

Ippocratico of Feb. 15th, 1869. Dr. De Cristoforis's patient is a man of forty-five years, whose aneurism did not form the usual tumour, but the case was perfectly clear. Three needles were introduced into the sac, and the current was allowed to pass alternately through each for forty-five minutes altogether. Most favourable symptoms set in, the pulsations ceased, and the man recovered. Dr. De Cristoforis, says the *Ippocratico*, has another case of the same kind in hand, in which he intends to use the same means of cure.

OBSTINATE HICCUP.

Dr. Juaritz states, in the *Siglo Medico*, that a medical man, just convalescent of gastric fever, was seized with hiccup, which persisted in a very fatiguing manner. Many antispasmodics were tried with no effect, when relief was obtained by an infusion of mustard, which the patient drank in mistake, thinking it an infusion of linseed.

RAPID CURE OF BUBOES.

Dr. J. Grünfeld, assistant to Sigmund, of Vienna, has had much success in extracting the pus by means of a hypodermic needle, india-rubber tube, and syringe. Where the cavity fills again, a second operation of the same kind should be undertaken; and when the pus is unhealthy, weak solutions, either of carbolic acid or chlorate of potash, should be injected, and pumped out again by the same syringe. Such patients as were so treated left the hospital much sooner than those whose buboes had been freely laid open.

ADVANTAGES OF THE LARYNGOSCOPE.

The *Marseille Méd.* of July, 1870, mentions two cases, treated by M. Duranty, where the diagnosis rested completely on the use of the laryngoscope. One had reference to a man, aged forty-one, affected with abscess lying in the inter-arytenoid space; and the other to a woman, aged fifty-six, suffering from a gummy tumour on the left vocal cord. The first was cured by puncture, the second with iodide of potassium.

NARROW PELVIS; EARLY ARTIFICIAL DELIVERY.

Modes of performing this operation have, of late, been much improved, the douche being now-a-days, the favourite method. Dr. Otto Spiegelberg, of Breslau (*Archiv für Gynäk.*, 1870), has undertaken to show, by statistics, that the results of the operation are less favourable than the consequences of waiting for natural delivery, even when the diameter is reduced to below eight centimetres—i.e., a little less than three inches. The figures quoted and the arguments are very convincing, and they deserve the careful attention of accoucheurs.

ANIMAL VACCINATION.

It is pretty conclusively shown by Mr. Simon, in his recently issued report, that it is neither desirable nor necessary to introduce animal vaccination into this country, for the purpose of maintaining intact, or still further improving, our national vaccination. Mr. Simon relies mainly upon the facts obtained by Dr. Seaton in a special inquiry which he was desired to make in a visit to France, Belgium, and Holland during the autumn of 1869, and the results of which are printed in the appendix to Mr. Simon's report. Referring our readers for details to Dr. Seaton's report itself, we may here state the general conclusions to which they point.

Mr. Simon affirms that the system of animal vaccination has certain "great disadvantages," and these are its various peculiar liabilities to failure—First, that apparently even able and painstaking operators may find it impossible to transmit successive vaccination from calf to calf without very frequent recurrence of failures and interruptions. Secondly, it is found that, in the transference of infection from calf to the human subject, even under the most favourable circumstances—i.e., by experienced operators, and with lymph direct from calf to arm,—as, for

instance, at Rotterdam, the proportion of non-success was nearly twenty times as great as in the ordinary arm-to-arm vaccination; a matter, as Dr. Seaton observes, of special importance in reference to outbreaks of small-pox, where, for the prevention of the spread of the disease, it is of all things necessary that the lymph used should be such as to ensure immediate success. Thirdly, that the calf-lymph, as compared with ordinary lymph, is peculiarly apt to spoil with keeping, and, in the form of tube-preserved lymph, can so little be relied on, that the Rotterdam establishment in distributing supplies of lymph now use only that from the human subject.

Such being the disadvantages, Mr. Simon proceeds to inquire whether there are any reasons to think that our own system has demerits which entitle us to regard it with special distrust, and to prefer even animal vaccination with its elements of weakness. Of course the ground upon which it is sought to discourage arm-to-arm vaccination is the asserted risk of spreading syphilis thereby; and if it were true that syphilis were so spread, some change of system would be called for. But Mr. Simon, after a careful examination of the whole matter, and holding that the above hypothetical concession does not go beyond the case of vaccination properly performed—for the vague possibilities of malapaxis are almost irrelevant to the main issue,—can see no ground for the alleged invaccination of syphilis. Premising that it is surprising that vaccination has not been almost generally pitched upon by persons as an apology for their syphilitic offspring, that wounds of slight nature in infected subjects may take on the character of a specific sore, and that when syphilis appears to be invaccinated it may arise from gross carelessness, that millions of vaccinations are yearly performed without any accusation of inoculated syphilis, and that the accumulated experience of the Medical Department of the Privy Council, as well as the general consent of the medical profession, are against the proved occurrence of invaccinated syphilis, Mr. Simon examines the exceptional cases, which are infinitely few in number, with a view of showing that they are to be explained by vaccination being altogether improperly performed, and declares that with such certainties as we possess as regards the freedom of vaccination, properly performed, from evil results, it would be the merest pedantry to insist on infinitesimal speculative uncertainties, as though our English system of vaccination deserved mistrust because we are puzzled to explain some alleged syphilisation on the Continent. That the various measures taken of late years to perfect our existing national vaccination have operated successfully it is needless to show. Mr. Simon entirely vindicates its claim to our increased confidence.

HOSPITALS AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Referring to your remarks on this subject in your issue of Nov. 5th, allow me to state that the working men of this town and neighbourhood contributed £352 9s. 7d. to the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Hospital and Dispensary for the year ending March 31st, 1870. This substantial help from such a quarter has been gladly welcomed by the board of management.

The district around Chesterfield, from which the subscriptions of the various bodies of working men are received, has been separated into four divisions, and four representative working men, elected by the subscribing workpeople, have been added to the board. In this way a responsible share in the government and conduct of the institution has been entrusted to them. The scheme at first met with some opposition from one or two of the governors; but it has been in operation since June last, has worked well, and I believe the result, financially and otherwise, will be satisfactory to all concerned. I have much pleasure in adding that an extension of the hospital is contemplated, including a new operating theatre, consulting-room, and additional wards.

Following the noble examples of Glasgow and Birmingham, the working classes, as well as the employers of labour, will doubtless give us their sympathy and support.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Chesterfield, Nov. 5th, 1870.

JOHN ROSE, M.D., B.N.