and she left apparently well, except feeling some pain in the cicatrix. Subsequently, however, it returned, became open cancer, and proved fatal.

The second was a fungoid tumor of the axilla, in a healthy-looking agricultural laborer, aged twenty-one. During the harvest of 1841 he was on a waggon of corn, which happened to be overturned; in the fall he struck his side below the axilla on the shaft of a fork. No other injury occurred at the time, beyond a slight bruise, without any abrasion of the skin, and in few days he resumed his employment. Some weeks after the accident the part became painful, and a small tumor showed itself; notwithstanding its gradual increase in size, he continued working until the end of harvest, and presented himself at the hospital in September, 1842. At that time the tumor was the size of a large turnip, and possessed in its appearance, history, and progress, all the characters of malignancy; under these circumstances, it was deemed advisable not to operate, and he was discharged. In the spring of 1843 ulceration took place, with a fungous protrusion, from the effects of which he died.

The third case was malignant disease of the uterus and upper part of the vagina, in an old woman of sixty. The pain was much relieved by preparations of cicuta. She left at her own request.

CASE
OF
STRANGULATED HERNIA OF THE
LEFT SIDE,
AND
PROTRUSION OF THE CÆCUM.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you consider the following case of hernia worthy of publication in the pages of your excellent Journal, I shall feel obliged by your inserting it.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
J. C. JERRARD.

Honiton, Nov. 18, 1843.

James Collier, aged *two* years, was discovered to have an inguinal rupture on the *left* side a few months after birth. The contents of the rupture have usually descended during the day, and receded spontaneously whilst in the horizontal posture at night. No inconvenience ever occurred to the child from the rupture till Tuesday, the 5th of September last, when it was observed by his mother to be larger than usual, and that he was in pain. She made repeated, but unsuccessful, attempts to reduce it from this time up to the following Friday, when I was sent for. On inquiry, I found he had passed a fecal evacuation on the Tuesday morning, but not since; that he had had repeated attacks of vomiting, and had appeared at times to be in great pain. The tumor, which descended to the bottom of the scrotum, was about the size of a large orange. I endeavored to reduce it by the taxis, but, from the incessant and violent straining of the child, occasioned by continued crying, which could not be

prevented either by promises or threats, every attempt proved futile. Considering the length of time which had elapsed since the strangulation commenced, I judged it the safer course to operate as quickly as possible, and, having obtained the consent of the parents, I returned home—a distance of three miles—for the necessary instruments. This gave me an opportunity of requesting the assistance of my friends, Mr. Devenish and Mr. Holland, who kindly and promptly visited the child with me at three o'clock in the afternoon. From the resistance which had been made by the child during my attempts to reduce by the taxis, it was very evident to these gentlemen, as well as myself, that much difficulty and embarrassment would be likely to ensue, particularly in the latter stages of the operation; our united opinion, nevertheless, was that it should be done forthwith.

Operation.

I did the operation in the usual way. The tumor having been freely laid open, and its contents exposed, it was found to consist of the cæcum, with the appendix vermiformis, and about six inches of the ileum. The stricture was divided upwards. I now proceeded to return the protruded bowels, and here, as had been anticipated, the greatest imaginable difficulty presented itself. The child, who was very strong and muscular, continued to scream and strive in the most determined manner, so that no force, which could with safety be applied, was adequate to the returning of any portion of the bowels; and I was obliged to support them with my fingers in the best manner I could for nearly an hour, when the child became exhausted, and ceased to scream and strive, at least with much violence, and I was enabled to reduce the hernia. The lips of the wound were secured by two stitches and two strips of adhesive plaster, and these supported by a bandage. A gentle dose of castor oil was given, and in the course of the evening a free passage through the bowels was procured. This was repeated daily for about ten days, when the wound was completely cicatrised. The hernia, up to this time, has never descended, the ring having been obliterated by the adhesive inflammation which followed the operation.

REMARKS.

Much of the difficulty which occurred in reducing the intestines might, in all probability, have been obviated had a *full* dose of opium been given two hours previous to the operation. It may be asked, why was this precaution omitted? The reason of the omission was, that when I was called to see the child I knew nothing of the nature of the case, consequently was unprovided with the medicine; and on returning, for the purpose of performing the operation, it was considered expedient that it should be done without any delay, as the strangulation had existed so long.

NEWLY-INVENTED ARCH-TOURNIQUET.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Permit me, through the medium of your excellent Journal, to introduce the above-named instrument to my professional brethren.

It is the same which was left for inspection at your

office on Thursday, the 16th instant. It consists of an arch, a pad, and screw. The flanks of the arch are perforated with holes for the action of the external screw, which is worked by a short handle, as in the common tourniquet.

The pad is of the ordinary size, flat on one side and convex on the other. Upon its flat surface there is a smooth cavity for the reception and working of the point of the screw.

Mode of application: Let the arch embrace the limb, so that one of the perforations of the flank may be exactly opposite the cavity on the flat side of the pad, previously applied over the trunk of the artery to be compressed. Then fit the external into the internal screw, and work it upon the pad till sufficient pressure be made to stop the circulation of the artery.

By this simple means any of the principal arterial trunks of the extremities may be compressed in the shortest possible time without strangulating the circumference of the limb and obscuring the operation with venous blood.

The arch is prevented from slipping by the pressure of the screw upon the pad.

The instrument which I left at your office is made of yew, in a very primitive manner, by a common mechanic of this town.

Mr. Weiss, in whose possession it now is, has promised to submit it to some of the London surgeons, and, should it be approved, to construct it in brass or steel. When it shall have been thus improved by his well known ingenuity, it will have a much neater and lighter appearance.

I have the honor to remain, Gentlemen,

Your very faithful servant,

W. J. OKE, M.D.

Southampton, Nov. 24, 1843.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1843.

That the poorer classes are subject to great misery through want of the ordinary physical conditions of existence, is well known, as a general truth, to everybody. But this, like many other generally received truths, has been vaguely comprehended, and unsuggestive of action. We know that, in a civilised community, there must be an unequal distribution of this world's good. We know that whilst some are contending for the chief places at the feast, others are scrambling for the crumbs that fall from their table, and many cannot even get these. But we know that this does not arise solely from outward circumstances or physical conditions. It is not alone the fire, nor the tempest, nor the unpropitious heavens, nor the sterile soil, nor the fluctuation of markets, nor the revolution of manufactures. Causes innate, and not to be dissociated from human nature, bear their part as well. Intemperance, imprudence, igno-

rance,—these are sources of misery which no legislature can sweep away. As long as these exist, the evil admits of no radical cure. Its worst features must be palliated; the most flagrant cases must be remedied; there must be a point in the descending scale at which Charity must step in and rescue the victims of cold and hunger. But He only could prevent the evil altogether who alike governs the world and rules the hearts of its inhabitants.

Admitting, then, as everybody does, that distress exists—that a certain number of the community require to be fed, and clothed, and housed, out of the superfluities of those above them, and knowing that a certain machinery exists for the administration of this relief—we are apt to suppose that the extent of the evil is ascertained, and that the remedial means are proportioned to meet it. But facts which daily come to light seem likely to convince us slowly that a more extensive and better organised system of almonry is required, if we wish to be certain that the poor shall not rot from disease, nor waste from starvation, under the very walls of our palaces.

The columns of the daily newspapers give evidence enough that the means of affording relief to the destitute are either insufficient in themselves or else insufficiently administered. How otherwise could we hear of a garret in Bermondsey containing an emaciated corpse covered with rotten feathers, but with abundant proof that fire, raiment, and every other necessary and decency of life had long been strangers to the miserable inmate? How otherwise can it be that girls, half putrescent with disease, are found nightly crouching in holes in the earth in Hyde Park? How otherwise could the villages of Dorsetshire have furnished Mr. Sheridan with his too lively pictures of wretched hovels with holes dug in the mud floors, to collect the rain that soaks through the roof and walls; of children perishing with disease, and able-bodied men pining from want of wholesome food?

But public attention seems at last to be aroused, and public shame is struggling to cast off this foul blot. Meetings are held, resolutions passed, and it now seems certain that something will be done. We must content ourselves at present with calling the attention of our brethren to this great national disgrace, urging them to come forwards, to reveal what they know of the wants of the destitute (for who can know them better?), and to vindicate for our profession the foremost place amongst the benefactors of our fellow-men.