and back; she does not now suffer from pain when she passes her water; the bowels have not been again relieved.

18. She has had relief from the bowels, and says she feels much better, and in good spirits; she continued gradually to improve after this, and is now quite well.

Although in the above case the symptoms were violent, and the patient's sufferings very great, I do not believe that many grains of the poison entered the stomach. She emptied the contents of one of the powders, which contained half a drachm of the bichloride of mercury, into her mouth; it acted powerfully upon the mucous membrane, wherever it came in contact with it, and produced ulceration within the lower lip, and underneath the tongue. The first quantity of the white of egg which I gave her, after remaining down a few minutes, was forcibly rejected. This was fortunate, for whatever poison had reached the stomach, and had become mixed with the food, must have been thrown up. The saliva flowed abundantly from the mouth, and the lips were swollen; this was not occasioned by salivation, but by the violent action of the poison locally upon the mucous membrane. The poison had a remarkable effect upon the pulse, which at one time was under 30 in the minute, and intermitted very much; she complained also of great drowsiness. Dr. Christison, in his work on Poisons, mentions this drowsiness and slowness of the pulse, but does not state that it ever intermits. The following passage commences the section upon the symptoms of poisoning with mercury:—"The effects of mercury on the animal body are more diversified than those of any other poison. It acts on a great number of important organs, and in consequence the phenomena of its action are proportionately various. It is not surprising, therefore, that some ambiguity still prevails as to its mode of action, and the circumstances by which it is regulated."

CASE

OF

SLOW POISONING BY ARSENIC.

By R. JONES, Esq., Strefford, near Shrewsbury.

Oct. 20, 1843.—Miss B., of spare habit and pale complexion, has been subject to an obstinate diarrhoea for the last six weeks, and has now the following symptoms:—Frequent griping pain in the bowels, with almost constant desire to act; considerable tenderness over the whole abdomen, which is distended; constant pain and nausea after taking food, and frequent vomiting of all ingesta; the skin cool and dry; intense thirst; tongue clean and red, resembling raw beef; the pulse is 100, small, and feeble; there is a sense of constriction of the throat, and a copious flow of saliva; she has some gastric cough, and frequent raking of the throat and fauces, of a muco-purulent secretion, mixed with specks of blood. There is much pain and tenderness down the spine, and frequent muscular tremors; a crampy feeling of the lower extremities, with partial loss of motion and sensation; they are much swollen, of a livid color in places, and showing a tendency to slough; there is great emaciation; she is unable to procure sleep,

owing in some measure to the frequent action of the bowels; the motions are white, watery, and frothy; urine scanty, high colored, and passed with an effort; catamenia absent. She informed me she has been subject to a chronic disease of the skin (psoriasis guttata) for the last four years, and that after having recourse to a great variety of means for its removal, including the local application of sulphur in all its forms, she consulted a physician at Hereford, who prescribed "the liquor arsenicalis." This at first gave her a month's respite, after which the complaint returned in an aggravated form; she again consulted the same physician, who advised her to resume the remedy in five drop doses, to be gradually increased to fifteen drops, three times a-day. On this occasion she took it for about a month, "sometimes taking rather more, sometimes less," until the above train of symptoms set in, without, however, any benefit to the disease.

The above is, undoubtedly, a case of slow poisoning by arsenic, but I treated it as an aggravated form of "gastro-enterite." She was directed to use a warm bath every other day, to take a farinaceous diet, with a little chicken or veal broth; to allay the thirst with linseed tea and barley-water; to keep in bed. A blister was applied over the region of the liver, and the abdomen, spine, and lower extremities, rubbed twice daily with camphorated oil and laudanum; mild mercurials were of service in restoring action to the liver, and opiates in allaying pain and irritation. All her worst symptoms have now left her, but there is still great prostration, and she has still a feeling of numbness in the lower extremities. She is taking at present liquor potassæ, and decoction of bark.

Strefford, Nov. 9, 1843.

SOME REMARKS

ON THE

PRODUCTION OF SULPHURETTED HYDROGEN GAS IN THE ALIMENTARY CANAL,

AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE SYSTEM.

By J. BOWER HARRISON, M.R.C.S.L., &c.,
Surgeon to the Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary.

[For the *Provincial Medical Journal*.]

We may almost pardon the zeal and exclusiveness with which that accomplished surgeon, Mr. Abernethy, regarded the disorders of the digestive organs, when we come to consider how many derangements originate in these parts. When we further reflect how many secondary conditions of disease proceed from imperfect digestion, and how greatly our remedial measures are directed to improve this function, we are still more impressed with the paramount importance of the subject. It must always be borne in mind that the stomach and bowels are the immediate recipients of our medicines, and that most of the changes we are desirous to produce can only be effected through the mediation of these parts. Disorders of the digestive organs have thus properly drawn the attention of several able inquirers, but it is still to be regretted that many different affections pass without sufficient discrimination under the common denomination of dyspepsia.

Of the food which is taken into the stomach, a certain portion is received as nourishment, and the