reducing the system; thereby relaxing the muscles, and with the hope of diminishing the severity of the consecutive inflammation. In this case, the subsequent inflammation was much less severe, and more easily controlled than that of William Joyner, which is attributed to the previous and more graduated reduction of the tone of the system, and justifies the course adopted and its desirableness in such cases.

It is hoped the success which has attended this attempt to reduce luxations of long-standing, will induce the profession to make similar efforts and not abandon patients (generally of the lower orders) to a life of decrepitude and dependence.

POISONING FROM LUCIFER MATCHES.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Cases of poisoning by lucifer matches being exceedingly rare, perhaps the following may prove interesting to the readers of your Journal.

On November 30, Mr. Young, house-surgeon to the Leicester Dispensary, requested me to assist him in examining the body of a little girl, aged six months, who five days previously had sucked the end of several lucifer matches, commonly called "Albert and Victoria." The following are the symptoms as given me by Mr. Denton, the medical attendant, and the parents.

About eight hours after sucking the matches, violent sickness came on, which continued during a night and day; the matter ejected being luminous and, as well as the breath, emitting a strong phosphorescent odor. After the cessation of the sickness, the child lay in a drowsy, stupid, and comatose condition, till within a few hours of its death, when it was seized with convulsions, and died in one of the paroxysms. The bowels, during the whole time, were sluggish, requiring frequent exhibition of enemata to cause evacuations.

Post-Mortem Appearances Twelve Hours after Death.

On opening the abdomen, the peritoneum presented nothing abnormal. Near the pyloric orifice of the stomach a large injected patch was seen, the mucous membrane being thickened and softened. The duodenum and jejunum were quite in a healthy state; along the whole course of the ilium several oblong patches, from half an inch to three inches in length, attracted notice, the mucous membrane being thickened, softened, and in many places ulcerated; the colon and rectum were healthy; the liver was larger, paler, and more indurated than natural; the lungs and pleura were healthy; the pericardium contained from half to one ounce of fluid; neither the brain nor œsophagus were examined.

Your obedient servant,

R. A. LAFARGUE, M.R.C.S.L.

Leicester, Dec. 16, 1842.

ON STAPHYLOGRAPHY IN CASES OF CLEFT PALATE.

By M. Roux, Paris.

The velum palati, like the upper lip, may be affected by a species of congenital malformation, which consists in fissure or separation of the lateral portions,

along the median line. This division may be *simple*—that is, confined to the soft parts; or *complicated*—that is, extending more or less to the hard palate, or even comprising the alveolar processes of the superior maxillary bone and the upper lip. Artificial reunion of the velum palati has been chiefly applied to the congenital disease; but it is equally suited to accidental malformations arising from ulceration, wounds of the mouth, or certain operations for the extraction of polypi, foreign bodies in the pharynx, &c.

In some cases the disease is confined to simple bifurcation of the uvula; in others, which is less common, a part of the soft palate only is divided; in ordinary cases the fissure extends to the whole of the soft palate. M. Roux lately saw rather a rare example in the son of a German physician; the soft and hard palates were separated, but there was no hare-lip; the velum palati, however, was imperfectly united by a thin transparent membrane, evidently formed by the mucous membrane. Although the fissure always exists on the median line the two sides of the palate do not always present the same degree of thickness or breadth—a circumstance which may cause some trouble in fixing the needles properly. On the other hand the palate may be in various states which are more or less favorable for the success of the operation. It may be solid, thick, and capable of supporting the sutures well; or it may be thin, membranous, and semitransparent. The degree of separation varies much; sometimes it is produced by simple bifurcation of the posterior nasal spine; sometimes by complete separation of the two sides of the roof of the mouth. In the latter case the cavity of the mouth communicates freely with that of the nares and pharynx.

As to solutions of continuity arising from wounds, we can readily conceive that they must be extremely irregular and of various forms, according to the causes which have produced them. The same remark applies to deformities from syphilis or scrofulous ulcerations, and the latter are much more frequent than has hitherto been supposed, their ravages being erroneously attributed to secondary syphilis.

Having thus briefly noticed the anatomical varieties of cleft palate, it may be well to enumerate, as briefly as possible, the inconveniences which arise from this deformity. In new-born children it gives rise to great difficulty, or even impossibility, of drawing the breast, according to the extent of the fissure. When the velum palati alone is cleft the child may be able to suck; but even then, whenever he is placed in a horizontal position, deglutition becomes extremely difficult; some assistance, however, may be rendered by placing the infant erect, and by pressing the bosom. When the hard palate and lip are divided the child is incapable of sucking, and must be supported by artificial means. As the individual advances in life much inconvenience may arise from a difficulty of pronouncing words intelligibly, and the voice is always nasal and disagreeable; certain guttural sounds can never be produced. The English physician on whom M. Roux performed his first operation pronounced the *th* like *s*, and spoke more distinctly in French than in English. "Verba naribus egredientia videbantur." Amongst minor inconveniences may be reckoned the impossibility of blowing, of drinking in the horizontal