

was the preternatural resonance of the voice along the dorsal interscapular region. He had taken twelve grs. of morphia during the last twenty four hours; an anodyne liniment with belladonna and a mixture of camphor, sulph. ether, morphia and digitalis was prescribed. On former occasions counter-irritation had not produced any beneficial result.

October 2.—During the previous day and night he experienced considerable relief, until 5 o'clock, a.m., when his suffering became continued and aggravated. His bowels were copiously moved twice this morning, which, with the exertion of going to the night's chair, produced syncope; after the lapse of three hours he rallied from this state by the aid of stimulants internally, and heat applied to the extremities. The inhalation of chloroform, in small quantity, was tried as an experiment for the relief of his sufferings, which continued unmitigated, as also its internal administration in conjunction with camphor and ether. About 2½ o'clock, p.m., he suddenly called to a friend who was sitting in his room, and, in a paroxysm of torture, sprang to his feet, but immediately fell, apparently dead. However, having been lifted into bed, reaction again returned partially in half an hour; and it was remarkable to witness the expression of horror evinced when conscious of his lying in bed, and the instinctive effort made to regain the usual upright position in the easy chair. He now began to complain of dyspnoea, and foreseeing the early approach of death, took leave of his friends, retaining consciousness, and suffering pain, until almost the last moment of his existence, which terminated as if in a faint, at 4½ o'clock, p.m.

*Post-mortem appearances.*—No emaciation of the body or extremities. The liver healthy, but pale. Gall-bladder contracted, filled with gall-stones and a small quantity of viscid, colorless fluid; one of the gall-stones was partially in the duct, and the surface corresponding abraded or ulcerated. *Thorax.*—Heart occupied a position to the right of the mesial line, its structure perfectly healthy, size normal, and its cavities empty. Pericardium contained a small quantity of serum. The left pleural cavity was filled with serum, and a recent coagulum, the left lung being completely compressed. The posterior mediastinum was occupied by an aneurism of the thoracic aorta, which extended from the 4th to the 9th dorsal vertebra, the bodies of those intervening having been absorbed by pressure to a very great extent. Laterally, the tumor projected chiefly into the left pleural cavity, into which the blood had escaped, a rent in the pleura having occurred near the upper edge of the root of the lung. Here also its parietes were thinnest, and the contents fluid, while at the right side the tumor was hard and solid, from the existence of fibrinous coagula. The arch of the aorta was dilated, and contained several ossific deposits; in its ascending portion a "well" shaped dilatation about the size of a walnut existed. The aneurism appeared to have been formed originally of the entire coats of the aorta, which at the origin of the tumor of its natural calibre, but not retaining its elasticity, was rigid and thickened.

*Previous History.*—The subject of this disease was a gentleman of most temperate habits; for a short time commander of one of the Montreal and Quebec steam-

boats. The prominent and almost only symptoms, from the commencement to the termination, comprising a period of three years, may be termed "angina pectoris." For two years he had been unable to lie horizontally; many of his days and most of his nights having been spent sitting in an arm chair. The only remedy which afforded relief was opium—which latterly he took with unsparing liberality.

The writer is aware that there are many deficiencies in the foregoing case, but as the chief object in giving it publicity is to satisfy the minds of the medical men under whose care the deceased had been, it is hoped that due indulgence will be granted, considering the hopeless circumstances of the case when seen, and the difficulties of investigating more thoroughly post-mortem details in a private house.

Sorel, October 26, 1849.

ART. XXXIX.—OBSERVATIONS SUR LA PARTIE CHIMIQUE DU RAPPORT DE PROGRÈS POUR L'ANNÉE 1847-8, DE L'EXPLORATION GÉOLOGIQUE DU CANADA.

Par E. S. DE ROTTEKUND, Ecr., Yamaska.

Je viens de recevoir le Rapport de l'Exploration Géologique du Canada, intitulé, "Rapport de progrès pour l'année 1847-8."

Quand à la partie géologique proprement dite, qui décrit avec une grande précision l'état du globe depuis l'Atlantique jusqu'au Lac Supérieur, et du nord au sud des possessions Britanniques, chaque épaisseur, chaque inclinaison des différentes couches de terre, de roche, etc., etc., je laisse au jugement de ceux, qui ont plus d'expérience scientifique et pratique dans cette partie des travaux de l'exploration; mais je vais aborder la partie qui a rapport à la chimie, à laquelle je suis obligé particulièrement de porter attention, non seulement comme simple citoyen, mais comme homme de science qui a fondé le Laboratoire où Mr. Hunt a fait toutes ces grandes analyses. Par conséquent j'ai dû y faire quelques travaux aussi, et quoique Mr. Hunt paraît les ignorer complètement, ou plutôt qu'il s'est créé le droit de se placer dans une si haute position, qu'il ne devait pas même condescendre à les mentionner, il n'en est pas moins de mon devoir de dire ce que je pense de ce rapport, et d'en démontrer au public toutes les erreurs, surtout que Mr. Hunt a refait plusieurs analyses déjà faites par moi qualitativement. Si je ne me suis pas montré assez courageux et hardi pour publier les analyses quantitatives, c'est que les moyens de ce laboratoire ne me permettaient pas de les faire, sans exposer le chimiste à perdre la confiance dans ses travaux, en donnant au public des chiffres plus qu'erronnés, comme je le prouverai plus bas à Mr. Hunt sur sa propre publication.

Que Mr. Hunt soit cité, à tout propos, par les personnes qui ne connaissent pas la science de chimie, c'est leur affaire; la mienne est de remarquer la valeur des travaux qui sont publiés dans le Rapport des progrès pour l'année 1847-8. Depuis le commencement du Rapport du Chimiste jusqu'à la page 144, je ne peux rien en dire, soit en faveur ou contre; c'est la description de son voyage, je laisse au lecteur à juger s'il en