or even the more active vegetable tonics, at first; subsequently, however, chalybeates will produce an excellent effect, if this irritation be first subdued, and if combined with alkaline aperients. A suitable mineral water will often prove highly useful,—as the artificial Vichy, or Ems, or saline Cheltenham water, followed by a course of Tunbridge chalybeate. From the introduction of aerated chalybeate water here, at my recommendation, a most efficacious and agreeable remedy may be now had, a course of which will be attended with much benefit, if preceded by appropriate treatment.

The carbonic acid with which this aerated water is surcharged, is in itself a highly useful remedy, its reception into the stomach being followed by agreeable and exhilarating sensations. From its stimulant impression on the organic nerves, distributed over the mucous coat, it increases the secretion of gastric juice. Its effects, when received into the blood are analogous to those arising from the vegetable acids. Finally, carbonic acid evidently enhances the tonic properties of the chalybeate.*

In conclusion, I would just remark, that in biliary disorders, as in all others, we must seek for the pathological cause, and counteract its influence, if we look for success,—a result, moreover, to be further solicited by restoring *all* the functions to full and harmonious action.

PERIODICAL PURPURA VICARIOUS OF THE CATAMENIA.

By CHARLES BARHAM, M.D., Truro, Physician to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the South-Western Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Truro, July 28th, 1847.)

Ann Teague, aged 17, was admitted into the Cornwall Infirmary under my care, November 12th, 1846. She is rather tall, well formed, with dark hair and eyes, and a pale exsanguine countenance. She has always had sufficient food and clothing, and has been only employed in household work. Her father and mother are living, and she has six brothers, and one sister, five years old. They are all in good health. With the exception of the ordinary diseases of childhood, which she passed through very favourably, she had no illness, but always considered herself well and strong till about two years ago; she was then seized suddenly with a severe pain in the right side, just below the ribs. She was attended by a medical man, and in about a month the pain left her. About two months after this she expectorated, without cough, some dark-coloured blood, and fancied it came from the throat. The bleeding recurred for a few days only, and was not attended by pain in the side. About three months later her nose bled profusely, she thinks more than a quart, and she was so much weakened as to be confined to her bed. The mother was alarmed, and resorted to a celebrated 'charmer.' The old woman did not visit the daughter,

but merely took down her name on a piece of paper, over which she performed a sort of incantation, and then pronounced the bleeding to be stopped. This the mother found on her return to be the case; but on the evening of the same day the patient was covered with purple spots, the largest about the size of a pea. Her medical attendant was again summoned, and at the end of a week the spots disappeared. She soon felt quite well again, but precisely one month from her last illness the body became again covered with a similar eruption; the spitting of blood returned with it, and the inside of her mouth, the whole surface of the tongue and palate, was covered with dark spots. The gums bled on the slightest touch, and eating and swallowing became very painful. The bleeding continued for a week, but it was a fortnight before the mouth was well and free from spots. After the lapse of another month, to the very day, precisely the same symptoms occurred; and up to the date of her admission, the bleeding from the mouth had returned, with extraordinary precision, every month. It began on a Friday, and it last appeared on a Sunday, having varied only these three days in about a twelvemonth. She states the quantity of blood to be about the same on each occasion, and that its discharge continues one week, the mouth getting well after another week. There has been *one exception* to the uniformity of these periodical symptoms. About six months ago, on the day the hæmorrhage from the mouth was expected, a sanguineous vaginal discharge occurred; this increased the next day, and lasted for a fortnight. There was no bleeding from the mouth, neither was it sore, but the spots made their appearance, although of a lighter colour, and less numerous on the body.

On her admittance she made no complaint; the functions generally were healthily performed, and her condition merely indicated a degree of anæmia. The tongue was very pale and flabby; both its upper and under surfaces, together with the gums and inside of the cheeks, presented the same exsanguineous appearance.

The return of bleeding from the mouth was expected on the 22nd, and on that day the tongue had lost its pasty appearance, and had become redder, and more natural. She complained of violent pain across the loins.

On the 25th she awoke with a nasty taste in her mouth, and the saliva was tinged with blood. She also noticed spots over the chest and arms. These had increased in number and size at the time of the visit, (9 a.m.) and the sputa then consisted entirely of dark blood. This formed a coagulum, if the mouth was not frequently cleared, on the upper surface of the tongue, and when this was scraped off numerous red papillæ were seen with bleeding points. The gums bled freely, but nothing abnormal was observable on the inside of the cheeks, or on the lower surface of the tongue, nor was the mouth sore.

On the 26th the lips were red, and some spots appeared on the lower. On the following day the spots were seen on the inside of the cheeks, fresh and larger ones appearing on the tongue, and the mouth becoming

very sore. The severe pain in the back passed off at this time.

New and larger spots were noticed on the 28th, whilst the old ones had faded; they were confined to the upper part of the body on this occasion. No further bleeding occurred, so that it had lasted during four days. Three or four days later little trace remained of the purpura; the tongue and mouth had become pale, and the general health as good as before the attack; so it continued till the next period arrived for this disturbance of the system.

December 24th. The lumbar pain was less on this occasion; the purpura more severe; the tongue presenting a larger bleeding surface; the elevations on the under lip amounting to bullæ, and the spots extending over the whole body, diminishing in size from above downwards, so that on the feet they were miliary. Her ordinary state of health was recovered within ten days, and she was then discharged at her own request.

I am indebted for the foregoing particulars to the minute and faithful record of the case drawn up by Mr. Gorringe, the Assistant House-Surgeon of the Infirmary. It would be useless to enter into the details of treatment. Mild alteratives, and chalybeate tonics were chiefly used during the intervals, and derivative emmenagogues at the monthly period. In the second attack a few leeches were applied near the vulva, and the bleeding was profuse and with some difficulty stopped. Electro-magnetism was tried, but was only once submitted to, as it caused considerable pain and more alarm. These and the other means used, produced no distinct modification of the symptoms, and the opportunity for treatment was unsatisfactorily curtailed.

Since she left the Infirmary, six months ago, our art has not I believe been much in requisition, but nature has been effecting important changes in the direction of the erethism of the minute blood-vessels. Mr. Nankivell, of St. Columb, the able surgeon who has been her ordinary attendant, has kindly enabled me to bring down the history of the patient to the present date, confirming at the same time the statements made by herself. Writing on the 13th, instant, he says—

“St. Columb, July, 13, 1847.

“My dear Dr. Barham,

“I have to-day seen Ann Teague; she looks worse than she ever did; is quite blanched. The uterus has in an abnormal measure parted the catamenia. Three months since she menstruated, and it continued for a week, being accompanied throughout with profuse bleeding from the nose, but *not from the gums*. Twice since then she has had hæmorrhagia (*without epistaxis*), continuing for a fortnight. A week since she was again taken unwell, and fears that it will continue several days longer. There are about a dozen spots of purpura on the neck. You are aware, I think, that she menstruated once when 16 years old, and never since until recently, except vicariously. She thinks that since *that time* she has had the hæmorrhage from the gums about twelve times. She tells me that she passes many coagula. There is no leucorrhœa.”

A case of hæmorrhage from superficial vessels, vicarious of the menses, occurs to my recollection, which was under my care as an out-patient at the Infirmary, about eight years ago. The patient was a girl about 20, who had an ulcer below the knee, from which a copious sanguineous exudation took place for some days monthly. The catamenia which had been for a considerable time suspended, did not return during several months, when she continued under my observation, and the ulcer remained unhealed. I speak of this case entirely from memory.

Another out-patient still under treatment, presents an affection of some superficial vessels of the left mamma of an analogous description, though less strongly marked with the evidence of substitution for the uterine discharge. She is a girl 20 years old, of robust form, though short, with fully developed mammæ. Menstruation is stated to have been regular and free in quantity, from the age of 16 to 18. It then was suddenly suspended, and has remained so, with the exception of a very transient appearance about ten days ago. She received a blow from a man's fist on the left breast, a twelvemonth since, and it then exhibited decided marks of the contusion; but they disappeared speedily, and it was not till six months after the bruise that they seemed, as it were, renewed on the same spot, and they have now for the last half-year alternately become vivid and receded, at no very regular intervals,—sometimes once, sometimes twice or more, in the week, varying from the appearance of purpura to that of ecchymosis. The part concerned is painful when the spots are high-coloured. There has not been very much constitutional disturbance, a painful fulness towards the left inguinal region being the chief amenorrhœal symptom, besides some of the ordinary results of plethora ad molem.

CASE OF SIMPLE FRACTURE AND DISLOCATION OF THE GREATER PORTION OF THE RIGHT ASTRAGALUS, FORWARDS AND OUTWARDS.

By EDWARD JOHN SPRY, Surgeon to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary.

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the South Western Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Truro, July 16, 1847.)

Thomas Rogers, a tall, muscular, and robust miner, aged 42, was brought to the Infirmary on the 24th of September, 1846, and was admitted under the care of Mr. Bull. From the statement made by the patient, it appeared that whilst at work in the morning of the day preceding, at Poldin Mine, in Gwennap, he had slipped from the end of a scaffold, about five or six feet high, and had fallen perpendicularly to the ground, the hollow of his right foot coming in contact with a large projecting stone, which caused him to be thrown on his right side. On attempting to stand, he found that he could place no weight on the injured foot, that it was distorted, and very painful. The surgeons of the mine were promptly on the spot, and endeavoured to restore the displaced parts, but without