

the monthly public meetings will be found very serviceable. The enlistment of the young, too, is of great consequence. For all that has been done, abundance of work remains behind.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—“The reformed inebriate stead-fast” in next number.

Education.

HOUSEHOLD SURGERY.

(Concluded from Chambers' Journal.)

“The best application for a bruise, be it large or small, is moist warmth; therefore a warm bread and water poultice, or hot moist flannels, should be put on, as they supple the skin, so that it yields to the pressure of the blood beneath, and thereby the pain is lessened.” In the case of a serious bruise, a dozen leeches may likewise be necessary, but only for an adult, and they may require to be repeated two or three times. With regard to the bruise technically called “a black eye,” warm bathing and patience are the only remedies. For the benefit of those who may be tempted to do what usually gives rise to this “accident,” the doctor merely repeats the advice given elsewhere “to persons about to marry”—don’t.

An ordinary cut or chop with a knife, chisel, axe, &c., even if it severs a finger or toe, is only dangerous to the irritable or intemperate. “The corresponding edges of the wound are to be brought together as perfectly as possible, and while thus held, some strips of plaster are to be laid across the wound with small spaces between every two, so as to allow the escape of an oozing fluid, which often continues for some hours. The edges of the wound should not be dragged tightly together, but merely kept in place by the plaster, and if the wound be in the finger, arm, toe, or leg, it is better that the ends of the plaster should not overlap.” If common sticking-plaster be not at hand, court-plaster will do; or thin bands of tow may be wrapped round the part, and smeared with gum-water. Or if nothing else is at hand, a bit of linen rag, by absorbing the blood, constitutes itself a plaster as the moisture dries. The dressing is to be left on for several days, unless the wound grow painful and throb; in which case it is to be taken off by the aid of warm water or soft poultice. If the discharge is inodorous, straw-coloured, and creamy-looking, you may apply the plaster again; if otherwise the wound must be poulticed till these wholesome signs appear. A bruised cut must be poulticed with bread and water to moderate the inflammation, and then with linseed meal, till new flesh grows instead of that which has been killed by the blow. The latter comes off in appearance like a piece of wetted buff-leather. Scratches are often fatal, in consequence of soap, pearl-ash, or filth of any kind getting into them, and should therefore be kept covered. Pricks with a thorn, &c., are likewise dangerous, occasionally producing locked jaw. Poulticing, leeching, &c., must be had recourse to if serious appearances occur; with a smart

dose of calomel inwardly, and some hours after, castor oil.

When blood is coughed up, it is known to come from the lungs by its frothiness, if in small quantities, and its pure bright redness when more plentiful; and when vomited from the stomach, by its dark colour. In either case, all that non-professionals can do is to cup or bleed, and keep the patient cool in bed. When the discharge is from the lungs, the fainter he is the less danger. Bleeding from wounds is stopped by pressure on the part; or, if necessary, the ends of any little artery that may be severed, are to be tied with a thread; or when the bleeding is important and continued, the main artery that supplies the limb may be stopped till medical assistance is obtained: in the case of the arm, by pressing the thumb behind the middle of the collar-bone; and in case of the leg, below the crease of the groin. When the bleeding is below the middle of the upper arm, or thigh, a stick tourniquet will answer the purpose. It is merely a handkerchief passed two or three times round the limb above the wound, and twisted as tightly as may be necessary by means of a stick.

Scalds and burns are frequently dangerous; and in them “remember, that as it is always hoped the scald or burn is confined to inflaming or blistering the skin, it is of the utmost importance not to burst the blister by tearing the skin, nor to let out the water it contains by pricking it.” The clothes, if any, over the part must be cut away, but only so far as they will come easily. The patient, if severely injured, must be kept warm; and if he continues to shudder or shiver, a little hot wine and water, or spirits and water, should be administered. “The object in treating scalds and burns is to keep up for a time, the great heat or high temperature to which the injured part has been raised by the scalding or burning, and to lower this by degrees to the natural heat of the body. The best and readiest dry materials to be applied are flour, or cotton, or cotton wadding; the wet are—spirits of turpentine, spirits of wine or good brandy, lime-water and oil, lime-water and milk, milk alone, or bread and milk poultice; and all these wet applications must be made of sufficient warmth to feel comfortable to the finger, but not hot.” When the blisters become uneasy after the lapse of perhaps from thirty to fifty hours (for the pain moderates in a few hours after the accident, unless it has been very severe), they must be carefully cut and dressed. The treatment of the opposite accident, frost-bite, is analogous. In restoring a frozen person, or a frost bitten-part, the object is directly the reverse—that is, to keep the cold, which by its exposure the body has acquired, and to withdraw it by slow degrees till the body has recovered its natural heat. If the person or part be brought suddenly into a hot room, or put in a warm bath, he or it will be killed outright. “The frozen person,” says Chelius, “should be brought into a cold room, and after having been undressed, covered up with snow, or with cloths dipped in ice-cold water, or he may be laid in cold water so deeply, that his mouth and nose only are free. When the body is somewhat thawed, there is commonly a