

look and was in good spirits. Abdomen felt natural, and, except in one or two spots, pressure gave him no pain. The wound in his side had nearly healed, that in his back had contracted considerably, although feces in large quantity were still passed from it, but at the same time his bowels were occasionally moved pretty freely in the natural way. There was little remarkable in his case from this time up to the middle of July, when, dysentery being prevalent, he was seized with that disease. Stools containing blood and mucus only were passed by both the natural and artificial anus. The constant trickling from the latter was a source of great discomfort. He was treated for this, as if no wound of the colon had been present, by the usual remedies for dysentery, and, almost contrary to expectation, recovered, and so much so, as to be able in August to proceed with other invalids to England. By this time the opening in his back had become so diminished that for two days at a time—although his bowels were well moved per anum—scarce a trace of fecal matter would escape by it, and hopes were entertained that, by supporting the part with well-fitting compresses, and using stimulating astringent applications to the wound, it might be completely occluded. But for sudden perturbations of the bowels, induced by climatic causes, this, no doubt, would have been accomplished at the time.

Although he promised to let me know the subsequent progress of his case, he neglected to do so, and I lost sight of him until a few days ago, when a corporal of the regiment, who had recently returned from furlough, told me that he had met him in Belfast in March last, and that he desired him to inform me of his complete recovery; that although there was still a very small hole in his back, nothing but a slight watery discharge came from it, and that his bowels were all right, and opened regularly in the natural way. He was then performing the duties of monitor in a poor-house in that town.—*Medical Times*.

DENTAL NEURALGIA.

M. Balloy prescribes for this:—

Acetate of morphia,.....	gr. iss.
Acetic acid,.....	gr. ij.
Eau de Cologne,.....	3 ij.

To be dropped on cotton or wool and placed in the ear on the painful side.

MIDWIFERY.

DURATION OF GESTATION IN A MEDICO-LEGAL POINT OF VIEW.

By B. L. DODD, M.D., of Newark, N. J.

There is very little certainty regarding the precise duration of gestation in the human female. Fortunately, however, cases are quite rare, in which the legitimacy of a child is to be determined by the period of gestation. Yet, when such cases occur, they must, from the very nature of the case, cause great embarrassment to the medical witness. In view of this, it is very important that we should possess accurate data of all the facts derived from analogy or otherwise, bearing upon the subject.

To fix the "legal limit" of gestation is no easy task. In France 300 days are allowed. Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, uses the following language: "I believe our best criterion for fixing the 'legal limit,' or ultimate possible period of gestation in the human female, will be derived from careful and repeated observations upon the ultimate period of gestation in the cow; allowing always for the difference of four or five days of excess in the normal period of pregnancy in the cow, as compared with the human mother."