misery of expression, averred his belief "that it was all caused by bad practices." It appeared that he had enjoyed good sight until the age of 17, when his eyes began gradually to fail. He had been addicted to onanism from early boyhood. He could now with difficulty make out letters of No. 16 at two inches. He was a pale cachectic man. I have learnt from his friends that since he was at Moorfields he has become quite blind, and that he is now in an asylum.

It is well known that muscæ are amongst the commonest consequences of sexual abuses; but, excepting this case, I have not met with any instance of actual blindness in connection with this cause; nor do I possess the notes of any case in which actual opacities were found in the vitreous, though I think I have seen several. The kind of muscæ which occur in connection with this cause are what are usually called pearly spectra, and are a phenomenon which may be made apparent in the eyes of the most healthy persons by certain optical arrangements. They do not, therefore, imply any opacity of the vitreous body.

Illustrations

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE:

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL.

PORTSEA ISLAND UNION HOSPITAL.

MEDICAL STATISTICS FOR 1865.

By FREDERICK PAGE, M.D., Milton, Southsea.

THE subjoined statistics of one of our great provincial Union Hospitals are, I think, interesting; and I trust that many of my colleagues will follow suit, and show the public that they are not the miserably conducted places that have been represented.

The Portsea Island Union consists of three parishes, comprising an area of 7,000 acres, with a population of 95,000.

The hospital of this union is a large detached brick building (in the rear and centre of the Union House), with an average of 260 patients, inclusive of about 80 lunatics. As it was not originally intended to accommodate so large a number, it has been added to when the emergency rendered it necessary; consequently, it is not arranged as it should be; still the wards are spacious, lofty, well ventilated, and appointed. The wards are unexceptionably clean, exceedingly well managed, and in a healthy locality, some distance north-east of the towns. The Union House itself is a very large establishment, consisting of a pile of brickwork, with two wings. The schools are of modern erection; and there are about 600 children attending them, receiving instruction, and living in the building.

The three blocks of buildings contain between 1500 and 1600 persons, and the numbers are rapidly increasing. The Union House, or main building, was built nineteen years ago, for the accommodation of 1,150 inmates, having at that time about 900 only. From that period to the present, the large increase in the population of this borough, and the peculiar class forming a large proportion of its inhabitants, has tended to augment the numbers of the destitute, the sick, and the aged; and will do so, no doubt, for an indefinite period.

The following statement shews the deaths for the last year.

January. There were 5 deaths this month from lung-disease; the ages were respectively 66, 60, 27, 65, and 64. The deaths from natural decay were 5; the average age, 76 years. The deaths from marasmus were 4 (all infants).

February. The deaths resulting from natural decay this month presented an extraordinary feature. They amounted to 7. The united ages were 599 years, and the average 85. The deaths from lung-disease were 4; the respective ages being 42, 50, 43 years, and 19 months.

March. The deaths resulting from natural decay this month were again 7; and the age nearly approached the patriarchal years of those dying last month from this cause; being in the aggregate 576 years, and averaging 82. The deaths from lung-disease were but 2, aged 65 and 25 years.

April. The deaths from natural decay this month were 4, each above 70, and not exceeding 77 years. The deaths from lung-disease were 4; their respective ages being 20, 27, 43, and 68 years. From other causes the deaths were also 4, making only 12.

May. The deaths from natural decay this month were only 2, aged 67 and 85 years; and from lung-disease 4, aged respectively 3, 22, 28, and 45 years.

June. Only one death from natural decay occurred this month, aged 65. From lung-disease there were 3; the ages being 37, 56, and 74. The deaths from brain-disease were 4; and the deaths from marasmus 3 (infants).

July. The deaths from natural decay this month were 5, averaging 74 years. The deaths from lung-disease were 4; the respective ages being 12, 21, 43, and 55 years. The deaths from brain-disease were this month again 4.

August. The deaths from natural decay this month were 5; the united ages being 408 years, and the average 81. The deaths from lung-disease this month were 4; the respective ages being 6, 21, 22, and 40. Three infants died from marasmus.

September. The only death this month from natural decay was that of a man aged 76. The deaths from all causes this month were 8 only. The deaths from lung-disease were 2, aged 22 and 45 years.

October. The deaths from natural decay this month were 5; the united ages being 398 years, and the average 79. From lung-disease, only 2 deaths occurred; the ages being 22 and 36 years. One death occurred this month from Asiatic cholera (aged 17 years), being the first case of the kind during the epidemic.

November. The deaths from natural decay this month presented the unusually large number of 11; the respective ages amounting to 866 years, averaging 79½; the greatest age being 89, and the least 70. The deaths from lung-disease were also the highest in any month during the year (6); the respective ages being 36, 27, 37, 30, 31, and 40. The deaths from Asiatic cholera were 4; the ages being 62, 42, 40, and 20; and from choleraic diarrhoea 3 old men, aged 79, 83, and 81. The deaths from all causes during the month were 32.

December. The deaths from natural decay this month were 6; their ages, as usual, ranging from 70 to 80 years, and averaging 75. Four infants died from marasmus. From lung-disease 3 died, whose ages were 61, 64, and 43 years. No deaths from cholera took place this month. It visited the establishment towards the end of October, and the last case of 14 that was admitted into the hospital with cholera was on the 11th of November.

The average age of those dying from natural decay (59 in number) during the year was 76 years.

The total number of deaths for the year was 212.

REMARKS. If we deduct the number of deaths resulting from natural decay, it will leave 154. Deducting from this number those dying from lung-diseases, would leave 111; and deducting the young children dying from marasmus would leave but 89 deaths from all other causes, out of an average of 1500 inmates all the year round, or about 6 per cent. Now, when the class of recipients is considered, consisting of the most destitute, the profligate, diseased, and the abandoned by other medical men and institutions, the proportion does not seem great.

In glancing at the statement, one is struck with the large number of brain- and lung-diseases, which may be accounted for by the extent of that great bane of humanity, the syphilitic taint. Worn-out prostitutes, suffering from this disease in the secondary and tertiary forms, almost invariably get diseases of the great nervous centres, the brain, spinal marrow, or ganglionic system; hence epilepsy, paralysis, contraction of the limbs, and idiotcy, and of which we have so many examples, and of which so many die. The next organs most liable to this poison are no doubt the lungs, hence consumption, and other lesions of these organs, producing death. I do not consider that any part or tissue of the body is exempt from the deleterious action of syphilis; I quite agree with Dr. Wilks that the time will come, and that soon, when the result of syphilitic deposit will be fully proved in every organ or tissue. Many of these cases might be arranged under syphilitic cachexy, and prostitutes ranging from twenty to thirty years of age, admitted here for their last home, and who die indirectly from the syphilitic poison, constitute a large number. It is very rarely that mercury can be used in these cases; when it is so, as in rupia, or other skin-affections, we invariably use it in the form of vapour with steam; but the constitution is generally too much worn down even for this.

I have come to the conclusion that the incautious use of this metal, during states of excitement or profligacy, does more harm than the disease would do, if allowed to run its own course; and I am quite certain that many have their constitutions ruined, and are brought to an early grave, by the use of this favourite specific, as it is called.

The facility of being treated by every quack whose great remedy is mercury, is a monstrous evil, the effects of which cannot be better seen than in this institution.

I believe that there are very many obscure diseases, which though not purely specific, yet possess a considerable amount of the syphilitic element, and are sometimes of an obstinate nature, until special treatment be adopted, when they rapidly recover. Cases of this kind are constantly met with, and are highly interesting.

The following operations have occurred during the year:—Lithotomy (lateral), 1; tracheotomy, 2; fistula, 5; cancer, 3; club-feet and other distortions, 5; dropsy, 7; tumours and minor operations, a large number.

The operation for stone, on a youth of 17, was unusual. The stone weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ ounces; its large circumference was $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; small circumference, 6 inches; largest diameter, 3 inches; smallest diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. There were no bad symptoms, and the lad made a good recovery.

The operations for tracheotomy were performed for syphilitic laryngeal ulceration; and both patients recovered. Those for distortions, were some of them of very long standing. One was in a youth of 20, with talipes equinus; his leg had been condemned to amputation, but he recovered with a very useful limb.

The few cases of zymotic disease would seem to shew that our sanitary condition is highly satisfactory.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

CASE OF DIPHTHERIA; WITH ALBUMINURIA, HÆMORRHAGE FROM THE BOWELS, AND A PURPUROUS ERUPTION ON THE LIMBS: DEATH ON THE TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

Under the care of A. P. STEWART, M.D.

CHARLES H., aged 7, was admitted on March 23rd, 1864, with a thick ash-coloured membrane covering the left tonsil, and two smaller similar patches on the right. The tonsils were swollen; and there was considerable enlargement under the jaw, especially on the left side. Pulse 116, and variable. He had become feverish and languid on the morning of the 20th; and on the following day he complained of soreness of the throat, and the submaxillary glands were observed to be swollen. He was ordered a draught containing twelve drops of the tincture of the sesquichloride of iron and four grains of chlorate of potash every four hours, ice to suck, and cotton wool to be applied round the throat. The diphtheritic exudation had disappeared on the 28th instant, disclosing ulcerated surfaces, from which a mucopurulent exudation oozed, and from time to time coated the fauces with a membrane which could be easily removed by the mop. Nitrate of silver was applied in solution; but the ulceration advanced, and on April 8th the soft palate was found to be perforated on both sides in front of the posterior pillars, giving a nasal tone to the voice.

An eruption of slightly elevated purple spots was noted on the thighs, elbows, and knees, for the first time on March 30th; and, on the same day, the patient had copious hæmorrhage from the bowels. He was ordered half an ounce of decoction of logwood every four hours, and an injection of starch with five minims of laudanum; but, on April 2nd, there being still much blood in the motions, which were scanty and accompanied with tenesmus, two drachms of Bael wine were prescribed every three hours. The blood rapidly diminished in quantity; and on April 4th had entirely disappeared from the motions, which were passed without straining.

On and after April 8th, the urine was found to contain albumen, and numerous granular and hyaline casts were observed in the sediment. The patient emaciated rapidly after the hæmorrhage from the bowels; and vomited the beef-tea and wine which he was with difficulty got to take. The heart's action became weaker, and at times almost inaudible.

After April 10th, he became very restless, moaned constantly, and complained of pain in the lower part of the chest and in the epigastrium, which prevented sleep; and on April 16th rhonchus was heard throughout both lungs. The exhaustion increased, and he died on the 18th.

The eruption on the thighs, knees, and elbows, became better marked and more decidedly purpurous in appearance.

At the *post mortem* examination, the mucous membrane of the fauces was red and granular, and an elongated perforation was observed in front of each posterior pillar. The lungs were congested posteriorly; and, at the lower lobe of the right lung, there was a patch of pneumonia. There was some recent lymph on the visceral layer of the right pleura. A large fibrinous clot was found extending from the right ventricle into the right and left divisions of the pulmonary artery. In the lower part of the small intestine, there was enlargement, but no ulceration, of the solitary glands and Peyer's patches.