

them. The accident resulted in an attack of subacute myelitis, and an aneurism of the left crural artery at its inferior third.

This was at first mistaken for a rheumatic affection; but after a month and a half's suffering, during which it had acquired the dimensions of an orange, he was admitted to the hospital, and there underwent treatment for the myelitis and the syphilitic affection under which he laboured. After this he was submitted to the mode of compression recommended by M. Vanzetti; this being made, of course, on the horizontal branch of the pubis.

After two hours' continual pressure, the pain in the aneurism, which had previously been of a violent character, ceased, as did likewise the pulsations; and four hours afterwards, the blood contained in the sac was coagulated so much, that the tumour presented a distinct hardness. In order to solidify more completely, the clot compresses wet in iced water were applied, and frequently renewed; and at the lapse of four days of compression, the tumour, already hard, indolent, and pulseless, rapidly diminished. — *Gazetta Medica Italiana (Stati Sardi)*, 1858.

REMARKABLE COURSE OF A URINARY FISTULA.

A patient recently entered the St. Antoine Hospital, under Mr. Morel-Lavallée, suffering from stricture, and having several urinary fistulæ in one of his thighs. Not a drop of urine was discharged by the urethra, and no instrument could be introduced. Although the attempt at catheterism was made with great precaution, an intermittent paroxysm followed, giving rise to the death of the patient in spite of the administration of quinine. At the autopsy, a vesical fistula was found traversing the horizontal ramus of the pubis, a true bony canal, in fact, existing, communicating with the fistulous tracts of the thigh, and with the point once occupied by the prostate, this gland being entirely destroyed. It is probable that in this case there was primary disease of the bone, the bladder becoming attached to it. The case is probably unique, although the example of balls perforating the ramus, penetrating the bladder, and thus giving rise to a fistula, bear some analogy to it.—*Union Méd.* No. 114.

MATERIA MEDICA.

ON THE RELATION OF FOOD AND RESISTANCE TO LOW TEMPERATURES

BY DR. ISAAC HAYES.

The author was Surgeon on board the *Advance*, the vessel employed in the second Grinnell Arctic Expedition. "There is," he says, "a great misapprehension in the popular mind upon the subject of Arctic life. It is, I believe, pretty generally thought that Arctic travellers are necessarily subjected to great hardships in consequence of the lowness of the atmospheric temperatures, and that almost superhuman powers are required to resist it. This is, I can but think, a great mistake. The animal economy everywhere adapts itself to surrounding circumstances, and this power of adaptation is nowhere more strikingly exhibited than in the Arctic regions. The appetite and digestive powers are, doubtless, more intimately concerned than any other animal function; and in the quantity and quality of the food consumed, we are led to look for an explanation of the cause which enables the inhabitants of Arctic countries so successfully to resist cold."

During the stay of the *Advance* at Rensselaer Harbour, on the west coast of Greenland, in 1853, the author was in frequent intercourse with a tribe of wandering Esquimaux, inhabiting the shores of the head-waters of Baffin's Bay. These people live almost