There naturally arose, from the foregoing details, two topics of inquiry—viz., first, whether the symptoms which have been described were occasioned by poison, and secondly, assuming poison to have been administered, what was it? These two questions were pretty fully discussed, and the members appeared to be unanimously of opinion that the symptoms were attributable to poison, and that arsenic most probably was the deleterious agent which had been administered.

Mr. H. Jackson afterwards exhibited a singular gorget, which was invented some years ago by a very eccentric surgeon, who declared that by the use of this instrument the operation of lithotomy would be rendered "*safe, easy, and agreeable.*" It is not needful to describe the instrument, as it was never used even by the inventor. Mr. Jackson contrasted with it the ingenious gorget which was invented and always used by the late Mr. Stainforth, of Sheffield.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE INFIRMARY.

PLEURISY WITH EFFUSION—DEATH—ABSENCE OF A KIDNEY.

(Reported by Mr. Taylor, House-Surgeon.)

Samuel Hamilton, aged twenty-four, employed at an alkali manufactory, was admitted a patient of this infirmary, under Dr. Cargill, on April 14, 1842. His complexion was dark, the face pale and anxious; he was emaciated, and had been ill and unable to work for six weeks; his principal complaint was of dyspnoea; had some pain of right side for a short period, but not acute; his intellect appears confused, and he is not able to give decided answers to questions, so that a satisfactory account of his previous symptoms cannot be obtained. He has a troublesome cough, with viscid mucous expectoration; urgent dyspnoea, which has been gradually increasing; face covered with copious perspiration; pulse 120, very small, and weak; great thirst, tongue dry; bowels costive; sense of weight in right chest, but no pain; can only lie with his body inclined to the right side; respiration very quick and laborious.

Physical Signs.—The right side of the chest measures one inch and a quarter more than the left; intercostal spaces nearly obliterated; liver rests below the level of false ribs; universal dullness on percussion, except in the infraclavicular region, where it is less so; no respiration audible anteriorly, except between third rib and clavicle, where it is very feeble and indistinct; posteriorly, bronchial respiration and bronchophony at the root of the lung; no vesicular murmur. Left side of chest: respiration in superior lobe normal; in lower lobe, accompanied by loud murmurs and sonorous râles. Ordered to be bled to sixteen ounces, and to have

Calomel, two grains;

Opium, one-eighth of a grain, every third hour.

15. No relief; profuse perspiration; panting respiration.

Calomel, three grains;

Compound kino powder, four grains; to be taken every second hour. To have some strong mercurial ointment rubbed in along the thighs every fourth hour.

Paracentesis thoracis to be performed, which was done at three o'clock in the afternoon, and three half-

pints of clear straw-colored fluid drawn off; on standing a few minutes, the fluid formed into a jelly, and was proved by the usual tests to be highly albuminous. In the evening he was something easier; respiration not so laborious or frequent; pulse improved.

16. Has been able to lie a little on the left side; pulse 120, fuller; respiration thirty-six in the minute; sputa viscid and streaked with blood; sub-crepitant râle and bronchial respiration in upper part of left lung; right side of chest remains dull on percussion, and no return of respiration; great thirst; tongue very dry; heat of skin. A large blister to the right side of the chest; bleeding to twelve ounces.

Tartar emetic, one-eighth of a grain;

Water, half an ounce. To be taken every third hour.

Continue pills and mercurial ointment.

17. Is much the same but rather weaker. To have fifty drops of tincture of opium at night. Continue other remedies.

18. No better; slept worse last night.

19. Breathes easier; cough less troublesome; pulse 108, very soft and flowing; tongue much furred; gums a little swollen; can lie better on right side; percussion clearer over sternum; no respiration audible on right side; mucous râle continues in left lung. Calomel pills to be omitted.

Continue mercurial ointment and tartar emetic draught. An opiate mixture at night.

21. Respiration continues somewhat easier, is 26 in the minute; pulse 90, and very irregular; gums more swollen and tender; perspiration still profuse.

Sesquicarbonate of ammonia, ten grains;

Water, an ounce; to be taken every third hour. To have two glasses of wine daily.

Continue the ointment.

22. Is becoming weaker; pulse continues very weak and irregular; no relief of symptoms.

23. Died at half-past seven in the evening.

A post-mortem examination was made the next morning at eleven o'clock. The body was not much wasted; no anasarca; the right pleural cavity contained one gallon and a half of clear greenish yellow fluid, which, on standing, was converted into a pretty firm jelly; the whole of the costal pleura was lined with a layer of rather firm, pale, coagulated lymph, which was deposited in greatest quantity near the sternum and pericardium; the lung was compressed into very small bulk, and lay close to the spinal column, and hidden by the pericardium; there was no lymph on its pleura, and no disease in its substance; the left pleura was quite healthy; no adhesions; the lung firmer than usual, of a dark color, crepitant, and contained some serum; the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes much injected, and coated with reddish mucus; the large tubes contained a quantity of grey viscid mucus; the pericardium contained about one ounce of serum; the heart healthy, no blood in its cavities; the right auricle and ventricle filled with yellow coagula; the spleen very dark, and softening had taken place in its centre; the right kidney very large and lobulated; no kidney existed on the left side.

Before opening the chest a trocar was pushed into it to draw off the fluid, but none flowed, although it was tried in several places, both before and after opening the chest.