

kept perfectly quiet for four or five weeks, with the internal administration of tonics and alterative remedies. You would accomplish two objects by the horizontal position, viz.: decrease the gravitation of pus downwards, and put the parts at rest. After this, I would recommend a spinal support, which will not admit of any rotary motion of the parts, and exactly the same as that employed in the treatment of any angular curvature; and then the patient may be allowed moderate outdoor exercise.

Laying surgical aid aside, I think this is the only treatment that will be apt to prove beneficial. Without treatment he will continue to grow worse, and finally have an abscess at Poupart's ligament, becoming more feverish and emaciated daily.

As the attempt to excise the head of the rib involves a serious operation, and we cannot be certain that the disease does not also affect the vertebrae, we should not advise an immediate resort to that method of treatment. By confining the patient to a strictly horizontal position, keeping the present opening as free as possible, and giving him three times a day a teaspoonful of the following tonic and alterative mixture, it is quite possible that the further extension of the suppurative process would be arrested, with a removal of all pain from the side and abdomen:—

R. Tinct. Cinchona,.....3ij.
Fl. Ext. Conium,.....3j.
Bichlorid. Hydrarg,.....1 gr.

Mix.

After this prescription has been used three weeks he may take in its place the syrup of iodide lime or iodide of iron.

NOTE.—February 10th, 1868.—The patient returned home the day following the above clinic, taking a letter to his physician. The treatment above indicated has been carried out to the present time, and information came from his attending physician two days since, saying that the patient was making good progress towards recovery.

Medical Items.

In the *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, for December, 1868, Dr. J. I. Rooker, of Castleton, Indiana, publishes a supplementary account of the condition of a patient on whom he performed the operation of castration in 1861, for the cure of epilepsy. It will be remembered that Dr. Rooker was most severely criticised for the performance of this operation. The patient was a confirmed victim to the vice of masturbation, and every repetition of the act produced an epileptic fit. The case proving intractable to all ordinary treatment, and being apparently hopeless, both testicles were removed by Dr. Rooker. Since that time (spring 1861), there has been but one epileptic fit, which occurred on the day following the operation.

Recently, Dr. Rooker, saw this patient, and had him examined by a number of other physicians.

"He stated that previous to the operation, 'he was not able to do a day's work, owing to a general debility and loss of mind;' that he had had attacks of epilepsy almost every day for the past eight years. In short, he was an object of charity. At

present, with the exception of the 'chills,' was in the enjoyment of excellent health; that his weight had increased from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty pounds, and that the 'nervousness' had all left him; and that he could do as much labour as any man. Is able to read and write; stated that he had but little 'passion left for the women.' I could not detect any change in his voice. He is glad the operation was performed. His intellect appears as good as any of his class."

Dr. Rooker adds that, while he is no advocate for an indiscriminate resort to this operation, he is fully satisfied with the results in this case.

An Extensive Thrombus during Labor.

Prof. Geo. T. Elliot, Jr., alludes to the following case of labor, which occurred July 12th, 1868: He was summoned by Dr. Sayre to a lady in labor with her first child; on vaginal examination the head had not advanced as expected, and the vaginal walls and perineum were enormously distended by rapidly increasing thrombus.

The patient was under chloroform moderately, and did not seem exhausted. Large doses of brandy and Borden's extract of beef were administered, ammonia and salts provided, and they decided to attempt delivery by forceps, and to incise when necessary. The transverse bars of the forceps were introduced within the vulva to seize the head, and when the blades were locked, the right labium cracked through the mucous surface, and a large clot of blood flopped out with such violence that a portion struck the top of Dr. Elliot's head, a distance estimated at three feet. The left labium was freely incised, and a living child, with the placenta, was delivered with great rapidity. The broken-down cellular tissue was removed from the gaping wound on the right side, and the open places on the right and left were stuffed with lint steeped in Squibb's liquid persulphate of iron.

Ergot was then given, and the patient was bandaged with compresses and a T-bandage below. The patient was thoroughly stimulated and fed, and treated for the depressing influences of the loss of blood. The vagina was injected on the third day with a solution of weak carbonic acid, and gradually repair was effected, and the patient's health restored.

M. Auzias Turenne on Rabies.

This ingenious investigator, in a paper lately read before the Academy of Medicine of Paris, endeavors to establish a parallel between the phenomena of rabies and those of syphilis. It will be remembered that Marochetti considered that the virus, after having been absorbed by the wound, enters the circulation, and then gathers under the tongue. From the third to the ninth day little vesicles or postules appear on either side of the frenum lingue; they contain the virus, and are called lyssae. Marochetti believed that by cauterizing these vesicles the further progress of the disease might be stayed. Experience has not confirmed his views; but M. Turenne, starting from these phenomena, has attempted to liken rabies to syphilis, and the lyssae to the infecting chancre.—*Lancet*.