a natural color and consistence, and the skin had changed its spots. With a view to combat the debility consequent on so severe an attack, I prescribed as follows:—

Infusion of hops, ten drachms;
Tincture of Calumba, two drachms;
Dilute hydrochloric acid and spirit of nitrous æther,
of each twenty drops. A draught thrice a-day.

The other medicines to be omitted.

I ought perhaps to notice that, from the first, I permitted my patient to have a glass or two of port wine, diluted, daily, together with a plentiful allowance of meat broth, and a moderate portion of salt; I also directed him to use rice as freely as he was able.

The value of the present case arises from its tendency to illustrate, if not to confirm, the truth of the doctrines promulgated not long since by Dr. Stevens,* concerning the strikingly altered condition of the blood in some diseases—for instance, in Asiatic cholera, certain fevers, purpura, &c., more especially with reference to its saline constituents as well as the expedients necessary for restoring it to a healthier state. I am of opinion that much advantage is derived from saline medicines taken at the commencement of effervescence, inasmuch as the somewhat intense chemical changes which they undergo, whilst in direct contact with the gastric surface, must create there very considerable electrical development (the inseparable companion of chemical action under all circumstances); and this becomes a gentle excitant, which is felt throughout the nervous system, and proves particularly salutary in those disorders, such as typhoid fever, &c., where the general vital energy has been much impaired.

MR. SWEETING'S CONTINUATION OF DR. OKE'S CASE OF PARACENTESIS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Many of your readers will, doubtless, recollect the interesting account published by Dr. Oke, of Southampton, of the case of Robert Gee, who had undergone the operation of paracentesis thoracis, for the evacuation of a fluid in the left cavity of the chest, the sequela of severe pleuritic inflammation.

The man, upon his discharge from the Southampton Hospital, removed to this his native village, where he has resided about two years. When I first saw him there was a small discharge from the wound, which at times healed, then gave way, allowing an exit to purulent matter, at which times could be distinctly heard the rush of air through the wound, as described by Dr. Oke, showing its communication with the lung. The poor fellow lingered in variable states till the 17th instant, when he died. He became at last very dropsical, and about a month before his death I evacuated four gallons of water from the abdomen. At this time serous fluid escaped from the wound in the chest, but soon after, and up to the close of his life, there was a copious discharge of purulent matter of the most offensive fœtor I ever encountered, except in a case of gangrene of the lungs; and through the last night of his life it poured out of his mouth and nostrils so abundantly as to lead to the supposition that a large abscess had formed in the lung.

* See Dr. Stevens' work on the Blood.

I had no opportunity of examining the body, the offensiveness of which, together with the heat of the weather, obliged his friends to bury it on the 19th.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. SWEETING.

Abbotsbury, September 19, 1843.

ON

SLOW POISONING WITH LEAD.

By Dr. SHIPMAN, of Cortlandville, N. Y.

On the night of the 8th of January, 1842, I was called to the village of M'Laen, Tompkins Co., to consult with Drs. Hall and Chapman, in relation to some cases of poisoning with lead in the family of Mr. Horace Baker.

The history of the cases, as given by the physicians and family, is as follows:—About six weeks previously some new cider was poured into a wash-tub which had been newly painted with white lead and linseed oil, inside and out, and the family, consisting of the man, his wife, three or four children, from the ages of six to two years, and a hired man, began drinking it. The cider was drunk at meals, the most of it by Baker and his hired man, and the least by Mrs. B. and children. The use of it was persevered in for nearly four weeks. The family remarked that after a few days the cider had a smart, pungent flavor, then became dead and flat, and after a few days more became more lively, but rather hard. The first effects were perceived in the children, particularly a small boy who had taken quite liberally of it, and began about two weeks after first commencing its use. His mother perceived that his gait was awkward, and that he frequently tumbled down in crossing the floor, and that he staggered and complained that it hurt him to walk, and that his feet pained him, especially the bottoms of them. Soon the other children complained in a similar manner; they also complained of feeling sick at the stomach; and cutaneous eruptions made their appearance on the legs, arms, and face, of a vesicular character.

The next taken was Baker, then his man, and next Mrs. Baker; as their symptoms were nearly alike, I shall describe them in common. The first symptom was slight nausea, which continued several days, with a load at the pit of the stomach; then a soreness and tenderness of the soles of the feet when first getting out of bed in the morning, so much so as to be unable to walk without first rubbing them, and then there were pains in the limbs, which they supposed were rheumatic; cutaneous eruptions also made their appearance. The soreness in the soles of the feet disappeared in the course of the day, after taking exercise and getting warm. The next symptom was severe colic pains in the bowels, which took place several days subsequent to the affection of the feet and legs, and from four to five weeks after first commencing the use of the cider. Being now satisfied that the cider caused the difficulty, its use was abandoned, and a physician called, who treated them with bleeding, cathartics, and anodynes. The symptoms were obstinate, and continued so with little abatement for four weeks. The bowels were obstinately constive;