operation may be a positive evil, but the difficulty of determining in individual instances is great—so great that the most eminent surgeons have differed in their opinions.

The third and last division of cases, or what the author terms senile carcinoma, he believes are rarely the legitimate objects of operation. If the tumor is not disposed to ulcerate, and is not painful, its presence may not materially tend to shorten the duration of life. The author, however, is disposed to think that in some cases an operation may be permissible, if only with a view to avoid the intense suffering and loathsomeness of ulcerated cancer. In many cases there is no return after operation of the external affection, or, at all events, only small tuberos formations upon the skin, which do not ulcerate, or, if they do, the sores resulting are less offensive to the patient, of smaller extent, and more manageable by treatment.

The paper concludes by a mere glance at the following questions:—

1st, How far is cancer local in its origin?

2nd, At what period in the progress of cancer do neighbouring parts and the system become contaminated?

3rd, Are there really cases of the cancerous diathesis in which the disease appears contemporaneously in different and remote parts of the body?

4th, Do we possess any medicinal agents capable of obviating such a state of the system?

With respect to the three first of these queries, the author expresses a hope that the future researches of animal chemistry, with the aid of the microscope, may determine them; and as to the last, he believes he has seen, in a manner that scarcely permits him to doubt, the progress of cancer retarded, and even suspended for years, by the use of the taraxacum. A few remarks follow upon the preparation of this remedy. The author is desirous of an extensive trial being made of it, and recommends an extract prepared by Gifford, 104, Strand, or a decoction of the fresh root. The extractum taraxaci, as usually prepared, is quite worthless. Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, has informed the author that the roots taken in the early spring are inert, and that they should be collected in autumn.

Mr. Dicken, of Middleton, related a case where a bell-shaped button was extracted from the right bronchus, through an opening made into the larynx, of which the following is a summary:—

A boy, eight and a half years old, on the 23rd of July, 1832, found a cast iron bell-shaped button, which he placed in his mouth, and, during the act of leaping from the main road to the parapet, the body passed into the trachea; immediate and evident temporary suffocation ensued, which recurred at intervals.

Mr. Dicken resorted to various methods for relieving the patient, without effect; and at length he determined upon opening the trachea, having in the mean time had a pair of forceps of peculiar description constructed. He found that the first few times the forceps were introduced through the wound made into the trachea, the convulsive efforts of coughing were immediately brought on, but after a while they entirely subsided; and he was enabled, successfully, to extract the button, after it had been lodged in the right bronchus thirteen days.

Some inflammatory symptoms arose after the operation, which, however, readily yielded to treatment, and the boy ultimately perfectly recovered.

The members afterwards dined together, and the usual toasts connected with the Association and the profession generally were proposed, when one of the most interesting meetings the society has held since its formation, terminated.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In the notice of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Branch, contained in the last number of your Journal, the name of Mr. Truman is not mentioned among those of the contributors of papers. As the omission, if unnoticed, might appear intentional, and as it may have arisen from the hurried manner in which I was compelled to prepare the report for your Journal, I trust you will excuse me stating that Mr. Truman, of this city, read an interesting paper on the weight of the heart on that occasion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. HUSBAND,

Secretary to the Yorkshire Branch.

York, July 12, 1843.

MINUTE DIRECTIONS FOR THE USE OF DR. MARTIN LYNCH'S VAPOR BATH,

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE STOOL, RENDERING IT MORE PORTABLE.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—When I sent you my paper on vapor baths, published in your Journal on the 1st of July, I expected that the cheapness and efficiency of the apparatus contrived by me would, after some time, obtain for it the approbation of our profession; but I did not calculate on the arrival of numerous orders for it from distant parts of England and Ireland within a few days; this rapid demand makes me desirous of supplying some additional information regarding it; a portion of this information was omitted in my former communication, written when I labored under severe illness; the remainder is the result of several experiments subsequently performed.

Spirits of wine will be used to feed the lamp, when the person taking the bath can afford to disregard an increase in the expense to the amount on each occasion of threepence at the utmost; but the working class, and many of the middle classes, being compelled to observe the strictest economy, must employ naphtha for fuel; hence, a few directions for avoiding the disagreeable smell of that substance must be useful.

The lamp should not be charged with naphtha until the boiler is filled with hot water, and the stool and chair placed in their proper position, and, when it is charged, it should be lighted *immediately*, and the

bottle of naphtha *instantly* corked. The lamp, when lighted, should, of course, be placed beneath the boiler. Were the lamp permitted to remain unlighted, the naphtha would escape by evaporation. The lighting of the lamp prevents the evaporation, by *consuming* the naphtha in combustion.

The best wick is that made by rolling up the cylindrical wicks of the oxidator library-lamp. I have tried one made of the common thread-wick, but, when it is made so as to *fit* the aperture of the lamp closely, the flame is unnecessarily strong, and, when it is made to fit loosely, it falls into the cavity of the lamp. The unnecessary degree of flame does not give rise to any accidents; the boiler, stand, and lamp, all sustain it without injury, but there is a considerable waste of fuel. The excess of flame would cause the water to boil too violently in any other form of apparatus, but *not in mine*; the current of cool air passing from the feeding hole over the surface of the water prevents this. When the hot water is put into the boiler, and the lamp placed beneath, the cover should be screwed on the feeding hole, and not removed until the apparatus is ready for use, which will be in less than five minutes, but the time varies a little according to the temperature of the water when it is poured into the boiler. When the patient is seated, and the cloak adjusted, the cover is removed from the feeding hole, when the vapor, combined with hot air, issues forth freely. The object of this precaution is to prevent the escape of steam into the room—to bring the apparatus to full work without any diffusion of vapor through the apartment. The patient will know when to undress by feeling the three feet conducting tube (along which the heat steadily progresses during the five minutes), and should take his seat immediately after the issue of steam in very small quantity from the conducting tube.

When the lamp is extinguished, the wick should be laid on a plate, and the plate should be placed on one of the shelves to be found on each side of most grates, so that the naphtha in the wick may be carried up the chimney-flue. The naphtha left in the lamp (if any) should be without delay returned into the bottle.

The precautions regarding naphtha will prevent any escape that would prove injurious or disagreeable.

Since the publication of my former communication, I have contrived an improvement in the stool and hoop, so that they may be conveniently carried in travelling.

The stool should be twenty-four inches wide, by forty-four inches long, and, for travelling, should be equally divided into two parts, in its longest direction. Each part is a foot wide, and forty-four inches long. It is made of thwart-pieces of deal board, a foot wide, laid across two strong pieces of oak or beech, three inches wide, forty-four inches long, and two inches thick. Four legs of oak or beech are fitted into each division of the stool, sockets being cut in the oak or beech for them. The two divisions of the stool are joined together like dining-tables.

In order to pack the stool for travelling, draw out the legs from the sockets (nearly two inches deep), and place the inferior surfaces of the two divisions of the stool in apposition with each other. The pieces of oak lie together, surface upon surface, but between

those portions of the deal which are not nailed upon the beech or oak a space or box is included. This box is six inches wide, forty inches long, and four inches deep (from deal to deal). In it can be packed the legs and the iron rods, which I shall presently describe.

Four light iron rods are made so as to screw together, and form an oblong figure, twenty-eight inches wide, and thirty-six inches long. They do not screw together at the angles, which are rounded off, to prevent holes being worn in the cloak. To the side rods (thirty-six inches long) rings are fitted, about four or five inches from the posterior end, in order to tie them by tapes to the side of the chair, and thus maintain the posterior rod at the distance of four inches from the back of the chair, whilst the anterior will lie as far forward as the knees, but above them. The rods have flannel covers.

I omitted to observe above, that the damping of the wick, before lighting the lamp, should be effected by pouring a little naphtha or spirit into a small cup, and placing it on the grate-shelf, or pouring the surplus back into the bottle after the wick has been damped.

In conclusion, allow me to observe that, although patents are every day taken out for contrivances of infinitely less utility, I do not mean to take one, nor have I any pecuniary interest whatsoever in the sale of the apparatus. I have mentioned the names of Morris and Osborn, because they are first class tradesmen in their line, and because they promised me to produce the apparatus of the best workmanship, and at the lowest possible price. I have every reason to believe that they will do so; but, should I be disappointed, I shall do everything in my power to throw the sale into the hands of others, and, I have no doubt, will be assisted in this by the members of the medical profession.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

MARTIN H. LYNCH.

7, Delahay-street, July 18, 1843.

P.S.—The patient should not place his foot near the orifice of the conveying tube. The orifice should not come quite so far forwards as the centre of the space included between the legs of the chair.

I take this opportunity of correcting a few errata in my former paper. At page 274, col. 1, line 14, for “charges,” read *charge*; line 52, for “pulling,” read *putting*; col. 2, line 13, for “threel,” read *three*.

NAPHTHALINE.

M. Dupasquier, of Lyons, recommends the administration of naphthaline in cases of asthma and chronic bronchitis accompanied by great want of power; he directs it to be given in form of syrup or electuary. Fifteen grains of naphthaline, suspended by means of a little boiling alcohol, in four ounces of syrup, is the formula for the first; the second consists of naphthaline mixed up with any appropriate conserve in the proportion of eight grains of the former to half a drachm of the latter, a tablespoonful of which is directed to be given four times in every hour.—*Gaz. des Hôpitaux*.