left her, and she perspired very much. A week afterwards she was violently purged, and the whole surface of the abdomen became tender, the pain in the head disappeared, but that in the back remained. She vomited a considerable quantity of green sour matter; she had also constant tenesmus, accompanied by a twisting sensation about the umbilicus. These symptoms increased in intensity, and she was admitted into the hospital on July 5th, a fortnight after the commencement of the attack.

On examination at this time, the following symptoms were discovered. There is constant diarrhœa and tenesmus, the evacuations being green or yellow, and occasionally black. She has pain over the surface of the abdomen, increased on firm pressure, not augmented by deep respiration, and not felt on pinching the skin merely; the pain is most acute at the umbilicus, and is accompanied by a twisting sensation; it is increased by cold, and slightly by tepid, but not by hot drink. She cannot take solid food; she has no rigors while she remains in bed, but whenever she gets up, shivering ensues, and she perspires much afterwards; there is some increased heat of surface; the colour of the skin is natural, and there is no eruption; she has been getting thinner for the last three months; the abdomen feels hotter than the rest of the body; it is also somewhat swollen. She has slight spinal tenderness; the countenance is anxious; she has no cough nor dyspnoea; the pulse is not quick, and compressible; the tongue is dry, red in the centre, and furred at the edges; she has much thirst; she has frequent vomiting; the urine is small in quantity and high-coloured; there is no dysuria. The menstrual secretion has appeared three times within the last three weeks, but on each occasion small in quantity and unnatural in quality.

Ten leeches to the epigastrium, and a turpentine liniment to the abdomen. To take Pulv. Ipecac. Co., gr. vi.; Mist. Amygd. Amar., dr. xij. every four hours. R. Pulv. Ipecac., scr. j.; Extr. Gent., dr. ss.; Dec. Avenæ, oz. viij. for an enema, night and morning. Demulcent diet.

July 4th. The medicine has made her very sick; the following was therefore substituted:—R. Acid. Hydrocyan. dil., m. iv.; Sodæ Sesqui-Carb., scr. ss.; Aquæ, oz. j. To be taken every three hours.

8th. The evacuations from the bowels consist almost entirely of bile; they are less frequent than formerly, and the twisting sensation at the umbilicus is relieved; the tenesmus remains; she still vomits frequently.

R. Cupri Sulph., gr. j.; Extr. Opii, gr. iv.; Mica Panis, gr. vj. Fiant pilulæ vj. To take one every six hours.

10th. She feels better and has not been purged to-day; the abdominal pain is less; there is no twisting at the navel; the tongue is improved.

11th. The vomiting is returned, and she attributes it to the pills; (it appears, however, that she has great difficulty in taking pills of any kind;) there is an increase of abdominal tenderness; the skin is very hot and pungent; the temperature of the abdomen 99° , that of the chest 100° ; the diarrhœa has returned.

12th. The purging has again diminished in frequency; the tongue is very red and adhesive; pulse soft and compressible.

Omit the medicines. R. Zinci Oxidi, gr. ij.;

Sacchari Purif., gr. xij. Divide into four powders; to take one every six hours, and in the intervals, Dec. Simaroubæ, oz. iss. Continue the enemata.

15th. She is better; and has only been once purged to-day; she has no pain or tenderness in the abdomen; there is no tenesmus; the pulse is soft; the skin cooler; tongue less dry and adhesive; the appetite is slightly improved.

18th. There is a slight relapse to-day; more purging, with tenesmus, and increased heat of surface. All medicines to be omitted.

22nd. She had three or four motions in the twenty-four hours, but without pain; the tongue is dry and red; the pulse small, tremulous, and variable; she can get no sleep; the cutaneous sensibility of the lower part of the body is increased, especially on exposure to cold.

R. Cupri Sulph., gr. j.; Extr. Opii, gr. v. Divide into ten pills. To take one every four hours, and in the intervals, Dec. Simaroubæ, oz. iss. To have beef tea.

This treatment was pursued for a week with decided benefit to the patient; at first, however, she again complained that the pills increased the disposition to sickness and vomiting, but by perseverance this was subdued, and the beneficial effects of the remedy were at once apparent. The purging ceased, the abdominal tenderness disappeared, and her appetite returned, so that she was enabled to take solid food and to sit up for some hours during the day. Owing, however, to incautious exposure to cold, she was now, (August 5th,) troubled with a slight cough, and pain in the left side of the chest, on deep inspiration, with sibilant and sonorous rhonchi over the left side, both before and behind. Both sides are duller than natural, but the left more so than the right.

She was ordered Dec. Cetrariæ, dr. xj.; Syr. Tolu, dr. j.; Tinct. Opii, m. x.; Acid Sulph. dil., m. x. To be taken three times a day.

August 7th. The cough is relieved, and the physical signs indicate a diminution in the bronchitis; there has been no return of the dysentery. She continued weak for some days, but gradually gained strength, and was discharged cured on the 14th of August.

Remarks.—The practice of giving ipecacuanha, combined with extract of gentian, in dysentery, is one which deserves a trial by the profession. The ipecacuanha appears to act as an astringent in checking the morbid and frequent discharges from the intestines, while the gentian counteracts its emetic property, but does not prevent it from determining to the surface and acting generally as a diaphoretic. In an extended trial in this hospital, this plan of treatment has been found eminently successful, though the present case is not one in which its beneficial effects are particularly well-marked.

CASE OF PLACENTA PRÆVIA.

By WILLIAM WEAVER JONES, Esq., Surgeon,
Cleobury Mortimer.

Sarah Jordan, aged 30, residing at the Clee Hill, consulted me on the 15th of June last. She stated that she was nearly six months advanced in pregnancy with her fifth child, and that she had not been free from slight uterine hæmorrhage for the last nine or ten days. I expressed my opinion that the placenta

was over the os uteri, directed her to keep cool and quiet, and to send to me should the discharge become excessive. On Wednesday, the 24th September, about six o'clock in the evening, I was sent for in great haste, on account of an alarming flooding which had taken place about four o'clock, in conjunction with the pains of labour. On my arrival at the cottage I learnt that she had been free from uterine discharge from the time she consulted me until the middle of August, from which time she had lost more or less every day; that labour-pains came on shortly after four o'clock, attended with a very great loss, and that the flooding occurred regularly with the pains; she appeared very much reduced and greatly alarmed at her situation.

On making a vaginal examination I found the os uteri very flabby and fully dilated, with the edge of the placenta dipping into it; the membranes were flaccid and the head above the brim, with little disposition to descend. Without withdrawing my hand I ruptured the membranes and brought down the feet; delivery was soon accomplished; the placenta followed immediately; the flooding ceased; the infant was born alive, and with the mother is doing well.

Cleobury Mortimer, Nov. 11, 1845.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1845.

The subject to which we last week alluded, the interment of the perishing remains of the dead in the midst of the close and crowded streets of densely peopled towns, is one which daily acquires more claims to consideration. The sepulchral indecencies exposed by Mr. G. A. Walker, the indefatigable author of "Gatherings from Grave Yards," and other similar publications, and the extraordinary nature of some of the proceedings in the London burying grounds, which he has brought to light, are almost incredible. Yet, although perhaps in a minor degree, they find their parallel in provincial towns. From a later work of Mr. Walker, ("Interment and Disinterment,") the cumulative nature of this evil is strikingly manifest. The following extract affords an example:—

"In the year 1525, the parish of 'St. Martin' was as its name implies, 'in the Fields.' In the above year, THIRTEEN BODIES were buried in the parish. In 1526, FOURTEEN were buried. In 1527, TWENTY-TWO were buried. In 1528, THIRTEEN were buried. The examination of the sexton's books, commenced in the year 1691, would, as tending to elucidate my subject, be both interesting and important. The burial-ground of this parish, situated on the western side of Drury Lane, contains 10,080 superficial feet. Within a period of *ten years* 315 *adult* bodies, and no more, might have been buried there, or at the rate of 32 per annum!

By an official return it appears, that in *one year*, 565 bodies were disposed of between the above-named burial-ground (?), the one at Camden Town, and the vaults under St. Martin's church. There is little room for doubt, that on an average *three hundred and fifteen bodies*, instead of *thirty-two*, have been interred yearly in the burying ground in Drury Lane.

"The celebrated Bunhill Fields, City Road, was originally opened as a burying place in the year 1665. It contains about seven acres. It is supposed that considerably upwards of one hundred thousand interments have taken place in this ground, and that one million of pounds sterling have been derived in fees, &c., from the burial of the dead."

From a statistical account of burials within the walls of the city of Norwich, now before us, to which we refer as having been very lately compiled by Mr. Crosse, for the purpose of elucidating the question under consideration, it appears that the yearly average of burials in that city, during the last ten years, has been 1269. The extent of the church-yards, including the ground on which the churches (thirty-five in number) stand, foot-ways, &c., is little more than twelve acres and a quarter. It would be easy to show from an examination of the extent of the individual burial-grounds, that the annual number of interments is in very many instances at least double, and in some, three and four times the rate mentioned by Mr. Walker as allowable.

The Bunhill Fields burying ground mentioned above, contains, it is stated, about seven acres, and Mr. Walker calculates, that from the year 1665, a period of one hundred and eighty years, upwards of one hundred thousand interments have taken place there. Now, making the allowance we have indicated for the space otherwise occupied, the aggregate of the Norwich burying grounds, will probably not much exceed the Bunhill Fields in extent. The number of burials in the Norwich church-yards, within the walls, during the last ten years, was 12,691. What has been the amount during the period of time, (one hundred and eighty years,) that the Bunhill Fields ground has been opened? The answer would probably show, that the abuses pointed out, as occurring in the metropolis, will be equally apparent here.

It has been observed on a former occasion, that the public attention seems alive to these evils, when once properly pointed out; but there is much reason to suppose that very many of our large provincial towns are similarly situated in this respect to Norwich, and some of them in a far worse condition. We know of no more acceptable service that could be performed by those who have the required time and opportunity, than the collecting of information on this subject in country dis-