

during his convalescence with regard to his food, of which he would have taken immoderate quantities if he had been allowed. By the middle of September he was out walking, and apparently in perfect health.

My friend, Professor Curnow, was kind enough to examine under the microscope what had passed away from the lad, and I have his permission to quote from his letter to me the result of his investigation:—"I have carefully examined the specimen, and can find only blood-clot, with here and there some stringy mucus. There is no sign whatever of bowel structure; it is a most interesting case, and the obstruction must have been caused by the blood-clots. Of course I can form no opinion as to the site of the hæmorrhage, but the amount of the clot would make it very probable that the ruptured vessel (ulcerated?) was a tolerably large one."

One word with regard to the treatment. I think the Dover's powder was very beneficial, easing the pain, &c., and also quieting the peristaltic action of the intestines. During the earlier period of convalescence he was ordered a mixture containing ammonia and bark, but this was soon discontinued, as he seemed much better when not taking it, and nature having done so much for him, I thought I could not leave him in better hands.

Newmarket.

### CASES OF ARSENICAL POISONING RESULTING FROM A RED WALL-PAPER.

By GEORGE GARLICK, M.D. LOND.

Two children were brought to me last August whilst I was seeing out-patients at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond-street, for Dr. Barlow. Their mother, who brought them, gave the following account:—The elder, a boy of eight years, had been suffering some time from pains in the eyes, nose, and different parts of the body. He passed restless nights, and was during the day depressed and inert. His digestion was feeble, and he had flatulence after food; his tongue was furred, pale, tremulous, and silvery; and the motions were described as offensive. There was besides a small patch of ill-developed psoriasis on the face. The other child, a little girl, also had pains in the eyes, nose, and shoulder, described as of a shooting character. Her tongue was also furred, and she had, like her brother, dyspeptic symptoms.

This remarkable combination of symptoms—viz., the local pains in the eyes and nose, with the presence of dyspepsia—suggested to me the possibility of arsenical poisoning, and on further inquiry this supposition was much strengthened by the remarkable statement of the mother, that she was much surprised at her children describing exactly the same symptoms as she herself felt, and that two of her other children at home suffered in the same way; in fact, with the exception of the father and one child, all suffered in the same way. She was accordingly directed to bring some of the wall-paper of the rooms they inhabited.

On the following visit she brought specimens of the two kinds of paper they used, and I proceeded to test them. One was a powdery, suspicious-looking paper. This, however, gave no reaction, but on testing that of their sitting-room (a very thin paper) it gave at once a most copious reaction with Marsh's test. This latter paper had been put up about two years; it was of very inferior quality, and consisted of red stars stamped on a ground of pale-yellow and grey-brown. On testing different portions of the paper, the arsenic was found to exist in the red pigment only. This shows that green is not the only colour to be feared in wall-papers. The walls of the sitting-room were described as being in parts quite damp—that is, in a state which is said to render arsenical papers more dangerous. The mother, on being informed of the dangerous nature of the paper, at once, on arriving at home, went to work to pull it down, and set fire to it in the yard; in fact, she acted with such promptitude that I was unable to obtain another specimen of it. This is an interesting example of continued discomfort and deterioration of health going on in a family for almost two years, owing to the existence of the poisonous paper. The neighbours commonly remarked how pale the

children looked and dull about the eyes. After the paper was removed the pain complained of in the eyes and nose at once ceased. The dyspeptic symptoms were more slow in mending.

The paper has been since tested by a distinguished analyst, who stated it contained a large quantity of arsenic; he characterised it as a most dangerous paper.

Great James-street, W.C.

### CASE OF ACONITE POISONING.

By THELWELL PIKE, M.D.

ON Dec. 19th I was hastily summoned to Mrs. A. B—, a lady staying in my house. I saw her at 6.15 A.M., and found her standing at the washstand retching violently and vomiting, with distressed and anxious manner. I learnt that about five minutes to six she had taken between three and four drachms of aconite liniment (P.B.) in half a tumbler of water, and had then returned to bed. In the course of ten minutes she began to feel pain and uneasiness at the pit of the stomach and upper part of the throat; this getting worse, and sickness coming on, I was called.

I immediately got some liq. ammoniæ which I happened to have in my room, and gave twenty or thirty drops in a tumbler of water, and followed this by a tumbler of warm water; both were almost immediately rejected, and some more water which I attempted to give was not, I think, really swallowed, and the same occurred on trying to give some milk. All this time the pain in the stomach and throat was increasing, and described as "horrible." I applied hot bottles to the feet and body, and a mustard poultice to the stomach; but the extremities became more and more cold, hands and fingers blue; also the chin and jaw, *not* lips, became so, and the countenance was most distressing—eyes glaring, pupils dilated. The pulse was becoming very feeble, scarcely perceptible, very quick and flickering, and the heart-sounds very weak. As all attempts to give anything by the mouth failed, and only increased the distressing retching and vomiting (ejected matter being at first frothy fluid, then viscid mucus, and then frothy mucus just tinged with blood, and subsequently some bile), it occurred to me to inject ether subcutaneously, and I prepared to do so. This was about 7 A.M. My friend Mr. Dawson, for whom I had sent, now arrived, and he concurring, I injected fifteen minims. But we could see no effect; pulse still almost if not quite imperceptible, and the other symptoms as bad as before. In about ten minutes I injected fifteen minims more; and soon after, all the symptoms remaining, or, if possible, getting worse, I injected twenty minims. We thought this slightly improved the pulse for a time, but the improvement did not last; so in about ten minutes I again injected twenty minims, and this time with the happiest result. In about ten or fifteen seconds there was some excitement and delirium, similar to that produced by inhalation, which lasted for a few moments; and almost coincident with this the pulse improved and became full and much slower. From this moment my patient was saved; for, although the effect of the ether in some degree passed off, the pulse remained fairly good. Warmth gradually returned to the body and the extremities, the blueness disappeared, the retching gradually ceased, and after a while the patient was able to take a cup of warm milk and coffee, and recovery gradually took place without interruption. The symptom which remained longest was the distressing pain at pit of stomach and in the throat. I should have said that there was some weakening of muscular power; no convulsions, but, for a time, a rigid state of the muscles was induced on attempting to take hold of anything—cup, glass, &c. The intellect all the while, except as stated, remained clear; urine passed twice, bowels acted once.

I think we may fairly claim that the ether, at any rate, helped considerably to stave off death while the aconite was being eliminated, and the result of the last injection was so marked as to deserve, I think, a trial in a similar case. The dose of aconite was a very large one, and taken, too, when absorption was probably rapid; the last meal, a light supper, having been partaken of about 9 P.M. I cannot too gratefully acknowledge the kind aid rendered me for two or three hours in this anxious case by my friend, Mr. Dawson.

Malvern.