

GENERAL DISPENSARY, ALDERSGATE
STREET.

THE election of a surgeon to this Institution took place on Wednesday last, and terminated, after a severe contest, in favour of Mr. WILLIAM COULSON; the numbers were, Mr. Coulson, 391; Mr. Caswell, 130.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

THE first of a series of evening meetings was held last week, in the rooms of the College of Physicians. The object of these *reunions*, is to afford to men of science an opportunity of meeting for the purposes of conversation, and discussing matters connected with their pursuits. By way of giving a beginning to the evening, and of affording a subject of conversation, Sir Henry Hallford read a paper on *Tic Douloureux*. In this essay he put forward a theory, that the distressing malady which was the subject of it, is produced either by a deposit of bone out of the natural course, or by an *exfoliation* of bone, the consequence of some disease or injury. He mentioned a great number of cases which had fallen under his own observation, which tended to support this theory. In further illustration of his position, he produced a cranium, in the interior of which a most extraordinary deposition of bone had taken place, and the history of which strongly corroborated the theory for which he contended. The discourse was rather short, but was listened to with great attention, and excited, as it was well calculated to do, great interest. The rooms were very fully attended, and, besides the most eminent professors of medical science in the metropolis, there were many persons of distinction in other professions.—*Times*.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

THE case of lithotomy, by Mr. Lawrence, which was noticed in No. 239 of this Journal, terminated fatally on the sixth day after the operation—from secondary hæmorrhage. At the time of the operation, six or seven oz. of blood were lost; but the bleeding immediately ceased on the patient being put into bed. He was quite comfortable, and urine flowed partly through the penis, on the following day; the wound was healthy, and he continued remarkably well until the evening of the 5th day, when hæmorrhage came on from the wound, and some blood flowed through the urethra. Cold cloths were applied, and the bleeding, externally, ceased. The patient, however, became pale and faint; there was a sense of fullness about the bladder, with a desire and inability to pass urine;—the house surgeon, Mr. Weekes, re-opened the wound, and removed the coagula which filled up its cavity, a considerable quantity of congealed blood extended into the bladder, and on being turned out, about two pints of urine were forcibly driven through the wound. The bleeding vessel was now discovered, but it lay so deep that it was almost impossible to secure it with a ligature—pressure by means of a small piece of sponge and the finger was, therefore, kept up for 20 minutes, when the bleeding had entirely ceased: no further hæmorrhage took place, and he passed water through the wound. The quantity of blood lost was about one pound and a half. Brandy and stimulants were administered, but the patient grew more feeble, and died on the following day. The body was removed to Wapping, by the friends of the patient, but permission being obtained, Mr. Lawrence desired Mr. Weekes, and one of his dressers, to examine it. The bladder was found contracted, and containing, at its upper part, about a spoonful of coagulated blood; its coats were thickened, but not otherwise diseased. The prostate was somewhat enlarged, and the part through which the incision had extended was thinly covered with adherent coagulated blood. The pudendal artery, and its ramifications, were most carefully examined; but nothing explanatory of the hæmorrhage could be discovered, except the division of a small artery, anterior to the prostate.

PARALYSIS, WITH ENCYSTED ABSCESS AND
EXTENSIVE RAMOLLISSEMENT OF THE
BRAIN.

A. B., aged 23, of intemperate habits, had suffered, for a considerable time, great pain

in the head. About a week previous to his admission into the Hospital, he fell down deprived of sense and motion, and remained in this state for two hours; and, on partially recovering, the left arm and leg were found paralysed. When brought here, there was loss of motion in the left arm and leg, and the mouth was drawn to the right side; there was slight stupor, and he complained of great pain in the head, on the *right* side; pulse rather slow. He had cough, to which he had been subject many years, and he expectorated a thick yellow mucus. He was cupped, and took some aperient medicine. He continued in much the same state for about a week, when he became comatose, and died in two days.

Examination.

On removing the dura mater, the upper surface of the *right* hemisphere of the brain felt soft and fluctuating, and in cutting into it, an abscess, extending from very near the surface, to within a few lines of the right lateral ventricle, was found to occupy its superior and middle portion. It contained nearly three ounces of thick pus, of a greenish colour, and intolerable fœtor. The abscess was distinctly defined, and lined by a thick membrane, of a dark ash colour; its internal surface was soft and villous. The cerebral matter, for a considerable extent around the cyst, was broken down, soft and pulpy. The left lateral ventricle contained an unusual quantity of fluid. The inferior part of both lungs was inflamed, and there was a single encysted tubercle, the size of a large pea, in the superior part of the inferior lobe of the right lung.

LARGE CHANCRE, WITH DESTRUCTION OF THE ANTERIOR THIRD OF THE GLANS PENIS, CURED BY THE FREE EXHIBITION OF MERCURY.

Robert Smithers, aged 28, a thin, unhealthy looking man, was admitted into Henry's Ward, January 31, under the care of Mr. Lawrence. He had been subject to gleet for many months, and about a month ago a bubo appeared in the right groin. A week afterwards, he perceived a small superficial sore on the glans penis, around the urethra. He applied to a medical man, who ordered him a lotion and some pills; these measures afforded but temporary relief; the sore gradually enlarged, put on a dark-coloured appearance, and was so painful that he was obliged to take opium to procure sleep. On his admission, the anterior third of the glans penis had been destroyed, and a large ulcer, of a dark livid colour, not excavated, but presenting an appearance, as if a portion of

the glans had been sliced off, occupied the entire exposed surface; the discharge from it was not of that fœtid ichorous character, which accompanies the phagedenic ulceration; the surrounding inflammation was but little, and the prepuce was loose, and could be easily drawn over the glans. There was a suppurating bubo in the right groin. He had occasional acute darting pain in the ulcer, but the constitutional disturbance was not great. Pulse feeble, tongue coated, bowels open. Batley's liq. opii sedat. diluted, was applied to the sore, and he took pil. saponis cum opio, gr. v. at bed time.

Feb. 3. The ulcer was not improved; it had a dirty, foul, ulcerated aspect, and, at one part, it seemed disposed to spread. The pain had been so severe as to require the repetition of the opiate every eight hours. Mr. Lawrence now determined to employ mercury freely, and therefore ordered the patient, calomel gr. ii., opii gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ every four hours. He remarked to the pupils, that he had seen a few examples of the same form of disease, and that its progress was arrested only by the free and speedy use of mercury. In the case of a gentleman, which came under his observation some years ago, the destructive process had been more rapid, and had nearly destroyed the whole glans; a surgeon, who had great experience in the treatment of venereal disease, immediately ordered the free use of mercury, under which the affection soon subsided.

6. The ulcer was cleaner, and had nearly lost its dark-coloured foul appearance, and granulations were forming; the prepuce was more swollen, so that he could scarcely denude the glans; the pain was much abated; mouth not affected by the mercury. Continue the pills every four hours, and rub in a drachm of the ung. hydrarg. every night.

8. The mouth was sore; there was a marked and decided improvement in the ulcer, it presented a clear granulated surface; there was little or no surrounding inflammation; and he could denude the glans with ease.

10. The sore was quite healthy, having a granulated surface and cicatrising at its edges; the mouth and gums were much affected by the mercury; and he had diarrhœa with slight tenesmus; discontinue the pills; repeat the ung. hydrarg.

In a few days the ointment was discontinued; the sore healed rapidly and cicatrised; he remained in the Hospital about 3 weeks afterwards, when the soreness of his mouth and gums subsided; and he was discharged quite well.
