

ing she became sensible, and signified her wish to speak; the wound was covered for a moment to enable her to do so, when she inquired with the greatest anxiety where she was, and what had happened to her. A little gruel was given her, which she swallowed with facility; reaction had come on; the pulse was sharp and quick, and the skin hot; the breathing was very laborious; the emphysema had extended over the whole of the neck and upper part of the chest, and down the right arm as far as the elbow, and over the face and head, so as to render any attempt at recognition of features impossible.

March 8. Had passed a very restless night, from great distress of breathing, threatening suffocation; the emphysematous swelling not increased; pulse rapid and sharp; the tongue loaded with white fur; much frothy mucus discharged from the wound, which, however, looks healthy.—An aperient was administered, and a febrifuge mixture. In the evening the emphysema had somewhat diminished, and the breathing was less laborious and more natural; the same position of the head which had been maintained was continued, and the approximation of the edges of the wound, aided by strips of adhesive plaster, leaving an opening communicating with the larynx, for discharge of mucus, &c.

9. Distressed much during the night by irritating cough; the breathing croupy; the pulse quick and sharp, and other symptoms indicating some considerable degree of inflammation of the larynx. Three grains of calomel were given every four or five hours, and the febrifuge mixture was continued. The emphysema had diminished, the wound healing by the first intention.

10. The cough less irritating, and the breathing less croupy; the pulse soft; tongue cleaner; skin moist; the wound looking quite healthy.

12. In all respects doing well; is enabled to converse a little; expresses great penitence for the act she has committed; states that she was impelled to it by some irresistible influence which she cannot describe, and prays earnestly for forgiveness. From this time she continued gradually improving; the wound united perfectly; the voice was restored; the cough quite ceased. Her mind appears perfectly sane, and imbued with such proper religious feelings as will, it is trusted, exercise over her such a controlling power as to prevent a recurrence of so heinous an act.

DISSECTION OF A RABID DOG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Should you deem the following detail of appearances found on dissecting the body of a mad dog sufficiently interesting, its insertion in *THE LANCET* will oblige. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHAS. R. HALL.

Holmes-chapel, April 6, 1839.

A bull-and-terrier bitch, about three years old, the property of a butcher in the neighbourhood, had been noticed, for several days previous, to be more ill-tempered than usual. On April 1st she manifested signs of madness, by attacking indiscriminately every animal she could meet with. From being quiet and inoffensive, she was now ferocious and unmanageable, running wildly to and fro, without attending to the commands of those to whom she had formerly been obedient. She was secured in a very short time after suspicion had been excited, but not before she had bitten a duck, three dogs belonging to her owner, and many in the adjacent village. Dogs of much superior size and power ran away on her approach, and of those she attacked, not one offered the slightest resistance, but all fled as soon as released from her fangs. When tied up she kept her mouth wide open, and occasionally howled short, hoarse, but loud yells; the tongue was protruded, and appeared dry and red; there was no foam about the mouth; the eyes were bright and glaring. She avoided water when offered.

Three months ago several dogs were destroyed, on the score of madness, at a small town a few miles distant, but it was not known that the one to which I refer received any injury at the time. I have been thus explicit in noticing the signs manifested during life, which were considered by those concerned sufficient proofs of rabies, that the reader may be enabled to judge for himself as to the correctness of such conclusion.

The dog was shot and buried before any intimation of the circumstance reached me; on the following day I examined the exhumed body. The animal was evidently in high condition, from the quantity of nutritious and stimulating food which she had lived upon, the fat being firm and in moderate quantity; the muscles large, firm, and of a deep-red colour.

On laying open the skull and vertebral canal, the dura mater over the hemispheres appeared slightly more vascular than usual, particularly on its unattached surface. The arachnoid presented spots of thickening and opacity, most evident on the opposed surfaces of the hemispheres and on the cerebellum. There was no fluid in the arachnoid

sac. Cerebral pia mater exceedingly injected, imparting to the entire surface a bright arterial redness, with turgid vessels here and there, but most remarkable in the intergyral portions of membrane. Between some convolutions the opposed surfaces of pia mater had become adherent, but allowed of separation. The membrane of the cerebellum was equally vascular; that at the base of the brain was less so. On a section being made numerous bloody points were perceptible in both the cineritious and medullary substances, and the former seemed slightly softened at its exterior, where it was in opposition to the most vascular portions of pia mater; most so at the margins of the sulci. Minute pink vessels could be traced in the membrane which lines the ventricles, and those usually observed which ramify over the corpora striata and thalami were particularly evident. Velum interpositum red and partially thickened, appearing opaque on each side the venæ Galeni. No serous exhalation was contained in the ventricles. Cerebellum presented similar signs of increased vascularity, the red injection being greatest in the peripheral grey structure. Pons varolii was natural. Medulla oblongata, on being sliced, displayed more of the bloody points than any other equal portion of the encephalic mass. About an inch and a half of the spinal marrow participated in the injection of the medulla oblongata; with this exception the spinal chord and its envelopes appeared perfectly healthy.

The mucous membrane of the pharynx was suffused with a general blush of redness, and vessels could be seen ramifying beneath it. The epiglottis was also particularly thus affected, but below the rima the larynx was free from diseased appearance.

The viscera of the thorax and abdomen, as far as the effects of shot on the former would allow one to judge, appeared healthy.

Without assuming that this narrative is calculated to assist in throwing light on the proximate cause of hydrophobia in the dog, and correlatively in the human subject, I conceive that an attempt, however feeble, to illustrate the pathology of canine rabies, requires no apology.

RESUSCITATION FROM DROWNING, AND FROM ASPHYXIA BY GASES, &c.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—It has long been a matter of doubt with me, whether, in case of drowning and suspended animation, sufficient attention is usually given to what may be considered a point of the first importance, namely, that of expelling the carbonic gas, as well as

mucous and serous fluids, with which the pulmonary vessels and bronchia are ever replete in such cases. Little benefit, indeed, could rationally be expected from the injection of air into the lungs, whilst the air-tubes are choked up with colluvies, mucus, and foul air. But these impediments being removed, will admit the pabulum of life, the vital air, to exert its wonted stimulus on the blood, by coming into immediate contact with the sentient and irritable pulmonary tissue; and then, by the conjoint application of other powerful agents, especially electricity or galvanism, the best chance will be afforded for success. It is also a most material point to bring the more efficient resources into contemporaneous operation as soon as the above-named obstruction or impediments can be removed; for precious time is too often lost in making solitary essays, instead of bringing all our means at once into play.

Mr. Read, of Regent-circus, lately mentioned to me a fact in connection with the present subject, which I have since verified; and it brought to mind a similar one I witnessed in South America. In each case, it was a successful recovery from drowning by simple *exsugation*, or strongly sucking at the nostrils of the patient; and, from reflecting on these facts, I have been induced to offer the present remarks.

The case mentioned by Mr. Read was that of a youth (Henry Price) who, after being some time missed, was taken out of the water cold and quite inanimate, or without any sensible token of life. He was taken to the Wenlock Arms, City-road, where two medical gentlemen attended, and considered it a hopeless case; but a man in the bar-room asserted he could restore him; he was permitted to try, and, closing the mouth of the apparently lifeless body, he sucked with all his might at the nostrils. In a short time, by this simple but rather repulsive process, animation was restored, to the great joy and surprise of all present; and that without any injection or forcing in of air.* This occurrence having been noticed in the public prints, led Mr. Read to construct an instrument, which he calls an *hydraulic respirator*, for performing the operation just mentioned in a more cleanly and more efficient manner; for injecting air either cold or warm, and either with or without an additional dose of oxygen. The instrument is also adapted for injecting warm or stimulating liquors into the stomach, as well as a stomach-pump in cases of poisoning; it is also fitted with an additional pipe, so as to serve as a most convenient *enema syringe*. Such an instrument, I am inclined to think, might, at

* Another drowned person had previously been restored in this manner by the same man.