

complaint for which he entered (retention of urine,) entirely removed, having now no difficulty in passing water. At his own request, the old hydrocele was punctured, and 8 oz. of clear fluid drawn off, which he says had been two years in collecting.

REMARKS.

The cause of the paralysis of the bladder in this case was evidently over-distention of its muscular fibres, occasioned by the retention of urine, which resulted from the wetting which Mathews got a few days prior to his admission into the Hospital. The prompt and permanent benefit derived, in this rather unfavorable case, considering the man's age, &c., from the direct application of galvanism to the parietes of the bladder, after the failure of the ergot of rye, and other means employed, prove it to be an eligible therapeutic agent in similar cases; and the established physiological doctrine, that although the muscles of animal life are ordinarily and best called into action through stimulants applied to their nerves, the muscles of organic life are usually called into action by the direct application of a stimulus to their surface, and are with difficulty made to contract by stimulants applied to their nerves, satisfactorily explains the *modus operandi* of galvanism in overcoming such a form of paralysis of the bladder as this was, and, moreover, shows the practice to be based on principles as scientific as it was successful in the above case.

The low degree of vitality of the coats of the bladder, owing to old age and the over-distention to which they had been so lately subjected, together with the irritation caused by passing the catheter, and sudden changes of the weather, to the influence of which Mathews exposed himself by walking about the galleries, were the apparent causes of the subsequent irritation of the urinary mucous membrane.

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ART. XVI.—*The Medical Institutions, &c., of Berlin.* By WM. HALES HINGTON, M.D., L.R.C.S.E., Member of the German Society of Naturalists and Physicians, Berlin.

From the time of Frederick the Great, Berlin has been looked upon as the focus of talent and learning; and has, almost universally, been considered the Athens of Germany. During, and since the reign of Frederick, it has been the seat of the most polished and refined society—society to which talent and moral worth, with a liberal education, were the passports. That monarch (himself a poet and philosopher, as well as a politician and warrior) labored hard to make Berlin a capital worthy of Prussia; and his successors followed his example. They endeavored to establish its reputation by means of men celebrated in the various