blood of chlorotic females, he arranged chlorosis amongst the inflammations, in order to suit his theory. M. Andral considers the buffy coat of no value as a characteristic of inflammation.

OBSERVATIONS ON DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.

BY JONATHAN TOOGOOD, ESQ.

SENIOR SURGEON TO THE BRIDGEWATER INFIRMARY.

AMONGST the various diseases of the rectum, procidentia ani is, perhaps, one of the most common and troublesome. It is generally curable in children, but often difficult at a later period of life, frequently requiring an operation, particularly in those cases which are accompanied with frequent discharges of blood. The attention of surgeons was directed to this disease many years since, by the late Mr. Hey of Leeds, and some very interesting cases will be found in his "Practical Observations." I have selected the two following cases from my note-book, as illustrative of the practice recommended by that eminent surgeon.

CASE I.—A medical man, in extensive country practice, had suffered from piles and procidentia ani for many years, attended frequently with much discharge of blood. Notwithstanding the general and local treatment, it increased to such a degree, as to induce him to contemplate retiring from practice. Under these circumstances he consulted Mr. Hey by letter, and proposed to go to Leeds, for the purpose of undergoing an operation, if he should deem it advisable. He recommended its being performed, but did not think it necessary for him to undertake so long a journey, after the description I had given of his case.

A permanent frill surrounded the verge of the anus, which incommoded him very much; it could be returned, but gave him great pain. Two or three small tubercles appeared on the internal part. I dissected off all the flap around and close to the verge of the anus, and drew down a small portion of the rectum to enable me to remove the tubercles. The operation was painful, but he did not suffer much afterwards, and there was no hæmorrhage. A compress of linen dipped in brandy and water was applied; he passed a good night, and complained only the next day of wind oppressing the stomach. In the evening he complained of great bearing down, and passed two or three ounces of coagulated blood with much relief. On the third day a dose of castor oil procured a proper evacuation, without procidentia or hæmorrhage, and he soon got well without any bad symptom.

CASE II.—I performed the same operation for Miss P. of Worlavington, for a similar disease of seven years' standing. The gut descended after every evacuation, which was followed by a copious discharge of blood. A pendulous flap constantly remained down, which could never be returned; and whenever she had an evacuation, a considerable portion more was forced down with part of the internal red lining of the intestine. I had some doubt whether the removal of that part which was constantly prolapsed would be sufficient to establish the cure, and consulted Mr. Hey, who advised the removal of that part only,

and to proceed to a second operation if necessary. This, however, was not required, the first succeeding perfectly, without a recurrence of the protrusion or bleeding.

But all cases do not require such severe treatment; many are much relieved, and some cured, by local applications and attention to the state of the bowels. I remember one case in particular, in which ablutions with cold water every night and morning, and the injection of half a pint into the rectum, with the assiduous use of a lotion made by infusing oak-bark in lime-water, to which sulphate of zinc was added, entirely removed the complaint. This patient was more benefited by Ward's paste than any other medicine, which acted on the bowels with certainty and without irritation.

CASE III.—*Tumor in the rectum.*—I was suddenly called one afternoon to a young lady, who was suffering violently from hysteria, but whose general appearance led me to suspect that she was labouring under some more serious complaint, for she was much emaciated, and her countenance bore evident marks of distress. As she was living with a sister who was also unmarried, and as both were young, and without any female friend near them at that time, I had a good deal of difficulty in ascertaining the true nature of her complaint; but after a little time I was satisfied that all her distressing symptoms arose from some disease about the rectum. A few days afterwards, I prevailed on her to submit to an examination, when I discovered a pile at the verge of the anus, and on carrying my finger into the rectum, a hard tumor, about the size of a walnut, adhering to it by a narrow basis. I drew it down with a hook, and cut it off with a pair of scissors; no hæmorrhage followed, and all the symptoms which had distressed her for years, and which she had concealed under the belief that they were occasioned by piles only, speedily disappeared, and she soon regained her flesh and spirits.

CASE IV.—*Tumor in the rectum from hardened feces.*—A lady, who had been suffering for many years from some obstruction in the rectum, which was considered to arise from stricture, and was treated as such, desired to have my opinion on her case. She was much emaciated, with loss of appetite and sleep, and had constant pain in the rectum, with frequent tenesmus. The efforts to discharge its contents were most distressing, and small quantities of liquid feces only were passed. Neither medicines by the mouth, of which almost every variety had been given, or injections of different kinds, afforded any relief. An examination led to the detection of an enormous mass of feces which had accumulated, become indurated, and distended the bowel to a great extent. It was so firmly impacted that the removal became very difficult, but was ultimately affected by breaking down portions with the handle of a spoon, and injecting large quantities of warm water, after a perseverance of upwards of three hours. Great relief was immediately experienced, but the restoration of the natural action of the bowels was very difficult. Many such cases are recorded, and this is related to point out the necessity of actual examination in all doubtful and long-standing diseases,