She was still improving on the 7th. The gums were rather tender, and red at the margins; she complained only of slight pain in the head. The ointment was used every night, and the pills taken every six hours; and a mutton chop was ordered, and chalk mixture should the bowels become relaxed. The gums becoming more tender, the ointment was omitted on the 10th, and the pills were taken every night only. She was then very much improved; the pulse was 100, soft, but feeble; the appetite returning; the bowels regular; the skin cooler; and the tongue moist and clean; slept well; but had a frequent hysterical laugh.

On the 14th two grains of camphor, and three of extract of hyosciamus, were ordered every night, and the other medicines omitted; and, with occasional hysterical symptoms, she continued improving until the 23rd, when pain appeared in the right ear, with deafness and otorrhœa. Three leeches were applied behind the ear, and a poultice. These symptoms subsided in a few days; her health and strength gradually improved; and, continuing hysterical at times, she was well enough to leave the hospital on January 31, having been about the ward for a week or two.

THE COLD WATER CURE.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—It is very generally reported that a wonderful cure, by the cold-water system, has been lately effected by Mr. Rotch, of Harrow, ex-chairman of the county of Middlesex.

The particulars of the case, as I have heard of them, are as follows:—The patient, an old lady, between seventy and eighty, Mr. Rotch's own mother, residing in London, became affected with the low nervous fever, of a typhoid character, that has of late prevailed a good deal. She was placed under the care of Dr. Roe, of Hanover-square, and Mr. Wakefield, both personal friends of Mr. Rotch. The disease was progressing uncontrolled by the remedies prescribed. Dr. Mestallier, the medical superintendent of the Bath hydropathic establishment, another of Mr. Rotch's friends, was sent for to see the patient. That gentleman paid a hurried visit to the metropolis, and, on examining the patient, advised immediate recourse to the wet sheets, &c. As the regular medical attendants had not then despaired of making a cure, Mestallier's suggestions were not attended to, but several days after, when, in the opinion of Dr. Roe and Mr. Wakefield, the case was hopeless—when, in fact, they pronounced the old lady *in extremis*—Mr. Rotch had the moral courage to apply the cold water treatment, remarking to the physician that it would do no harm, as of the recovery of the patient there was no hope. The process then pursued was this: A sheet was soaked in cold water, and the patient, quite naked, was wrapt up in it, the face only uncovered; over that covering were then placed several *couches* of dry blankets, rolling up the patient something like a mummy. Thus encased, she remained on the bed, getting a plentiful supply of cold water to drink. Perspirations soon began to come on, and in the course of an hour it was profuse.

From that instant the patient began to rally, and after several repetitions of the same treatment at due intervals, the recovery became perfect, and the old lady is now as well as she has been for many years.

I report this case to you, and I, by your will, publish it, in the hope that Dr. Roe or Mr. Wakefield, or both of them, will lay all the particulars before the profession, and say whether they really did or not pronounce the case hopeless, and the patient *in extremis*. Their names are now very freely mentioned, and, should they remain silent after the publication of this, the report of this singular cure now so industriously circulated will be entitled to credit.

To authenticate this communication, I send you my card, and have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

August 7, 1843.

M.D.

*** Deeming it most desirable that the hydropathists should not even enjoy the advantage which the publication of "M.D.'s" letter might possibly have afforded them during the few days that it would have remained unanswered, we delayed its insertion until the reply of the gentlemen whose names are mentioned therein could be published conjointly with it.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,—Called upon as we are by your correspondent to say whether the lady alluded to in his letter was cured by cold water after we had given her over, we feel bound to say that we never did give her over—we never considered her *in extremis*,—nor should we have entertained the *smallest* apprehensions of a *fatal* result, were it not that causes which have little or no effect upon young persons, often extinguish the feeble flame of life in those who have attained the advanced age of seventy-eight.

We have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

HAMILTON ROE.

HENRY WAKEFIELD.

ASPHYXIA THREATENED BY A NASAL POLYPUS.

A girl, aged thirteen, was seized suddenly, after a slight fit of coughing, in the midst of the most perfect health, with extreme dyspnoea, threatening suffocation, and at the same time lost all power of swallowing and of utterance. Medical assistance being called, a fleshy mass, in shape and size like a large flattened pear, was found filling the mouth, which it prevented from being closed, and at the same time produced all the other symptoms. On a more minute examination, the mass was found to be a nasal polypus, growing by a pedicle from the septum narium, immediately above the uvula. It had grown downwards into the pharynx, and, so long as it remained there, had been productive of little annoyance; but, being expelled from this situation by the fit of coughing, it was forced into the mouth, and at once brought the patient's life into jeopardy. A noose of silk being passed round the pedicle from the nostril, was tied, and the mass removed, level with the velum palatæ. The patient experienced immediate relief, and the part included in the ligature having fallen in due season, she recovered completely.—*Kirrisch. in Oester. Med. Wochensh.*