

hernia occurs by an imperfectly closed umbilicus; but this case was very much different, for the umbilicus was perfectly formed.—*Chicago Medical Examiner.*

Medical News, Items, &c.

Antoine Clot-Bey.

The following from the *Messenger de Toulouse*, we copy from the *Medical Times and Gazette*:

Clot was one of the most intelligent and, at the same time, one of the poorest practitioners of Marseilles. He lived as a Bohemian, ill-clothed and ill-fed, drawing teeth now and then for the sailors, dining a little better when the extraction of a few molars put a little in his purse. Mehemet Ali, having taken it into his head to import civilization into Africa, commissioned General Lirron to expedite workmen, surgeons, savans, merchants, etc., to Egypt, each workman to receive 150 francs besides a free passage. Dr. Clot presented himself with a seedy coat, holes in his boots, and a shapeless hat. 'General,' he said, 'I am a Doctor in Medicine—here is my diploma. I have plenty of courage, but no clothes. All I ask is to try my fortune.' The General selected him. When Mehemet Ali passed his French consignment under review, he found that there was not one of the newcomers able to exchange a couple of words with him. Still Mehemet understood Italian, and one of the emigrants only was found who could speak that language fluently. It was Dr. Clot. Conversation was rapidly set up, and Clot as rapidly became a favorite of the Viceroy. Six months afterwards a School of Medicine and Hospital were founded. Clot studied Arabic so effectually as to be able to speak the language and peruse the medical writers. He delivered his lectures in that language, received a commission in the army, and became Bey at the same time as Colonel Selves became Pacha under the name of Soliman.

Clot abdicated neither his nationality nor his religion, continuing all his life a Frenchman and a Catholic, and always employed all his influence for the protection of the Catholic missionaries. This point is to be insisted upon, as he has been accused of apostacy. He repaired, however, several times to Rome, where he was well received, thanked, and encouraged by the Pope. In fact, he lived and died a Christian. Many were the difficulties he had to overcome. Mussulman fanaticism interdicts all anatomical studies, and when he proposed dissection there was a general explosion. The ulmas, the muftis, and devotees of every description besieged the Viceroy and demanded of him the closure of the school. Dissecting bodies were indeed a profanation. Mehemet put them off, and bade Clot-Bey commence his demonstrations. The Professor, forceps and scalpel in hand, opens the chest of a corpse, when one of the students, more fanatical or bolder than the others, rushed upon him and stabbed him with a poignard. The blade slid over the ribs, and Clot-Bey, perceiving that he was not seriously hurt, took a piece of court plaster from his dressing case and applied it to the wound, observed to his class—'We were speaking of the disposition of the sternum and the ribs, and I now

have to show you why a blow directed from above had so little chance of penetrating the cavity of the thorax.' This proof of *sans froid* gave him an incontestable moral ascendancy over his pupils. He continued his lectures, and turned out some skilful practitioners. He was Officer of the Legion of Honor, and Commander or Grand Cross of almost every order of the world, having more than sixty decorations, although never wearing other than the red rosette, the cross of his own country. In one of my conversations with him, I asked him his matured opinion on the plague of the East, a disease which he had studied for a quarter of a century, and had so successfully combated. 'Is it contagious?' 'Certainly not. For eighteen years it has existed wherever I have been. I have passed entire days in visiting patients, changing their position with my own hands, because no one else dare touch them. Well, after thus being in contact with hundreds of them, I have gone home and have found running to meet me my only daughter. She would throw her arms around my neck, and I pressed her to my heart, never for an instant believing that I exposed her to any danger. I entirely deny contagion.'—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

Bromide of Potassium in Dysmenorrhœa.

Among the many uses of bromide of potassium, I have not observed any notice of its employment in a disorder which so often baffles the skill of the practitioner—dysmenorrhœa.

I was led to its use on general principles, believing dysmenorrhœa, as it exists among young women of the wealthy and luxurious classes of society, to be generally a disorder of enervation, corrected by whatever means, hygienic or therapeutic, which will most fully restore the health and equilibrium of the nervous system. My first trial of the drug was in the case of a young lady who had suffered intensely for years, and who had run through a long list of remedies, both at home and abroad, without relief. After the first trial, she reported a marvellous improvement, saying she had suffered very little, indeed. Since then I have tried the remedy in a number of cases, and in several of them with satisfactory results. I generally find the annexed prescription sufficient for one time:

R. Potass. bromid., 2 drams.
Aque pure, f. 2 oz. M.

S. A teaspoonful in water an hour after each meal.

I direct the patient to commence its use two or three days before the expected time of suffering, and to continue it until the amount prescribed above is used, repeating the same at each subsequent period so long as it may be needed, and while it meets the indications of the case.

I cannot but believe that many of those cases of contracted cervical canal which have been met by surgical treatment, might yield to this remedy; and regarding sphincters as intended to be *relaxed*, not divided, every application of therapeutics which can prevent mechanical interference in such cases must be regarded with favor.

P.
Philadelphia, Nov., 1868.

—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*