from his bed, from ten to twenty times in a night, and his sufferings in the day time were equally severe, being never free from distressing tenesmus. At the time he applied to me he informed me that the evacuations were passed with great pain, and flattened like a piece of tape. His age is about sixty-five; constitution previously good.

August 11. I examined the rectum, and found a tumor occupying the lower portion of the gut. On passing the finger as far as it would go by the side of the tumor, it seemed to adhere by a pedicle about four or five inches up the bowel; it possessed a scirrhus hardness and a very uneven surface, and bled freely on the slightest touch. Ordered starch and laudanum injections once or twice daily, and the bowels to be kept open, if possible, by repeated doses of *confectio sennæ* and sulphur lotum.

16. The opiate injections have quieted the rectum. Ordered castor oil in half ounce doses every six hours.

17. Finding the oil had not operated, although it had been repeated several times, and had produced strong expulsive efforts, I proposed passing a ligature on the following day round the neck of the tumor, to which he assented. Ordered the oil to be continued. About the middle of the night I was sent for; on my arrival I found that, during repeated and violent strainings, the tumor had been forced out, and at the same time an enormous fecal evacuation took place. The tumor presented the following appearances:—Its bulk was about the size of an ordinary man's fist; its foot stalk about two inches in diameter; its surface ulcerated in several parts, rather deeply; its color was a dark red. I passed a piece of tape round it, and drew it tight; it occasioned great pain. I gave my patient about a deserts spoonful of tincture of opium, and a suppository, containing three grains of opium, was passed up the rectum by the side of the stalk of the tumor.

18. Saw him in the afternoon. He says his pain entirely subsided in two hours after the opiates were administered. Tumor black.

19. Has had a good night. Applied another ligature and suppository. Complains much of the ligature.

20. Says the pain occasioned by the ligature soon passed off, and he is now comfortable.

21. Since my last visit the bowels have been moved several times, and there has been some hiccup; no tenderness or tension of the abdomen, nor pain in or about the rectum. I applied another ligature, which produced severe pain, as before; gave an aperient draught with rhubarb, and ordered a suppository to be applied if the pain from the ligature should continue after the operation of the draught.

22. The draught has operated well, leaving the bowels settled; the suppository has not been required. The tumor is much shrunk, and decomposition is going on. Ordered a suppository to be used any time when in pain. There is a good deal of excoriation of the nates occasioned by the close contact of the tumor. Interposed some lint spread with chalk ointment. Pulse 70; going on well.

N.B.—The pulse has been at about 70 every day since the ligatures were first applied.

23. The bowels acted to day. On drawing down the tumor, I perceived the ligatures to be slack, and

applied another as tight as it could be drawn; it gave pain. A suppository was applied immediately.

24. The pain occasioned by the last ligature soon went off.

25. This day the tumor, on being gently drawn, came off; the bowels have acted to day freely and without any pain.

26. Is up and out of doors.

29. To day is free from pain, except a little external soreness when he sits down; there is a little purulent discharge from the anus; the bowels have been moved; the stools are deficient of bile. Ordered a blue pill two or three times a week and castor oil the following mornings.

September 1. The motions are sufficiently tinged with bile.

REMARKS.

1. The man has been perfectly well ever since, upwards of a year having elapsed since the performance of the operation.

2. The case appeared to be a hopeless one, inasmuch as the tumor could not have been removed by any cutting operation, with any prospect of success.

3. The successful termination of this case appears to be mainly, if not entirely, owing to the influence of the repeated doses of opium obviating the mischief which it seems to me more than probable would have resulted from the application of ligatures to so bulky a part and in such a situation.

A BLEEDING FAMILY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—The following account of hæmorrhagic diathesis existing in a whole family will probably prove interesting to many of your readers. It shows, I think, the great care which it is necessary to observe in the treatment of many of the diseases of such a family, or in the performance of any operation where such a predisposition is known; as even a mere leech bite may endanger life. I need not, however, dilate on the practical deductions to be obtained from a knowledge of such a circumstance where it exists, as they must necessarily be almost self evident. I was led to make this communication from seeing one somewhat similar, but less striking, in the last Number of the "Provincial Journal," or otherwise I should have probably let it rest amongst the half forgotten facts which have been observed and then passed by amidst the distracting cares of general practice.

Mrs. W. Martin, up to the period of the birth of her first child, was a remarkably fine, handsome, and healthy young woman; had scarcely ever had any ailment requiring medical care. At the birth of her first child she had a severe and dangerous flooding, which, in spite of every means taken to prevent it, has recurred at each succeeding birth. For the first five children I attended her myself, but in her last and sixth confinement she was attended by my friend, Mr. Morey, on my account, about a year ago, when the flooding was so excessive that her life was for some time despaired of, and she has been ever since a mere shade of the woman she formerly was—being now pale, thin, attenuated, and feeble.

Her first child, a boy, bled at the chord soon after it was tied; it was carefully tied again several times in various ways; styptics were also assiduously applied, but the child died.

The second child, a girl, also bled at the chord soon after birth; the ligature was reapplied several times ere the bleeding stopped, which did not take place until the end of several days. When about five years old this girl was struck on the head with a piece of wood; a small wound, not larger than a pin's point, was produced, which bled continuously for many days, and the hæmorrhage could not be arrested in spite of all the means that the ingenuity of my friend, Dr. Scholfield, or myself could exert, until the child was brought to the most extreme state of debility, and then a rather large slough had been formed by the various styptics applied; the slough, however, came away and the wound healed without further hæmorrhage. This child has been subject since she was about a year old to a number of extensive ecchymoses, which form in the cellular texture under the skin all over the body, from the size of the palm of the hand to that of the disc of a bean, and which gradually disperse; they are accompanied by a feeling of soreness; they come on without injury, and are seldom absent.

The third child, a girl, did not bleed until the navel string had been separated upwards of a week, when she bled from the navel, and continued to do so for some time; the bleeding was arrested by the tinct. ferri muriat. on lint, under strips of plaster and constant pressure. She had hæmorrhage from the bowels when about three years old, and is now subject to the same ecchymoses as the elder sister, in precisely the same form.

The fourth child, a girl, bled at the navel; at the end of a fortnight it separated, as the last, without bleeding; the hæmorrhage was checked in this case as in the last; she was becoming the subject of the same ecchymoses, but died of scarlatina about a year ago.

The fifth, a boy, did not bleed until the end of three weeks; the hæmorrhage was equally difficult to stop; he afterwards became a fine boy, and died of inflammation of the lungs about a year ago; I believe death was hastened by the hæmorrhage which took place from a leech bite.

The sixth child, a girl, did not bleed from the navel, and has as yet shown no hæmorrhagic disposition. The whole of the children now living are healthy-looking, and well developed in frame for their respective ages, and have so far had but little illness.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT STORRS.

Doncaster, September 8, 1842.

CASE
OF
TRAUMATIC GANGRENE,
SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY
THE LOCAL APPLICATION OF ACETIC ACID.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN, — Should you deem the following cases of sufficient interest for publication, I beg you

will give them an early insertion in the "Provincial Medical Journal."

Yours obediently,

JOHN WICKENS WEST, Surgeon.

Poole, September 12, 1842.

William Hatchard, aged seventy, by occupation a sailor, of a feeble constitution, rendered so particularly by several attacks of hemiplegia of the right side, applied to me on Thursday, October 10, 1841, in consequence of having met with a severe injury to his right leg, from being knocked down by the near leader of a coach whilst he was crossing the street.

I found, on examination, a considerable wound on the external malleolus of the right leg, but there was no fracture either of the tibia or fibula. On the left foot, near the internal malleolus, there was likewise a small wound.

I immediately dressed the parts with adhesive plaster and a bandage, desiring that, should swelling occur, an evaporating lotion should be applied.

11. Complains this morning of acute pain in the wound and middle of the right leg. Has feverish symptoms; white tongue; pulse 95; bowels not open. I ordered him a senna draught to be taken immediately. To continue the lotion.

12. The foot and leg much swollen and exceedingly painful. I removed the dressings, and the wound on the right leg presented a very unhealthy aspect, with a disposition to slough. The calf was of a slightly livid color; pulse 85; countenance anxious, and he appears much depressed.

Camphor mixture, one ounce;

Compound spirits spirits of ammonia, half a drachm,
Every four hours.

Linseed meal poultice to the wounds.

13. Delirious during the night; pain in the leg and foot acute; vesications on the foot and the lividity on the leg increased; the wound sloughing; pulse 110. intermittent.

I applied the strong acetic acid to the livid parts, and desired the ammonia draught and poultice to be continued.

14. The slough has separated from the wounds, and the lividity has not increased since yesterday. The calf of the left leg is also livid, and there are vesications in various parts of it. To continue the draught and applications as yesterday.

15. Has been perfectly sensible and composed since the night of the 13th, and feels better and stronger this morning. The sloughs have separated, and the wounds are looking healthy. The lividity not increased; pulse 108; bowels open; tongue dry. Ordered port wine, two ounces daily. To continue as before.

17. Since last report has been going on favorably. The gangrene has not extended. The wounds look favorable, and discharge healthy pus; the lividity has nearly disappeared; pulse 80; tongue moist. To discontinue the acetic acid, and wounds to be dressed with soap plaster.

Sulphate of quinine, half a grain;

Diluted sulphuric acid, ten drops;

Compound tincture of cardamoms, half a drachm;

Water, one ounce. Three times a day.

21. Continues to improve daily, the wounds healing.