

POPLITEAL ANEURISM TREATED BY FLEXION.

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As Surgeon Hart's treatment of popliteal and brachial aneurisms by forcible flexion of the limb is still sub-judice, the following case may not prove uninteresting to the profession from its success, assisted as it was by the administration of iodide of potassium, as recommended by Nelaton, and from the fact that complete relief from pain was also obtained by this remedy.

Wm. H—, aged 28, a strong healthy man, states that over two years since, whilst lifting a bag of grain his foot slipped, when he felt something give way in the popliteal space, which caused great weakness in the limb for some time; from this he gradually recovered and was able to perform his daily labour as usual. The swelling produced by the strain, however, never entirely disappeared.

Last fall having met with a similar accident, the swelling increased rapidly in size, and was accompanied by severe pain, so great indeed that on my first visit, three days after the injury, he had not slept for forty-eight hours. I found the aneurism about the size of a large hen's-egg. It was in the morning; I put him at once on twenty grain doses of iodide of potassium every three hours, and by evening the pain had entirely left him, and he obtained a good night's rest.

After continuing the remedy for two days, I proceeded to do up the leg in the usual manner, by first bandaging it to the knee with a cotton roller, flexing the leg on the thigh, and securing it firmly by passing the bandage around it and the thigh. The knee was then brought up towards the abdomen, and kept in position by means of pillows.

Preferring the treatment of subsequent stiffness of the joint to failure of success, I retained the limb in this position for four weeks and then removed the bandage. It was three months before the leg completely regained its power of extension and motion. The tumour gradually became reduced in size, and was without pulsation. The iodide of potassium was given regularly in the 20 grain doses three times a day during the first two weeks, and once or twice a day for a fortnight longer.

On examination six months afterwards, the swelling was reduced to the size of a small hickory nut (about the size of a marble. *Ed.*); the coldness in the limb had entirely disappeared, and he walked as well on that leg as on the other.

ESSENTIAL OILS IN SCABIES.—M. Gras' effective treatment of itch by the external application of the oil of lavender is well known to the profession. And likewise that recommended by M. Aubé of a mixture of the oils of turpentine and lemon. But the more recent treatment by the oil of bergamot may be new to our readers. It has been brought forward by Dr. Manfre, the venerable clinical professor in the University of Naples. He says it has never failed of success in his hands, a single plentiful and thorough friction (with an ounce or two of the oil) always producing a perfect and instantaneous cure. The patient, after its application, he says, may be allowed to return home, with the usual caution of the necessity of thoroughly cleansing every article of clothing, &c., with which his skin is liable again to come in contact.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

SINGULAR CASE OF PRECOCITY.

By D. E. BERDETT, M.D., BELLEVILLE, C.W.

On the 12th of March last, I was called four miles distant to a case of pneumonia. On my arrival, I found my patient to be seemingly a small but well developed lad of 18 or 20 years of age. He was so low that notwithstanding all my efforts, he did not recover, but died on the 17th, (a week afterwards). During my treatment of him, I obtained the following particulars from his mother, which were amply corroborated by the people in the neighbourhood.

This young man was born on the 20th March, 1860, and was therefore but four years of age! For the first six months after his birth, nothing strange was noticed in his appearance; when one day his mother hearing him cry as if in pain, hastened to the cradle and found his penis in a state of erection with the prepuce forced entirely back of the glans. When he was but seven months old, she perceived the stink of semen upon his linen, and that he began to grow very rapidly in size.

When three years of age he was seen by another medical man, who became much interested in the case, and inquired of the mother whether he was guilty of masturbation, and as she did not know, he requested her to keep an eye upon him, which she afterwards did, but she never caught him in the act, although she frequently observed discharge on his shirt, and noticing that he liked to be a great deal by himself, never seeming desirous of associating with other children of his own age.

As he grew his voice became deep and sonorous, and at the time I saw him was of a peculiar hoarse bass. His height was 4 feet 6 inches, and circumference under the arms 32 inches. His head measured 22½ inches and was peculiarly shaped, being developed from the anterior to the posterior region inversely to that of ordinary children, and almost flat on the crown. His skin and muscles were coarse and hard. The arch of the pubis and testes were thickly covered with coarse black hair, two or three inches in length, which had commenced to grow when he was but six months old. His penis and testicles did not differ from that of an adult, but the spongy portion of the urethra was rather larger than usual. His face was covered with incipient beard, such as may usually be seen in youth of 18 or 20. His weight was about 100 lbs. There was nothing otherwise abnormal in his structure.

With regard to his mental capacity, his mother says that he knew more than all the other children put together, although they are quite intelligent, and ranged from 13 years downwards.

Belleville, July 27th, 1864.

UNION OF DIVIDED NERVE BY LIGATURE.—Prof. LAUGHER, one of the surgeons of the Hôtel Dieu, has recently made a most important communication to the Academy of Sciences. In an operation performed on the arm, and in which the median nerve had been severed, that skilful surgeon united by suture the two ends of the nerve. Almost immediately after, signs of sensibility were observed, and in a few days more the nerve had entirely recovered all its properties of sensation and motion. I do not insist on the importance of this case, which throws such a new light on physiological pathology of the nervous system. Within a few weeks, the discussion which took place at the Society of Surgery, it was affirmed by several members that