soon as they felt better for it, have then fallen off, and, on applying to me and resuming its use, have in a week or ten days begun to improve again without any other simultaneous change in their treatment or circumstances.

Little as this is, it is yet all that I can tell you from my own practical experience on the subject of treatment; and I shall now only detain you for one concluding remark. You may be surprised that I have chosen to base my lecture on four cases of Addison's disease, of which only one has passed the crucial test of a *post mortem* examination; but I have done so purposely, because I have little doubt that in one at least of the other three cases we shall soon have the opportunity of verifying the diagnosis and of thereby proving the reality of the relation between the symptoms I have described and Addison's disease of the suprarenal capsules—a relation of which I am myself as firmly convinced as I am of the relation between the physical signs of a cavity in the lungs or of incompetency of the mitral valve and the diseases which they respectively indicate.

Illustrations

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE:

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL.

KENSINGTON DISPENSARY.

CASE OF ERYTHEMA NODOSUM.

By J. H. BARTLETT, Esq.

THE chief interest in the following case is in the exceptional position in which the eruption made its appearance.

Richard H., aged 13, was admitted as a home-patient at the Kensington Dispensary on June 13th, 1866. He had measles, and scarlet fever with dropsy, when three years old; and had an attack of erythema nodosum in June 1865.

The patient was taken ill on June 9th. He was very feverish; and on the 10th several red blotches were seen on both shins, which became swollen and painful to the touch. This eruption also made its appearance on both thighs, especially about the hips; and over each tuber ischii was a large, red, painful swelling, very hard to the touch.

June 17th. The eruption appeared on the left arm, on the ulnar aspect. One or two blotches appeared on the right elbow, and one on the tip of the left ear.

June 18th. The patient was thin and pale. On the legs, hips, and buttocks, were seen the remains of the eruption, which was now of a greenish yellow colour; they were desquamating in minute scales, and still felt somewhat hard. On the left arm, over the ulna, were seen three or four swellings of a purplish red colour, hard to the touch, and very tender. There was a large swelling on the outer side of the elbow, extending about an inch and a half up the arm. There were three blotches on the right elbow, but not so well marked as on the left. On the tip of the left ear there was a swelling exactly similar to those already described. There was no pain in the joints, nor profuse sweating. The heart-sounds were normal; no friction was heard. The patient took bicarbonate of potash and liquor cinchone (Bartley's).

June 20th. With the exception of slight remains

of eruption, and feeling weak, the patient was now convalescent. He was ordered to take cod-liver oil.

REMARKS. Dr. Tilbury Fox, in his work on *Diseases of the Skin*, says that the eruption of erythema nodosum is situated on the anterior aspect of the leg, rarely on the arm or above the knee. Mr. Erasmus Wilson mentions the leg and arm only. But in this case it not only appeared on the legs and arms, but also on the buttocks and on the tip of the left ear.

Erythema nodosum has a very close connexion with rheumatism; but there seems to have been but little in this case; for, with the exception of one sister having suffered from rheumatic fever, there was no history of that disease in the patient's family.

Original Communications.

ON THE VALUE OF TONICS IN SOME LOCAL LESIONS.

By JAMES R. GREENWAY, L.R.C.P.Ed., Sandy, Bedfordshire.

THE practice of stimulation, so common in the present day in innumerable varieties of disease, has not appeared to me entitled to all the merits which its votaries claim for it, nor, in many cases, to favour so fair a restoration to health as we are entitled to expect from the employment of rational means. I have full faith in the value of stimulants in disease, and have met with very few cases which I believed general depletion could benefit; still I am fully convinced that stimulation may be, and have seen instances in which it has been, as injurious in one way as it is possible for depletion to be in another. There are local lesions which speedily improve upon good diet and a liberal allowance of malt liquors or stronger stimulants; but the many others which require something more in their treatment for it to yield successful results, must prevent every thinking mind from believing or trusting in the virtues of stimulants to the extent which some would desire, in all cases manifesting depressed power.

There is a class of diseases, in which debility with some local lesion is a prominent symptom, which I have frequently found not to improve upon stimulants and liberal diet till tonics were given, and these in a form calculated to improve the blood-condition, and thereby the general nutrition of the body, and the local nutrition of the part affected. In the cases referred to, in addition to depressed power, we have to deal with vitiated plasma in the circulating fluid. This may not be always evident to the surgeon at first; still, I think, if the fact be borne in mind, there are few such cases which can escape due consideration. The history of preexisting debility or disease, past excesses, residence in unfavourable climates, poisoned wounds, the aspect of the patient, etc., will generally indicate blood-tonics to be required, however valuable stimulants in such cases may be.

Quinine is beneficial where nervous prostration exists, and other bitters where the digestive powers are impaired; but in cases in which the digestive functions are fair, and yet the local lesion tardily repaired, or manifesting a sloughing or ulcerative character, the tincture of the sesquichloride of iron would seem to beneficially influence the local disease and general health. If there be nausea, or gastric uneasiness, chloric ether is an useful and agreeable addition. The local application of a lotion contain-