specific. Iodide of potassium was ordered, and the ulcer was touched with the solid nitrate of silver. The patient was requested to frequently steam his throat. Little alteration in the voice, took place for some time, but, under a continuation of the medicine, and a change of the local application from nitrate of silver to a solution of chloride of zinc (two scruples to the ounce) the disease was entirely cured in two months.

LABURNUM POISONING.

By C. G. WHEELHOUSE, F.R.C.S.,

Surgeon to the General Infirmary at Leeds.

CASES of death from this poison are so comparatively rare that I deem it a duty to place the following on record.

On Friday (August 27th, 1869) I was called hastily, in the middle of the day, to visit F. B., a child aged five years and seven months, who was supposed to have poisoned herself by eating laburnum seeds or pods. On my arrival, I found the child very ill, and suffering from symptoms of irritant poisoning, but I was somewhat at a loss to reconcile the condition in which I found her with the history given me of the case. I was informed by the mother that she had eaten the seeds two days previously, and that she had been apparently well until about an hour before I was summoned, when the symptoms, as I saw them, set in suddenly. On closely questioning the child herself, I found that this account was not altogether a correct one; she acknowledged that she had eaten some seeds on the Wednesday, but also admitted that she had again eaten more a few hours previously. Her nurse stated that, so far from having been quite well in the interval between Wednesday and Friday, the child had really been poorly both on Wednesday and Thursday mornings; that she had complained of pain in the stomach, had looked pale and ill, and had been unable to take her food. The gardener stated that he had seen her with pods in her hands on the Wednesday. He had warned her not to eat them, as they were poisonous, and had lent her a trowel with which to bury them in her own garden.

From these statements, I came to the conclusion that the little girl had probably been really nibbling the seeds or pods (for they were unripe, and the seeds were difficult to get out of the pods) for some days past, and that the effects, as I saw them, were the results of several days' accumulated slow poisoning.

I found the child laid upon her bed, complaining of head-ache and pain in the stomach, which she referred very decidedly to the region of the umbilicus; the surface of the whole body was pale, remarkably cold, almost marble-like; the pulse was soft, feeble, and rapid; and there was slight dilatation of the pupils. She had smart vomiting and purging. The breathing was slow, and expiration especially was very markedly prolonged. The intellect was clear, but there was great restlessness and irritability. Emetics and castor-oil had already been freely administered; and, as I could not determine how much of the vomiting and purging was due to these, I gave my attention chiefly, at that time, to the condition of the surface and abdominal pain, ordering mustard and warmth to the body, hot bottles to be placed in the bed and around the child, and a little brandy and water to be given occasionally if the stomach would bear it. Unfortunately, up to this time, the evacuations had all been thrown away, and I had no opportunity of seeing them.

In a few hours I saw the child again, and found her in much the same condition; restless as before, a little drowsy at intervals, the knees drawn up upon the belly, and the hands spread over it to protect it. Vomiting and purging still continued; the vomit appeared to be simple gastric secretion, and contained no remains of either seeds or pods; the evacuations were very loose but feculent. The surface was still pale and very cold.

August 28th.—She had passed a very restless night, though she had dozed a great deal, and had, at times, been difficult to rouse sufficiently to understand what was required of her. When half awake, she tossed painfully to and fro upon her bed; at the same time she moaned and spread her hands over the abdomen as if to protect it. Her movements seemed to cause pain. She was greedily thirsty, and grasped at liquids with avidity, seizing the vessel with both hands and draining it. Nothing, however, remained on the stomach; even water thus given, or ice, was almost instantly rejected. The tongue was dry, glazed, and red; the mouth and lips were parched. The pulse was still feeble and frequent. The stomach ejected large quantities of watery secretion; and the same kind of fluid, with feculent odour, was constantly draining involuntarily from the bowels. The surface of the body continued pale and cold; and yet there was remarkable impatience of even the slightest covering; any article, however light, that was laid over her, was immediately torn away, with expressions of fretfulness and pain. Intervals of restlessness and tossing from point to point in the bed, alternated with

others of heavy drowsiness; and, during the sleep that followed, light warm clothing might be laid over her, only, however, to be again torn off the moment she awoke. If thoroughly roused, she knew those around her, and appeared conscious for the time.

This condition continued without variation, and in spite of treatment, for three days and nights, when symptoms of apparent amendment set in. The pulse improved; the vomiting materially abated; a copious dark coloured treacly evacuation was passed; the intervals of consciousness were prolonged; the pain in the body evidently diminished; and food, which was very carefully given from the first, was now, at last, retained.

During the whole of this trying period, I had aimed at the following points in the treatment of the case.

1. To subdue the inflamed condition of the alimentary canal, and allay the vomiting and purging.
2. To destroy any of the alkaloid (cytisine) which might by chance be within reach of antidotes.
3. As far as possible to restore and maintain the warmth of the body.
4. To sustain life by the administration of frequently repeated small quantities of light nutritious aliment, such as milk, egg-flip, beef-tea, and water in measured quantity, or in the form of ice.
5. To sustain the flagging powers of the nervous system by appropriate stimuli, as champagne, brandy, or ammonia.

During the following two days, the case continued to appear more hopeful. The abdominal pain steadily subsided; the stools, at first mingled with patches of blood, became almost natural; the sickness only came on at intervals when the child, apparently to gratify the intense thirst which continued, drank over freely, and the warmth of the body increased. But, notwithstanding the apparent improvement, dryness of the mouth and throat, prostration, and extreme restlessness continued, and resisted all my efforts for their alleviation. Of these symptoms, the restlessness was the most intractable, and the night of September 2nd was passed in a manner most truly pitiable.

At all risks, I determined, therefore, to attempt to allay the now incessant and almost frantic jactitation by opiates; but in this I did not succeed, and death speedily put an end to the painful scene.

TUMOUR OF THE BLADDER, SIMULATING STONE.

By WILLIAM ANDERSON, M.D., Richmond, Surrey.

THE following case is one of the most interesting with which I ever met, inasmuch as, during a long period of its history, it presented many of the symptoms and characteristics of stone in the bladder, accompanied by the passing of large numbers of irregular jagged stony concretions, varying in size from a pin's head to a large pea. The patient, Mrs. W., aged 52, was first under the care of Mr. Wetherfield, who reports as follows.

"During the early part of 1867, I was consulted by this patient for symptoms which seemed to denote the passage of stone from the kidney. At this time there was no abnormal change in the urine. Warm baths and various remedies were administered, with only partial relief. The same state of matters continued during 1868, her sufferings becoming gradually more severe. In February 1869, her symptoms became aggravated and the pain intense. Dr. Meadows, Mr. Thornton, and myself, made a most careful examination under chloroform, when it was decided that the disease was of the nature of tumour of the bladder, and probably cancerous."

Dr. Meadows, in his notes of the case, says: "The diagnosis was based on the fact that there was a distinct growth in the bladder, and that it was circumscribed. The degree and character of the pain favoured the malignant much more than the non-malignant view. The symptoms and history were not those of calculus only; and no stone was discoverable. Abscess was negatived by the history of the case and the appearance of the urine. The quantity of mucus, pus, shreds of tissue, blood, and phosphate of lime, which were always present in the urine in varying quantities, completed the diagnosis."

Mrs. W. was placed under my care on June 25th, 1869. The suffering which she endured when she was not under the influence of chloroform or sedatives was very severe until her death, on the 22nd August. She continued all this time to pass alkaline muco-purulent stinking urine, sometimes bloody, sometimes containing shreds of organic, fibrous, and cellular matter, and often large concretions of phosphate of lime. The urine was voided only in very small quantities at a time, and with great pain and straining. Morphine and chloroform were the only remedies which gave her any relief. The spasmodic contractions of the bladder were at once relieved, however, by chloroform, which her attendants administered constantly under my directions. On the