REMARKS. It is rare to meet with cases of epistaxis in which astringents and styptics do not very speedily arrest even severe hæmorrhage. In the present instance, there was no evidence of the patient possessing the unfortunate tendency to hæmorrhage from every part of the body, which is known by the term hæmophilia; nor did it appear either from the constitution of the blood that there was any disorganising process at work, which by reducing or breaking up the red corpuscles, and increasing the fluidity, enabled the blood to transude more readily at the mucous membranes or elsewhere. In the case of an elderly lady, who was subsequently under my care for a similar very troublesome affection, the irritation produced by the strange habit of taking large quantities of snuff appeared to account for a persistent epistaxis, which, after some trouble, was permanently arrested by the local application of the tincture of the sesquichloride of iron. In the man whose case I have detailed, there was no source of local irritation; in fact, there appeared to be no cause to which the affection could be attributed, but the continued exposure to cold which induced internal congestion. From the numerous deaths from phthisis in his family, it may be inferred that his mucous membranes were delicate, and that this formed a predisposing cause; the epistaxis acting in a measure vicariously for that pulmonary hæmorrhage which might otherwise have ushered in pulmonary consumption.

TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

OPERATION FOR THE RADICAL CURE OF PROLAPUS UTERI.

By C. H. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon to the Hospital.

SARAH C., aged 48, widow, was admitted into the Hospital, on September 29th, 1860, under Dr. Kelly and Mr. Cornish, suffering from heart-affection and complete prolapse of the uterus, which had existed upwards of twenty years, rendering her life miserable. When she stood, the uterus protruded between her thighs. In addition to this, she was of a most irritable temperament. Near the os uteri was a small elongated tumour, which, shortly after her admission, was removed by ligature. The catamenia had not altogether ceased.

A week after her admission, she had a bronchitic attack, which postponed the operation for a time. In consequence of the heart-affection, it was deemed prudent not to administer chloroform.

November 25th. She was ordered to have slop diet; to take a dose of castor oil, and to have an enema early the following morning.

November 26th. The patient being secured on the table as for the operation for lithotomy, an incision was made parallel with the meatus, through the skin at the edge of the labium on each side, to the inferior commissure, and continued through the lateral walls of the vagina to the depth of about an inch and a half, and extending to the posterior wall of the vagina to a similar depth; thus removing a large flap of mucous membrane on each side, as well as from the perineal boundary of the vagina. No hæmorrhage of any consequence occurred. The denuded walls of the vagina were then brought into apposition by three quilled sutures; and four interrupted sutures were applied to the edges of the cut labia; silver wire being used for both. The knees being tied together, she was removed to bed, and a catheter was introduced into the bladder. She was ordered to take a grain of opium every four hours, and two grains of opium at night.

The grain of opium three times a day was ordered to be continued on the following two days; and on the 29th, she was ordered to have two grains at night, and

three ounces of port wine; on the 30th, twenty minims of liquor opii sedativus were given at night.

December 3rd. All the sutures were removed.

December 4th. Her bowels not having been acted on since the operation, a large enema was administered with good effect. She was ordered to have a chop and egg daily, with half a pint of ale; and the following mixture:

℞ Acidi nitro-muriatici ℥vij; infusi calumbæ ʒxj; tincturæ aurantii ʒi. M. Fiat haustus bis die sumendus.

She continued progressing well, and was discharged on February 9th; the union being perfect, and extending close to the meatus. She was retained in the Hospital several weeks after cure that the case might be watched, and had daily walked about the ward without inconvenience.

Original Communications.

THE STRUCTURE AND GROWTH OF TISSUES:

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE CONCLUSIONS DERIVED FROM SOME NEW OBSERVATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST MAGNIFYING POWERS.

By LIONEL S. BEALE, M.B., F.R.S.,

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II.—OF THE POWERS OF GERMINAL MATTER.

[Continued from p. 139.]

Of the Powers of Germinal Matter. As far as I can learn, there are no peculiar characters in germinal matter which will enable us to form the slightest conception as to its properties or powers, or to tell from what class of living beings it has been derived. The germinal matter taken from one elementary part exactly resembles in microscopical characters that existing in another, although the whole history of the after-life of the two may be widely different.

A small collection of particles taken from the growing tissues of the mammalian embryo at an early period of development, resembles exactly, in every particular that I can discover, even in its behaviour with certain reagents, a collection of particles entering into the formation of one of the so-called cells of a fungus; yet how different are the powers of these two masses of soft granular matter!

The active material of the fungus goes on increasing, dividing, and subdividing, without further change in structure or power; while, on the other hand, the active material of the mammalian embryo increases by subdivision, but its powers are different in every stage, and the structures formed from it are different. It retains its property of infinite growth; but, as it subdivides, there is an alteration in the powers of the resulting masses. The mass at first possesses the power of giving rise to germs from which bones, muscles, nerves, and all the tissues spring; but the power of each resulting series is more limited, and at last the germs have power to produce only the particular tissue which it is their office to form, and we have germs which produce bones, cuticle, muscles, nerves, etc., but those which produce bone cannot develop muscle or fibrous tissue, neither can the cuticle-germ give rise to any tissue except cuticle; nay, germs may be removed to parts of the body at a distance