with increase, sometimes the contrary, till about twelve months ago, when they became much aggravated.

Present Symptoms.—Severe pain along the penis, especially at the extremity of the glans; when passing urine, he introduces one of his fingers into the rectum, raises his pelvis, and throws the head backwards, which change of posture relieves him much; the stream generally stops before the contents of the bladder are expelled, the pain being then increased tenfold.

A sound was attempted to be introduced, but the effort failed, on account of the great irritability of the urethra and bladder. He was ordered to take a powder containing six grains of Dover's powder and two grains of calomel in the evening, a warm bath and three drachms of castor oil in the morning.

Nov. 19. A sound this morning was introduced by Sir John Fife with some difficulty, but with great gentleness, and a calculus was found.

21. Had an enema of soap at six o'clock, a.m., and a sedative draught half an hour before the operation.

Operation.

The boy expressed extreme terror, and violently resisted the application of the bandages. This, however, was effected, and the restlessness of the patient ceased on the first touch of the scalpel.

A free incision was made from the left side of the bulb of the urethra, past the tuberosity of the ischium; a second short incision deeper at the upper part of the wound; the urethra was then opened, and the knife passed along the grooved staff, nearly through the prostate. The forceps were then introduced, the stone readily caught, and cautiously extracted. It weighed six drachms two scruples and a few grains. The operation lasted about one minute and a quarter.

Evening. Has a little fever; was ordered a diaphoretic draught.

22. No pain; skin moist.

Dec. 4. The urine passes through the urethra, and the patient is nearly convalescent.

CASE OF SCIRRHUS OF THE BREAST—OPERATION—CURE.

Mary Thompson, aged thirty-nine, unmarried, of a sallow complexion, was received into the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Infirmary on Nov. 16, 1843, under the care of Sir John Fife, with scirrhus mammae of the right side.

History.—About twelve months ago had severe lancinating pains in the part extending through the shoulders and down the arms, which caused the latter to swell; after the lapse of three months the breast in one part felt hard, the pain continued much about the same, and the tumor has been gradually increasing.

The tumor is about the size of a split orange. It strongly adheres to the aponeurosis of the pectoralis major muscle; the induration appeared great, the color livid, and the surface slightly tucked in, or corrugated in places. One lymphatic gland was enlarged far up in the axilla, and felt obscurely.

The external incisions were free, and made in the usual manner, and the breast was soon removed, the dissection of the deeper parts being made from below upwards. On elevating and dissecting out the gland, others in a state of disease were discovered behind it,

which were removed; the hæmorrhage was great, and the bleeding points so deep as to render the tying of the vessels very difficult. Sir J. F. obviated the difficulty by elevating the elastic structures with one tenaculum, and then catching the bleeding vessel with another.

The wound was dressed with wet lint, after several sutures had been inserted.

Nov. 25. Doing well.

Dec. 4. Quite well.

CASE

OF

MEDULLARY SARCOMA OF THE TESTIS:

EXTIRPATION—IMMEDIATE RETURN OF THE DISEASE—DEATH.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I am not aware the following case presents anything new, yet, should you think it of sufficient interest, I will thank you to insert it in your valuable Journal, as it may serve to show how little good may be expected by removing diseases of a malignant character.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HILL.

South Cave, Dec. 1, 1843.

James Reed, aged thirty-four years, of delicate complexion, applied to me in the month of June last, on account of a swelling of the right testicle.

He states that about twelve or thirteen months ago he first noticed the scrotum to become enlarged, and distended with what he then thought was water; it was unattended with pain or external inflammation. About two months afterwards he felt a heavy dragging pain running from the testicle along the chord into the abdomen, which was most acute when in the stooping position. The enlargement continued to increase in size for some months, although the pain was not so severe as to prevent him following his ordinary occupation, which was that of an agricultural laborer. In the month of April he was thrown from a cart, and received a considerable concussion on the back, soon after which he found the testicle to become inflamed, accompanied with shooting and lancinating pains, which compelled him to give up work. His general health continued good; he ate and slept well, the part being easier when in the recumbent position.

July 1. The tumor is now large, of a pyramidal form, irregular to the feel, but perfectly elastic; the skin discolored, of a dark dingy hue, and no transparency; has no pain on examining the part, but complains of its weight, and pain in the back; the chord is considerably thickened, but not so high up as where it enters the inguinal canal. At the earnest entreaties of the poor man, who felt desirous something should be done for his relief, as the dragging was insupportable, I consented to remove the diseased part.

12. The operation for castration was performed in the usual manner; the edges of the wound were

brought together by sutures and adhesive plaster, covered with a light dressing; there was not much blood lost. The weight of the diseased testicle was seventeen ounces, and presents an excellent specimen of the disease.

13. Passed a good night; no thirst, fever, or pain in the wound.

17. The wound was dressed, and adhesion, by the first intention, had taken place nearly two-thirds of its length.

20. The wound nearly closed; in every respect going on well.

24. The ligatures came away, and the man was walking about the village; appetite good; bowels open; and countenance cheerful.

On the 30th my attention was directed to a small fungus, about the size of a pea, at the lower part of the wound, which had been healed a few days, to which I applied the nitrate of silver. Two days afterwards it was considerably larger, and at the expiration of a week had attained the size of an orange. Its growth was now most rapid, and ultimately became so large as to rest on either thigh. There was no vascularity in it; hence it had a most disagreeable, fætid, and almost insupportable odor, and was of a dark color. The health became but little affected until about the middle of August. He then had loss of appetite, cold perspirations, &c. &c., but continued until the 17th of September, when death relieved him from his sufferings. There was no hæmorrhage, save once, and that very slight, the consequence of an accidental blow.

poor are but too often deserving only of the name of guardians of the pockets of the rate-payers.

We shall shortly have to examine the subject of medical relief under the Poor-law Act more at large; at present it is intended to direct attention to some of those points connected with the prevention of disease, which for their satisfactory elucidation require the adoption of a very different system than any which has hitherto been had recourse to in this country. It is singularly unfortunate that the country in which some of the causes of disease—we allude to those which take their origin in densely congregated masses of population—are most rife, should be almost the only civilised state in which the necessary preventive measures are allowed to pass wholly unprovided for. The investigations which have been instituted within the last four or five years will, it is to be hoped, lead to the removal of this reproach upon the administration of our internal affairs; and while ample testimony is borne to the admirable regulations for the relief of the sick and wounded whom the fortunes of war bring under our control at the very extremities of the habitable globe, the historian of the coming age will not have to record it against us that the provisions necessary for the health and welfare of those who are the very sinews of the state—the operative classes among our own population—have been altogether neglected.

Our thoughts have been directed into this channel, on the present occasion, by the perusal of an abstract of a very able paper "On the Relative Sanatory Influences of Town and Country," lately read by Mr. Noble before the Royal Manchester Institution. We shall offer no apology for quoting from this paper, as every opinion advanced in it is well weighed, and the result of careful research and accurate statistical information.

"Every being endowed with life," says Mr. Noble, "has its organisation so constructed as to establish it in definite relation to the medium in which it is situated, in such a manner as that its functions shall more or less be impeded, or prejudiced, if the outward conditions incur deterioration. Vegetables and animals are alike subject to this law. With excellence of soil and purity of air, the former flourish and exhibit profusion; and, with an opposite state of things, they wither in sterility and prematurely die. These are facts not only known, but matters of experience to every one. The law, less obvious in its results, is, however, not the less potent in the instance of animal life. The surface of the earth, when undrained and uncleansed, surcharges the atmosphere with moisture, and pollutes it by noxious exhalations, and the undue aggregation of individuals in close and ill-ventilated habitations, hardly ever accessible to the solar ray, destroys more or less that quality in the atmosphere upon which its life-supporting property depends. Health and life, though demanding many other circumstances for their perfection, require, however, most indispensably that the functions of the

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1843.

One of the main characteristics which has ever distinguished those engaged in the practice of the healing art, is a consideration for the welfare and an endeavour to alleviate the sufferings of those who, from the pressure of outward calamity, are unable to provide for themselves. In advocating from time to time those measures more immediately connected with our own department which have a tendency to ameliorate the condition of the poorer classes of the community, we are assured that we carry with us the feelings of our readers, and we shall not hesitate, therefore, to proceed in the same course, whenever circumstances appear to call for renewed or additional observations on any of the questions connected with the public health. These questions, important as they are to all classes, have an especial bearing on the comfort and prosperity of the poor. They are also not only within the province of the medical man, but as respects the poor seem to be handed over to his sole care; for in all that concerns the due provision of relief for the working classes, whether in the treatment or the prevention of disease, the so-called guardians of the