syrup of the iodide of iron, from which, given in doses of a drachm or a drachm and a half, three times a day, I have seen more benefit than from any other remedy of the kind.

Of the cod-liver oil which is now so extensively employed I cannot yet speak with certainty. It sometimes answers remarkably well, but I have not been able to decide in what cases it may be prescribed with greatest prospect of success, nor have I found it so generally beneficial as it appears to be in the hands of other persons. I think its good effects in improving the general health, fattening the patient, and checking the local disease, are more marked in cases of tuberculous phthisis than in the ordinary forms of scrofula.

The scrofulous disease being so much dependent on the state of the health and the disorder of the digestive system, the local treatment deserves only the third place in our estimation, and does not require much attention till we have done our best to rectify those defects which are the primary and fundamental features of the case. Under the general treatment, which I have mentioned above, the local ailment may be usually left to itself, and will often get well. But if the former be neglected a variety of applications may be made in vain, or the disease is driven from one quarter only to make its appearance in another. Of the local remedies that may be advantageously employed under certain circumstances, I will speak when considering some of the manifestations of scrofula in particular regions of the body, which I purpose doing in the next lecture.

In many instances the scrofulous disease seems to serve as a vent whereby morbid accumulations are eliminated from the system. When, under such circumstances, it has existed for a long time, and has become essential to the health of the body, we are obliged, as in the case of other chronic inflammatory affections, to furnish some substitute, if we are anxious to get rid of the existing disorder. Hence it is that permanent counter-irritation by an open blister or a seton becomes one of the most effectual means of curing an old scrofulous disease, indeed it is often the only treatment which makes any impression at all. The various measures above described should be fairly tried before resorting to this, for it is, after all, but a sorry makeshift to cure one disease by substituting another, especially as it sometimes happens that we add a second malady without curing the first. Nevertheless, I do not think the objections to these artificial drains, when other means have failed, are so great as they are imagined to be, because if they do not succeed in effecting a cure, they are easily stopped, and no harm is likely to ensue; and if the result is more fortunate, they cannot be said to habituate the system to depend upon relief from a local discharge, any more than the disease had done for the cure of which they were employed.

ON A PECULIAR ERUPTION ON THE ARMS AND HANDS,

CAUSED BY THE IRRITATION OF THE APHIS INFESTING THE RED CURRANT.

By T. OGIER WARD, M.D., OXON.

In the *Provincial Journal* for September 22nd, 1847, there is a case of "spasm" apparently of the muscles concerned in respiration, from inhaling and swallowing the dust from the dried bodies, with their exuvæ and excrement, of the "pea blight," or aphid infesting the pea plant.

Besides this instance, I am not acquainted with any cases in which these particles have produced injurious effects in persons exposed to their influence, and hence I think the following case is worthy, from its rarity, of being placed upon record:—

On the 6th inst., an under gardener of Lord Holland, with his boy, was engaged all day in gathering red currants from some bushes that were much blighted by the aphides, and were wet and dripping with rain. While thus occupied, they raised the boughs with their left hands whilst they gathered the fruit with their right, and in so doing their arms, which were bare, were covered with a quantity of black dust, which in consequence of its being wet with the drippings from the boughs, adhered firmly to the skin, nearly to the elbow of the left arm, and to the middle of the right forearm, and remained thus till they washed themselves on quitting their work in the evening.

The next morning the under gardener observed his arms to be red and tingling, which was followed by an eruption of vesicles upon those parts that had been covered by the black dust. This irritation continued to increase for two days and lasted about a week, terminating in some places by desquamation of scales resembling those of eczema, leaving the skin beneath thickened, red, and shining; in others, from which all appearance of inflammation had subsided when I first saw the man on the 16th, the skin was stained in streaks, spots, and patches of a purplish brown, resembling in colour the stains of a weak solution of nitrate of silver, but in form and general appearance the marks were such as leaves dripping with colouring matter would leave on his arms while brushing through them. At this time only a few crusts and elevations of the skin in streaks remained, but the discolourations were so remarkable that all his neighbours were enquiring the cause; although from constant exposure to the sun his arms are tanned of a deep brown.

The boy was affected in a similar manner, but not so severely, nor to the same extent; and his arms are now nearly free from any spots or streaks; but his father's are still almost as much discoloured as when I first saw him, and where the eruption was most violent the cuticle is still thin, red, and glistening.

The general health of both man and boy was quite unaffected during the continuance of the complaint, which was treated by bathing the affected parts with warm water.

The father says that he has never suffered in a similar manner, although he has had his arms covered by the blight while wet on many occasions, as he worked for many years in a market gardener's fruit garden. Nor can I hear of any similar complaint having been suffered this year or at any other time by gardeners and others when brought in contact with the aphides. My own skin being easily irritated, I asked the gardener to procure me some of the infected boughs, which I rubbed and beat upon the backs of my hands; but they produced no irritation, though this might be because they were dry, and none of the aphides themselves, but only their exuviae and the black dust, which I presume to be their dried excrement, remained on the leaves.

It would be interesting to ascertain whether, in the north of the kingdom, where the currant blight may still be found, it possesses this season any peculiar acrimony.

The excrement of the various kinds of aphids, under the name of honey dew, is the favourite food of ants (which are said to tend the aphides as their milch cows), as well as of other insects, and I can testify from having tasted it that it is a sweet and bland substance, even after it is dried upon the surface of the leaves on which it has fallen. I have examined some of the dust with a half-inch power, but I can only detect some inorganic matters, with fragments of the skins or sloughs of the insects, and some globular bodies about the size of mucous globules, but without nuclei.

Perhaps some of the members of the Association residing in places where the currant blight exists, may turn their attention to this subject, and communicate the results.

Kensington, Aug. 31, 1849.

CASE OF TRAUMATIC TETANUS.

To the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Should you consider the accompanying case (which has just occurred in my practice) worthy thereof, will you give it a place in your Journal.

Yours obediently,

SAMUEL DYER.

Ringwood, September 29, 1849.

CASE.—James Hemsbridge, aged 44, labourer, of sound constitution, has enjoyed good health from childhood, with the exception of an attack of continued fever, which he had three years ago. On the 17th September, 1849, whilst digging potatoes he wounded the inside of the great toe of the left foot with the prong. It gave him but little uneasiness at the time, and he neither applied for medical advice, nor did anything to it himself beyond the immediate application of tobacco, which some of our rustics deem a panacea for all wounds. On the eighth day from this he first felt a degree of stiffness about the muscles

of the neck and chest, and was unable to go on with his work, which he had hitherto continued; found he could not stoop, and could only touch the ground with his hand by kneeling.

September 25th. I first saw him at eleven this morning. He was dressed, and sitting on the edge of his bed; said he had sent for me as he had a cold and stiff neck. Upon his attempting to comply with my request by protruding his tongue, I could not fail to detect the serious nature of the case, and upon close enquiry elicited the history of the trifling accident I have just alluded to. The small puncture in the toe was just discernable, as being all but healed. There was tonic spasm of the muscles of the neck and jaw, those of the limbs not affected. I gave him immediately ten grains of calomel. On visiting him with my father, two hours afterwards, we found the symptoms gradually increasing. He now complained of pain in the back, and could only bend it, or move his head with much and long continued effort. Without difficulty we put him under the influence of chloroform, and kept up its effects a quarter of an hour. During this time the muscles appeared to relax, but I could not by any force depress the jaw, nor could he open his mouth much wider on regaining his senses; he, however, said he felt more easy. Sickness now came on, and the painful efforts to vomit declared the nature of the malady as much as anything. He took two ounces of wine through a quill, and repeated this, milk, or strong soup, every hour.

At 5 p.m., we again put him under the influence of chloroform as easily as before, and kept him another fifteen minutes in a quiet sleep, and upon the effect of the drug ceasing, he once more declared himself easier, but the spasm continued as before.

At eight o'clock we used the chloroform again, with just the same result, though I kept up its effects longer; and once more at eleven, when I gave him *Liq. Opii Sedativi*, grs. xl. He passed a quiet night, sleeping occasionally, but the symptoms have increased; the jaw is more closely and permanently fixed, so that he cannot separate the teeth; the trunk is stiff, all the muscles of it seemingly affected, and no individual set, so as to produce opisthotonos, or the reverse. The legs are semiflexed, widely separated, and he cannot move them without help. Over the upper extremities he has more power. I now tried to give him his medicine and wine through a gum elastic catheter, passed behind the last molar tooth, by means of a small syringe, but could only succeed in getting these fluids into the mouth; and as the muscles of deglutition were affected by the spasm, the unsuccessful effort of swallowing added greatly to the poor man's distress. He died at half-past nine, p.m., 48 hours from the commencement of symptoms of tetanus, I fancy from the respiratory functions becoming seriously impeded. I am induced to forward this hasty sketch from having read the account of a case of tetanus, attended by a successful termination, reported in a late number (September 5th) of the *Provincial Medical Journal*, by Mr. S. G. Sloman, in which he used chloroform; and in