PARTIAL DISLOCATION OF KNEE-JOINT.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you think the subjoined case of sufficient interest, perhaps you will have the kindness to insert it in your valuable Journal.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
J. BALLARD PITT, Surgeon.

Mattishall, Norfolk, June 7, 1842.

A young lady, on the 2nd of February, produced partial lateral dislocation of the right knee-joint, by falling down stairs with great violence; she was immediately carried to her bed-room, and laid upon a mattress. On examination I found the internal condyle of the femur projecting considerably inwards, and the external tuberosity of the tibia outwards; she shrieked violently, and complained of severe pain, similar to cramp, down the outer side of the leg. Having placed the patient on her back, I made gradual extension and counter-extension, which, together, soon brought the joint into its former position; lateral splints were then put on, and bandaged in such a manner, as to allow leeches and lotions to be applied. The following draught was taken at bed-time:—

Tincture of hyosciamus, half a drachm;
Water, ten drachms;
Syrup of roses, one drachm.

Feb. 3. Passed a restless night; considerable swelling of the joint, with much pain and tenderness, particularly along the course of the internal lateral ligament. Eighteen leeches to be applied, and evaporating lotions, and to take the following draught:—

Sulphate of magnesia, six drachms;
Carbonate of magnesia, half a drachm;
Infusion of senna, one ounce and a half;
Tincture of senna, one drachm.

4. Bowels relieved; did not sleep much; swelling increased. Twenty leeches to be applied, and lotion continued.

5. Complaints of pain, extending up the thigh; bandages loosened; great heat of the joint; swelling and tenderness the same; and a sensation of effusion upon pressing down the patella. Twelve leeches applied, and to take the following pill and draught:—

Opium, one grain;
Calomel, three grains.

An aperient draught in the morning.

6. Symptoms nearly the same, with numbness of the leg and foot.

7. More pain felt on the outer side of the joint. Leeches and lotions continued.

8. Swelling and heat a little diminished, but complains of a sharp pain near the inner margin of the patella.

9. Pain the same. Leeches and lotions continued, and to take an aperient draught the following morning.

From the 9th till the 15th nothing particular occurred; swelling and pain decreased; and on the 16th I removed the splints, fomented the joint, and made a little passive motion, which caused severe pain on its inner side, and a sensation of stiffness over the centre.

17. Passive motion repeated.

19. Placed the leg over a double inclined plane for a short time. From this date perfect rest was allowed till the 25th, when a little flexion was again tried, and borne with much less suffering. After this period, a little linim. saponis co. was rubbed in daily, and she was put to sit upon the edge of a table, and made to bend and extend the limb several times, which gradually gained strength and freedom of motion. She now protects the joint with an elastic knee piece, and is able to walk comfortably.

REMARKS.

Having treated this uncommon kind of dislocation, I was anxious to publish the details, in order to impress upon the minds of those medical gentlemen who have not seen a similar case, the importance of early and continued application of leeches and lotions, which I consider to be the only safe and effectual means of keeping down the inflammatory symptoms resulting from such a formidable luxation. What ligaments were injured, I cannot exactly tell; but I think the internal lateral, and probably the posterior crucial, suffered in some degree, the cartilages and synovial membrane being of course very much disturbed; the numbness complained of down the leg, particularly on the outer side, must have arisen from some particular pressure or disorder of the peroneal nerve, which I attributed to the biceps tendon. A few days previous to this accident, I reduced a dislocation of the humerus into the axilla, soon after it occurred, with very little trouble; no bad symptoms followed, and the patient soon got well. I merely mention this case, as it afforded me a good opportunity of observing the different symptoms connected with luxations of ginglymoid and ball and socket joints.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF THE STYPTIC MATICO.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I cannot resist the opportunity kindly afforded me, and cheerfully granted, by my correspondent Dr. Monro, one of the surgeons of the Dundee Infirmary, of bearing testimony to the good effects of the South American styptic "*maticò*," which I distributed among the members of the association at our anniversary meeting last year at York; I therefore send you a copy of his letter to me upon the subject, and you will much oblige me by giving it a place in your periodical.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS JEFFREYS.

Liverpool, June 9, 1842.

From Dr. Monro, Dundee, to Dr. Jeffreys, Liverpool.

"Dundee, May 28, 1842.

Dear Sir,—I was favoured with your communication containing the "*maticò*" some time ago; I find you are naturally desirous of knowing the result of it in my hands. The circumstance of its being my year to officiate, as attending surgeon to our infirmary, has