rally, and she was safely delivered of her first child, after a very regular and steady labor of eight hours.

October 1. Case doing very well. Opened the dressings to-day; fracture quite flexible. On rotating the foot, the substance that occupies the site of the callus exhibits a pulpy movement.

4. Any attempt to suckle the child strictly forbidden, to the great grief and annoyance of the mother. Febrile reaction, and other sequelæ of parturition, give no trouble; complains now more of pain in the fracture than before; she describes the pain as a palpitating and lancinating soreness.

11. Wound cicatrised; fracture still flexible, but feels rather stiffer and firmer in the deep-seated parts of the limb, as if from a degree of reunion in the fracture of the fibula; callus is so pulpy that it appears to fluctuate to the touch. Some change in the position of the leg has occurred, for the toes are more turned outwards than natural. Applied the splints with still greater care to accuracy. Continue a generous diet, and let her have a glass of port wine or of porter twice a-day.

25. Callosity of fracture considerably increased since last dressing, which took place twelve days ago. An ossific firmness is perceptible to the touch in the proper site of the callus. Our patient is in good health and excellent spirits, but thin almost to emaciation.

November 6. Leg still bends at the fracture, but will not rotate now.

16. Though the callus still bends slightly, it is stiff and elastic.

December 5. There is now a prominent node of bone formed where the loss of substance took place, and the leg will not now bend.

Early in January, 1840, reunion was so complete that our patient began to walk a few steps with the aid of crutches; but, for many months after, we took care to give the limb all the support that well-adapted splints could afford it, for I have on several occasions known a well-cured fracture disfigured by using the limb.

June 10. The limb is quite straight and precisely the same in length as the other; and I am happy to say the cure may be considered complete, for our patient can now walk several hundred yards without the aid of a stick, but says she could not walk any distance, for she gets so soon tired.

The foregoing facts appear to me to establish the old observation, that fractures will not reunite during pregnancy. I never before the present occasion had an opportunity of verifying this fact. Fractures during pregnancy are so rare, or are so frequently followed by premature labor, that the opportunity of observing the phenomena is seldom met with. Indeed, I cannot recal to memory having ever seen a similar case recorded, nor of having seen the fact otherwise remarked upon, than as problematical; so far the present case is curious and valuable. There can be little doubt that the cause of the want of reunion in such cases must be the growth of the fœtus "in utero," and especially the growth of the bones of the fœtus giving rise to a demand for ossific matter prejudicial to the supply necessary for the reunion of the fracture. It was in accordance with this opinion that our patient was prevented from suckling her child, and I have no doubt that, had she been allowed to do so, reunion would

have gone on very slowly, and perhaps would have passed into that state of structure which would have rendered an operation necessary at some future period, for the purpose of inducing a deposition of bone.

I do not think that the febrile attacks which occurred during the first three weeks could have had much effect in producing the phenomena above described. They were too ephemeral to be followed by consequences so important. The process of gestation and the great demand for ossific matter in the system of the mother must be considered the only causes of the slow formation of callus in such cases as this.

The absence of pain and the unusual exemption from local irritation and of suppuration which this case exhibited, is another feature of it worthy of notice. There must have been some physiological cause for this, and the excellent state of health which our patient enjoyed is not sufficient to account for it; for powerful reaction is the consequence of robust health in all accidents. The appearance of pain in the fracture after gestation was over, and which continued many weeks when the general health was in good condition, is a proof that the symptoms of pain and reaction did not depend upon any condition of good or ill health, but upon a specific process going on in the system at the time, and this process must have been gestation, for no sooner was it over than the sanative process commenced more efficiently in the fracture. It is curious to observe how the absence of local irritation and pain during gestation resulted in a very imperfect process of reunion, and how, as soon as delivery was accomplished, that pain became the concomitant of a sanitary process in the fracture, which resulted in complete reunion of the osseous structure, thus forming another illustration among many I have met with in my experience, that pain, unattended by fever, is by no means a bad symptom; on the contrary, it is often an indication that the *vis medicatrix naturæ* is in active operation.

Douglas, Isle of Man.

CASE OF CHOLERA MORBUS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Should you consider a second case of cholera morbus, which has occurred in my practice since last I wrote to you, sufficiently interesting to merit a place in your Journal, I beg you will give it an early insertion. It may be, probably, interesting to those gentlemen who are engaged in collecting information on the endemics and epidemics of the current year, to know the particular situations where such diseases are most prevalent, and the mode of treatment most frequently successful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN WICKENS WEST, M.R.C.S.L., &c. &c.
Poole, August 29, 1842.

Mrs. Corderoy, aged sixty, married, and the mother of a small family, usually experiencing good health, was attacked, during the night of Thursday last, the 25th instant, with violent pains in the epigastric region; cramp in the legs and arms, which was so

severe that she could not be kept in bed; constant vomiting and purging of a thin, gruel-like fluid. In the morning I was sent for, and found her sitting on *la chaise-percée*, violently purged, and in a state of extreme collapse; skin cold and clammy; pulse not perceptible at the wrists, and scarcely so at the carotids; breathing hardly observable; eyes sunken, and pupils contracted.

I immediately gave her an ounce of brandy, part of which was instantly vomited, and put her feet into hot water and mustard. These means seemed to restore animation, and I was encouraged to persevere. I ordered the following draught:—

Tincture of opium, forty drops;
Compound tincture of cinnamon, one drachm;
Camphor mixture, one ounce and a half. To be taken directly.

I left her better, but was soon requested to visit her again, and found her in the same collapsed state as before; purging; no pulse; and a universal death-like coldness; cramp in all her limbs.

I had her feet again placed in hot water, and her feet and legs well rubbed with mustard, and gave her a large tablespoonful of brandy every ten minutes. In about half an hour she was decidedly relieved, and her symptoms were more favorable.

I discontinued the brandy, and prescribed the following medicine:—

Calomel, two grains;
Opium, half a grain;
Aromatic confection sufficient to form a pill, to be taken every hour, with the following draught:—
Camphor mixture, one ounce;
Compound spirits of ammonia, half a drachm;
Compound tincture of cinnamon, one drachm.

Vespere: Her countenance has now lost the choleric aspect; tongue white; respiration more natural; surface of the body warm; pulse 70. She speaks distinctly, and feels easy and comfortable, and is able to describe the distressing situation in which she has been.

To continue the pills and mixture every four hours during the night.

August 27. Has passed a comfortable night, with the exception of occasional cramp in her legs; pulse 80; bowels not moved since yesterday.

To continue the mixture, and omit the pills.

28. Considerable improvement in all symptoms since the last report; has voided no stool; urine free; pulse 75. Ordered a rhubarb draught.

29. In every respect convalescent; bowels have been gently moved.

The above is another well-marked case of Asiatic cholera. The extreme state of collapse, the universal cramp, and the rice fluid vomiting and purging, constitute the chief pathognomonic characters. During the last fortnight I have witnessed several other cases of a much milder form. The disease has been ushered in simply by diarrhoea, with slight alvine pains, unattended by cramp or any other violent symptom. These have generally yielded to rhubarb with carbonate of soda, in the form of a mixture with peppermint water, and three grains of calomel, combined with ten grains of Dover's powder, every night.

The town of Poole presents nothing particular in its locality. It is not too thickly populated, and its in-

habitants generally are cleanly. The soil is of a sandy nature, and epidemics seldom prevail to any extent either in the town or neighbourhood.

When the cholera was so prevalent in this country—about the year 1832, I believe—only one or two well-defined cases of the malignant form occurred, the others being such as I have just stated.

SEVERE HÆMORRHAGE FROM THE TONGUE.

By JOHN WICKENS WEST, M.R.C.S., &c., Poole.

The child of a respectable butcher and farmer, residing in the neighbourhood of Poole, fell down and bit the surface of its tongue, but the wound was so small, that it was scarcely discernible without great care. It bled so profusely, that the parents sent for a medical man, and the hæmorrhage was for a time arrested, but leaving the child in a debilitated state. Judicious internal remedies were likewise tried. During his absence from home the bleeding recurred, and I was immediately sent for; and hearing the caustic had been applied, I tried the tinctura ferri muriatis on lint, which for a time also succeeded; but the next day it again appeared with the same violence as before. I then determined to secure the tongue so as freely to apply the lunar caustic with a compress of lint, and in this I was successful; for although there was a slight return of it the next morning, it has been gradually on the decrease, and the child is now much stronger and improved in aspect, with every prospect of getting well.

There is another child in the same family, who had profuse hæmorrhage from a slight wound some time ago, and which was with difficulty arrested.

I mention these cases, showing what slight and apparently trivial causes will produce violent and alarming symptoms where the hæmorrhagic diathesis prevails. I would mention that both the father and mother of the child are particularly robust, healthy people, and possess no such disposition.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

The council met on Tuesday—the Lord Provost in the chair.

Mr. Lothian protested against the accuracy of the minutes of August 9, in so far as they bore that Dr. Henderson was elected to the office of Professor of the Chair of Pathology in the University of Edinburgh. He farther protested that Dr. Craigie was duly elected to that office; and reserved to himself and the supporters of Dr. Craigie their relief at law.

Mr. Black said he had a motion to submit to the council with respect to the mode of voting in elections of professors; and he wished to bring it forward now, because, if allowed to lie over till next election, he would, no doubt, be met with the objection that it was wrong to bring it forward with respect to an election just about to take place. What he wished to propose was, that, at next election, they should have no double voting, but they should at once come to the vote, and that whoever was at the top of the poll should be de-