The third and fourth points of interest,—namely, the irregular and hurried state of the circulation, and the difficult respiration, may properly be considered together. The irritation in the air-passages, and the abundant secretion and cough, arose probably from congestion of the pulmonary vessels, which I imagine to be caused by the sudden closure of one important outlet from the left side of the heart. It would naturally follow, if the free egress of the blood from the left ventricles were prevented, that the pulmonary veins must become engorged, and indeed the whole thoracic circulation must be obstructed—a condition which would give rise to great irritation of the pulmonary organs, and the abundant mucous secretion present in this case. A precisely similar state of things occurred in my patient, Mary Scattergood, upon whom I operated for aneurism of the arteria innominata, both after the ligature of the common carotid, and subsequently after tying the subclavian artery. I find too from an excellent paper by Professor Miller, of Edinburgh, in the *London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science*, 1842, that in the majority of the fatal cases of operation on the large arteries of the neck, he considers death is attributable to inflammation of the lungs; and my friend, Professor Fergusson, of King's College, seems to incline to the same opinion. Of course, under common circumstances, our sheet anchor in combating such symptoms would be repeated blood-lettings, and the administration of opium; but in the case of Mrs. Osborn, there were such frequent and alarming attacks of syncope, and the utter prostration and exhaustion from the loss of blood at the time of the injury were such, that we were repeatedly driven to the employment of stimulants in large quantity, when other symptoms seemed urgently to demand an antiphlogistic mode of treatment. In short, the advanced age of the patient, and the absolutely drained condition of the vascular system, in spite of the local engorgement, forbade the use of any other remedies than opiates, expectorants, and counter-irritants, due attention being at all times had to the state of the *primæ viæ*, and the persevering and almost hourly administration of nutriment.

I have not thought it necessary to make any observations on the operation of ligature of the carotid, but I may be pardoned, perhaps, for shortly pointing the attention of the meeting to a suggestion of my esteemed friend, Mr. Sibson, of the Nottingham Infirmary, in reference to it. In a case of aneurism of the right common carotid, in which the vessel was successfully tied by Mr. White, of Nottingham, Mr. Sibson advised that the patient should expire forcibly before the commencement of the operation, and that the chest should be firmly bandaged, the patient, during the operation, being directed to breathe as much as possible by the aid of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles alone. This expedient was accordingly adopted, and

had the effect of materially facilitating the steps of the operation. The neck was thereby considerably lengthened, and the alternate rising and falling of the sternum and clavicle, and the emptying and refilling of the cervical veins, in great measure prevented. It has also, according to Mr. Sibson, the very desirable effect of preventing the descent and deepening of the carotid during the inspirations.

HISTORY OF A CASE IN WHICH A MASS OF FOREIGN MATTERS, CONSISTING OF HAIR, WOOL, RAGS, THREAD, &c., WAS EXPELLED PER RECTUM.

By EDWARD JOHN SPRY, Esq., 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.)

A. C., a young woman, aged 16, voided with excessive pain, on the 12th of March last, two large lumps of foreign matters, the first about the size of an ordinary pullet's egg, the second larger and longer, much compressed, and very hard, having a thin albuminous coating, which served to conceal the character of the contents of the lumps until forcibly separated. After having been carefully washed and dried, the materials of which the masses were formed were found to be numerous small parcels of dyed wool, of various colours; of hair, of different colours; of thread; of worsted; and of cotton and linen rags, all compactly fitted together, and weighing one ounce and five drachms, *avoirdupois*.

At the time of passing these lumps she was so reduced, by a severe illness of many months, as to be quite unable to sit up, and her mother was under the necessity of holding her in the sitting posture, whenever she attempted to relieve the bowels, so that she had the very best evidence of their expulsion from the rectum. She took them immediately to a pump in the yard, and having procured two sharpened sticks, she endeavoured to separate the materials of which they were composed, but it required considerable effort on her part, and the long continued pressure of a large stream of water, to accomplish the task. The patient had been so reduced by her previous illness, of which I will give an outline presently, as to give up all hope of recovery; and when I visited her on the day following this event, I asked her in the presence of her parents, and in the full consciousness of her critical condition, if she recollected having swallowed any part of the matters evacuated. She most solemnly assured me that she did not, and her parents added that they firmly believed her statement. The mother then said, in reply to a question which I put to her, as to the possibility of her obtaining access to such things, that when her daughter was learning to walk, she could get at the seat of a settle in the kitchen, by the edge of which she held, and that the children often amused themselves by turning over the contents of this box, in which old rags of all sorts were deposited;

that she believed her daughter must have then indulged in the odd fancy of swallowing the various matters now presented to your notice.

My attendance on this young woman commenced in September, 1846; she was then in an anæmic state, complaining of general debility. The usual treatment was adopted, and her health improved. The catamenia appeared slightly about two years before, and then ceased.

On the 30th of October, I was again requested to see her, and found her complaining of severe pain in the bowels, and her mother directed my attention to a considerable swelling, just below the margin of the right ribs, and occupying the whole of the right hypochondrium. This tumour had a well-defined edge extending toward the epigastrium, and firm pressure on it occasioned pain. Leeches and fomentations were diligently employed, succeeded by alteratives and frictions of iodine, but with little result. Rigors came on; severe darting pains were felt, requiring her to take frequent doses of the solution of the acetate of morphia, in addition to the fomentations and general treatment. The symptoms indicated the formation of abscess, and I prepared the parents for that event. Bilious vomitings soon after this came on, and on one occasion she brought up a large quantity of green bile and pus, streaked with blood. This was repeated at intervals, and her strength rapidly gave way; the pain she felt at times was excruciating, and she was reduced to a mere skeleton.

In this condition she was when Dr. Barham visited her on the 13th of November, and it appeared to us that there was very little opportunity left but to carry out the principle of the Euthanasia, scarcely considering that there was a chance of her recovery.

As she resided seven miles from Truro, I saw her very seldom after this period, and on one of my visits her mother said that she thought the swelling had shifted more to her left side, which on examination I found to be so far correct, that in consequence of her great emaciation, a tumour could be readily felt in the descending colon and left iliac fossa; but the original swelling in the hypochondrium was not much reduced, it was softer. I directed the same plan to be continued, fomentations, friction of the bowels with anodyne embrocations, the occasional use of morphia, with every nourishing preparation that her appetite would permit her to take, to support her strength. One remarkable circumstance attending this illness was the regular and easy evacuation of the ordinary contents of the bowels, which were for the most part of a natural colour and consistence.

January 9th, 1847. I found her much easier, and the whole abdomen softer; the sickness had subsided, but as there was still considerable swelling in the right side, I was induced to give her, with some tonics, small doses of the solution of the bi-chloride of mercury, which she continued about a month with apparent benefit. Her appetite had improved, and she had gained a little flesh.

From this time she took little medicine, but wore a belladonna plaster over the epigastrium to relieve the occasional pains she felt there. I heard of

her from her friends; who described her state to be fluctuating, still suffering acutely at times, and requiring now and then a dose of morphia, and so she continued until the 12th of March, when the singular evacuation was effected, with a description of which the case was commenced. From that time she steadily improved, and on the 3rd of July she was able to come to Truro. She appeared healthy, and fresh-coloured. She had grown considerably. The bowels acted regularly, although now and then she suffered severe pain, and her digestion was languid. The catamenia have been regular for the last three periods.

DISLOCATION OF THE HIP-JOINT, REDUCED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ÆTHER.

By E. F. DEHANE, Esq., Surgeon to the Dispensary, Wolverhampton.

Thomas Connelly, a strong muscular man, employed as a furnace-man in the neighbouring iron works, was brought to the wards of the Dispensary on the 15th instant, under the following circumstances:—He was getting over a stile, when his foot slipped through the bars, his body falling in an opposite direction, by which his leg had to sustain the whole weight of the body, which acted as a lever against the leg and thigh; the consequence was, that the head of the femur was dislocated into the foramen ovale. The accident occurred four days before admission. On examination it was found that the limb was elongated to the extent of three inches, the heel elevated from the ground, the toes slightly everted, the knee advanced, and the thighs separated from each other; any attempt to handle the parts produced exquisite pain.

Now I thought this, in conjunction with my colleague Mr. J. Cartwright, and Mr. Pope, the House-Surgeon, a proper case for the exhibition of æther, which he inhaled for about five minutes, when he became to all appearance intoxicated, but by no means insensible. He was placed on his back upon a mattress, the pelvis fixed with a towel, and the pulleys attached to the upper part of the thigh, and the extension, of course, made upwards and outwards, so as to remove the head of the bone from the foramen ovale back to the acetabulum, at the same time inclining the foot inwards across the other leg. Having continued the action of the pulleys for about four minutes, the head of the bone returned into its place with a sudden jerk. The patient did not appear to suffer much pain, although great force was gradually exerted for its reduction, and he had the appearance of a person partially tipsy, and continued to talk and laugh throughout the operation. The case is going on well.

Wolverhampton, July 25, 1847.