is demanded to counteract and remove her mischievous operations from without, and to hasten, open up, and make way for her all-powerful reparative actions from within. I am fully convinced that this interference can be more safely and effectually attempted by the combined action of the knife with cauterisation, than by the knife alone; and I commend the treatment to my professional brethren with the greatest confidence, earnestly hoping that they will give it a fair trial, and that it may be attended by the same measure of success in their practice as it has been in my own.

ON CERTAIN FORMS OF BLOOD-POISONING.*

By J. V. HAWKINS, M.D., King's Lynn.

I AM very anxious to call the attention of the Society to that class of diseases that may be called preventable, although very difficult of prevention, and to direct their best considerations and inquiries in their own districts of practice to their extensive influences, their miseries, and destructiveness, and to the course which should be adopted to mitigate or diminish their ravages. I allude to those poisons that are absorbed into the blood, and exhibit their effects daily in the deterioration of the human race; and it concerns us nearly, as they prevail so extensively in the Anglo-Saxon portion of it. Syphilis is at the head of them; but I shall have something to say on malaria, and also on what may be called the voluntary poisoning of the blood by the pernicious habit of opium-eating, or, as in laudanum, opium-drinking.

With respect to the first named, what medical man but must have found its dire effects in every grade of life? It meets us at every turn; in the infant before birth and after birth, in youth, manhood, and old age; it pervades the system in every part, scarcely a tissue escaping; and the world, having no notion of its extensive diffusion, goes on, and takes but little heed. It invades every one of our senses by turn, to their destruction. Our vision suffers from blotches of cornea, and iritis; our hearing from necrosis of the temporal bone, and destroyed tympanum; the sense of smell, from diseases of cartilages and bones, producing flattening and deformity of the organ. The sense of taste is impaired by affection of the palate and by fissured tongue; and our sense of feeling in its morbid irritability. If the child attain manhood, he marries, perhaps, begets a wretched offspring of shrivelled and wasted children, having yellow complexions, aged looks, with snuffling breathing, and skin-eruptions over the body; and here truly it may be said—"The sins of the fathers are visited from generation to generation on the children." Look at the child growing up, or the unhappy wretch who has this poison coursing in his veins; the brittle and crumbling teeth, the brittle nails, the falling hair with its production of baldness, the rough and altered voice, or voicelessness from laryngeal ulceration, the diseases of bones, having nodes, racking the body with an agony of pain, whilst endeavouring to seek in bed rest and restoration from fatigue. Look at the exhausted expression and haggard looks you encounter in your daily walks, the lame, the blind, the impotent, I may say; and then consider, as you see such cases in their secondary or tertiary forms, whether, in such condition, you have not some misgiving that our art may fail ever to wholly eliminate the taint from the system.

I have given you a wretched recital of the most fertile source of degeneration and loss of physical power in the human kind, and now would ask—Is nothing to be done to stay the ravages of such a curse? Prevention is here most essentially better than cure. Away then with the cant of spurious morality, affecting to feel that it is encouraging the vice, to try and moderate the disease by inspecting the victims who propagate the contagion. Is it not, rather, merciful, to set them apart and endeavour to cure them? Call these indulgencies! sinful lusts of the flesh if you will; but, as they are likely to exist as long as human passions exist, do not attempt to ignore them. I am delighted to find a small movement lately in the right direction; but, I can say emphatically, they manage these things better in France.

With respect to malaria and its influences, we, who live in a flat country, and who are in close proximity to so much marshy land as to give name to a large and important tract of country (marshland) ought to be able to give useful and important information on the subject of intermittent fevers or ague, their mode of invasion, management, and treatment. Not much farther back than thirty years ago, if a stranger came to settle down in this ancient borough of Lynn, he would be very generally visited by a heavy penalty for his footing, in a sharp attack of ague, and would be fortunate if he did not incur a second visitation, although perhaps much modified, before he would be so acclimatised as to attain an immunity from further suffering. Gentlemen, it

will be pleasing for you to hear, as it is for me to assure you, that you run no such risk by your present visit. We have scarcely now an opportunity of studying a genuine case, certainly not in this town; it may haunt yet a little some of the outlying districts in a lighter form of its intermission; but two-grain doses of quinine, or five drops of Fowler's solution every four or five hours, soon, I find, jugulates it. The improved culture of land, with its deeper and more careful drainage, has not only improved the healthiness and beauties of the farmers' crops, (cereal as well as succulent) but has reared up in the farmer's house healthier children; so that, although he may not be aware of it, he has been a benefactor in every way. Notwithstanding, however, such improvements, we do meet with serious effects from the blood-poisoning of malaria in several parts of the country, inducing asthenia. Repeated attacks of intermittent disease, however slight, have a tendency to produce secondary results in the enlargement of the spleen and lymphatic glands; and then, by that mysterious influence which the former organ seems to exercise over the blood, deprives this in some way of its red corpuscles, and leaves an excess of white. Anæmia, leucocythæmia, such are the names of those appearances which denote bloodlessness. A remarkable prostration of strength then follows, having its usual accompaniments, sighing, yawning, listlessness, noises in the ears, giddiness, pulsations in the head, breathlessness, and faintness, loss of appetite, and a general feeling of good-for-nothingness, ending most frequently by a fatal termination in anasarca or dropsy. Malarious poisoning, however, even in a milder form, still leads on to every symptom of defective nutrition; it forms a considerable majority of our out-door chronic cases at the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, and we lack, unfortunately, in such cases, the appliances of a sufficiency of animal food, or a wholesome quantity of stimulants wherewith to combat it effectually at their own houses. They drag on therefore often, through years of shattered health, terminating generally in atrophy and exhaustion. Warm clothing, good food, and stimulants, seem to be the only weapons in our armoury, to do execution against these formidable influences of diseases from malaria.

I now come to the third part of my subject, that which I have called voluntary poisoning of the blood, or opium-eating. I shall enumerate some of its pernicious effects which are cognisant to all of us. It destroys appetite, induces thirst, disturbs the secretions of mucous membranes, occasions constipation, and impairs healthy digestion, and its excess produces drowsiness and coma; the pupils of the eyes contract almost to a point, the action of the lungs is diminished, and blood-purification is seriously interfered with. It disturbs the action of the liver, affects the secretion from the kidneys, and the saliva seems somewhat altered in quantity; under its use the complexion becomes changed, and assumes a kind of jaundiced character, well known to all who are conversant with its action and effects, so that they can very generally pick out an opium-eater. The children it does not destroy are stunted generally in their growth; and I am sure those who are not inhabitants of our town will scarcely be prepared to hear the extent of this evil. Some are not perhaps aware that Lincolnshire and the county of Norfolk consume more than half the opium imported into this country. Persons who have habituated themselves to its use take what would appear fabulous quantities, and I really hesitate to give you certain reliable information obtained by myself from several highly respectable chemists of Lynn, lest you may suspect me of drawing on my own imagination for my facts. Can you credit that a chemist sells in this town two hundred pounds of solid opium in a year, another 140 pounds, and from five to six gallons of laudanum in a week, also five to six gallons of Godfrey's elixir in a week, containing a pint of laudanum to every three gallons? Another house has sold even more than the quantity I have now named. The opium is put up in half-drachm packets, and a drawer is filled with them ready for sale. Many of the customers will consume three in a day, and there is now living in Lynn a woman who takes a quarter of an ounce of Turkey opium every day, and has done so for several years. Many go into these shops and take off an ounce of laudanum at the counter, and return in the course of the day for a similar dose; and one of our most respectable chemists told me, not many days ago, that a farmer out of Lincolnshire came to him and told him he wanted some good laudanum; on being asked how many drops, he laughed; "drops," he said, "give me an ounce and a half." The chemist looked at him, saw he was in the habit of taking it, and gave it him. He drank it down, and returned twice that day for the same quantity, (making four ounces and a half) before leaving the market, and then took home with him a half-pint bottle for future indulgence. Now if I had not the greatest reliance on my authority, I should have thought he was giving me a stray leaf from Baron Munchausen; but I know my informant to be one of the most truthful of men, and I am sure the statement is in every way correct. We learn therefore, how, by the use or rather the abuse of this drug, the system becomes tolerant of it to a remarkable degree, almost indeed to any extent. I

* Extract from the address delivered by Dr. Hawkins, as President of the Cambridge and Huntingdon and East Anglian Branches, at the annual meeting, 1867.

remember, when practising in London, and meeting the late Dr. Merri-man, that he told me of an infant of three months dying from the effects of two drops of laudanum; but here, gentlemen, I hear of infants so educated to it, if I may say so, that they give them doses of Godfrey and laudanum that perfectly stagger all my preconceived notions. Can we then wonder, after what I have narrated, that there should be so great a mortality amongst the infants of this country, or such miserable, feeble, and brownish yellow countenances so striking amongst many of its inhabitants? What can or should be done to discourage this almost wholesale murder amongst infants, and contamination amongst adults? I am not able to answer this question, but grieve at so extensive a cause of degeneracy and ruin.

I am sure you will excuse my calling your notice to these poisons of the blood; as they demand, I think, a most anxious consideration. I had intended to have named two or three interesting cases of the morbus Addisonii that I have met with in practice, where I was able to follow them up to their issue in death, and to verify the diagnosis of each by a *post mortem* examination; but I am admonished by time that I have already detained you sufficiently long, and must not, therefore, enter on so large a subject.

ON A RARE FORM OF INJURY OF THE LEG.

By RICHARD QUAIN, F.R.S.

IN his able Address in Surgery at the late anniversary meeting of the British Medical Association in Dublin (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for August 17th), Dr. R. W. Smith describes an instance of very rare form of injury—the separation of the lower epiphysis of the tibia. “The disjunction” (to quote some of Mr. Smith’s words) “of the lower epiphysis of the tibia is undoubtedly among the rarest in this class of injuries. I am not aware of any well authenticated example of its having been placed upon record, with the exception of one that I published in 1860.”..... “The patient was a boy aged 16 years.”..... “I did not see him until six months after the occurrence of the accident.”

On account of the infrequency noticed by Dr. Smith, it occurs to me that the publication of a case observed by myself very soon after the accident which caused it, may contribute something towards completing the history of the injury. I therefore send an outline of the case from notes made at the time.

On October 22nd, 1851, a well built, healthy-looking lad, 17 years of age, was admitted into University College Hospital, on account of an injury near his left ankle, which occurred on the same day a short time before his being brought to the hospital. The patient stated that, while dragging a piece of iron about twelve feet long over a heap of earth in the street, he slipped and fell, his left foot being doubled under him. No further account of the position of the limb in the accident could be got.

The entire injury was found to be at the lower part of the leg. “The tibia there projects forwards; and below the prominence is a depression—between it and the foot. The projection of the bone is an inch and half higher than the lower margin of the fibula, and three-quarters of an inch above the lower edge of the malleolar process of the tibia. The space between the prominent tibia and the end of the great toe on the injured side measures three-quarters of an inch less than in the other foot.” The ankle-joint was uninjured.

Two other facts I looked upon as peculiar to this injury—diagnostic of it; namely: 1. The edge, so to call it, of the displaced bone was rounded; and the end or lower surface was felt to be smooth, and as it were rugous—very unlike the hard, angular, almost sharp feel of actual broken bone, and corresponding exactly with the condition of a bone not fully developed, where the epiphysis is connected with it by cartilage. 2. There was an absence of the soft swelling which surrounds the broken ends of bone where any displacement exists—the swelling occasioned by the effusion of blood from vessels torn by the sharp bone at the seat of fracture. Swelling likewise accompanies the displacement of bone at a joint. In that case, however, it results from increased secretion of synovia, not from blood. It was, no doubt, the freedom from swelling which permitted the outline of the prominent bone and the hollow below it to be so clearly defined as they were. The same circumstance permitted the easy examination of the edge and the end of the bone where it projected.

The diagnosis made out at the time was, separation of the shaft of the tibia from the epiphysis. The case has not hitherto, I believe, been published, except in the account of it given to pupils in the ward of the hospital and in a clinical lecture.

The replacement of the bone and the treatment (by means of starched apparatus) presented no difficulty and no circumstance requiring notice.

CASE OF TRAUMATIC APHASIA.

Recorded by the Patient; with Remarks by J. P. BRAMWELL, M.D.,
Perth, President of the Perthshire Medical Society.

WHEN about twenty years of age, being incited by exaggerated descriptions of the genial climate and fertile soil in the western states of America, I emigrated from Scotland to those parts; and, having purchased land, began, along with the other pioneers of civilisation, to cut down the forest and cultivate the ground. Having brought, in the course of three years, a considerable space of land under cultivation, I was enabled to let, as a favour, to Wilson, a man with a family, who had recently come to that quarter, half of a field for the purpose of raising wheat, retaining the other half for my own use. When the wheat harvest came (about the middle of July), I hired two men (Vert and his son) to cut down my half of the field; but, when they were thus employed, Wilson and his family came and began to cut, insisting that half of the wheat of the whole field was his, and not what grew on his half of it. High words arose; but, through the intervention of Vert, it was agreed to refer the matter to the man who sowed the wheat when he returned towards evening; and that, in the meanwhile, each party should begin to reap on opposite sides of the field. Accordingly, Vert, putting aside with his hands some very tall rye, was proceeding towards the house, I following close after; when, as it were, a flash of lightning passed before my eyes, and I became on the instant unconscious. On recovering my faculties (which I thought I did immediately, although, as I was afterwards informed, I lay senseless for the space of ten minutes), I was sitting with my hands full of blood, which continued to trickle from my head. On looking around, I saw Wilson* at some distance behind with a club in his hand, and Vert amongst the rye some paces in advance, and became immediately aware of what had happened. As I perceived that Vert was terrified, I attempted to say something for his encouragement; but, to my surprise and horror, I found I could only utter unintelligible sounds. I remained sitting for some time, not from inability to rise, but from amazement, making repeated attempts to speak. At length, having taken Vert’s arm, I went to my house at about two hundred yards distance, and sat down, hoping that in a short time I should recover the faculty of speech; but, finding I was deceived in this respect, I determined to call in the only medical practitioner in the district, who lived at the distance of about three miles. Accordingly, having intimated to Vert by signal to hand me writing materials, I took a sheet of note-paper for the purpose of writing the doctor, with whom I was intimate, that I wished his attendance. But here a new surprise awaited me; for, having dipped the pen in the ink, I found that I could not express my desire by any words whatever. I attempted to write the word “Doctor”, but could proceed no further than the initial “D”; however, by showing that letter to Vert, and pointing in the direction in which the doctor lived and other pantomimic gestures, I made him understand my desire; and he accordingly sent his son for the medical man, after which I went to bed, and soon fell into what appeared to be a placid sleep, out of which I was with some difficulty aroused on the doctor’s arrival. On perceiving the doctor, I immediately extended my right arm, and drew up my shirt sleeve; in reply to which signal the doctor said, “You wish to be bled, which is exactly what is required.” After failing to draw blood from any vein in the right arm, he had recourse to the left, and succeeded: dark blood flowing very slowly at first, but afterwards in a full stream. To what extent he bled me, I cannot exactly say; but several who saw the quantity said that they had never seen so much drawn from any man. I may here mention that this doctor’s medical education consisted only of an apprenticeship to another practitioner in one of the older states; and, although I think he erred in using his lancet too freely, having repeated the bleeding twice or thrice to a less extent afterwards, at intervals of two or three days, in other respects his treatment was judicious.

For the first six days and nights I lay on my back, almost motionless, having no pain, nor uneasiness, nor sensation of hunger or thirst; and, although I was observant of all that was said and done in my presence, I distinguished the lapse of time only by the light of day and the darkness of night. I did not sleep during all this time; but, on the morning of the seventh day, I awoke apparently from quiet sleep; and, as the fringe of the bed-quilt tickled my upper lip, I attempted to remove it with my right hand; but, to my surprise, my hand was not obedient to will. I discovered also that the nerves of sensation were completely paralysed from the points of the finger to the shoulder. Sensation was also gone in my right leg and foot. On discovering this, I attempted to pray mentally, but failed, not from any confusion of ideas, but from

* Wilson was a left-handed man; and, being behind when he dealt the blow, struck me on the left side of the head immediately above the ear.