on the dura-mater completely gorged with very dark treachy blood; the sinuses were also gorged; the substance of the brain and cerebellum was healthy; no extra fluid in the ventricles. On laying open the thorax we found the right lung with the exception of a portion the size of the palm of a small hand, completely hepatised, and the pleuræ firmly adhering together, so that it required the scalpel to separate them; the left lung was quite healthy and rather above the usual size; the heart natural and healthy; the stomach, liver, spleen, and all the abdominal viscera were quite healthy, with the exception of the kidneys which were flabby, and the bladder which was very much shrunk.

CASE VII.

Daniel Flake, a slight made man, an excavator, came to the village in the evening, and passed the night in a hovel; was seized during the night, but did not know the time, with very violent and incessant purging of gruelly matter and severe cramps all over him; had been ill some time when he was discovered by chance, and there was a great deal of time lost in getting him carried to a place that had been fitted up for an hospital. By the time that I was called to him he was in the state of collapse. From the result of the three last cases, I had determined not to inject so much as two quarts at a time, if reaction had at all commenced, at all events to stop when the pulse could be distinctly felt at the wrist; I also determined to try the effect of keeping the heat of the mixture up to 108°. I opened a vein in the left arm, and very gradually injected three pints of the mixture, at which time the pulse was quite distinctly felt at the wrist. I then withdrew the tube and banded up the arm, and ordered him the pills and mixture as in the other cases. After the first hour he had a return of the vomiting and purging, with the cramps in the legs and arms, and in two hours he was again in the state of collapse. I then opened a vein in the right arm, and gradually threw in three pints more of the mixture, when the pulse again could be distinctly felt at the wrist, reaction being perfectly established; this time I plugged the tube and left it in the vein; to go on with the medicine, &c., as before. After the first hour he had a return of purging, but no vomiting nor cramps; in three hours he was again in the state of collapse. I then withdrew the plug from the tube in the vein, and began to inject gradually, and by the time I had injected a quart of the mixture reaction was quite perfect, the pulse being distinct and good at the wrist. I then plugged the tube and secured it as before, and ordered him to go on with his medicines, &c., and he went on comfortably for three hours, when the purging returned, accompanied by slight cramps and in four hours he was again in a state of collapse. Once more I had recourse to the transfusion, injecting very gradually, and by the time I had thrown in a quart reaction was again properly established, the pulse being distinct. From this time he kept progressively improving, the medicines were continued till the motions were tinged with bile, the tube I allowed to remain in the vein eight hours after the last transfusion; he recovered without a single untoward symptom. All he required after the liver began to act was a little castor oil. It was about forty hours before he passed any urine.

CASE OF ENORMOUS STEATOMA, REMOVED FROM THE SHOULDER.

By EDWARD DANIELL, Esq., Newport Pagnel.

Mr. Marshall, a farmer, of Cranfield, Bedfordshire, applied to me in the spring of 1840, complaining of pain and uneasiness in a large tumour, which had existed for thirty years, and occupied a space commencing from the top of the shoulder, running over the deltoid muscles, dipping slightly into the axilla, and stopping about the middle of the humerus. As it appeared to be purely steatomatous, I should have advised him not to interfere with it, but it was so exceedingly painful at times, that his rest was disturbed by it, and it prevented him from lying on the affected side. About the centre of the tumour was a red spot, upon which he could not bear the slightest pressure, and what appeared to me as rather a singular feature in this case, was, that precisely under this red spot was a hard substance, as though an extraneous body had been introduced into it. I recommended him at once to submit to an operation, which I doubted not would be successful, and that medical treatment even to allay pain, would be wholly nugatory. By my advice he consulted my friend Mr. Harris, of Bedford, and the opinion of Dr. Witt was likewise taken. Each of these gentlemen corroborated my views, and on the 16th of June he took lodgings in Newport, and I performed the operation in the presence of Mr. Harris, and Mr. Thurnhill, House Surgeon to the Bedford Infirmary, and five of my medical brethren residing in Newport and the neighbourhood.

The tumour was removed in two minutes and a half; it was as usual in these cases, a mass of fat, but on opening it, was discovered to have in its centre a deposit of bony matter—a complete ridge of ossified deposit, of about three inches in length. The tumour weighed two pounds and a half, entire, and as many little portions of fatty matter were taken away after the removal of the bulk, it is fair to infer that the whole tumour was little short of three pounds. It was only necessary to pass a ligature round the main vessel, which might perhaps be about the thickness of a crow-quill. The patient did well, and has not suffered in the least since the operation.

I must here express my obligation to Mr. Harris for his very valuable assistance in the operation.

CASE OF WARTY EXCRESCENCE NEAR THE VERGE OF THE ANUS.

By EDWARD DANIELL, Esq., Newport Pagnel.

A deaf and dumb girl, about 15 years of age, came under my care with a warty excrescence growing on each side of the anus; it extended over and filled up the fossa made by the buttocks, and resembled, when those parts were drawn aside, a large orange which had been cleft in twain. From close examination I felt satisfied that it had no kind of connexion with the interior of the rectum, but that it was purely a diseased growth, wholly cuticular. Small tumours of a similar description were attached to the eyelids. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Collison saw the case with me, and in the course of their practice they had not met with any analogous case. They entertained the same opinion as myself, namely, that it was not malignant, but simply

an excrescence emanating from the skin itself. As the base of the tumour on each side was equal to its surface, I determined to try the effect of a double ligature, employed in the same manner as for common *ærys*, but only on one side at a time. Sloughing followed this operation, but in so small a degree that I saw at once the plan would fail, and therefore resolved to remove the growth by dissecting away the whole of the diseased skin, not only under the tumours, but round about them. The success was perfect; there has been no return whatever of the disease. The girl has now arrived at full puberty, the catamenia are established, and the eyelids are free from excrescences. Had the absence of the catamenia in the first instance anything to do with the formation of these excrescences, and does the present regularity of this discharge tend at all to prevent their growth?

ON THE USES OF PURE TANNIN.

By ROBERT DRUITT, Esq., London.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

As I am sure that every medical practitioner is glad to be provided with a new remedy, or with a simple and elegant form of an old remedy, I make no apology for calling the attention of your readers to the useful properties of the *tannic acid* or *tannin*, in a state of purity.

This, I need hardly say, is the principle to which oak-bark, catechu, and other vegetable astringents owe their properties. In my observations upon it, I wish to lay claim to no originality; but merely to call the attention of practical men to a remedy, which I have found useful myself: and I do so because I believe that it has not yet obtained the general and extensive employment which it deserves.

In any case, then, in which a vegetable astringent is indicated, I believe that the tannin ought to have the preference. A simple solution of it, in distilled water, is much more easily and quickly prepared, as well as much more elegant, than the ordinary decoctions or infusions of oak-bark, catechu, &c.; moreover, it may be prepared of uniform strength, and free from foreign inert matter, and is not liable to decompose quickly; in fact, it has all the advantages which the other simple vegetable principles have over crude preparations from the herbs or extracts in which they are contained.

The cases in which I have employed it, are sore nipples, excoriations about the anus and scrotum, piles, leucorrhœa, atonic phagedenic sores, toothache, aphthous sores in the mouth, severe salivation, and relaxed sore-throat. I have never given it internally, although I should think it an admirable remedy in menorrhagia and hæmaturia.

For sore nipples especially, I have found it invaluable. Every accoucheur knows what a source of wretchedness and illness these are to the young mother, and how difficult it often is to find a decisive remedy; but I have never been disappointed in the use of tannin, except once, in a neglected case, with deep irritable cracks, for which it was necessary to use the lunar caustic. The tincture of catechu was lately much praised in these cases, by a writer in the *Lancet*, but it is not to be compared with the tannin in neatness and

elegance. It certainly is an advantage to use a remedy that will not stain the linen, nor be otherwise disagreeable. The form which I employ is a solution of five grains in an ounce of distilled water; this is applied to the nipple on lint, covered with oiled silk.

For the itching excoriations about the anus and scrotum, which so much infest old men, I have used it with benefit, but prefer lemon juice as a local application. For piles, with mucous discharge, I have also found it of use, but cannot say much on this point from my own experience.

In obstinate leucorrhœa, I have used it as a vaginal suppository; ten grains being made into a mass, with tragacanth, and introduced and allowed to dissolve. But in this disorder I believe alum and the other mineral astringents to be of more service; and that in many cases, such treatment as will reduce a swelled and congested uterus, is of more consequence than any mere local application.

In one or two cases of lingering atonic phagedena, I have found it of some service, sprinkled thickly on the sore; but more particularly so in those aphthous ulcers which sometimes occur in the mouths of adults, from acidity of the stomach, and congestion of the liver. I may say that I believe it the best possible remedy for severe salivation, and for all cases of relaxed sore-throat attended with superabundance of mucus. It coagulates the mucus and enables the patient to get rid of it easily. Of course I do not use it to the exclusion of constitutional remedies; but of all the local means of making the mouth comfortable, I believe it to be the best.

But of all the cases for which it is adapted, that common troublesome complaint toothache is that in which I believe it is most to be depended on. For this piece of useful knowledge I am indebted to my friend Mr. Tomes, and I have tested it by ample personal experience. It will often be found, as Mr. Tomes told me, that the gum around a carious tooth is in a spongy, flabby condition; a little piece of it perhaps growing into the cavity. The ache too is often quite as much in the gum as in the tooth itself. But, be this as it may, when the tooth aches, let the patient wash out the mouth thoroughly with a solution of carbonate of soda in warm water; let the gum around the tooth, or between it and its neighbours, be scarified with a *fine* lancet; then let a little bit of cotton wool, imbued with a solution of a scruple of tannin, and five grains of mastich, in two drachms of æther, be put into the cavity, and if the ache is to be cured at all, this plan will put an end to it in nine cases out of ten. I think that practitioners are to blame in not paying more attention to the cure of toothache; I am convinced that in most cases it is as curable as a colic or a pleurisy; the chief points being to open the bowels, and put the secretions of the mouth in a healthy state, and to apply some gentle astringent and defensive to the diseased tooth till it is capable of being stopped by some metallic substance. I say emphatically a *fine* lancet, because the coarse, round, blunted tools that are generally sold under the name of gum-lancets, only bruise the gum, and cause horrible pain. The lancet which I use is sickle shaped, cutting on both edges and finely ground; and if guarded with the middle finger of the right hand, it may be used in the case of the most unruly children without any possible ill result.

If you think that the above remarks will afford any