

viscera, except those mentioned, escaped unhurt. Structural disease had, however, commenced its inroads on the constitution. The heart and the collatitious organs of digestion were preternaturally compact and firm; the mesenteric glands were enlarged, and indicated the existence of a scrofulous taint in the system; and several calculous concretions of the size of a pea were found imbedded in the parenchyma of the lungs.

The calculi, about six or eight in number, were situated in that part of the lungs which occupies the domes of the thoracic cavity, and, undoubtedly, would have ultimately become the source of great constitutional irritation.

Boston, June, 1828.

III.

SELECTIONS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS.

Cæsarian Operation successfully performed. By Professor ANDREINI.

Egidia Sgrilli, of Florence, twenty-three years of age, of a weakly and scrofulous habit, being at the full time of utero gestation, suffered labor pains for sixty hours, when two physicians were called to her, who found that the brim of the pelvis was too small to allow of the possibility of the birth of the child *per vias naturales*; she was free from fever, the pains were less frequent, the os uteri was dilated, the liquor amnii had passed away, the funis appeared without the os externum, it did not pulsate. The child had not been felt to move for six hours. The Cæsarian operation was determined upon. The patient being placed in a convenient manner

upon a bed, an incision was made in the course of the linea alba, which divided the first layers of the fibres of the uterus; a second incision in the same direction opened that viscus, from which the dead *sœtus* was taken, the size of which proved the impossibility of its being brought into the world in the usual manner.

The wound was united by five points of the suture, having a tent of lint in the inferior angle; and a bandage was applied about the abdomen. In the evening of the same day the febrile excitement rendered venesection to twelve ounces necessary. A bloody discharge flowed from the vagina; the fever continuing, seven ounces more of blood were abstracted in the night.

The following day, there was fever, vomiting, headach, and ischuria. The catheter was employed; venesection twice, to half a pound each time; lavements and mild drinks. The third day the fever continued with ischuria and constipation; venesection, catheter and lavements were repeated.

The fourth day the patient was better, constipation continued. Half an ounce of castor oil produced plentiful, yellow, liquid evacuations.

The fifth day fever returned. Abdomen tumid, and tender when touched; the lochial discharge became suspended, headache and dryness of the fauces; venesection was repeated to half a pound. Symptoms diminished, a sero-purulent discharge flowed from the wound.

The sixth day, and during the morning of the seventh, evident improvement; the lochial discharge returned; darting pains in the mammx; in the morning and

at night the fever was very high ; four ounces of blood were abstracted, and afterwards two ounces more were drawn.

The eighth day, better : the dressings were removed. The wound was found to be united throughout its whole extent, except at the inferior angle, in which the lint was placed.

The fourteenth day, the point of suture at the superior angle of the wound was removed ; the following day the second point, and on the sixteenth day, the three remaining points, and strips of adhesive plaster, were placed across the wound.

The diet of the patient was from this time gradually increased ; a bandage with a plaque was applied over the cicatrix. On the thirtieth day from the operation, the patient left the hospital perfectly well.—*Annal. Univ.*

On the use of Tannin as a Remedy for Menorrhagia.

This substance has lately been employed, it is said, with very great success, in the treatment of uterine hemorrhage by an Italian physician, Dr. Porta. He has used it for three years, and has never found it fail but twice. The general results he has been led to by his practical experience are, that tannin has a special action on the uterus when the hemorrhage is active, whether it arises from chronic or acute metritis, but that in the latter case the inflammation must be previously combated by repeated copious blood-letting ; that it is not of any use in hemorrhage connected with organic disease of the uterus ; and that its action is very rapid, while the quantity required to effect a cure is so small as to be easily borne on the stomach.

He has published several of the cases which have led him to these conclusions. The following is an abstract of a few of them. *Case I.* A woman of middle age, and of a bilious irritable temperament, after recovering from a severe attack of miliary fever, was attacked during convalescence with considerable uterine hemorrhage. Conceiving at first that it was nothing more than a premature appearance of the catamenia, she for some time paid little attention to it ; but after it had continued several weeks, and had greatly reduced her strength, she became alarmed, and consulted Dr. Porta. He ordered her to take two grains of tannin every two hours, and in two days the hemorrhage ceased altogether. *Case II.* A woman, thirty-two years of age, of delicate habit, and nursing a child four months old, was seized with uterine hemorrhage, which, like the former patient, she at first imagined to be the catamenial discharge. As it continued, however, much longer than usual, and was rapidly enfeebling her, she had recourse to Dr. Porta, who found that she had been twenty days ill, and that she was affected with lumbar pains, some swelling and tenderness of the hypogastrium and symptomatic fever. He directed her to take a pill containing three grains of tannin every third hour ; and she took only eight of them when the hemorrhage entirely ceased. *Case III.* A woman of irritable sanguine temperament, and thirty-eight years of age, had been affected for three weeks with menorrhagia, when Dr. Porta was called to visit her. He found that pressure on the hypogastrium excited pain there, shooting towards the loins, that the pulse was hurried, and that

she was liable to sudden paroxysms of pyrexia. As there was not, however, any notable swelling in the hypogastrium, he ordered the tannin without any preliminary treatment, and the same quantity was given as in the last case. In the course of two days about two scruples were taken, upon which the hemorrhage was permanently checked. *Case IV.* A young woman of robust habit was attacked with profuse hemorrhage from the uterus, by which in the course of a few weeks she was reduced to a state of great exhaustion. Notwithstanding her state, and the large quantity of blood she had lost, the pulse was frequent and full, and the hypogastrium was tumid and tender. Dr. Porta immediately ordered her to cease taking wine and tonic drinks, which had been given her up to that time, and directed three grains of tannin to be administered every third hour. Towards the close of the fourth day the hemorrhage ceased. The lumbar pains which usually accompany the disease continued a few days longer.

Ann. Univ.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1828.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

JUNE 4th, 1828.—The Annual Meeting of the Society was held this day. Seventy-five Counsellors were chosen. The report of a committee on the state of the Treasury was read and accepted, also the report of the committee on the Library. A committee reported on the disposition of the annual assessment, and on the use of the Library. The following, one of three resolutions reported, was adopted.

“The committee recommend that every member of the Society be permitted to take from the library three books at a time, and to retain them for one year.”

The second resolution, to pay the necessary expenses attending the meetings of the Censors, out of the treasury, was referred to the Counsellors.

The third resolution, providing for the quarterly publication of medical papers for gratuitous distribution among the members, was rejected.

The proceedings of the Medical Convention at Northampton were next discussed, but before any vote was taken, the time having arrived for the Discourse, the further consideration of the subject was postponed till the Address had been delivered.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK, M.D. then gave a very interesting discourse on the uncertainties of human life and of the medical art, and closed it with biographical sketches of the late Dr. Samuel Danforth, and of the late Ward Nicholas Beylston, Esq.

Thanks were voted to Dr. Shattuck for his very eloquent and ingenious discourse. The debate on the Convention was then resumed, and the proceedings, with sundry amendments, were adopted.

Certain propositions were referred to the Society by the Counsellors, on medical education, and the terms of admission to the Society, which were referred to a committee of the Society.

A question on the relations of the graduates of the Berkshire Medical Institution, was referred to the Counsellors, as was also a letter from Samuel L. Mitchell, M.D., requesting the appointment of delegates to the Convention to be held at Wash-