

which has only of late years been recognized, and described as a distinct variety.

Early in December last, my friend, Dr. Butler, of Waterloo, requested me to examine with him a patient of his, the particulars of whose case he thus describes :—

“ L. H. R., farmer, aged 42 years, of sound constitution and temperate habits, consulted me for disease of the right knee, in the early part of last May. He informed me that in March, 1857, fourteen months previously, he had received a slight blow from a sleigh-tongue, upon the external aspect of the knee, a little above the condyle. A slight puffiness at the spot was the only immediate result, and it was not until a few weeks had elapsed that he began to experience slight pain at the injured part, which, however, was not severe enough to prevent his pursuing his usual avocations through the spring and summer. In early autumn, he found it difficult to walk upon an uneven surface without an increase of pain and some lameness. On several occasions, an incautious step or accidental blow on the limb, very much augmented the pain and lameness for a few days; but this augmentation would subside and leave him in his former condition. During the fall, and part of the winter, an irregular practitioner exhausted his resources in vain attempts to cure the disease. In February, 1858, Mr. R. once more injured his knee, by slipping, and since then has been unable to leave his room or bear the weight of his body upon the member.

I found the joint considerably swollen; fluctuation perceptible, particularly above, on each side of the patella; entire absence of pain on moving the joint in every direction it was capable of, or on forcible pressure of the articular surfaces against each other; no tenderness except over a small spot on the external condyle of the femur; he suffered a pain which he describes as of a ‘burning or scalding character encircling the upper part of the knee-joint.’ The pain was not influenced by the weather, and was most severe during the day. The treatment employed consisted of local counter-irritants; blisters; tincture of iodine; an issue; mercury, and iodide of potassium, in alternative doses for some time. The joint was put up in the manner recommended by Scott; and again, immobility was secured by the double-inclined plane. At first, the pain was relieved completely by the issue, and, although it returned in the head of the femur in October last, and was accompanied by gradual increase of the swelling, it did not regain its previous degree. All means having failed to arrest the disease, I now made an exploratory puncture of the joint with a fine trocar, and obtained chiefly a sanguineous-looking fol-