

The nervous hæmorrhage, therefore, which I have pointed out, differs from that with hour-glass contraction, and is diametrically opposite to that from mere non-contraction; this latter being attended by general relaxation and demanding *stimulant* treatment; e.g. the hand, ergot, &c. &c., the nervous being preceded in an early part of labour by the hæmorrhagic pulse, accompanied by general semi-contraction, and most benefited by *sedative* treatment; e.g. opium and cold.

MOXA, IN CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I beg to notice, through the medium of your valuable Journal, when you have space, a case of chronic rheumatism and one of lumbago, in which moxa has proved useful, for the purpose of bringing this remedy to the notice of those who have not yet applied it. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

P. CHILCOTE, Surgeon.

12, Golden-square, June, 1840.

CASE 1.—A lady of delicate constitution had repeated attacks of rheumatism for several years; when she consulted me she complained of severe rheumatic pains which affected the knee. I made trial of a long course of the remedies in general use without any beneficial effect, until I applied the moxa used in the manner laid down by the late Mr. Boyle. After three or four applications the patient experienced great relief; in the space of a few weeks she was entirely cured.

CASE 2.—A gentleman, when I first saw him, had suffered for a long time from lumbago, and pains of the knee-joint, accompanied with remarkable weakness of the whole limb. I applied the moxa in this case to the parts affected with equal success, besides several other occasions on which I have made trial of it. The mode of applying it, is to hold the ignited moxa over the part to which it is to be applied, but within an inch and a half from the skin, keeping up the action of the moxa by means of the syringe; one, two, or three moxas may be applied at a time, according to the severity of the case. The effect produced, by its application upon this plan, is altogether different from that which results from the mode adopted for its use in the East, and by surgeons on the Continent, who employ it as a powerful counter-irritant; but when applied in the manner before noticed, by holding the moxa at a regulated distance from the skin, so as not to cause any abrasion of the cuticle, it acts as a stimulant, and possesses considerable power over the absorbents by exciting them to action. I have at present a case of

stiff knee-joint under treatment, for which, not receiving the least benefit from mercurial friction, iodide of potassium, &c. &c., I was induced to try moxa, which has been applied for three weeks, and there is now considerable reduction in the size of the part affected, and slight motion in the joint. I have reason to think it will cure in this case; nevertheless, it has as yet proved more active than other means which had ample trial. My attention was first directed to this remedy by some cases of stiff joints, chronic rheumatism, lumbago, and sciatica, which were treated successfully with it by the late Mr. Boyle and Mr. Earle, of Bartholomew's Hospital; and I think that advantage would result if moxa were more generally used.

DUMBNESS PRODUCED BY QUININE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Having observed, in the recently published numbers of THE LANCET, no fewer than three cases of "dumbness" attributed to the employment of sulphate of quinine, I should feel obliged by your permitting me to make your valuable Journal the medium of a few remarks in reference to them.

The report of an isolated case of so rare a nature as that in question, induced by a remedy that has received an almost universal sanction and adoption, can be regarded in no other light than either as an anomaly, or as the result of a confusion of coincidence with cause and effect. It was in this latter point of view, that I was inclined to consider the first case that met my notice, and those of a subsequent date appear calculated to add only very equivocal, if any, weight to the former. My reasons for doubting that the "dumbness" mentioned in the cases referred to, can be ascribed to the sulphate of quinine, are chiefly the following; viz.

The very vague and unsatisfactory manner in which the cases are reported;—the omission of all notice of the *nature* (whether paralytic or otherwise) of the dumbness,—the absence of any theory to explain this "singular effect" of quinine;—the possibility of the dumbness being referrible to other more competent causes, as hinted in the remarks on the case published by Dr. Ménage;—and lastly, general experience being contrary to the production of such an effect by quinine, and this, in relation to the cases under consideration, cannot be regarded as merely negative evidence.

Trusting that the very general employment of the valuable remedy in question, may be deemed sufficient apology for the notice here bestowed on cases, which might have the effect of restricting its use. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

June 8, 1840.

S. Y. G.