thank Dr. Unna, that I wish to call attention. The case otherwise points very strongly to the possibility of a localisation of the disease in the skin. The complete restoration of sensation to patches in which the sensibility had been destroyed indicates that, when the disease has not lasted long, a regeneration of nerve fibres may take place within a comparatively short time after the bacilli have been destroyed. The theory of the action of pyrogallic acid in cases like this is probably that it kills the bacilli of leprosy, and the complete cessation of any other manifestation of the disease would indicate that, so far, the bacilli had only obtained hold of the superficial parts of the skin.

The patient was afterwards carefully examined on several occasions, and at considerable intervals, after every appearance of the disease had ceased, and no recurrence was found. Recovery was complete. For a number of years the patient has led an active useful life, enjoying excellent health.

ON OPERATING ON THE SUBJECTS OF EXOPHTHALMIC GOITRE.

By J. DELPRATT HARRIS, M.R.C.S.,
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Not a great deal seems to have been written on this particular subject. One turns to works on medicine, and finds the disease carefully described, and attention drawn to many curious nerve manifestations, and the treatment found beneficial in certain milder forms, ending with physical and mental rest, good food, and the avoidance of all stimulants, such as alcohol and coffee. The case now brought forward serves to show what may happen if all these points are obliged to be set aside.

In many surgical works no notice seems to have been bestowed on the subject apart from operating on the enlarged thyroid gland itself. In this last instance a recent work states that such operations not infrequently end fatally in forty-eight hours, the patient becoming delirious and restless; this has been attributed to the autotoxic action of the thyroid gland, the patient suffering in a manner similar to that when too large a quantity of thyroid extract is given.

CASE.

A woman, married, aged 46, of well-nourished appearance, and not particularly anæmic came to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for pain in her left breast of about a fortnight's duration. She was the subject also of exophthalmic goitre. Twenty-three years ago she was confined of twins who were not suckled as she had no true nipples. A fortnight prior to admission she noticed pain of a stabbing character in the left breast, which at the same time she thought began to swell. Her goitrous condition seems to have caused her no special symptoms, as she can only remember suffering from indigestion and "bile" of late years. Handling the breast caused no pain; a lobulated mass was to be felt in the upper part. It slipped to some extent under the fingers, and was close to the nipple. It seemed about 2½ inches in diameter; the mammary gland itself seemed swollen, and some general mastitis was present.

The pulse, seldom below 150, was irregular but forcible. There were distinct tremors, and Graefe's symptom was well marked. The date of the onset of the goitrous symptoms was unknown, but she had been told that her pulse was very quick for at least twenty years. She was kept under treatment at the hospital for quite one month, taking potassium iodide with ammonia, and using extract of belladonna in compound mercury ointment locally. Under this treatment the mastitis certainly diminished, but this only served to bring the hard lobulated masses into greater prominence. As she lived a long distance in the country and could not come up to be seen easily, after much consideration its removal was decided on, and this was carried out on March 6th by Halsted's method. The anæsthetic was ether, which was taken with some difficulty, principally from pulmonary causes.

After the operation the notes run as follows:

March 9th.—Patient has been very sick several times. Dressing required packing. Had sips of hot water. Pulse 126. Temperature normal. During the night was restless and slept but little. March 10th. Pulse 160. Temperature 99.4°F. Sickness stopped. Pulse weakening and quickening: in the evening 170. Hypodermic injections of strychnine gr. ¼ every four hours. Complained of faintness. No further packing of dressing required. During the night condition of patient remained about the same. Slept four hours in all. Complained of cold feet. March 11th. Patient very weak and restless. Pulse 180. Temperature 97.8°F. Profuse perspiration, but hands and feet cold. Hypodermic injections stopped. Brandy mixture given. Brandy 5ij per diem. March 12th. Patient has not slept, has taken fifteen ounces of milk. Hypodermic injection given at 4.30 A.M. At 7.35 A.M. the patient died, the pulse for some hours previously being quite uncountable. She survived the operation 68 hours.

This, then, depicts the condition of a patient suffering from well-marked Graves's disease, who from circumstances is obliged to undergo an operation of a formidable character with

all its mental disturbance, other than such on the thyroid gland itself.

It would seem that the condition of the heart is from the first the great difficulty; beating irregularly at great speed, which possibly indicates thin and dilated ventricles, the anæsthetic at once converts chronic compensation into acute embarrassment, whilst the unavoidable loss of blood causes temporary quickening of the already too quick pulsations, causing general weakness and exhaustion, which, owing to the anæsthetic sickness, cannot at first be remedied by food, and thus before compensation can again be restored our patient sinks. Therefore in advanced cases of exophthalmic goitre every effort should be made to avert a serious operation; but, if it is absolutely imperative, a course of treatment with remedies of the digitalis class should precede. Should the heart not respond to this treatment, the operation should be reconsidered, for undoubtedly the risk in such cases is of the gravest possible character.

The operation was conducted under the modern aseptic treatment, biniodide solution being the principal antiseptic used. The loss of blood was very moderate after as well as at the operation, so that the pulse and temperature noted would seem to be that of unavoidable conditions when operating on goitrous patients who have well-marked Graves's disease.

It may be added that the constant mental worry of having a tumour of the breast—which, if not truly malignant at the time, might degenerate at any time and form an opening loth to heal—had great weight in deciding it best on the whole to operate.

The tumour proved cystic, of the dilated duct type, with apparently no intracystic growths and but little solid material outside the cysts, which seemed surrounded by inflamed gland substance.

A CASE OF DESCENDING LANDRY'S PARALYSIS IN A CHILD.

By LEONARD A. ROWDEN, M.B., C.M.,
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THE following case is especially interesting on account of its rarity:

History.

N. C., a lad, aged 10, came under my care in June, 1897, when passing through a severe attack of whooping-cough. In April, 1898, he was attacked by chorea, which lasted about six months, and affected chiefly the muscles of the face, and only to a slight extent those of the upper and lower limbs. Since October, 1898, he has been in good health, and has appeared to be a very active and bright lad, the only thing noticeable being an occasional slight twitching of one side of his face, which I considered a habit imitated from his father, who is affected in the same way.

On September 17th, 1900, I was sent for, and obtained the following history. On September 14th he slipped about 5 feet into an excavation for a sewer that was being filled in, and then another 5 or 6 feet to the bottom. He jumped out feeling none the worse for his accident, except for a slight bruise of the left knee. He played about as usual during the day, and in the evening was very active in a game of cricket. He had a good night. On the following day, September 15th, he did not feel very well, but got up and played about for some hours and took his food as usual. There was no vomiting and no pain or stiffness anywhere, but towards evening he held his head as though he had a slight stiff neck, and vomited once after having some light food. He was rather restless during the night. On September 16th he was up most of the day, but complained of slight headache and pain in the neck. He was more restless during the night, and appeared to be feverish.

Condition on Examination.

On September 17th I saw him about 12 o'clock. His temperature was nearly 103°F., his pulse 100 and good, and respiration normal. He did not appear to be at all ill, having no headache and no pain anywhere. On examination I found that he could not turn his head to either side, but could move it backwards and forwards. Passive movement of the head was easy and free from pain. There was also inability to raise either arm at the shoulder-joint. He had a fair grasp with both hands, and could flex and extend the forearms readily at the elbow-joints, and could kick his legs about briskly. There was no bruising or any sign of injury or dislocation at any point of the spine, and no tenderness on pressure of the vertebrae. There seemed to be very slight swelling about the lumbar muscles, but it was not at all distinct, and pressure here seemed to cause a little pain. I considered his condition as probably arising from the shake of his fall, and perhaps from chill. As there was scarlet fever next door I examined him carefully for symptoms of this disease, but could find none, nor were there any signs of diphtheria.

Progress of Case.

I saw him again next day, September 18th, about noon, and was told that he had had a very restless night, but did not complain of any particular pain. On examination I was surprised to find complete motor