

ing of his tragedy with the prize at the Olympic games; the Lacedæmonian Chelion in the same way when his son brought him intelligence of a like reward. Leo X. died of joy on hearing of the reconquest of Parma and Piacenza. The niece of Liebnitz died of joy on discovering 60,000 ducats under the philosopher's bed. Louis of Bourbon was so violently seized upon the exhumation of his father's bones, that he died of fear. Ambrose Paré states that Vesalius died of fright and grief soon after having dissected a woman whose heart was found to be still beating. The sudden blanching of the hair from fear or grief is too well known to require examples. Rostan mentions the case of two women in whom fright suddenly turned the skin black; in the one upon the communication of the death sentence; in the other as she saw her daughter with her two children fall from a high window.

MATERIA MEDICA.

ON THE PREPARATION OF COURT PLASTER.

A writer in the *Journal of Pharmacy* gives the following details. The difficulty in making a court plaster in most cases is generally that of cracking and breaking, which the addition of glycerine prevents. The following formula produces a superior quality of court plaster, that will not crack or break:

R Russia isinglass, ℥j;
Water, Oj;
Alcohol, ℥ij;
Glycerine, ℥ss.

Soak the isinglass in the water for one day, then dissolve it by the aid of a gentle heat, after which strain it and add the alcohol and glycerine. The mixture, being now ready for use, is spread on a fine quality of silk stretched on a frame, each successive coat being allowed to dry before applying the next. Heat should not be used in drying the plaster, as it is apt to drive the glycerine out and leave the plaster streaked.

By another formula, court plaster is made in the following manner:

R Russia isinglass, ℥iss;
Resin, ℥xiv;
Alcohol,
Water ℞ā q. s.;
Glycerine, ℥ss.

Beat the resin in a mortar until perfectly powdered, then dissolve it in alcohol q. s., and mix with the isinglass solution; strain and add the glycerine.

Court plaster made in this way is very adhesive, but not as handsome as when made by the previous formula.

In another formula, gelatine is used instead of isinglass, and makes a very handsome plaster.

R Gelatine, ℥iss;
Water, Oj;
Glycerine, ℥ij.

Soak the gelatine in the water for one day, then dissolve it by the aid of a gentle heat, and after it is dissolved add the glycerine.

This mixture, if spread on coarse and heavy silk, makes a white and opaque plaster; while if spread on thin and finer silk, the plaster will be nearly transparent and of a yellowish tint.

HOSPITAL NOTES.

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL, NEW YORK.

Reported by W. H. FARRINGTON, M.D.

POPLITEAL ANEURISM.

J. P., æt. 26, waiter, coloured, admitted August 6, 1873, had syphilis eight years ago; with this exception, has always enjoyed good health. Three months ago, patient fell through a hatchway, injuring his back and right leg. Two weeks later, he noticed a feeling of weariness in the right leg and a dull aching pain in the popliteal space. Shortly afterwards he noticed a swelling in this space, of the size of a cherry. This tumour gradually enlarged its growth, causing increased pain down the limb.

On admission, patient is a stout and apparently healthy man. On examination, a pulsating tumour is found in the right popliteal space, of the size of an orange. The pulsation is distensible in character and synchronous with the radial pulse. A double bruit is heard in the tumour. Firm pressure on the femoral artery as it passes beneath Poupart's ligament causes diminution in size of the tumour and cessation of pulsation and bruit; but these return immediately when the pressure is removed. Measurement of the right knee exceeds that of the left by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Digital compression on the femoral as it passes beneath Poupart's ligament was employed, with few intermissions, until August 21, with no apparent benefit. At ten P.M. a shot-bag of ten pounds' weight was placed over the artery, in Scarpa's triangle, assisted by digital pressure. By this means pulsation, etc., entirely ceased in the tumour, and did not reappear when pressure was removed at the end of ten hours. Repeated examinations failed to detect the slightest pulsation, the tumour remaining firm and solid. Slight pressure was kept up for several days by means of a shot-bag. This continued pressure was well borne by the patient, who said that he experienced very little actual pain.

September 15.—Patient is to-day allowed to sit up out of bed. The tumour is as solid as on the day pressure was discontinued. The leg, which during the time compression was used was cold and required the application of external warmth, has since then resumed its natural temperature. No internal medication was employed.

A case of diffused popliteal aneurism in another ward was treated on essentially the same plan, but with no benefit up to the present.

PELVIC HEMATOCELE.

A case of extensive effusion of blood in the pelvis, forming a tumour which occupied the hypogastric and iliac regions and extended quite up to the umbilicus, has been treated by the inunction of equal parts of unguent. belladonnæ and glycerine, hop poultices being applied over this. The relief to pain was marked and the tumour rapidly softened and disappeared. Internally, iron was given, and an occasional anodyne.

ASPIRATION IN RETENTION.

The following are the notes of two cases in which aspiration was employed to relieve over-distension of the bladder in retention.

Case I.—G.B., æt. 13, three days before admis-

sion, slipped from an iron railing on which he was standing, striking on the perineum. He experienced acute pain in this locality, and, shortly afterwards on attempting to urinate found himself unable to do so. His family physician failed on attempting to introduce a catheter. On admission, patient says that he has not passed water in two days; is suffering very acutely from abdominal pain and desire to micturate; bladder enormously distended, extending above the umbilicus. Perineum red, swollen, and painful. Catheter meets obstruction five inches from the meatus. Dicalafoy's pneumatic aspirator being obtained, a small-sized trocar is introduced, in the median line of the abdomen, an inch above the pubes, and large quantity of urine withdrawn, some being left in the bladder for fear of hæmorrhagic cystitis, which is apt to arise if the bladder be too suddenly relieved of its contents. External perineal urethrotomy was performed, and an extensive rupture of the urethra found at the membranous portion. An incision was made in the wall of the canal anteriorly and posteriorly to the point of rupture. Two months after the operation the wound had closed, and a No. 10 sound could be passed into the bladder without difficulty.

Case II.—J. W., æt. 18. Patient states that he had gonorrhœa two years ago. Within the last two weeks has had considerable difficulty in passing his water. On the morning of the day of admission he was seized with retention, and when admitted, late in the evening, had not urinated in twenty-four hours. On admission patient is suffering acutely from constant desire to urinate. A catheter is introduced, passing a slight stricture at the meatus, and meeting obstruction three inches from the meatus at a second stricture. Efforts to pass through this failed, and, the patient suffering greatly, the aspirator was employed to relieve him.

Steurer's modification of Dicalafoy's instrument was used, and a large quantity of urine withdrawn, the point of puncture being as in Case I, the patient experiencing immediate relief, unmindful of the slight pain caused by the puncture. A whalebone guide was passed the next day, and forcible dilatation made.

ACUTE ARTICULAR RHEUMATISM.

The alkaline treatment is the one most generally adopted in the medical wards. A prescription which has found great favour is as follows:

R Sodæ bicarb., ℥ss;
Potass. acetat., ℥ss;
Liq. ammon. acetat., ℥ij;
Aque, q. s. ad Oj. M.
R Acid citric., ℥ij;
Aque, ℥j. M.

℥ij of each q. 3 vel 4 h.

This forms an agreeable effervescing mixture, rendering the urine alkaline very quickly. The frequency with which it is given depends upon the degree of alkalinity obtained as tested morning and evening.

On another division an effervescing draught is made without the addition of the salts of potassa. As a local application, tincture of iodine is sometimes employed. By some the painting is limit-