

M. Dupuytren ordered leeches to the perineum, and a warm bath. Soon after the operation, symptoms of peritonitis and cystitis acceded, under which the patient died, on the morning of the 11th, four days after the operation. On examination, the incision was found to commence at the bulb, and to extend to about two or three lines from the peritoneal fold, between the rectum and bladder. The rectum, and cellular tissue round the neck of the bladder, were inflamed. In the left side of the bladder, below the ureter, there was a sacciform enlargement, into which the finger could be passed for some distance, and where, probably, part of the stone had been lodged; its surface was inflamed and ulcerated. A similar dilatation, though not so large, was found in the left side of the bladder. The right ureter was contracted, and the kidney atrophic; the left kidney was enlarged, and the ureter dilated. The peritoneum was inflamed, and contained a great quantity of turbid serum.

The fragments of the stone were not weighed; altogether they appeared to equal in size a large hen's egg.

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WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

April, 1830.

THE meetings of this society closed, for the season, on the 24th: the subjects discussed on the last two evenings, were syphilis and apoplexy, but the debates yielded nothing worth recording. Scarcely a dozen members have latterly been accustomed to attend.

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MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

THE members of this society held their annual dinner at the Thatched House Tavern, on Saturday last, Earl STANHOPE, the president, in the chair. Many complimentary toasts were drunk, followed by brief speeches from Sir James M'Gregor, Drs. Roupell, Whiting, Short, Sigmond, &c. but they did not contain any thing of particular interest to the profession. The condition of the society was, throughout alluded to as very prosperous. The evening was spent with considerable enjoyment, and the company did not finally separate until twelve o'clock. It is worthy of remark, that two toasts intervened between the "College of Physicians," and the "College of Surgeons," the former having been given first, and being followed by that of Sir James M'Gregor and the Professors of the Society. The College of Surgeons was drunk subsequently to all the chief toasts of the evening.

HYDROCYANIC ACID IN NEURALGIA.

By FORBES WINSLOW, Esq., Surgeon.

I HAVE read with pleasure the account of two cases recorded in your last number, in which M. Rayer, of St. Antoine, has been administering the essential oil of turpentine with partial success, in neuralgic affections. Of this remedy I cannot give any opinion, never having tried its effects, but I believe it is a remedy employed by the German and American physicians, in affections of this nature. I had an opportunity of witnessing, some months ago, the beneficial effects of hydrocyanic acid in a case of neuralgia; and with a hope of exciting the attention of medical practitioners, who may have cases of this description under their care, to this remedy, I shall briefly relate the case.

M. B., ætat. 31, of a sanguine temperament, applied to me labouring under a violent neuralgic affection of the left side of the face. By the urgent solicitation of the patient, who imagined the pain to originate thence, I was induced to extract a decayed tooth, but no relief arising from this, I administered many of the usual remedies, narcotics, carbonate of iron, etc., and abstracted blood locally from the part by the application of leeches, but without avail. The patient's sufferings were of the acutest description, enjoying but little relapse from the excruciating pain. A medical friend to whom I mentioned the case, suggested the propriety of trying the effects of hydrocyanic acid, and I was accordingly induced to do so. I first administered two  $\text{m}$  of the medicinal acid every four hours; this produced no relief. The dose was then increased to four  $\text{m}$  every fourth hour, and by paying particular attention to the state of the digestive organs, which were very much disordered, the patient, by the fourth day, after the administration of the acid, had perfectly recovered.

This is the only case in which I have administered the hydrocyanic acid; whether it is deserving the name of a remedy for this painful disease, further experience only will satisfactorily testify. But judging from the speedy relief which its administration afforded in this case, I should think it not unworthy the attention of those practitioners to whose care patients suffering under these affections may be confided.

16, York Street, Portman Square,  
April, 1830.

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CASE OF IMPERFORATE ANUS.

By HENRY MEYMOTT, Esq. M.R.C.S.

THE wife of a labouring man was put to bed by a midwife, of her third, a fine female child, on the 13th of March. The labour, I