

## SCARLATINAL ALBUMINURIA.

This distressing sequela of scarlet fever too often frustrates the hopes inspired by convalescence. In the report from Berks county, Pennsylvania, in the State Medical Society *Transactions*, we read, "many children succumbed to it." In the same volume Dr. S. D. Bell, of Butler county, tells us that he has given up the old treatment by bitartrate of potassa, spirits of nitre, acetate of potash, etc., as unsatisfactory compared with the decoction of scopolia. This, he states, yielded "invariably the most flattering results." He used it in the form of decoction, made by boiling half an ounce of the tops in a pint and a half of water down to one pint. Of this a tablespoonful to a wineglassful was given every four or six hours, according to the age and severity of the symptoms.

## ACTION OF CHLORAL ON THE RECTUM.

It would appear that chloral is one of those agents which act with nearly as much energy when introduced in the rectum as when taken into the stomach. In a case of puerperal convulsions to which we had been called in consultation, a solution of bromide of potassium with hydrate of chloral, which could not be swallowed by the patient, was injected into the rectum, with the effect of allaying spasm promptly and decidedly. It was repeated in the same case with excellent results. Since that time other trials of chloral as an enema have confirmed its value in this mode of administration. The quantity of thirty grains in two or three ounces of water will generally be sufficient for a single injection.—*Pacific Med. Jour.*

## THE STATUE TO THE LATE SIR JAMES SIMPSON, BART., M.D.

Concerning this statue the *British Medical Journal*, Oct. 28th, says:

"The bronze statue of the late Sir James Simpson is now in the artist's hands, and stands ready to be removed to the site fixed upon for it, viz., in the East Princes Street Gardens, as soon as the pedestal on which it is to stand shall be erected. The casting produced by Messrs. Masefield, of Chelsea, turns out to be one of unusual excellence. The statue represents the subject in the sitting posture, and is eight feet in height, corresponding to a standing height of twelve feet; the pedestal is to be ten or eleven feet high. Sir James is represented in academic robes, sitting erect with the face turned towards the left shoulder, in the attitude of a man earnestly enforcing his convictions, the while right hand supports one side of a large book which rests on the knees, the left is engaged in turning over the leaves. In modelling the massive head, Mr. Brodie had the busts executed by himself from the life, and he has been very successful in reproducing both the features and

the tenacious expression of the original. This part of the casting is peculiarly effective in the sharpness and precision with which it gives every touch of the graving tool; and the same may be said of the hand, in which the sculptor has vividly realized another characteristic feature."

## EXTRACTION OF FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE EAR.

Mr. Geo. P. Field refers to the case of a little girl, æt. 6, who presented herself with a black glass bead the size of a large pea in her left ear. Previously, however, several attempts had been made to extract the bead; but, unfortunately, the mischief was only increased, the bead having been pushed in still deeper, and firmly imbedded, the result of subsequent inflammation. The ear was syringed gently, and any further attempt at removal was postponed, as there was a good deal of inflammation for a few days. She was, however, laid up with chicken-pox for two months; and when she came again to the hospital all inflammatory signs had disappeared, but the bead could easily be distinguished with the speculum, deeply seated and firmly fixed. She was put under chloroform, and an attempt was made to remove it by means of glue attached to the end of a piece of stick. This failed altogether. She was, therefore, placed on her side, with the affected ear downwards, and the syringe used from below; and, after a little trouble, the bead dropped out. This is a case that one is likely to meet with almost every day. A great deal more harm than good is often done by the use of instruments; but by the following method no injury can be caused. Place the patient under chloroform, with the ear affected downwards, and syringe from below. Pull the auricle backwards and upwards (by this means the external auditory meatus is made into a straight tube); and apply the nozzle of the syringe to the upper wall of the passage. The water is then gently forced behind the obstruction; the foreign body is loosened, and its own weight will cause it to fall out of the ear.—*British Medical Journal*.

## BARBER-SURGEONS IN BRITTANY.

In a work on surgeons and barbers in Brittany, M. Closmadu has recorded some curious facts of practice in the sixteenth century. Venesection was abundantly practised; to such an extent that the *échevins* were obliged to lay down regulations for the disposal of the blood, and to prohibit its being exposed to the view of passengers or thrown into the gutter. At Rheims, the barbers were prohibited from keeping pigs—why, is not stated. The fee for venesection was ten *sols* (fivepence); for extracting a tooth, five *sols*. M. de Montconys, travelling in Brittany in 1645, learned from a young surgeon, among other secrets, that the injection of warm fox's blood into the bladder was a sovereign means for dissolving calculus; and that to cure quartan fever, a white herring suspended by