient continued for three weeks, and, at the end of this time, as small a dose of the ipecacuan produced nausea as at the beginning, with this advantage, that the same prostration of strength was not effected by it as by the antimony. The excessive perspiration which he had, whilst taking the antimony, soon ceased. He recovered perfectly, and has continued well since that time. In many similar cases the same beneficial results have followed this mode of treatment, the advantages of which are, that the ipecacuan appears not to lose its power of producing nausea, nor the system soon to become habitual to its action even in minute doses. It also controls the circulation by diminishing arterial action, and may often be relied upon when farther depletion cannot with safety be employed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. TURNBULL, M.D.

Russell-sq., Feb. 22, 1838.

PULMONARY consumption occurs more frequently in the female than in the male, whether before the age of fifteen or after it.—*Louis, Papavaïne.*

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, March 24th, 1838.

OFFICES in public institutions should be made to act as premiums upon good conduct, industry, and talent. The student, as soon as he enters his profession, should feel that success depends upon his skill and acquirements, and be constantly reminded of the strict connection existing between duty and interest, by seeing honours, offices, and emoluments publicly conferred by impartial judges upon the most deserving. This would allure men of a happy organisation, by offering them situations where their faculties might find scope for exercise; it would stimulate ordinary average capacity to full exertion; and either reclaim the dull, idle, dissipated profligate, who had seeds of good in his nature, or place him in a sphere where his evil habits and incapacity could produce the least possible evil. No one will deny that such a distribution of offices would have a beneficial effect upon the medical student; or that science would be effectually promoted where the field was allotted to each labourer according to the measure of his capacity, and every one rewarded according to his works. It is equally certain that public duties would be best performed by this arrangement, for each station would be assigned to him who of all competitors was the best qualified to fill it, and diligence and efficiency alone would espy a prospect of advancement.

A board for conferring titles and licences to practise has only to reject all who do not come up to a settled standard of capacity and acquirement. To carry the foregoing principles into effect, another tribunal, and another examination, are required to investigate relative degrees of merit. The judge should possess the sagacity and experience which would enable him to decide accurately, and be empowered to call for all the evidence and data upon which a verdict could be founded. The candidates might be