

air contained in the cavity of the pleura costalis of this patient, approached in its nature to that which is found after death in the bronchial cavities.

We apprehend that the volume of substances contained in the pleura costalis of pneumo-thorax cases, may by its weight and pressure cause asphyxia, and we are of opinion that the air ought to be evacuated from the thorax, in our attempts to remove the disease, as has been fully explained in Dr. Davy's case.* Dr. Davy found the following proportionals of gases contained in the cavity of the pleura costalis of his patient:—Carbonic acid 12.5; nitrogen 85.5; oxygen 2; total 100.

. In the above translation of a valuable paper in one of the French journals, we have limited ourselves to the essential facts. Respecting the gases which circulate in animal bodies, whether they be contained in the alimentary canal, or in the arteries or veins, or in the cavities, we agree with Dr. Solon in his remark at the conclusion of the paper. The skilful evacuation by puncture of air or pus in the cavity of the pleura, whether the case be considered one of pneumo-thorax or empyema, is sometimes the only remedy to save life.

Dr. Apjohn, in the "Transactions of the Association of the College of Physicians of Dublin," has given an analysis of air taken from the pleural cavity, and though the same gaseous substances were ascertained to enter into the composition of the air in that case, they were not found to be in exactly the same proportions. Indeed this could not be reasonably expected. Dr. Apjohn's analysis gives:—Carbonic acid 8; oxygen 10; nitrogen 82; total 100.

ACETATE OF STRYCHNINE IN PARALYSIS.

A GIRL aged twenty years having fallen upon her back, became paralyzed in her inferior extremities, in the bladder, and in the rectum. She had passed urine for many days. The bladder was enormously distended, and the swelling of the urethra rendered the introduction of the catheter very difficult. Dr. Oesterlen prescribed an emulsion composed of linseed, sweet almonds, nitre, and tincture of cantharides. Volatile liniment, to which oil of henbane was added, was rubbed over the hypogastrium, and frictions of volatile camphorated liniment were used over the spine. Soon afterwards the absence of fever and of every inflammatory symptom permitted recourse to be had to phosphoric pomatum.

Laxatives and enemata being ineffectual

for the relief of the bowels, croton oil was administered.

In eight hours, finding that these remedial measures did not succeed, one-sixth of a grain of acetate of strychnine (in wine vinegar) and two ounces of distilled water, were prescribed, of which twenty drops upon sugar were taken every hour. This dose was augmented progressively to half a grain, which at first had no effect, but in five days, during which time five grains of the strychnine were used, the invalid all at once experienced a great disgust, extreme anxiety, cold sweats, headache, pain in the region of the bladder, and a sensation of heat and itching through the whole course of the urethra; at the same time there was great irritation and itching of the skin, which was covered with an eruption. The strychnine was instantly discontinued, and a little nitre was the only remedy prescribed.

On the next day it was found that the above-mentioned unfavourable symptoms were greatly abated. During the night the patient passed involuntarily a small quantity of urine, which gave a scalding sensation in its passage.

Things continued in this state for five days, at the end of which time the strychnine was again had recourse to, producing the same effects as mentioned above, but with less intensity. The urine flowed so freely that the catheter was not again required, though the flow was involuntary, and not attended by pain. The remedy restored sensibility to the system, and the bowels were sufficiently opened by means of enemata. At the end of seven weeks the patient could retain her urine, and could walk round her room by the aid of a crutch.

Some weeks afterwards she returned to her usual occupation, and could walk rapidly, the feet being turned outwards; and though her cure was not completed, nevertheless Dr. Oesterlen was of opinion that the waters of Wild would remove all that remained of her paralytic affection.—*Medicinisches Correspondenz, Blatt, Mar.*

ANOMALOUS SYMPTOMS DURING PREGNANCY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR: As the subjoined case is rather a singular one (and in a pathological point of view particularly so), if you can give it a place in your valuable Journal I shall feel obliged, and remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. HAMILTON KITTOE,
Surgeon, &c.

Southampton, 9, Portland-st., April 20, 1836.

In October last I was called to attend Mrs. —, aged 39, who was in the fourth

* Vide Phil. Transactions for 1824.—ED. L.

month of pregnancy with a third child. The circumstances of the case were as follows: Her previous state had been healthy, and unattended with any peculiar symptom. A day or two before she applied to me she had complained of extreme lassitude, attended with pain in the back, round the lower part of the abdomen, and extending down the thigh, all which was attributed by her to having used much exertion for some days before. Towards the evening of the second day, the symptoms having become more urgent, attended with considerable discharge, I was sent for. On my arrival I found her in a state bordering on syncope; the lips livid; the extremities cold; pulse hardly perceptible, except during the accession of pain, which occurred about every ten minutes.

I directed warmth to be applied to the feet; total quietude in bed, with the following draught and mixture:—*R. Spirit. Ammon. Aromat. ʒiiss. Liq. Opii Sed. gutt. xxx. Misturæ Camph. ʒiiss., f. haustus stat. sumendus. R. Infus. Rosæ ʒvi. Tinct. Opii ʒij, Acid. Sulph. Dilut. Aromat. ʒij. M. cujus sumat cochl. larg. ii quartis horis.*

I visited her at about noon on the next day, and found her state much improved, she had had several hours sleep, and the pain had nearly left her, though the discharge continued, and a number of coagula, some of a large size, had passed away. I directed the mixture to be continued, and finding that the bowels had not been evacuated, I directed an enema to be administered. The pulse was nearly 90, and the skin moist, and on examination I found the os uteri dilated to the size of a crown-piece, very soft and yielding, and the parts cool. This state of things continued for a few days, when the discharge ceased, and I heard no more of the patient for nearly six weeks, when I was again sent for, and found her in the same state as before; under the same treatment she again recovered; and then stated that she could distinctly feel the movements of the child, though I expressed my doubt on the subject, not being able to satisfy myself on the point, her size not being in the least increased, and the breasts small and flaccid. However, in about the same interval of time the symptoms again occurred, and continued for nearly a week, the discharge being profuse, and the coagula in size and quantity almost incredible. The movements of the fœtus could now be plainly felt, and she appeared to rally more decidedly after this attack, than at either of the former ones. I heard no more of her until called to her delivery, which commenced with the discharge, as before; the labour was perfectly natural, and completed in about four hours; the child was still-born, but evidently had not been long dead; it was perfect, and not by any means emaciated; the placenta came away without difficulty, and

was perfectly natural; and the patient recovered with great rapidity. I should remark that the woman was addicted to intemperate habits, being frequently inebriated, which kept her in a state of debility.

MEDICAL STATISTICS OF FACTORIES.

Factories Inquiry. — Supplementary Report from Commissioners. Part I.

Factory Statistics. The Official Tables appended to the Report of the Select Committee on the Ten-Hour Factory Bill, vindicated in a series of Letters addressed to J. E. DRINKWATER, Esq., one of the Factory Commissioners. By the late M. T. SADLER, Esq., F.R.S., Chairman of the Committee. Hatchard. 1836. pp. 80.

AN inquiry into the health and the moral condition of the manufacturing population of this country, may be expected to offer many interesting scientific results; but it was not this impression that induced us to examine the voluminous Reports of the Factory Commissioners, so much as the conviction that the principal facts elicited ought to be known and carefully weighed by the medical profession, to the members of which the country naturally looks for decisive opinions on subjects so intimately connected with the public health.

The Factory Inquiry at its commencement divided itself into two parts, the one medical, the other political. It was necessary to determine the influence of factory labour on the health, the mortality, and the general physiological condition of the operatives, and if either of these should prove to be deteriorated, it was the business of the commissioners, in seeking for a remedy, to avoid cramping the productive industry which really enriched the nation and increased its power and means of comfort and enjoyment. To only the first part of the Inquiry do we now invite attention.

The terms of the commission were very general, but it is evident that the medical department would embrace, as the main objects of inquiry, the following particulars:—The proportion of deaths among the different classes employed in factories; the quantity of sickness, or the number constantly sick and disabled; and the average proportion attacked out of a given number annually; the mean stature and weight of the body, the strength, and physiological state of the respiratory, digestive, and nervous