instantly rejected. Some solid opium was given, and retained, and in the evening there had been no return of vomiting. He was tolerably free from pain. The pulse was very irritable. He was ordered an opiate draught, and enjoined the strictest quiet.

On the 17th he was remarkably well; had had no return of vomiting; had had some good sleep; is free from pain; his pulse is soft, and less frequent; his tongue is clean; skin moist; has no thirst, and feels comfortable. He is of a quiet temperament, and had borne the operation with much fortitude. Rigid abstinence is to be continued; and he is to take the acetate of ammonia and sulphate of magnesia, till the bowels have been moved.

On the 18th he had passed a restless night, and the bowels have not been acted upon; he is, however, in no pain; his pulse is a *little* quickened; his tongue slightly furred; his skin moist. Ordered a mixture, with castor oil, which produced the desired effect, and in the evening he was much better. From this time my notes only speak of uninterrupted convalescence.

On the 23rd he was ordered some sulphate of quinine in infusion of roses, and on the 6th of August he resumed his employment. He took the carbonate of iron for some months, and has enjoyed, and still enjoys, good health.

Farnham, 1850.

CASE OF NECROSIS OF THE INFERIOR MAXILLARY BONE,

AS AN EFFECT OF MERCURIAL SALIVATION.

By J. WILLIAMS, Esq., F.R.C.S., Southwold.

WILLIAM MISSELBROOKE, aged 53, of Walberswick, of rheumatic temperament, by occupation a sailor; has enjoyed good health, with the exception of occasional attacks of fever, with pain in the larger joints from exposure to cold and hardships in his calling; he placed himself under my care September 24th, 1849, suffering from one of his ordinary attacks. Grey powder and compound ipecacuanha powder, of each two and a half grains, were ordered three times daily, and a mixture of acetate of ammonia, carbonate of magnesia, infusion of rhubarb, tincture of colchicum and opium, and camphor mixture, every six hours. The rheumatic pain and fever quickly subsided, and after twelve of the above pills had been taken they were discontinued on account of severe mercurial ptyalism suddenly supervening, accompanied with particular pain and swelling in the right half of the lower maxillary bone, which increased to such an extent as to be almost unbearable; the sympathetic fever, with delirium, was extreme, and the constitutional disturbance of a very alarming character. Leeches were frequently applied over the painful surface, saline mixture with opiates, administered internally, and the bowels well relieved by occasional aperients, but the swelling continued gradually

to increase, severe rigors took place, and fluctuation soon became evident. A free incision gave exit to about half an ounce of foetid pus, and a probe being introduced came in contact with bone denuded of its periosteum. The nature of the case before suspected was now evident; various collections of purulent matter took place in the neck, and were opened as early as detected. The pain and constitutional disturbance were so great that at times I hardly expected he could survive, until the process of separation took place. The strength was supported by bark, meat, and porter, and the pain somewhat relieved by opiates; a linseed meal and bread poultice was continually applied to the affected part, and on the 3rd of April, 1850, the necrosed portion of bone cut was found loose, and without much difficulty was removed from within the mouth. It was found to be a considerable portion of the right ramus of the inferior maxillary bone. The hæmorrhage was trifling, and almost instantaneous relief was afforded the poor man. No more formation of matter took place; the wounds quickly healed, and the patient soon regained health and strength, with the power of mastication; the only difference perceptible was a little more enlargement on the right side than on the left. About a week after the first portion of bone separated a small piece came away about the size and shape of the thumb nail, which was by accident mislaid. In the case just related I think there can be no doubt that the cause of the necrosis was severe mercurial ptyalism, induced by the grey powder, of which half a drachm was taken in four days, as neither uneasiness, pain, nor swelling, were felt before the action of the mercury became evident. The teeth were generally decayed, particularly those on the affected side, and during the progress of disease became quite loose, and were removed without difficulty with the fingers. I have seen many cases of mercurial salivation far more severe than the one related above, but never with such untoward results; it reminded me more of the effects produced by the vapour of phosphorus, so destructive in its influence, particularly where the teeth were decayed, several cases of which have within the last few months been published in some of the medical journals. It was likewise interesting to observe the immediate cessation of all constitutional disturbance as soon as the necrosed portion of bone was removed, and the very rapid recovery which followed after more than six months' constant pain and suffering. I am inclined to think that atmospheric causes have more to do with the uncertain action of mercury on particular individuals than constitutional idiosyncrasy, as we often find a remarkable susceptibility in persons to the action of the mineral at certain times of the year, and under particular states of the atmosphere, who at other times can take it with impunity.

Southwold, June 8, 1850.