the circumstance to me, but supposed I would treat it with ridicule. The pains now became regular and increased in severity, and on making a second examination, I found the os uteri sufficiently dilated to enable me to satisfy myself respecting the position of the child; still the same soft substance as at first met my touch; on passing my finger on, however, I could distinguish the features—the eyes, the nose, the mouth—and lastly, on carrying my finger round, my information was completed by feeling an ear. My mind was now relieved and satisfied; I had no doubt the child was monstrous; the labor was tedious, and the uterine efforts were very violent before the child was expelled. Although I was careful not to use any expression from which either the mother or nurse could infer that anything unusual had occurred, still no sooner was the child born than the mother expressed a wish not to see it; she knew, she said, how it looked. The child, which showed no signs of life, was, without exception, the largest I had ever seen; its breadth of shoulders and plumpness caused it to resemble one a month old; yet, though the trunk and extremities were faultless, the head presented such a degree of deformity as to have but little to identify it with the human form. The eyes were large, vascular, and prominent, and the orbits were bounded superiorly by the soft, bloody, and irregularly fissured tumor which I detected in my first examination. This mass was uncovered at any part by bone, and on making several incisions, it was found to contain nothing but blood, without even a trace of nervous matter, so completely did it occupy the place of the cerebrum and cerebellum.

To an ordinary observer this child, and especially its full, large, red eyes, bore a strong resemblance to the one which made such an impression on my patient's mind. Many such acephalous fœtus have been described, and every anatomical museum contains specimens of the kind; this case, therefore, can be of interest only in so far as it illustrates a doctrine held and supported by some of our best physiologists, and believed by the great mass of the community, as well in ancient as in modern times. That there is no direct nervous communication between the mother and child, may or may not be true; facts, they say, are stubborn things, and cannot be easily gainsaid. Persons engaged in the breeding of our domesticated animals recognise the fact, that impressions made on the nervous system of the mother *do* influence the character of the offspring; and without any ingenious theory, they, nevertheless, find it to be profitable in practice. Valuable though the case of Mr. West may be, this one I conceive to be still more so, in confirmation of the theory he would support. In his case the mother accounted for the phenomenon after she was aware of its existence; in the one which I have related, the character of the offspring was all but predicted by the parents; and when we remember how acute females are in their way of accounting for events, equal to, or above their comprehension, your editorial remark on Mr. West's case appears quite justifiable.

An instance of a similar kind was mentioned to me lately by a highly intelligent surgeon in this neighbourhood. He was called on to attend a woman of her first child, and immediately on delivery, before any of the attendants could see the child, the mother

anxiously inquired if it was all right. Her medical attendant asked her, why should it be otherwise? and in reply she stated, that eight months ago a person threw a mouse at her, which struck her on the upper lip, and that from that time till her confinement the circumstance had dwelt almost incessantly on her mind, and begot a firm belief that the child would be in some way marked. On bringing the child to the light, the mother's suspicions were found to be strictly verified, for, sure enough, on its upper lip there was a deep brown mark, presenting a very correct profile of the little animal which the mother so much dreaded. Its head, its body, its limbs, and tail, were all displayed with a fidelity surpassed only by the process of the immortal Daguerre. The lip of many of your readers may curl with the smile of incredulity; nevertheless, these cases are strictly true. The girl, whose case was related to me by the surgeon who attended her mother in her confinement, is, for anything I know to the contrary, still alive—a living evidence of the fact.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ALLISON.

Bridlington, Dec. 7, 1842.

ON TOBACCO INJECTIONS IN CASES OF ENTERITIS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—The history of the two following cases, which I forward to you for insertion in the Provincial Medical Journal, illustrates the efficacy of tobacco injections in some severe forms of abdominal disease.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WATERS, M.D., M.R.C.S. (E.)

62, Torrington-square,

Dec. 4, 1842.

CASE I.—A lady, aged forty, of robust constitution, had been complaining of general derangement in her health for about a week, but not sufficient to prevent her attending to her domestic concerns, when she was suddenly seized with pain in the abdomen, but particularly in the course of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, and spine, and which she ascribed to the effects of cold. The pain increasing in severity, I was requested to see her. At my first visit, I found her sitting up in bed, the body flexed as much as possible anteriorly; she vomited incessantly, but only threw up a small quantity of viscid mucus. On pressing the abdomen she complained of pain, particularly in the left side; the heat of surface was natural, and there was no distension or retraction of the abdomen; some borborygmus; pulse 110, small, wiry; tongue slightly red, loaded at the base; no thirst or cephalalgia; the bowels had not been acted on during the last two days. I ordered her to be bled to syncope, and to take immediately five grains of calomel with one of opium. This treatment arrested the vomiting, but the dull, aching pain and borborygmus seemed not in the least relieved. The patient continued in this state without any appearance of improvement

during three or four days, the vomiting occasionally returning, but never free from a certain degree of nausea and troublesome eructation.

Having applied twenty leeches to the umbilical region, and persevered for some time in the use of fomentations and mustard sinapisms to the epigastrium, with little or no permanent relief, I had recourse to the frequent administration of saline purgatives, with tincture of hyosciamus, castor oil, &c. The latter remedies had the effect of removing the constipation, and some six or seven copious motions promised a salutary termination to the complaint; but as the symptoms recurred, and increased daily in severity, as a last resource I determined to try an injection of the infusion of tobacco.

The febrile state had now considerably increased, and assumed a typhoid character; the abdomen was augmented in volume, arched, and emitting a clear sound on percussion; on pressing the intestines, they felt as if united together, particularly on the left side, where the feeling of a soft tumor was perceptible; the heat of the abdomen was great; pulse, filiform, 120; insatiable thirst; the countenance expressive of the greatest anxiety; shrinking of the features; urine voided in small quantities and with pain; hiccup; respiration quick and laboring. I ordered a tobacco enema, which gave almost immediate relief; the pain became more moderate, for the horizontal position was now, for the first time, supportable; the sense of heat less, but the nausea increased; pulse much softer, and somewhat irregular; respiration slower, and could be taken more forcibly; the enema had been small, and the patient retained it for about half an hour, when the bowels were copiously moved three times; the abdominal pain now entirely ceased, and fomentations were applied to remove the knotted feeling of the intestines; the patient slept well, and next morning I found a marked improvement in all the symptoms. I prescribed an enema of castor oil and decoction of barley. The bowels were acted on twice; profuse diaphoresis set in; there was no return of pain; the abdomen was much less distended and softer; and nausea had completely ceased; pulse slower. In a few days, under the ordinary treatment, the patient was convalescent.

CASE II.—A man-servant, aged thirty-two, of a bilious habit, whom I attended during the last summer for a severe attack of scarlatina, about two weeks after complete convalescence, experienced alternate rigors and flushings, anorexia, cephalalgia, tinnitus aurium, pains in all his joints, lassitude, some vague pains in the abdomen, principally towards the right iliac fossa, which radiated towards the umbilicus, and were at this point rather aggravated on pressure; the pain generally came on in paroxysms, which caused him to writhe and twist about in the bed; right iliac region meteorised; no sudamina or eruption; diarrhoea had existed for the two previous days; nausea and occasional vomiting. He complained much of flatulency; tongue red at the point, covered with a yellowish fur at its base; thirst; coughed frequently, with scanty viscid expectoration. On auscultation, there was a slight crepitous râle in the superior lobe of the right lung; the contractions of the heart were weak, quick, and laboring; face pale, expressive of abdominal irritation. I prescribed thirty leeches to

the right iliac region, and when removed, a large cataplasm of linseed to be laid on the abdomen. Also—

Calomel, six grains;
Compound extract of colocynth, four grains;
Opium, one grain. To be divided into two pills;
one to be taken at once.

And three hours afterwards to have two tablespoonfuls of the following mixture, every two hours:—

Comp. infus. of senna, six drachms;
Sulphate of magnesia, three drachms;
Compound tincture of senna, two drachms;
Mint water, four ounces.

I saw him again in the evening. The leech bites had bled freely; bowels not acted on; pain on pressure and during inspiration; meteorismus extended; the lower extremities retracted; skin cold and clammy; excessive thirst; pulse, laboring, 96. I took sixteen ounces of blood from the arm, and ordered a warm bath; a saline mixture and decoction of barley for ordinary drink. The pills to be repeated.

August 29. Constipation continues; slept badly; had slight delirium; much sickness this morning; pain not abated. Prescribed an enema of castor oil and warm water, which produced a few slimy stools, streaked with blood; their excretion was painful; no headache. Repeat the leeches and cataplasms; and take the following pill every second hour:—

Calomel, two grains;
James's powder, one grain;
Opium, half a grain;
Compound extract of colocynth, two grains.

At night a half grain of acetate of morphia in six drachms of liquor ammoniæ acetatis.

30. Sleep disturbed; bowels well acted on three times; took castor oil but rejected it; meteorismus of the entire abdomen; pain more severe; the bowels are affected with spasm; the whole abdomen is painful to the touch; nausea; pulse 108, very weak. Continue medicines as before; fomentations.

31. Very delirious during night; passed no urine; hiccup and vomiting; bowels moved this morning, but bringing away a frothy mucus with little faecal matter; low muttering delirium; pulse 120, small; considerable borborygmus; abdominal pain intolerable; complained of pain in the hips and pubes. I threw up an injection of the infusion of tobacco, which he retained for about twenty minutes; at the expiration of this time, a copious faecal stool was obtained, of a dark color and excessively foetid. He now felt much relieved from the abdominal pain, as the spasmodic paroxysm had ceased, but the vomiting became incessant with marked irregularity in the heart's action. Small doses of morphia were now repeatedly administered, and in about four hours the vomiting and hiccup ceased, when sleep succeeded.

September 1. Had a better night; no delirium; lies quietly in bed, and only complains of weakness and a general dull pain in the abdomen, but no spasms; pulse soft, regular, 100. Repeated the tobacco injection, but in a more diluted state. Some slight return of vomiting, which combined with the medicinal effect of the tobacco, induced slight diaphoresis and a copious discharge of thick turbid urine; bowels well acted on. Continue the morphia.

2. A marked improvement has taken place; meteorismus and pain nearly gone; pulse 90. He con-

tinued gradually improving, taking little or no medicine, and on the 9th was perfectly convalescent.

REMARKS.

I was induced to have recourse to this powerful remedial agent (though, I believe, accompanied with some degree of danger), in consequence of having tried it on a former occasion, and that successfully, in a suspected case of intus-susceptio; but I can remember having seen its beneficial effects some three years ago in two cases of abdominal inflammation, where, from the intensity of the symptoms, we were induced to form the most unfavorable prognosis. In the two cases just related, nothing could be more evident than the rapid change from approaching dissolution to convalescence, and which could only be ascribed to the administration of the tobacco; for at the time of its being employed, both cases had assumed the very worst appearance, and scarcely an hour had elapsed when the spasmodic pain, borborygmus (and in a great measure the meteorismus), had entirely ceased; and in Case I, the horizontal position was only then, for the first time, supportable.

In both cases a diffuse diaphoresis succeeded, with considerable discharge both of feces and urine; in both the vomiting was increased, but soon ceased on the administration of small and repeated doses of morphia; there was also irregularity in the contractions of the heart, which did not continue for more than two or three hours; the feeling of prostration was not so great as I expected from the effects of the injection, but I ascribe this to the mitigation of pain in comparison with former sufferings. From the medicinal action of tobacco on the economy, I consider it a powerful weapon in the hands of the practitioner in all cases where the object is to remove or diminish excessive spasmodic pain or constriction, in lowering the heart's action, in promoting the function of the skin, in removing or diminishing the constriction that exists in intus-susceptio, and in obstinate constipation. Whilst a pupil at the Hotel-Dieu, I have seen it used as an enema in cases of asphyxia, &c., combined with potassio-tartrate of antimony. The form which I used was two drachms of the leaf infused in a pint of boiling water.

HYDATIDS OF THE UTERUS.

The subject of this case was fifty-two years of age, the mother of a large family, and who, with one exception, had gone the usual period in her pregnancies, never having exhibited the slightest indications of uterine disease.

In consequence of severe gastro-hepatic disturbance, she came under medical treatment in the middle of the month of August, 1840, when it was ascertained that the catamenia had not appeared in their accustomed manner six weeks before, but up to that time the menstrual returns had been healthy in every respect. The impression, therefore, notwithstanding her age, was that pregnancy had again taken place, an opinion in which she perfectly coincided. To allay the gastric irritation, the usual remedies were employed, but without avail; and after some weeks my patient began to manifest serious indications of impaired strength. Upon examination, at the end of the third

month, the uterus was found above the pubis; the breasts enlarged and sensitive, and a slight sanguineous discharge from the vagina was occasionally observed. The vomiting, however, continued with unabated severity. About the close of the fourth month, the uterus had ascended higher than usual, but not to such an extent as to excite either uneasiness or astonishment in her mind, as she considered herself not much, if at all, larger than on some former occasions. About a week after this visit, a sudden discharge, resembling the liquor amnii, and followed by uterine pains, took place, but subsided on the exhibition of an opiate. At the end of five or six days I received a hasty summons to attend her, and on my arrival found her in such a state of prostration from hæmorrhage that I little expected the enfeebled powers of the system would have survived. The uterus at this time was higher than the umbilicus, and upon making an examination, I found its mouth dilated, and a yielding body presenting. Stimulants, cold applications to the vagina and surrounding parts, with pressure to the abdomen, constituted the treatment at the moment. Large and repeated doses of the ergot immediately followed, which produced a powerful action, and enabled the uterus to expel a quantity of hydatids sufficient to fill a washhand basin. As the stomach still rejected stimulants in any form, small quantities of beef tea with laudanum were given from time to time, and after a vigilant perseverance of some hours, I had the satisfaction of seeing my patient free from impending dissolution. That the powerful action of the uterus was, in this case, the preservation of life, there cannot be a doubt, and it affords a striking example of the immense value of the ergot in arresting hæmorrhage from that viscus. Two years have now elapsed without any return, neither have the catamenia reappeared.

As the parturient symptoms, if I may so call them, clearly pointed out the only treatment which could be employed, I claim not, in the slightest degree, the adoption of any new practice; nevertheless, the record of cases is valuable, particularly when their pathological characters are involved in obscurity. That the primary symptoms of hydatids are sometimes strikingly analogous to those of pregnancy is, I believe, generally admitted, and they may, even by an old practitioner in midwifery, be mistaken for it. How far hydatids have their origin in a blighted ovum, or the retention of a portion of placenta, is still to be proved. That the retention of diseased structure may occasionally appear to favor such a theory, I can conceive, having met with a case in which half a dozen racemoid (?) looking bodies were expelled from the uterus of an unmarried lady from whom a large fibrous tumor had about six weeks before been thrown off by sloughing, but how the organisation of myriads of distinct and secreting bodies, connected by slender pedicles, and diminishing in size as they recede from the centre of circulation, is brought about, I cannot, in my ignorance, understand upon such principles.

May we, therefore, not look to the descent of Graafian vesicles, united by their membranous tissues, and receiving nutrient vessels from the uterine surface predisposed for their reception, as affording a more philosophical way of accounting for their development?