

recommenced with the same dose he left off with, and that dose, as I said before, has been slowly increased to the present date; the galvanism he still continues, and is now engaged in making me a set of chessmen, which he manufactures with an ordinary knife and file out of the bones of the meat from which the soup is made for the inmates. Had he not been as intelligent as he is, I could not have trusted him to continue and discontinue the use of so powerful a drug, in the way that I did do. The case is a useful illustration of the benefit of strychnine combined with iron, in these cases; and the truth of the old motto, "Nil desperandum." My patient is very proud on hearing that his case is to be made the subject of a paper, and hopes that in a very short time *his* good time is coming, for which he has so patiently waited a little longer. I hope in a little time to be able to give a final and favorable report of the result.

March 7th, 1876.

Mary Palmer, residing at a village three miles off, æt. 74, stout and having always enjoyed good health, was seized with a fit on the 14th March, 1875, and laid perfectly insensible for four days, her stertorous breathing alone showing that she was alive; being unable to swallow anything, the only treatment that could be adopted was the occasional administration of five grains of calomel placed on the tongue, and mustard to the calves and soles of the feet. To my great astonishment she recovered consciousness on the fifth day, and it was found that she had completely lost the use, but not the sensibility, of her right arm and leg. I put a seton in the back of her neck, and, after purging her very freely, gave her the sixtieth part of a grain of strychnine, twice daily, with nothing else; as she lived that distance from me I was always afraid to increase the dose, especially as I was unable to trust the old lady, but not being very fond of medicine she would only take it at very irregular intervals, so that there has not been much fear of the peculiar cumulative action of the strychnine being exhibited. The seton was taken out and a fresh one (which is in still) put in about three months since; the ancient dame is able to get about now with a stick and do a little knitting.

March, 1876.

My notes on the case of John Fletcher, communicated in your February number, were accidentally not completed. I should have said that he was admitted to the Infirmary, and died the following day. No fresh symptoms occurred, and the most careful

examination failed to detect any other symptoms of hernia than those already mentioned. All his friends being unwilling, it was impossible, although urgently requested, to get a post mortem.

John E., æt. 41, commonly called "Alderbury Jack," a short spare fellow of somewhat weak intellect, whom the lower class of people here were very fond of giving beer to, until he was intoxicated, and then playing tricks with and making game of him, was found lying dead on the pathway leading to his home, by the side of a running stream, which was not fenced or protected in any way. Two young fellows were proved to have been seen with him last, and to have been told to leave him alone. It was a bitterly cold night, that of the 21st of January, 1876, and when found about six in the morning of the 22nd, his body was found frozen to the ground, his hat was carefully deposited by his side, his clothes were completely saturated, and a few yards off there were marks on the bank as if a heavy body had been dragged up, not as if a man had tumbled in and scrambled out again. The following are my notes of the post mortem which I was directed by the Coroner to make. Body fairly well nourished. *Externally*, several abrasions about face, head and hands, which latter were tightly clenched and full of gravel; clothes and body very wet. *Brain* small but quite normal and healthy. *Lungs* slightly diseased, a considerable amount of pleuritic adhesions. *Stomach* contained only about a tablespoonful of a liquid smelling and looking like undigested beer. *Bowels* contained a little flatus, but not a particle of feces. *Liver* and *kidneys* were healthy, but the heart was very much diseased and almost empty. Double scrotal congenital hernia. There was no doubt that deceased had either fallen, or, more likely, been pushed into the water, dragged out again, and, finding that he was insensible, left on the bank to be found by the next passer by. A good deal of evidence was given by various people, of cries for help, etc., etc., being heard, but, as that is unfortunately a common occurrence about twelve o'clock on a Saturday night, no attention was paid, more especially as they soon ceased. The parties were examined by the Coroner, but, of course, were not likely to criminate themselves, consequently, an open verdict was returned, that "Deceased came by his death from immersion in the water and subsequent exposure on such a bitterly cold night, but how he came to be in the water there was no evidence to show." I do not suppose there was any "malice prepense," but that it was done for a "lark." The old fable of the boys and the frogs once more exemplified.