FRACTURE OF THE HUMERUS AT ITS
LOWER-THIRD.

BY ROBERT E. JONES, Esq., LONG MELFORD.

On the 6th of September, in consequence of the absence of Mr. Mason, of Sudbury, I was hastily summoned to visit Eliza Harrington, aged 15 months, the child of poor parents, residing at Wickham St. Paul's, Essex, who had been knocked down by a waggon, the wheel of which had passed over her left arm. On examination I found a fracture of the humerus at its lower-third, the bone protruding denuded of its integuments, and the soft parts lacerated nearly to the shoulder-joint. The little patient was much exhausted from loss of blood. I administered small quantities of brandy and water, which had the effect of producing reaction; and feeling there was no time to be lost, I at once amputated just below the shoulder-joint, being just able to save sufficient integument to form a good stump. I was ably assisted by Mr. Mason, jun. Very little blood was lost during the operation, and but one artery required a ligature. The child had severe convulsions the following day, which were relieved by small doses of tincture of opium, after which it progressed most favourably, and at the end of a month was perfectly recovered. I am induced to publish this case, thinking it rare for a child of such a tender age to recover from so severe a proceeding.

Long Melford, Suffolk,
November 20, 1831.

Hospital Reports.

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

CASES ADMITTED UNDER DR. DAVID NELSON.

Reported under the terms proposed by the Association.

BY OBSERVATOR.

Case of Inflammation of the Brain.

THE following case affords a striking illustration of the insidious manner in which so formidable and mortal a disease commences and progresses, fully showing the necessity of a careful and guarded diagnosis in all head affections. The preceding case of Barrett, in which the symptoms were similar, affords, as to the result of the cases, an instructive contrast, probably to be, in a great measure, accounted for by the fact, that Barrett had the advantages of being a young man, and of receiving timely medical aid, which two advantages experience proves to be of vast importance in the successful treatment of such cases.

Daniel Yates, aged 58, of nervo-sanguineous temperament, became an in-patient of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, under Dr. Nelson, on the 18th of January,

1851, having been an out-patient for a week previous to admission.

History.—He was a gardener in a private establishment, and one night, about two months prior to his admission as an in-patient, he was summoned to extinguish a burning hayrick; whilst thus engaged he said he felt as if "roasted to death, and very much excited." When he had worked an hour or two he became completely exhausted, and on reaching home felt pain in the head, with shivering and loss of appetite. Throughout that night he had fearful dreams, and on waking next morning experienced a deficiency of muscular power, which he and his friends attributed to mere exhaustion, and thought he would get right in time. Time proved that his mental and muscular powers were gradually failing, when his friends took him to the hospital for advice.

On entering the physician's room his head and knees bent forward, inclining a little to the right side. His gait was staggering and unequal, and he exhibited an indifference of manners, and *appeared* like a man half asleep, or stupified by intoxication. When desired to put out his tongue or move his lips, he obeyed, and continued the acts until told to cease them. His replies were intelligent and respectful, but his mind soon wandered from the point. His head was hot, and tongue furred. The application of cold to the head, the insertion of a seton in the nape, and the use of purgatives, were ordered; but he became worse, and being unable to walk to and from the hospital without support, he was desired to become an in-patient.

Symptoms.—On admission his mind was evidently impaired; there was great heat of scalp; the countenance flushed; the tongue was much coated; his appetite was bad; bowels obstinate; and the left extremities were somewhat rigid.

Indications.—To abate inflammatory action, and restore tone, if possible.

Treatment.—The seton was ordered to remain, and he took colocynch pills at night, and a saline purgative in the morning, and pills of sulphate of zinc and extract of gentian thrice a day.

21st.—He was reported to have gone on well, but on the previous night had fallen out of bed, and the pain in the head had returned; he slept very little; his appetite was very keen. Continued the medicines, and applied six leeches behind the ear.

24th.—He was in bed, and drowsy, having had another fall, striking his head against the bed-post; seemed to be getting worse and worse. Continued the medicines.

31st.—His powers of intelligence and motion seemed to be rather improved, and he did not complain of pain, whilst the bowels were regular. Continue medicine.

February 4th.—It was reported that he had been tolerably well until that morning, when he had had another fall on his head, which compelled him to go to bed. He lay drowsily, with his feet drawn upwards, and his head inclined downwards. The bowels were very costive. Continued the medicines, with the addition of one drop of croton oil every morning.