

lung: Weight 18 oz., congested. Left lung: Weight 14 oz.; some collapse along the edge of the lower lobe—this was the side on which there had been effusion. Heart healthy. Liver, spleen, kidneys, intensely congested; otherwise normal.

STANLEY HOSPITAL, LIVERPOOL.

EXTENSIVE DISEASE OF KNEE-JOINT; AMPUTATION THROUGH THE THIGH; BLOODLESS OPERATION; RECOVERY.

(Under the care of Mr. J. KELLET SMITH.)

JOHN M—, aged thirty-nine, married, was admitted on May 30th, 1873. He had suffered from his right leg for four years. On admission the limb was swollen, and there was extensive oedema around the knee-joint. The pneumatic aspirator was used, and more than half a pint of pus removed, but as the fluid quickly reappeared, extensive incisions were made on each side of the knee and in the thigh, among the muscles of which there was much burrowing of pus. The knee-joint eventually became inflamed, but very gradually, and by the end of October the patient was seriously reduced in health and strength. By this time the whole of the thigh and leg were very oedematous, having a very hard, brawny feel.

Although the case seemed very unsuitable for the employment of Esmarch's bloodless method, it was determined at any rate to try it, and at first it was thought that excision of the knee might be performed.

On Nov. 7th the patient was put under chloroform in the ward to allow of his being removed to the operating-room. Upon his arrival there the chloroform was discontinued, and ether used instead. The limb was tightly bandaged, from the toes to the upper third of the thigh, with elastic bandage about four inches in width, after which a stout elastic cord was worked spirally over all until it reached the last turn of the bandage, when it was fastened, and the bandage removed. An incision was then made on the inner side to fully expose the knee-joint, which was found to be so extensively diseased that amputation was decided upon. The incision made on the inner side of the limb was continued forwards, embracing the patella, and brought to the outer side, thus making the anterior flap. The knife was then passed behind the femur, commencing at the same point as the anterior, was carried forward for a short distance, then abruptly downwards, thus making a short posterior flap, about one-fourth the length of the anterior. After the arteries, which were very much enlarged, had been tied with carbolised catgut, and the part well washed with carbolic-acid lotion, the flaps were brought together and secured. A piece of spiral wire drainage-tubing was passed through the part, and made to project about an inch on each side; some pieces of lint soaked in carbolic oil were then put on the part, and the patient removed. Upon making the first incision on the inner side of the knee a large amount of pus, and about an ounce of clot escaped, but during the rest of the operation there was no blood lost. The patient complained of no pain, such as was supposed would be caused by the sudden gorging of the vessels with blood, upon the removal of the cord.

The convalescence was rapid, there being no bad symptom throughout, and the patient has regained a florid, healthy look; he has also increased in weight.

At this operation, in spite of the excessive oedema, the elastic compression and bandaging most effectually succeeded in making a bloodless operation, and although the pressure was kept up for half an hour there was no sloughing. In a fortnight firm union had taken place in the deep parts of the stump.

TESTIMONIAL.—On Friday, the 5th inst., a number of the inhabitants of Ashley assembled for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Mr. Roberts, who is about to leave Ashley, after a residence there of twenty-three years, for Twyford, near Winchester. The testimonial consisted of a valuable timepiece and silver salver, with a suitable inscription. The Rector of Ashley presided at the meeting, and the testimonial was presented by George Tunnicliffe, Esq.

Medical Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 1873.

DR. C. J. B. WILLIAMS, F.R.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

A BALLOT took place for a large number of new fellows; and Sir Robert Christison, Mr. G. G. Stokes, and Professors Agassiz, Helmholtz, and Hofmann, were elected honorary fellows of the Society.

CASES OF DISORDERLY MUSCULAR MOVEMENTS ILLUSTRATING THE USES OF CONIUM.

BY JOHN HARLEY, M.D. LOND.,

ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN TO ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

Dr. Harley demonstrated the action of the drug by giving three patients suffering from disorderly muscular movements their customary dose. The first patient, a man aged forty-four, had been subject to spasmodic wryneck for some time; the right arm was also affected. He had been for a month in St. Thomas's Hospital, and had taken from three to seven ounces of succus conii daily. He took his dose of three and a half ounces. The second patient had had wryneck for fifteen weeks, and had been under care for five or six weeks, taking five to seven ounces of the juice daily: he took his dose of three and a half ounces. The third patient, aged nineteen, had spasmodic movements of the muscles of the right arm: he took his dose of three ounces of the succus. The fourth case reported was that of a little girl, four and a half years old, who had been subject to severe epileptic fits and hemiplegia of the right side. After taking paralyzing doses of hemlock twice a day for three months, she was better. Hemlock acted upon the motor centres; and while it held in check spasm of one set of muscles, the corresponding muscles of the other side improved in nutrition and power. When under the influence of hemlock the whole muscular system was completely relaxed—the muscles of the face and head to a greater degree than those of the rest of the body. The author thought the juice would be useful in trismus, and in spasm of the orbicularis and gullet. Hemlock was totally destitute of anæsthetic properties; and there was no danger in taking such large doses as were given to the patients. The preparation used was the succus conii of the British Pharmacopœia.

MR. BRUDENELL CARTER asked if Dr. Harley had any experience of the use of the juice in nystagmus. The practice of dividing the orbicularis before operating for the removal of the eyeball was quite discontinued. With regard to the use of conium for relaxing the spasm of the orbicularis, he preferred dividing it at the outer canthus.

DR. O'CONNOR asked if the succus was made from the leaves of the first year's plant or the second; the first year's plant was comparatively inert.

MR. THOMAS SMITH asked in what cases he had used the remedy; had he used it in tetanus, wryneck, paralysis agitans, &c.

DR. HARLEY, in reply, said that conia injected subcutaneously acted in the same way. He had used it in epilepsy and chorea depending upon irritation of the motor centres, and it was a most invaluable remedy. In epilepsy the result varied. It acted remarkably in spinal irritation. It was useless in paralysis agitans, except in the first stage; in the later stages it increased the spasm. Its use in irritative conditions of the eyeball was evident, for the eyeballs were always fixed when the patient was under its influence. The juice he used was that made according to the instructions in the British Pharmacopœia.

THE SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF ANEURISM BY POSITION AND RESTRICTED DIET.

BY JOLLIFFE TUFNELL, F.R.C.S.,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

The paper was illustrated by cases, preparations, and drawings. The cases were—

1. Aneurism of the abdominal aorta cured in thirty-seven days. The patient, a male, aged thirty-one years, was a shipwright by trade. Died from albuminuria five months after consolidation of the contents of the sac.

2. Aneurism of the abdominal aorta, cured in twenty-one