CASE OF RECENT VACCINATION OVERCOMING SMALL-POX.

By E. DANIELL, Esq., Surgeon, Newport Pagnell.

(Read at the Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, Aug. 7th, 1844.)

I was directed by the overseer of the parish of Sherington, on the 10th of April, 1830, to visit a pauper then residing at Emberton, who was said to be suffering from small pox. She was a young woman about 18 years of age, of spare habit, but generally healthy. It appeared that her object in being away from her own parish was to attend upon an aunt, who was very ill of small pox. As the aunt belonged to the parish of Emberton, she was attended by Mr. Aspray, of Olney, a gentleman who has since resided in Northampton, and who in all probability is present at this meeting. When I saw the patient she was suffering severely from the pyrexial symptoms attendant on small-pox, and her whole body was covered with elevations—not the point of a pin could be inserted between them—and the impression upon my mind was that she would have one of the most formidable attacks of the disease I had ever witnessed.

Whatever traces of beauty she might possess appeared on the eve of being sacrificed to the merciless ravages of one of the direst enemies female loveliness ever encountered.

On the 12th I saw her again; the fever was not so high, but the appearance of the pustules, or rather the incipient promise of pustules, excited my astonishment, for they had made no sort of progress towards maturity. Of course I had, under these circumstances, a very unfavourable impression of the case.

On the 14th I again visited her; the exanthematous elevations nearly gone; still no unfavourable symptoms; on the contrary, fever is abated; headache much less; pupils normal; pulse regular, although somewhat rapid; bowels free, without tenderness or tension over the abdomen. The case puzzled me exceedingly, and I began to fancy that I must have been mistaken in the character of the disorder, although I could find nothing in the whole range of the exanthemata which bore an analogous appearance. I was, however, roused from this state of uncertainty and put upon a new scent, by the poor woman in the next room, who called out, "Has she showed you her arms?" "Her arms," I replied, "what about her arms?" "Oh!" she said, "when Mr. Aspray was visiting me, he asked her if she had had the cow-pox, and as she said no, she believed not, he very kindly cut her for it."

Here was a remarkable instance of a mild disease overcoming what might, nay, would, I verily believe, have assumed a most malignant form. Upon each arm were two very fine vaccine pustules, which ran on without interruption to their full maturity, killing, as it were, by their simple energy the great Goliath which had usurped the system. I forwarded to the Vaccine Institution a memorandum of the case at the time, but as I am not in the habit of seeing any of their publications, I do not know whether any notice was taken of it. It suggested to my mind, what I believe has been thought of, and recommended before, namely, that the vaccine virus might be employed as a remedial agent in cases of small pox, when that disease had positively entered the system. I know not whether it

would arrest its progress if inserted when the incipient pustules have shown themselves, but it is clear in this case, that, when entering a body at the same period, a salutary influence will be produced, and I am inclined to think, under every circumstance, it ought to be tried, as it is an experiment wherein no danger can be incurred, and where good may possibly be produced.

I visited her again on the 16th, when she was quite convalescent; and I did not think it needful to see her any more.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE INFIRMARY.

Practice of Sir JOHN FIFE, Reported by Mr. F. A. GIBB.

LITHOTOMY.—NEW MODE OF OPERATING.

William Bolton, aged 5, Cumberland, admitted July 25th, 1844, under the care of Sir John Fife, with calculus vesicæ, accompanied by the usual symptoms; he also passes his fæces and urine together. Rectum becomes prolapsed when he strains much; enjoys good health, although he does not gather fat like other healthy young boys. When six months old, was affected in some manner, which altered his appearance. At the end of twelve months his mother began to suspect that something was wrong with his water, and from that time he has been more or less troubled with symptoms of stone; occasionally, however, these would be quite absent for six months together, especially once after taking a decoction of pellitory.

On the 28th a sound was attempted to be passed, the lad had to be held down, for his efforts to resist were most violent. He appears to be excessively irritable. A small sound was passed down the urethra with difficulty, in consequence of the dreadful spasms. Sir J. Fife did not get it into the bladder, but he felt very distinctly a calculus at the end of the instrument. The perineum is large and very well formed.

29th. Half-an-ounce of castor oil at bed-time, and a common enema in the morning. Fifteen drops of tincture of opium half an hour before the operation.

30th. Ten a.m., was brought into the operation room and properly secured.

Operation. A new mode of performing lithotomy. Sir J. F., on the morning of the operation, after passing the usual grooved staff, made his first incision after the method of Dupuytren, from ischium to ischium, arching over the anus, the convex side of the centre of the incision passing close under the back of the urethra, he soon reached the staff, and then passed his knife into the bladder, according to Liston's plan, dividing only a small portion of the prostate. Uncommon difficulty was experienced in grasping the calculi, the larger one being of an oblong form, and pendulous from the fundus of the bladder, to the lining membrane of which it was firmly attached. The smaller calculus rolled towards the neck of the bladder and often eluded the forceps, but was eventually caught and extracted.

An elastic gum tube was introduced through the wound into the bladder by Sir J. Fife, according to his usual practice. The patient is already convalescent.

Sir John Fife's reasons for departing from the ordinary mode of operating are, first, to avoid the artery of the bulb; second, to protect the rectum by the more satisfactory interposition of the left forefinger; thirdly,

to open the urethra further back, and close to the anterior edge of the prostate; then again, he prefers Liston's mode of opening the bladder to that of Dupuytren's, alleging that it is more satisfactory to a surgeon to dissect his way by recognizing each fibre he divides, than to assist himself by any mechanical contrivance like the *bistourée cachée*, besides the objection to a double incision into the prostate, when a single one, half through, may suffice.

Sir J. F. considers this new mode of operating more adapted to adults than children, but promises to give to the journal the results of further trials. Certainly in this instance the loss of blood was very trifling, and not even an oozing was perceptible after the operation.

31st. Doing well; slept most of the night; has a little pain in the abdomen, but nothing to make him complain of; urine passes through the tube; has pain in the glans occasionally.

August 1st. Doing well; no more pain in the bowels which have not been open since the operation; rests well; tube loosened and left to find its way out. A purgative draught immediately.

August 2nd. Bowels moved well; no pain nor uneasiness; wishes to go home; tube come away, and urine flows freely by the wound.

3rd. Doing well; bowels not open; no pain in the abdomen or glans; rests well.

4th. Wound looks very well. A purgative draught immediately.

5th. Going on very well. Goes out on Thursday.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1844.

In commenting upon the proceedings of the late anniversary of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, it is scarcely necessary to do more than refer to the account of the meeting given in our last number. The Report of the Council is sufficiently explicit in regard to the general condition and prospects of the Association, and indicates the progress made in various questions to which the attention of the Members has been directed. The state of suspense in which two of these subjects were at the period of holding the meeting—we allude to the reform of our Medical Institutions, and the provision of medical relief for the sick poor—precluded their further consideration on this occasion. The Benevolent Fund, on which a motion was submitted by Dr. Cowan, retains its former character of a purely voluntary contribution on the part of individual Members towards the necessities of their suffering brethren, and it remains therefore for those who take an interest in this truly excellent department of the proceedings to redouble their exertions, and to increase the efficiency of the fund by every means in their power.

There is however one subject which occupied a

portion of the attention of the Association, on which it may be desirable to offer a very few words, both on account of its intrinsic claims to consideration, and because, while it possesses more or less interest for all the Members, it is probably new to those who were not present at the meeting.

The proposition made by Mr. Martin, of Reigate, for the establishment of Schools of preliminary education for the sons of medical practitioners, so cordially entertained by the Members present at Northampton, is one of vast importance, and if carried out in the same spirit in which it has been conceived by its truly benevolent proposer, cannot fail to be productive of much and genuine good. The Members of the medical profession, like the clergy, have only a life interest in the incomes arising from their exertions, and, like the working portion of that order, that is, the most meritorious and the most effective part of it, they lead, for the most part, a life of laborious exertion in the behalf of the public, with a very inadequate amount of remuneration. Any measure, therefore, which is calculated to relieve them in the education of those who look up to them for support, and upon whose fitness for the future business of life much of the comfort and welfare, not only of themselves, but of their relatives, must depend, is deserving of consideration.

Mr. Martin's proposal is to establish schools on the model of, or similar to, those already connected with the Church and with the Navy. The education which may in this manner be attained for the sons of medical men will be sound, and of a character calculated to fit them hereafter for future studies, whether in the medical or other professions, and will at the same time be provided at a comparatively small cost, or under any circumstances, at considerably less expense than an equally good and efficient education can now be obtained for.

No laboured argument is necessary to establish the advantages of the plan proposed; they are self-evident, and will be at once felt by all who are in circumstances, or likely to be so, to require them. The practicability of such a measure has also been proved by the similar institutions already founded. We shall content ourselves therefore with the preceding brief notice, and with recommending to the perusal of our readers that part of the proceedings of the meeting which especially refers to the subject.

On Dysmenorrhœa and other Uterine Affections in connection with Derangement of the Assimilating Functions. By EDWARD RIGBY, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician to the General Lying-in-Hospital; Lecturer on Midwifery, &c., at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; &c. &c. London: 1844. 12mo., pp. 140. 2 plates.

The views which Dr. Rigby puts forth in this little work are deserving of consideration, both on account of