ANEURYSMAL VARIX OF THE LEFT INTERNAL CAROTID ARTERY AND THE CAVERNOUS SINUS.

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M. B., aged 53, overman in a coal mine, was brought to me early this year by his nephew with a view to having some disfiguring lumps removed from his face.

The history of the case was that in the year 1870 his head was crushed in a coal mine between a pit-tub and the roof. As soon as he recovered himself after the accident he noticed a beating between the nose and his left eye and he heard a loud noise in his head which has gone on ever since. He hears it, however, in the left ear only, as the hearing of the right was lost from the accident. A few weeks later a swelling over the left eye gradually formed and then increased towards the nose and the eye slowly protruded, but excluding the first few months after the accident, the size of the swelling and the beating noise in his head have remained practically unaltered. He has enjoyed good health since the accident and has gone on regularly with his ordinary work in the mine.

His present condition is well shown in the accompanying photograph. The prominent swellings above and below the left eye, and to its inner side are deeply grooved across the middle by the tendo oculi. The eyeball is displaced downwards and on-wards, and the superficial veins of the face are much distended. There is well marked soft pulsation in both parts of the swelling, and the skin covering feels very thin. A distinct thrill can be readily made out, but it is stronger below, probably from the constriction caused by the tendo oculi. The thrill can be traced along the course of the facial vein to the edge of the lower jaw, where it is lost. A loud *bruit*, like the distant beat of a large steam engine, is heard all over the head, as well as on the swellings and along the facial vein. Pressure on the left common carotid causes a considerable diminution in the pulsation, but does not arrest it.

On raising the upper eyelid to gain a better view, the eye

suddenly shot out in front of the lids, like the forward dislocation that takes place when the speculum is pressed back after division of the tendons in the operation of excision. This caused some distress, until the eye was replaced by pressing it backwards. The patient told me that once before this had happened to him, and he had considerable difficulty in putting it right. There is postneuritic atrophy of the left optic nerve, with great impairment of sight.

I take the case to be one of a small communication between the internal carotid artery and the cavernous sinus, caused by a laceration of the artery from a fracture of the base of the skull. I mentioned ligature of the left common carotid

artery to the patient, but without any enthusiasm, and considering that he has been able to follow his occupation during the past twenty-three years, and that the local conditions have remained unaltered, I was not surprised at his decision to leave matters as they are.

The interest of the case lies in the well-marked nature of the disease, in its comparative rarity, and in the fact that it has remained unaltered for twenty-three years.

ALCOHOLISM IN SWITZERLAND. — The official report of the Swiss Statistical Bureau, which was issued on May 8th, shows that during 1893 there died in the fifteen largest town in Switzerland 7,536 persons over 20 years of age. Of these 488, or 6.5 per cent. died of diseases caused by alcohol. Of this number 414 were men. In 43 townships with from 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, of 4,215 deaths 245 were attributed to alcoholic causes. Professor Speyer, Director of the Lunatic Asylum in Waldau, says that on the lowest computation the eighth part of the lunatics in Switzerland are victims of drink. Professor Forel states that of the patients treated in the Zurich Lunatic Asylum during the year 1890, no fewer

than 27 per cent. were cases of alcoholic insanity.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.—By her will, dated April 10th, 1884, Miss Mary Ann Beck, of Netley Villa, 10, Favart Road, Poole Park, Fulham, who died in July last, leaving personal estate valued at £17,868, bequeathed £250 to the University College Hospital, Gower Street.

The treasurer of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, has received a cheque for £99 2s., as the result (less expenses) of a recent Local Trade and Friendly Societies demonstration and church parade, held in aid of the funds of the institution.