substance. A section from a nodule upon the heart showed the same material infiltrating the muscular fibres. And in one from the root of the lung the pulmonary tissue was infiltrated with similar small cells. There can be little doubt, I think, that the tumour was a sarcoma, commencing in the mediastinal connective tissue, spreading by continuity along the pericardium, pleura, and heart; in each case being more developed where more connective tissue naturally existed, as along the vessels, costal pleura, etc., but also infiltrating the subjacent tissues.

TWO CASES OF *POST PARTUM* HÆMORRHAGE TREATED BY THE INJECTION OF PERCHLORIDE OF IRON.

By W. P. SWAIN, F.R.C.S.,

Surgeon to the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

WITHOUT wishing to fan into a flame the dying embers of controversy on the subject of the injection of perchloride of iron in *post partum* hæmorrhage, I desire to put on record the two following cases which have occurred in my practice during the last six months.

CASE I was that of an exceedingly fine, handsome lady, a primipara. Her pregnancy had been uninterruptedly good. Labour commenced on the evening of January 21st. The presentation was normal, the pains good, and a fine male child was born about half-past seven on the morning of the 22nd. I gave a small quantity of chloroform at the last. Immediately after the delivery of the child, I found a second head presenting, and, as the pains were not very expulsive, I put on the forceps and delivered a second male child in a few moments. I then removed the placenta, which was single and of enormous size. Considerable hæmorrhage occurred at the moment the placenta was expelled, but the womb contracted firmly, and a binder was put on. Within a few minutes, however, I found the uterus largely expanded, and, on pressure, a huge clot was expelled. I immediately introduced my left hand into the uterus, making pressure externally with the right, but was unable to produce any uterine contraction. During the whole time there was a constant and excessive flow of blood from the vagina, and the patient became collapsed. I administered brandy in large quantities and ergot, and the moment ice could be obtained I placed a large lump in the cavity of the womb, and a bag of ice on the abdomen. All was, however, of no avail, and my hopes of saving the patient were at zero. In the mean time, I had obtained further professional assistance, and, with the concurrence of my father and Mr. Whipple, I injected perchloride of iron into the uterus, in the manner advised by Dr. Barnes. From the moment of the injection all flow of blood ceased, although the uterus remained for some time flaccid. The lady made an excellent recovery, and, with the exception of a little lymphatic tenderness in the right thigh, complained of nothing during her convalescence. I should mention that, on the second day and on every succeeding day for some time, the vagina was thoroughly well syringed out with Condyl's fluid and water.

CASE II. I was asked by Surgeon-Major Ferguson to see at the Women's Hospital, on July 9th, a soldier's wife in her third pregnancy. She had a contracted pelvis in its antero-posterior diameter. In her first confinement she remained a hundred and eight hours in labour; in her second, eighty-seven hours. No instrumental assistance was afforded on either occasion, and the children were still-born. This time she had been in labour sixty hours, and I found the head well down on the pelvis, but tightly fixed there. I suggested the application of the forceps, and in a very short time, after the use of considerable traction, the child was born alive, but lived only for half an hour. The placenta was removed at once without difficulty, and the uterus contracted for a short time, but in a few moments tremendous hæmorrhage set in, the blood being projected from the vagina on to the floor some distance from the bed. I immediately passed my left hand into the uterus, cleared out its contents, and endeavoured to secure contraction, whilst cold water was poured on to the abdomen from a height, and brandy freely administered. This, however, did not correct the bleeding, although it somewhat lessened in quantity. Feeling that another gush of hæmorrhage might be fatal, I injected the perchloride, all the materials being fortunately at hand. The uterus at once contracted, all hæmorrhage ceased, and I hear from Dr. Ferguson that the woman has made an admirable recovery.

I think I may fairly claim two lives for the perchloride treatment. In the first case, all the usual resources, excepting galvanism, were tried in vain; the lady lay dying before our eyes, and there can be no doubt that any further hæmorrhage must have turned the balance against her. In the second case, so rapid and so large was the loss of blood, that nothing short of *immediate* arrest could have saved the patient; and this the perchloride certainly effected.

LEAVES FROM MY DIARY DURING THE ASHANTEE WAR.

By ALBERT A. GORE, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., Surgeon-Major,
Late Surgeon 34th (Cumberland) Regiment.

VI.—THE CLOSING DAYS OF OUR VOYAGE.

THE night after leaving Sierra Leone, we passed the mouth of the Sherborough, which, with the Mesurado, are the only two considerable rivers entering the space intervening before the commencement of the Grain Coast of Guinea is reached—a distance of some two hundred miles. At the mouth of the former are the Plainain Islands, the residence of the Chief of the Kossoos; and on its banks are found a species of pearl-oyster. The Mesurado is a larger and more rapid stream, with finely wooded and fertile banks; according to the natives, taking three months to ascend to its source. We were now steaming by countries whose states are entirely negro in religion and manners, and their sovereigns absolute as a rule. Next morning, September 7th, was fine but clouded; a light wind was blowing from the south-west; and already we were beginning to feel the long swell which was rolling in in great waves from the Atlantic. As the day advanced, it became more sultry, the hygrometer reading 78 and 83 deg. in the shade on deck at 3 P.M., where we had now commenced to breakfast and dine, the cabin being far too close. We passed Cape Mount, forty miles west of Monrovia, at 8 P.M., anchoring, at 1 A.M. in the morning of the 8th, at Cape Mesurado, which, as the sun rose, appeared as a stunted promontory, apparently about two hundred feet high. Two or three houses surrounded by coffee-plantations, and a light tower above, were visible from the deck of the steamer. About a mile to the left was the mouth of the river; and, on an island there, Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, a settlement formed by the Americans in 1820, with the object of obtaining an asylum for liberated negroes. The territory is said to be healthy and fertile. A few Kru canoes could be seen creeping along the shore in the dull and clouded early morning, which just before had been wet and raining, the bulbs reading 74 and 76 deg. in the shade under the dripping awning at 7 A.M. A hazy but very beautiful moon had been sufficiently indicative the night before of the coming day. We lost here another of our passengers, the Netherlands consul, who was returning to his factory on the river. While on board, he had told us many amusing stories of Liberia and the Gold Coast, where he had been several years. From all we heard, the Society of the African republic must have been very peculiar. Cape Mesurado is two hundred and sixty miles from Freetown. At times, the surf breaks here with such violence, that landing is extremely difficult and dangerous. Just before leaving at 10 A.M., our Krumen had had an exciting chase after one of their number, who had absconded in a shore-boat, getting into the bush before them; they failed to catch him, much to their chagrin and our captain's annoyance.

The Grain-Coast (so called from the grains of paradise or Malaguetta peppers, *Anomum grana paradisi*, whose scarlet pods grow here in abundance, and were largely exported to Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) which we were passing, appeared as a fringe of lowland, with a series of ridges or undulating paps four or five hundred feet high, and some miles in the interior. We could see the spray of the surf on the beach quite distinctly from the deck of the steamer.

From here to the river Volta, there is very little difference in the nature of the soil; within five or six miles of the shore it is silicious, the hills met with in every direction being composed principally of gneiss and granite, mica-slate entering into the composition of some at no great distance. Under the long continued influence of air and moisture, these are rapidly passing into decomposition, the carbonic acid in the water removing the potash from the feldspar and mica, the water afterwards separating the silicate of alumina and quartz, the former being soon washed away and deposited, forming the clayey or argillaceous soil mixed in the hollows with the decayed vegetable or animal matters which abound, giving rise to those rich alluvial valleys in which the natives delight to make extensive plantations. Such washings are rich in gold, which exists in very minute grains in the white, red, brown, or amethyst-coloured quartz, the sand found in the inner valleys being nothing more than very small grains of silica and quartz. Limestone is absent, but the number of fossil and other shells amply compensate for the want. Under the improvident system of agriculture adopted by the natives, the mineral food contained in the soil is soon exhausted, and it becomes barren in consequence of no manuring being attempted or any substance added which would serve directly as food for the plants, which are the same year after year, and removed to a distance for export or consumption. The sesqui-