

was commenced there immediately after Dr. Richardson's notice of it at the meeting of the British Association at Exeter in 1869. The good effects from the use of the drug in that asylum, described by Dr. Saunders in its Annual Report for 1870,* have since been amply verified and extended, and a steadily increasing consumption of it bears witness to the augmented esteem in which it is now held in that institution, where, when I left, from three-quarters to a pound was being used weekly. I saw about twenty-five pounds of the drug administered, chiefly in cases of excitement, with beneficial result, and in only two (those just described) out of the many cases in which it was given did any untoward symptoms occur, and these, as we have seen, were, happily, neither of a fatal nor of an alarming nature. Without entering into needless details of cases (which are scarcely ever read when given), I may state, as my experience at the Devon Asylum, that chloral has proved itself to be a most valuable hypnotic and sedative, that it has succeeded after extended trial of the more common sedatives was unavailing for good, and that it can, by reason of its not causing headache, sickness, dryness of the tongue or other diminution of the secretions, be used as a sedative in cases of excitement associated with phthisis or bronchitis, the presence of which would contra-indicate the use of morphia and opium. I think it is more especially in this class of cases that chloral will be found to be peculiarly valuable. In other respects it, at any rate, adds one more to the list of drugs on which we may "ring the changes" in chronic and obstinate cases, and in these it is used with best effect by combining it with morphia, opium, or bromide of potassium, according to the nature of the case. Chloral is, comparatively speaking, speedy and evanescent in its action, and its judicious combination with other drugs of a sedative nature seems to bring about the desirable prolongation of its effect.

As to the method of its administration at the Devon Asylum, and the doses, I may say that it is now always given in the form of a syrup (home-made) containing ten grains to the fluid drachm; and that the usual doses of the drug, when uncombined, are from twenty to sixty grains; when in combination, from ten to forty grains will suffice in the majority of cases. The lowering in price of a drug, consequent on its increased consumption, has been well exemplified in the case of chloral, which, though at first 6s. per ounce, is now only about 9s. a pound—almost as cheap as the bromide of potassium, and certainly at least as useful an addition to our Pharmacopœia. It would be invidious to mention names, but it is very important that the drug should be purchased from respectable houses, and it should be stipulated that it must be fresh, pure, and carefully prepared. Both the solid cake and the solution ought to be kept in carefully stoppered bottles, otherwise, I believe, the preparation loses strength. The cake deliquesces a little in process of time, and loses to a certain extent that sharp pungent odour which it has when fresh; and, on this account, it is advisable, when a bottle of the solid preparation is opened, to convert it into syrup at once.

West Riding Lunatic Asylum, Wakefield, Nov. 1871.

A PECULIAR CASE OF CLOSURE OF THE JAWS.

By J. E. BROOKS, M.R.C.S., &c.

ALEXANDER D—, aged twenty-one, a miner, applied to me for advice on February 1st, 1871. He states that when he was about six years old he had ulcerated gums on the left side, and a bandage that was placed round his head caused them and his cheek to grow together. He has never since been able to open his mouth more than a quarter of an inch. He has worked at his trade at intervals, but was often unable to do so from weakness, consequent upon taking little solid food. Upon examination I found what he said to be correct, the parts being firmly adherent, and the jaws almost closed. The temporo-maxillary articulation was not affected, which is somewhat singular, considering the small

amount of movement that had taken place in it. I placed him under the influence of chloroform, and divided the rigid band of tissue, which gave him temporary relief; cicatrization, however, fixing it more firmly than before. The same operation was subsequently performed by myself and several other surgeons to whom he applied, with the same unfortunate result.

At the commencement of July the patient again presented himself, being very anxious to be cured; and in the meantime, having given the case some consideration, it occurred to me that I might meet with more success if I fixed his mouth open during the healing process. I accordingly administered chloroform to him, and, having cut through the cicatrix, I placed between his teeth a piece of wood about an inch thick. This he allowed to remain about twenty-four hours; but the pain from it was so severe that he removed it himself. He subsequently kept a piece in during the night and at intervals during the day.

On July 22nd he returned to his work, and has followed his employment ever since.

Feb. 20th, 1872.—He can now open his mouth at least an inch, and has increased in weight about 20 lb. To show the complete success of the operation, I may say that I have since removed the lower wisdom tooth on the affected side.

I have purposely waited before publishing the case to see that he had no recurrence of the symptoms.

Silverdale, North Stafford, Feb. 1872.

A Mirror

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE,

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum, tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

LIGATURE OF THE COMMON CAROTID FOR HÆMORRHAGE FROM CANCER OF THE TONGUE.

(Under the care of Mr. G. E. LEGGE PEARSE.)

J. S—, aged fifty-five, by occupation a sawyer, was admitted into Matthew ward on the 20th of April, 1871, under the care of Mr. Pearse, suffering from extensive ulceration of the tongue. The patient stated that about eight months previously he had noticed a small fissure at the side of the tongue, which was exceedingly irritable and painful. He attributed it to irritation of a decayed tooth. This fissure rapidly enlarged, accompanied by increasing pain, up to the time of admission, when it presented the following appearance:—On opening the mouth an ulcer could be seen on the right side of the tongue, extending for about two inches towards the tip; it was deep, ragged, and sloughy, surrounded by extensive induration, which caused the tongue to be completely adherent to the bone. The mucous membrane of the mouth was also much implicated in the disease; this condition producing extreme offensiveness of the breath, accompanied by a remarkable increase in the amount of saliva, which was perpetually running from the patient's mouth. Some of the higher cervical lymphatic glands were much indurated; the right submaxillary gland was also somewhat hardened and enlarged. The man was much emaciated, and exhibited decidedly the cancerous cachexia.

On account of the extensive adhesions to the jaw-bone, and the induration and enlargement of the cervical glands, removal of the disease was impossible. Mr. Pearse determined, therefore, to rest content with endeavouring to improve the patient's general health and to relieve pain. Quinine-and-iron mixture was ordered three times a day; and a wash of chlorate of potash to relieve the fetid condition of the breath. At the time of admission the patient was able to take full diet.

Under this treatment he seemed to improve in condition until May 1st, when he had an attack of hæmorrhage from the ulcer, to the extent of one or two ounces; this was, how-

* I might perhaps state that in this Report there may be found a short account of some of the physiological effects of the drug on myself, observed by Dr. Saunders.