

Now it is to be observed, that these several modifications do not pass by successive stages or gradations from one into the other, but that each preserves its own characteristics in a remarkable manner. Several of these forms not unfrequently occur together in the same urine, especially the stellæ octahedra and dumb-bells. I have reason to think that the formation of the stellæ is dependent mainly upon temperature, while the formation of the dumb-bells is indicative of a peculiarity common to all the oxalates, as well as to some other salts.

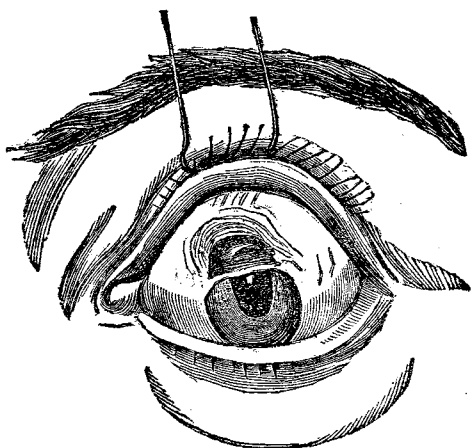
Soluble Dumb-bells.—I have recently become acquainted with the fact, that every soluble dumb-bell formation is not necessarily an oxalate, and that when it occurs in the urine it frequently consists of sulphuric acid in combination with soda and potash.

(To be continued.)

ON A CASE OF HERNIA SCLEROTICÆ.

By NATHANIEL COATS, Esq., M.R.C.S.,
SURGEON TO THE SIRHOWY IRON WORKS.

THE subject of this accident was William M—, a miner, aged thirty-six, living at the Sirhowy Iron Works, who, in returning home on the night of the 13th October last, received a violent blow on the eye from a stone, evidently thrown by some person, which felled him to the ground. He walked home shortly after, and feeling some degree of pain he applied a warm bread-and-water poultice, which treatment he persevered with until the following Wednesday, the 17th, when he first applied to me: the eye then presented the following appearance:—



The sclerotic coat, the superior portion of which, commencing near the margin of the cornea, was lacerated, the conjunctiva remaining entire; the iris being drawn up, and producing a tumour the size of a split horse-bean, of a bluish, black tinge, as represented in the drawing. There was slight conjunctival and sclerotic inflammation, some degree of supra-orbital pain, and vision but little impaired.

The treatment adopted to subdue the local inflammation was, bleeding to twelve ounces, with a few doses of calomel and opium, and a cold saturnine lotion; at the same time belladonna was freely applied around the orbit, which had no visible effect. He applied a few days after, when all local inflammation had subsided. I again saw him to-day, the 9th November, when the hernia remained in the same state as first presented, and vision nearly perfect.

Tredegar, Monmouthshire, 1849.

ON A

NEW MATERIAL FOR THE ARRESTMENT OF ALVEOLAR AND OTHER HÆMORRHAGES.

By AMOS BEARDSLEY, Esq., M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.,
Derbyshire.

THE hæmorrhage which occasionally follows the extraction of a tooth is sometimes of a very troublesome and dangerous character. Cases are recorded, by various authors, which have proved fatal, in spite of every remedy that has been applied—such as styptics, plugging with dossils of lint, actual cautery, and even after a ligature on the carotid artery, as in Mr. Blagden's case, (published in the *Medical and Chirurgical*

Transactions, vol. viii. p. 224.) Some kinds of instruments have been, I believe, contrived, for keeping in and exerting pressure upon the lint, after it has been introduced, and which have been partially successful. Still the occasional disappointment that any, or even all, of these remedies may give us in succession, renders it no undesirable object to obtain a plug that may, in the majority of cases, if not in all, be found easy of application and certain of success. To what extent the following plug may realize this is yet to be ascertained. One case only has occurred to me; but in that the relief was so instantaneous, and the cure so effectual, that I have been induced to lay it before the profession, in the hope that it may at least meet with a fair trial.

CASE.—J. T—, aged twenty-three, applied to me, on the 27th November, 1847, to know if I would extract for him the first molar tooth, upper jaw, right side. He stated that the adjoining tooth (second molar) had been extracted two years previously, and that he nearly lost his life from the excessive hæmorrhage which followed, and which defied the use of every remedy for several days. He was naturally anxious about the result; and as there was every probability that it might occur again, I devised the following means for arresting it, so as to be prepared:—I made a composition of gutta percha, tar, creosote, and lac, which can be rendered quite soft by moulding with the fingers, which is not at all sticky, and which again hardens in any shape into which it has been moulded.

On the next day I extracted the tooth. Immediately afterwards a jet of bright arterial blood followed, and flowed abundantly, the patient's mouth being full directly. I determined to try the usual remedies prior to using the above plug, and accordingly first tried the dossils of lint; but the hæmorrhage was so rapid that it was perfectly useless. I introduced lint dipped in alum, the sesquichloride of iron, and then lint again, which appeared to diminish the flow a little, and after five minutes so far abated that the man went home. A short time afterwards, on opening his mouth, the blood flowed as freely as ever. He tried it till next day, and then came again, thoroughly blanched, the hæmorrhage still profuse. I at once washed out all coagulum, and as speedily as possible inserted the above plug, softened as directed, and firmly pressed it into the socket. The hæmorrhage was arrested immediately; the plug remained in situ without any trouble. Next morning the man brought back the plug, which had hardened in the socket, and was an exact fac-simile of the fangs of the tooth extracted. The case excited no further anxiety, and no hæmorrhage afterwards occurred.

I also find the above composition a very ready and easy application for leech-bites, when the hæmorrhage is at all troublesome. It is very adhesive when warmed, and firmly adheres all over the wounds when the part is wiped dry, and a small portion pressed on, just wetting the finger before doing so, to prevent it adhering to it also.

The proportions of the ingredients used are, gutta percha, one ounce; Stockholm tar, one ounce and a half to two ounces; creasote, one drachm; shell lac, one ounce, or more, to harden it. To be boiled together in a small crucible, and constantly stirred or beaten, till it becomes thoroughly blended into a stiff homogeneous mass.

I have also used this composition moulded into bougies, which answer exceedingly well for stopping teeth, in toothach; and even for pessaries. The proportion of creasote can either be diminished or omitted for these purposes, though a little renders it more readily made, as it is a solvent of gutta percha.

Derbyshire, 1849.

EXTENSIVE LACERATION OF THE LUNG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Observing in your number, Feb. 2nd, amongst the hospital reports, a case of extensive laceration of the lung, I beg to send you, should you deem them worthy of publication, the post-mortem appearances of two most extensive lacerations; in one of which, the left lung was completely torn away from its roots, as the result of the injury.

Feb. 1850.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
THOMAS CARR JACKSON,
Resident Surgeon, Royal Free Hospital.

Benjamin C— was brought to the hospital, having been run over by a loaded van; he was in a state of extreme collapse, and died about six hours after admission.

Post-mortem Examination.—There are extensive fractures of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth ribs on the right side, with