

gies was no less dangerous than useless. Division of the stricture either by subcutaneous puncture when it is seated in the pendulous part of the canal, or by free incision upon a grooved director when it lies behind the scrotum, was recommended, as having proved completely successful in cases that had resisted every form of dilatation.—*Lond. and Edin. Month. Journ. Med. Sci.*, May, 1844.

48. *Fracture of the Malleoli*.—M. BERARD read to the French Academy of Medicine, Jan. 8th, a report on a memoir by M. Laserre on fractures of the external and internal malleoli at the level of their articular surfaces. The memoir was founded on four cases. In the first, both malleoli were fractured at the level of the articulating surface of the tibia by a fall from a house. Amputation was performed, and the patient recovered. The second case was quite analogous: amputation was followed by death. In the third case, M. Laserre attempted to resect the fractured extremities of the bones; the operation did not succeed; the limb was amputated, and the patient died. The fourth case terminated more happily; the fracture was transverse; both bones of the leg projected through a wound on the external surface of the joint. The fragments were reduced, and an ordinary apparatus applied. Union was completed in eight months. After fourteen months the patient resumed his usual occupation, and only suffered from stiffness of the joint. M. Berard first asked if it was not better to amputate immediately in those cases when the parts seemed too much injured to hope to save the limb, than to make an useless attempt to do so after which that extreme measure had still to be resorted to? He also considered the question whether this was not a case in which subcutaneous section of the tendo-achillis should be performed previously to attempting the reduction whenever tetanic contraction of the muscles of the leg opposed coaptation of the bones?

M. Velpeau considers resection as often the best measure in this accident. These fractures he stated are not always transverse, and when oblique it is almost impossible to effect reduction. Unquestionably, dividing the tendo-achillis would tend to facilitate the reduction, but in some cases, that proceeding would, M. Velpeau thought, be insufficient. Resection, on the contrary, renders reduction greatly easier, and also obviates recurrence of the displacement—moreover, it prevents or lessens the consecutive accidents (always very serious) caused by this fracture. Muscular contractions come on after reduction, and are very likely to displace the bones again; but this event is much less liable to occur when the bones are shortened.—*Dublin Med. Press*, March 27, 1844.

49. *Berthold's method of arresting Hemorrhage from Leech-bites*.—Cut a piece of caoutchouc, about one line thick, and half an inch square; hold one surface of it to the flame of a candle till it becomes softened and melted; when it is cold rub it on blotting-paper, to make it smooth; then, having wiped off the blood, and compressed the bleeding point with the finger for a few minutes, apply the caoutchouc, and cover it with a strip of adhesive plaster. It should not be disturbed for some hours.—*Prov. Med. Journ.*, Feb. 24, 1844, from *Bouchardat's Annuaire de Thérapeutique*, 1844.

50. *Lithontriptic remedies*. M. BOUCHARDAT gives at some length a report by MM. Gay-Lussac and Pelouze on the subject of those remedies, on which they have experimented for two years. They first give the result of their experiments on stones out of the body, submitted to solutions of the bicarbonated and pure alkalis, of borax, and of the acids, which are any thing but encouraging; and then they observe respecting the internal administration of alkaline remedies, that although they do not profess to deny all the cases in which calculi have been reported to be dissolved, yet that they cannot help saying that those persons are labouring under a delusion who think that large calculi can be dissolved in a few weeks by these means. After hinting at the possible ill consequences which might arise from making the kidneys secrete alkaline urine during several months or years, they remark, that in a vast number of well au-