the smell is at first unpleasant, it is inhaled without difficulty or repugnance.

The second is a substance which I have more recently discovered, and if my anticipations be well founded, it will be found to be the best agent yet mentioned, and will, I think, supersede those now employed.

I believe it to be possessed of all the good properties of chloroform, and in a great degree free from those which are objectionable. It is equally pleasant, potent, and speedy in its action. The anæsthesia produced by it may be rendered as profound and as prolonged as may be wished. While a smaller quantity of it than of chloroform, will produce a sufficient degree of insensibility, a larger quantity may be given with impunity. The state of collapse is not so great. The animal may be recovered from a more dead-like condition than where this is induced by chloroform; at the same time the process of recovery is more rapid, and it is unattended by any of those distressing symptoms so often witnessed in animals rallying from a large dose of chloroform.

The substance is the *chloride of olefant gas*, as named in "Fownes' Manual;" the hydrochlorate of *chloride of acetylene*, or *oil of olefant gas*, in the eighth edition of "Turner's Chemistry;" and formerly called *Dutch oil*, or *oil of the Dutch chemists*.

In appearance and smell it is not very dissimilar from chloroform, but in composition it differs most materially. Chloroform being composed of *two* atoms of carbon, *one* of hydrogen, and *three* of chlorine, with a boiling point of 140° , the specific gravity of the liquid being 1.480° , of the vapour 4.2° ; while the chloride of olefant gas is composed of *four* atoms of carbon, *four* of hydrogen, and *one* of chlorine; its boiling point is 180° , the specific gravity of the liquid 1.247° ; of the vapour 3.4484° ; constituting differences which are very important, and sufficient, I believe, to explain the facts of its superiority.

I need not here detail any of the experiments upon which this statement is founded, nor the reasons which induced me to make trial of this and many other substances, as they are mentioned at length in the paper to which I have alluded, and which will shortly be in the hands of the members of the Association, my object now being simply to mention the fact.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS NUNNELEY.

Leeds, Feb. 12, 1849.

CASES FROM PRIVATE PRACTICE.*

By JOHN RICHARD WARDELL, M.D., Edin.

Late President of the Royal Physical and Hunterian Medical Societies, Assistant Pathologist in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, &c. &c.

CASE X.

SCORBUTUS.

T. H., aged 47, a broom-manufacturer, looks pale and emaciated, volume of flesh much reduced, muscles feel flabby and resistless.

January 8, 1847. States that for some years he has laboured under considerable indigestion, which has been accompanied with some pain in the epigastrium and hypochondria; has consulted several physicians, but without any benefit; during the last two years his diet has almost entirely consisted of stale wheaten bread and tea; says that he cannot digest animal food, and in the period mentioned has never taken any, with perhaps the exception of occasionally eating a very small quantity of mutton; for years has not been able to eat a full meal; a sense of fulness and distension has long been experienced after eating; pains in the head, chiefly near the frontal region, invariably follow taking food. Six months ago the gums, without any assignable cause, gradually became tender, and vascular-looking, this symptom by degrees increasing in intensity until the present time, when they are red and spongy-looking, and constantly bleed; soft food can now only be taken on account of the affection. On the anterior aspect of the right thigh, in September last, (four months ago,) a number of small ecchymosed-looking petechiæ were just observed, varying from the size of a flea-bite to that of a No. IV. shot; these came gradually, disappeared, and were succeeded by others of a like character. The left thigh in the course of a few weeks after assumed the same condition. On the internal aspect of each thigh, a little above the knee, and corresponding with the lower half of the femur, two dark, large, livid patches made their appearance in October last; their colour was of an inky blue, and they seemed as if they had been produced from a violent blow from some even-surfaced body; they have to this date maintained the same characteristics; the one on the left thigh measures about six inches by four; the one on the right is somewhat smaller. The inferior extremities are now œdematous, and the knee cannot be flexed without the feeling of considerable tightness and pain; at the flexures of both, the skin feels tense and indurated; no discolouration; looks rather paler than natural; right knee swelled; bowels often relaxed, fæces being lighter coloured than normal; complains of no tenderness on pressure in hypochondria or epigastrium; says he often experiences some degree of pain over the umbilicus; skin feels dry and harsh; pulse soft, of tolerable volume, 74; tongue paler than natural, and covered with a dirtyish-white coat; lips blanched. Has taken no medicine for some months, with the exception of an occasional dose of the common aperient pills.

Ordered strong concentrated soups, and puddings of sago, rice, &c., (these to be varied as much as possible,) and vegetables. R. Quin. Sulph., gr. v.; Acid. Sulph. Dil., dr. iss.; Tinct. Card. Co., oz. ss.; Infus. Calumb., oz. viiss. Sit mist. cujus capt. oz. ss. ter die in aqua.

18th. Feels in all respects better; soups and puddings have not disagreed with him; gums not so tender, and less spongy, are more naturally contracted, and reported not to have bled so much; eruption less distinct, and the large ecchymosed patches assuming a yellowish tint. Ordered rabbit, fish, or fowl to be taken; also three ounces of port wine daily. Repet. mistura.

February 21st. Much improved in every respect;

* Continued from page 572 of last volume.

countenance more healthy; gums to appearance almost natural. Can take his prescribed diet without being affected with uneasy distension at the stomach. Livid patches fast disappearing, and petechia well nigh gone; less swelling and stiffness in the extremities; bowels moved in natural frequency, and stools improved. Contin. *mistura tonica et vinum rubrum*.

March 29th. Can now eat mutton to satiety, without suffering from pain in the stomach as previously. Takes bottled porter every day to his dinner. Is enabled to go out every day, and walks much better. R. Tinct. Ferri Sesquichlor., dr. j.; Aquæ, oz. vj.; Tinct. Hyosc., dr. ij. Sit mist.; capt. oz. j. ter die.

April 20th. Well, and pursues his occupation.*

(To be continued.)

Hospital Reports.

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

CLINICAL REPORTS OF SURGICAL CASES UNDER THE TREATMENT OF PROFESSOR SANDS COX, F.R.S., SENIOR SURGEON, TO THE HOSPITAL.

Reported by PETER HINCKES BIRD, late Resident Medical Officer.

CASE XIV.

ENCEPHALOID TUMOUR ON THE HAND.

Robert Anston, aged 69, labourer, admitted as in-patient on the 26th of October, 1846, under the care of Professor Cox. He states that, twenty-one years ago, he received a pinch on the little finger of the right hand; it mortified, and was consequently amputated at the metacarpo-phalangeal articulation. It healed slowly, and got quite well. He further states that about three years ago he perceived a smooth circumscribed tumour, referred to the integuments, covering the middle of the fifth metacarpal bone of the right hand; it gradually increased in size until the present time, becoming lobulated, and attended with severe lancinating pain, which was worse at night. About four months ago it ulcerated, and discharged a thin matter. Both his parents are said to have died consumptive. He states that he has always been a hearty man. Can assign no cause for the appearance of the disease.

Present state.—There is a large ulcerated tumour, about the size of an orange, covering the integuments of the fourth and fifth metacarpal bones; the edges of it are elevated, being on the palm of the hand, about an inch and a half high, with two shallow ulcerations on it; the edges are also indurated and irregular;

* Some weeks subsequent to the last report the patient informed me that during a recent journey which he had taken, he was unavoidably exposed to a heavy rain for some hours, until he was thoroughly drenched—indeed he had not been so wet for fifteen years before, yet he did not take any cold, felt no stiffness, nor was in any respect subsequently affected, shewing that his health was decidedly re-established.

complains of much sharp, jumping, lancinating pain, which is worse at night; the pain does not extend up the arm; there is no swelling of the axillary glands; countenance sallow and dejected; feels low, but appetite is good; tongue clean; bowels open; sleeps pretty well at night; would sleep very well were it not for the pain in the hand. R. Liq. Opi Sed., m. xl.; Aquæ Ment. Pip., oz. j. Fiat haustus omni nocte.

November 4th. The disease has certainly increased since last report; he cannot bend the ring finger so well; sleeps better after the draught. Cont. haustus.

9th. There is considerable discharge from the ulceration, of an offensive odour; the pain is more severe, but is confined to the spot.

13th. The mass of disease, with the ring finger and remains of the little finger, were removed this morning by Mr. Cox. An incision was made on the palm of the hand, from the ulnar side of the wrist to the interval between the middle and ring fingers, and a similar incision was made on the back of the hand, thus including the whole of the diseased mass; the knife was then carried between the third and fourth metacarpal bones, and the fourth and fifth metacarpal bones were sawn through just above their articulation with the carpus. He bore the operation well. Pulse 90, feeble. One artery required ligature. The edges of the wound were brought together as close as possible, and a fold of damp lint applied.

The fungoid mass entirely surrounded the fifth metacarpal bone, and partly the fourth, and when cut into, it was found to be composed of a soft brain-like substance, intersected by fibrous bands, and was closely adherent to the integuments above and to the periosteum below, none of it being visible below the last-mentioned structure. A portion submitted to microscopic examination was found to contain numerous caudate nucleated cells.

14th. Slept but little last night; pulse quick; tongue furred.

15th. Feels better; slept indifferently last night; bowels open; does not complain of much pain; pulse 98; tongue furred; had rigors this afternoon; bowels confined; complains of thirst. Mist. Salin., oz. j., quartis horis. Extr. Col. Co., (Palmeri,*) gr. x., statim. Morph. Hydrochlor., gr. j., omni nocte.

17th. Slept well last night; bowels open; pulse 90; tongue cleaner; the wound looks sloughy, and discharges a very offensive matter.

19th. Had three rigors to-day; is in no pain; tongue dry and rather brown; bowels open; appetite bad; pulse 120, weak; slept pretty well last night after the morphia; the wound looks very unhealthy, and matter has formed near the head of the ulna. Continue the medicines. To have six ounces of wine; mutton-chop, &c.

20th. Much the same; slept pretty well last night; tongue covered with a brown fur; pulse 102, weak; does not complain of pain; the abscess over the head

* The extensive use of this preparation at this Hospital enables me to speak of it in the highest terms as a safe, agreeable, and sure purgative. It is prepared by Robinson, Palmer, and Palmer, of this town.