

A CASE OF CONGESTION OF THE LIVER WHERE PUNCTURE WAS RESORTED TO, WITH RELIEF OF THE SYMPTOMS.

A Burmese convict was admitted into hospital on the 19th of June last, with intermittent fever. On the 22nd of June, while under the care of Surgeon-Major Blanc, of the Indian Army, he showed symptoms of an affection of the liver, that organ being enlarged and sensitive to pressure, and extending some four inches below the tenth rib. The general symptoms accompanying the affection not moderating, but the swelling increasing, it was resolved in consultation, and relying on the favourable report of Professor Maclean, of Netley, to puncture the liver with the needle of an aspirator. Accordingly, needle No. 2 of Potain's aspirator was introduced into the most prominent part of the swelling, which was three and a half fingers' breadth below the right false ribs, and four fingers' breadth from the median line. About an ounce of black blood was withdrawn, in which were mixed a few pus-corpuscles, as shown by the microscope. The operation afforded the patient undoubted relief, the respiration falling from 34 to 26, though the pulse and temperature were not specially influenced, the latter rising two degrees on the day following, but falling to its former standard on the second day. The liver, however, commenced contracting, and continued to do so for five or six days. About this time general oedema began to make its appearance in the limbs, and becoming general, the patient gradually failed until death occurred, seventeen days after the operation. The autopsy showed that death was due to anasarca, the result principally of excessive fatty degeneration of the heart, while the liver appeared to have nearly recovered its normal condition; so that although the case terminated fatally, the operation was thought to have been beneficial rather than otherwise, the withdrawal of this small quantity of blood relieving the distended hepatic vessels from over-pressure, and so restoring them in a measure to their normal condition.—*The Lancet*, Sept. 25, 1875.

MR. CAMPBELL DE MORGAN, Senior Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, died from pneumonia on April 12th.

CLINICAL STUDIES ON PERTUSSIS.—By Dr. Noël Gueneau de Mussy ('*L'Union Méd.*,' Nos. 81, 82, 83 and 85, 1875.) Dr. Mussy here demonstrates a new theory of his own on the mechanism of the convulsive cough which characterizes this disease. According to him every whooping-cough is accompanied by bronchial adenopathy characterized by particular signs, which present nothing special as regards the species of enlargement. It is this lesion which is the determining cause of the spasmodic phenomena, in provoking the excitation of the pneumogastric nerves, and compressing the bronchi. To this anatomical condition the author refers chronic whooping-cough, and all bronchitic affections characterized by fits of painful, fatiguing and obstinate cough, but without respiratory whistling, affections which he designates under the name of "coqueluchoides" pertussoid. Bronchial adenopathy develops from the first period of the disease; but it is especially in the second that it becomes well marked and readily appreciable by the physical means of chest exploration. Dr. de Mussy also attributes to the ganglionic tumefaction the moanings emitted by the patients during sleep, a phenomenon to which he was the first to draw attention, and which he has observed in the absence of whooping-cough when the same anatomical conditions have been present. The way having been opened, Dr. de Mussy develops his ideas on the nature of pertussis; a malady essentially contagious, comparable to the eruptive fevers, always accompanied by a specific exanthem situated in the isthmus of the throat and pharynx; this eruption disappears towards the end of the third week.—*British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*.

CHLORAL BATHS IN VARIOLA.—Dujardin Beaumets reports that he has obtained excellent effects from general baths of chloral, in cases of confluent variola at the period when the epidermis, detaching itself *en masse*, leaves the dermis exposed. The quantity of chloral used in each bath has not exceeded twenty grammes. In this manner is obtained not only the disinfection of the patient, but also a prompt cicatrization of the skin.—*Bull. Gén. de Thérapeutique*, November, 1875.