

relief would be immediately felt. Ordered the following:—

Infusion of senna, six ounces;
Carbonate of potass, one drachm;
Sulphate of magnesia, one ounce;
Spirit of nitrous æther, three drachms;
Tincture of ginger, half an ounce. To have three
tablespoonfuls every four hours, until full evacuation of the bowels is produced.

Two tablespoonfuls of the following, after the bowels had been freely opened, and repeated every four hours:—

Camphor mixture, six ounces;
Compound spirit of ammonia, two drachms;
Tincture of hyoscyamus, two drachms.

In case it should be necessary, another enema. Take during the day broth, arrow-root with brandy, frequently, and small in quantity. Since last evening a very decided and marked improvement in her symptoms has taken place, which I attribute to her having had two hours' quiet sleep during the night; there is more vigor and animation in the countenance. *Evening*: As the medicine acted very freely, bringing off a quantity of dark fæculent matter, and causing at the same time great pain, accompanied by debility, I ordered a saline draught, with thirty drops of opium, at once.

3. Passed a tranquil night; not any return of pain; pulse 60; tongue cleaner. Mutton broth taken occasionally; saline mixture every six hours; enema of oil and gruel if necessary.

4. Passed a comfortable night, without sickness; bowels open twice since yesterday. Saline mixture to be continued, and an aperient during the day if requisite. Pulse 65; tongue clean and moist. Beef tea frequently, and in small quantity.

5. Slept very comfortably during the night; no return of pain; catamenia returned yesterday morning very scanty, left her last evening. Repeat saline mixture and aperient, with mutton broth.

6. Still improving; pain entirely gone; bowels rather inclined to be costive; appetite returning; legs still sore when rubbed. Bowels to be kept open by taking some of the aperient mixture occasionally, and one of the following pills three times a-day:—

Sulphate of quinine, twelve grains;
Rhubarb, one scruple;
Compound extract of gentian, ten grains. Make twelve pills.

8. Free from pain; bowels open; secretions healthy; in every respect better; eat some boiled mutton with a relish. She is now quite well. The state of the secretions in this case indicated very great hepatic derangement and congestion, and to congestion I should attribute the hæmorrhage.

ON THE
USE OF THE SPECULUM IN UTERINE
DISEASES.

By JAMES COLES PARKER, Esq.,

Surgeon to the Bridgwater Infirmary.

I am induced to send the present communication to the "Provincial Medical Journal," not with the object of proposing any new mode of treatment, but to

recommend to those practitioners who have not yet been in the habit of using the speculum uteri in the above diseases, its immediate adoption.

Three cases of uterine disease have lately been under my care, two organic and one functional, which had existed for many months; each had been under the care of highly respectable surgeons, both in town and country, and in neither case had the speculum been used; hence, advantage had not been taken of that means of diagnosis, valuable time had been lost not to be regained, and the local affection had been so long neglected in the two cases of organic disease, that constitutional symptoms supervened, which in one case will be fatal.

One of the most valuable uses to which the speculum is applicable is the ready means it affords for the application of leeches to the os and cervix uteri; the advantages of this mode over that usually adopted—viz., application to the perineum, inside of the thighs, or pubis, are too evident to need any remarks from me; it enables us to avail ourselves of the direct application of remedies to the diseased part, and it should be borne in mind that the os and cervix uteri are the parts which in most cases of organic uterine disease are first affected. In functional affections of the uterus, which are so frequent, depending on inflammatory action or congestion, the application of leeches by the speculum is, in my opinion, a most valuable remedy.

I will not trouble you with the minute detail of the cases above alluded to, but it will be sufficient to say that each case had existed for many months, without the practitioners under whose care they had been previously having used any local means which were at all effectual, in consequence of having neglected the use of the above-named valuable instrument; two of the cases have been since cured, and the sufferings of the other patient so much alleviated, that she speaks in terms of gratitude of the relief she has experienced from the use of leeches and other local remedies to the diseased part. The speculum I would recommend is the three-bladed one made by Weiss, which appears to have many advantages over Ricord's, or any other which I have seen.

Eastover, Bridgwater,

Nov. 24, 1842.

CASE
OF
UNIVERSAL SUPPURATION
OF THE
CEREBRO-SPINAL MEMBRANES,
WITHOUT ANY CORRESPONDING SYMPTOMS.

By Professor WAGNER, Vienna.

Jacob Eichinger, a soldier in the 4th Light Infantry Regiment, had enjoyed good health during the seven years that he had been in the service. On the 17th of November, 1839, he was suddenly attacked with symptoms of gastric derangement, which increased on the following day, and compelled him to go to bed, at about a quarter to twelve, a.m. He fell asleep, and awoke in an hour delirious. Convulsions soon supervened; the man became comatose, and, although the most active antiphlogistic treatment was had recourse

to, he died on the following day, November 19th, at half-past four in the morning.

The body was examined on the 20th. The cranial bones were remarkably thin, and the right side of the skull somewhat prominent. The whole of the superior surface of the cerebral hemispheres was covered with a layer of yellow fluid pus, and appeared somewhat flattened; no trace of the arachnoid could be found at this part. The pia mater was highly congested, and infiltrated with pus in its prolongations between the convolutions; the substance of the hemispheres was very much softened, and contained numerous points of blood when cut through; the lateral ventricles empty, and their walls softened in the highest degree; the pineal gland was very much enlarged, and did not contain any calcareous matter. The inferior surface of the cerebrum, and the whole of the cerebellum, were covered with pus, and extremely soft; the arachnoid here also appeared to have been destroyed; the base of the cranium was bathed in pus; no fluid in the third or fourth ventricles; the pineal gland much injected. The inner surface of the trachea was of a light red color, but the bronchi were healthy. There were some adhesions between the pleurae, and the substance of the lungs was much congested; a few tubercles in the upper part of the left lung. The heart was very large, soft, and loaded with fat, but not diseased. In the abdominal cavity nothing worthy of notice was found. The bladder contained about half a pint of turbid urine. The fibrous membrane of the spinal marrow was much injected, and the cellular membrane particularly so; its whole surface, and especially opposite the cauda equina, was bathed in the same kind of purulent matter as the brain; there was no trace of the serous membrane, and the substance of the spinal marrow itself was converted into a thin, pulraceous matter.

REMARKS.

This remarkable case is almost unique in the annals of medical science. Pathologists must decide whether the inflammation commenced in the arachnoid membrane, or extended to it from the softened nervous tissue, or whether both states were simultaneously produced by one and the same cause. But, however this may be, we cannot but be struck with surprise that such extensive softening of the cerebro-spinal nervous mass, and universal suppuration of its serous membrane, should have existed without the production of any symptoms to indicate such extensive disease. Particular inquiries were made in the regiment in which the man had served, and it was ascertained that during the seven previous years he had enjoyed excellent health, having continued to do his duty as a soldier without interruption. It was only two days before his decease that gastric and convulsive symptoms made their appearance, and quickly terminated in coma and death.—*Ostr. Med. Woch.*, Nov. 4, 1842.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1842.

The condition of the dwelling-houses of the poorer classes, whether as regards their internal economy or external situation, forms a most important object of inquiry to the philanthropist and the physician. When we reflect upon the influence which the varying circumstances of site and elevation, and exposure to air and moisture, must exercise upon the health and comfort of the artisan and the cottager—when it is considered that the free circulation of air, the access of light, and protection from cold and damp, and from noxious exhalations and impurities, whether of the air respired or the water employed in the various branches of domestic economy, are important to all, but doubly so to those who are from poverty deprived of the means of guarding against many of the inlets to disease—there is little need of labored argument to show the importance of such inquiries. No reflecting person, who is conversant with the habits, and, from personal inspection, familiar with the dwellings of the working population of this country, will hesitate to admit that there is great room for improvement in both. The site of the houses of the manufacturing portion of our population, in particular, has been too generally chosen with reference to the one only view of proximity to the factory, regardless alike of the comfort and the health of the inmates. These houses are for the most part situated in the midst of the noxious effluvia generated by the various processes carried on at the manufactory, because it is considered advantageous that the workmen should be near at hand; they are crowded into a small space, the value of the ground not allowing of sufficient room for much attention to ventilation, or to the admission of light. The banks of rivers and canals being desirable situations for factories, as well on account of the supply of water for working the machinery, as for the convenience of transporting the products of labor, the ground is very frequently swampy, and drainage, or other means of providing against accumulation of dirt and filth, rarely enters into the contemplation either of owner or occupier of the miserable tenements with which such places abound. Can it then be a matter of surprise that the population reared under such circumstances should be squalid, stunted in growth, scrofulous in constitution, and careless of those decencies of every-day life in the absence of which there is no check to the development of vicious tastes, no impediment to the indulgence of vicious appetites? Can it be a matter of surprise that in such places scrofula, pulmonic affections, and rheumatism are endemic, and that fever and scarlatina, cholera, diarrhœa, and