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,