free use of the more powerful caustics, as strong nitric acid and potassa fusa. Some individuals remember when it was the practice, in England, to take person bitten by mad dogs to the sea-coast, and there immerse them in the briny main.

From the fact that few of those bitten by rabid animals actually contract hydrophobia, we should expect that a large number of specifics should have been vaunted as curative agents; and among these we find the famous Ormskirk medicine, the Tonquin medicine, and the Tanjore pills. Of late, the use of the hot-air and vapour bath has been highly applauded, not only as prophylactic, but also as curative. Dr. Buisson, of Lyons, states in a pamphlet of his, that he succeeded in curing himself when labouring under hydrophobia, by taking a bath at the temperature of 93 deg. Fahr., all the symptoms disappearing like magic. Furthermore, he adds that he has attended more than eighty persons bitten by mad animals, and that he has not lost a single case. The plan he adopts is this: "the person bitten by a mad dog takes a vapour bath for seven successive days, at a temperature ranging from 134 deg. to 145 deg. Fahr.; this being the preventive remedy. When the disease is declared, it only requires one vapour bath, rapidly increased to 88 deg. Fahr., then slowly to 145 deg., the patient confining himself to his room, until the cure is complete" (very simple, if true.)

Every means should be taken to tranquillise the mind and remove imaginary terror, as these are powerful exciting causes of the disorder; especially so when the person affected is aware that the animal from which the bite has been received is in a rabid state. Amongst the curative means it is still an undecided point, whether any interference should now be made with the cicatrix, as to being either excised or amputated. Injection of the vaccine virus has been tried, which has also failed; also the poison of the viper, injections of warm water into the veins, morphia, etc. Salivation by mercury has been proposed, and in America a case is said to have been cured in four days, after the use of four drachms and a half of calomel. A medical friend told me that he knew of an instance wherein a rabid dog had bitten twelve persons in a small locality; that mercury was had recourse to, and wherever salivation was induced, those recovered, amounting to eight, while the others died. Indian hemp, opium, etc., have been recommended. The late Professor Todd nearly cured a case with ice administered externally and internally. Chloroform seems also to fail in giving relief to any great extent. I fear that we must sum up the whole by saying, that the great Physician to cure, is death alone.

I may just add, in reference to the morbid anatomy, that in the most recent article on this disease, it is stated that there are no cadaveric lesions which can be said in any way to characterise hydrophobia. Most commonly there are found redness and swelling of the fauces and gullet, occasionally accompanied by enlargement of the salivary glands, and sometimes with redness of the stomach. The trachea and bronchi have often been found injected, and filled with frothy mucus. The lungs are congested, occasionally inflamed, sometimes empty and oedematous.

The brain has been found occasionally congested; sometimes there has been effusion into the arachnoid and lateral ventricles. The medulla oblongata, and the origins of the seventh, eighth, and ninth nerves, have been noticed to be congested, thickened, and softened. The pathology of the disease points to some peculiar alteration in the blood, affecting

the nervous system, especially the medulla oblongata and three divisions of the eighth pair. The poison effects slowly some change in the blood; a double zymosis taking place, first in the bitten part, afterwards in the general system.

CASE OF LIGATURE OF THE COMMON CAROTID ARTERY.*

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ON September 29th, I was called into the country, a distance of two miles, to see a boy who had been stuck through the neck with a stable-fork, by a fellow servant. I found him lying on his left side on a mattress in the stable-yard. He was almost pulseless, and in a state of great collapse. The account given was, that he had been out to turn over manure with another boy; that a quarrel had ensued, and that the latter ran at him with a fork, and stuck him through the neck, pinning him to the wall. The injured boy ran screaming towards the garden, where he was met by two gardeners, just in time to save him from falling. Blood was streaming from his mouth, and a track of blood was observed from the garden to the manure-heap, a distance of thirty yards. Examining him, I found on the left side of the neck a horizontal wound, from three to four inches long, with slightly inverted edges; it was about an inch and a half below the angle of the jaw, and just over the course of the carotid artery. On the right side of the neck, was a darkish swelling, of about the size of half a lemon, having in its centre a darker blood-stained spot, which as nearly as possible corresponded in situation with the wound on the left side. From the situation of the external wound, from the great loss of blood—the blood coming principally from the mouth, denoting injury to the pharynx, from the continued ecchymosed swelling of the right side, and from his great collapse, I inferred that the carotid vessel or vessels had been wounded. For a time I was unable to feel pulsation in any of the branches given off by either carotid; but, after a time, I could detect pulsation in the facial and temporal arteries of the right side, but not of the left. I summoned to my assistance my friend Dr. Rice, who agreed with me that the left carotid artery, just before the division, or the left internal carotid alone, or even in conjunction with the external carotid, had been wounded. The boy's state was one of great collapse; and, as it was doubtful whether the wounded vessel was the common carotid, or one or both of its chief divisions, and it was expedient to add as little more to the shock as possible, and to save every drop of blood, we resolved to tie the common carotid in the part most accessible, namely, in the lower part of the carotid triangle. The operation was performed without much difficulty, and without the loss of a drachm of blood; it was not followed by paralysis, or any untoward symptom. The ligature came away on the twelfth day, the wound gradually healed up, and the boy steadily progressed to convalescence, and has remained perfectly well ever since.

* Read before the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch, on January 10th, 1867.