

pulse. When the vein was pressed, the pulsation ceased below the part where it was employed, but continued in the portion of the vein nearest to the heart; the jugular veins were prominent, but no pulsation could be observed in them. Early on Monday morning the bleeding returned, and the patient almost instantly expired.

Section Cadaveris.—Monday evening. The right lung adhered firmly to the ribs, and could not be separated without laceration. It was thickly studded with tubercles. An excavation of about the size of a hazel-nut was discovered beneath the clavicle. The left lung was also bound to the ribs, but less firmly than the right. It was emphysematous, and was completely gorged with blood in a fluid state. No tubercles could be detected in it.

The heart was pale and flabby; the right auricle and ventricle were greatly dilated; the parietes of the latter were about their natural thickness. All the valves were healthy.

Remarks.—I was at first inclined to attribute the venous pulsation in this case to the diminution of the column of blood occurring simultaneously with disease of the right side of the heart, of the existence of which there was sufficient evidence; but upon further reflection, I think it more probable that it was occasioned by the sudden effusion into the left lung, causing an obstruction to the free transmission of the blood, the right lung having been greatly condensed from previous disease. I offer this opinion with much diffidence, as it is contrary to the theory of Laennec and other celebrated pathologists, who attribute venous pulsation to regurgitation of the blood.

I have been led to the above explanation of this remarkable symptom, from a consideration of the character of the pulsation, which was a gradual elevation of the vein following each expiration, but was not synchronous with the arterial pulse; and the absence of the stethoscopic signs, which indicate either regurgitation or valvular derangement, and also the remarkable condensation of both lungs, which the post-mortem examination disclosed. The fluttering irregular pulsations which occurred during inspiration were probably the result of the auricular contraction, and perfectly coincide with the observations of Dr. Hope on that subject.

SUPERSULPHATE AND SUPER-ACETATE OF IRON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have sent you an account of the effects which have almost uniformly resulted in the undermentioned diseases, from the internal exhibition of the solutions of the supersulphate and superacetate of iron. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. PELHAM BUCKLAND.

84, Watling-street, St. Paul's,
Oct. 13, 1835.

The colour of the solution of the supersulphate of iron is dark-brown; the taste is exceedingly rough; it dissolves sulphate of quinine, and is decomposed by the same preparations as the sulphate.

CASE 1.—I was consulted in April 1832, by a gentleman who had been subject for a considerable time to periodical returns of neuralgia faciei. He had been affected with the disease in a greater or less degree uninterruptedly for three months previously to his consulting me, and during the whole of that time had taken the subcarbonate of iron in large doses. The paroxysms had now become very severe, and at each intermission the part was left so excessively tender, that he was unable to bear the slightest touch.

I commenced my treatment by giving him ℥x of this solution three times a day, and a gentle aperient every second night. The paroxysms in a few days became less violent. The dose was then gradually increased to half a drachm three times a day. He was completely cured within a month.

The effects produced by the increased dose were, entire loss of appetite, and excessive dryness of the skin, which the patient described as being drawn too tight upon the body. The secretion of urine was very small, the heat of the skin rather diminished. These symptoms arising from the too large dose of the medicine, were entirely removed in a few days by the daily use of warm cathartics. Since this case I have never given it in larger doses than ten minims three times a day. Early last spring, this patient had a return of the complaint, when the liq. ferri supersulphatis was given in smaller doses with success, and without any unpleasant results.

CASE 2.—I have given this solution in several cases of leucorrhœa with the most beneficial effects. Some cases of long standing were completely cured by it, others were nearly so, the strength of the patient greatly increasing.

CASE 3.—Night perspirations arising from general debility are very soon checked by its use. In one case I gave it to a gentleman who had been taking sulphate of quinine with sulphuric acid for two months without any benefit. In about ten days from the time of his commencing to take this preparation the perspirations had entirely ceased. This was in 1833, and he has not since had any relapse.

CASE 4.—Paruria Mellita, a person residing in Wiltshire, who has had this complaint for two years, took during the first eighteen months, among other remedies, various preparations of iron, the sulphate, tincture of the muriate, ammoniated iron, but did not receive the slightest benefit from either of them; for the last six months, during which he has been my patient, he has taken this preparation in doses of ten minims three times a day. He felt great relief from it within the first month, and is now gaining strength and flesh every day, and losing the other symptoms of the disease.

Remarks.—The medicinal properties of the solution of the superacetate of iron are similar to those of the supersulphate. It is much pleasanter to the taste, and is readily taken by children when mixed with sirup and water. I give this preparation with much benefit in mesenteric diseases. From one to three drops three times a day in sirup and water, is the dose which I generally prescribe for children of from one to three years of age. In weak chlorotic patients also, this medicine is of great utility. The dose for an adult is from five to ten minims two or three times a day.

Every practitioner is aware of the numerous complaints in which iron may be exhibited with advantage. In all of them which have as yet fallen under my care, I have found these preparations to agree better with the patient, and occasion less nausea, than those generally used; I therefore have not considered it necessary to occupy more space in particularizing their effects in other instances, the above being quite sufficient to afford a general idea of their properties.

AN HERBIVOROUS MAN.—Anthony Julian, a native of Var, fell suddenly into such poverty during his youth, that he was compelled to eat plants. That which was at first painful food soon became an object of choice; and although in a few months his situation was altered, he continued to live on raw vegetables, with the exception of a little bread and wine, which he could without any sacrifice forego. The digestion of his new food was perfect, and his health and strength increased in an extraordinary manner.—*Bull. de Sc. and Arts of Varr.*

System der Chirurgie von Ph. Fr. von Walther der Philosophie, Medicin, und Chirurgie Doctor &c. &c. (A System of Surgery) by BARON WALTHER, 1 vol. Berlin, 1833. Reimer, pp. 418. (Imported by Schloss.)

WALTHER is one of the truly great surgeons who do honour to his father land, and his works on Physiology and several detached papers on Practical Surgery in the Journal published by Graefe and himself, have greatly contributed to the progress of the higher order of medical science in the northern states of Germany. To his lectures, he himself, however, attaches more importance than to his writings; they have been delivered regularly ever since 1802, and, enriched with improvements supplied by the entire range of medical literature, and by many years of meditation and experience they have arrived at a state of high maturity. At the medico-chirurgical school of Bamberg, the University of Landshut, Bonn, and Munich, he speaks with a becoming pride now, in his riper years, of having had for auditors many of the most distinguished German surgeons of the present day.

The volume before us is the first of a series intended to present the whole of his course and system of surgery. It develops the *general principles* of surgery, and constitutes that to the succeeding volumes, which general does to particular or topographical anatomy. The Professor has, from the first step in his professional career, followed the leading ideas that medicine not only reposes on natural philosophy, but that it is itself *natural philosophy*. This position being firmly embraced, he cannot admit that its practice as an art, or its utility to society, admits of its division. In every point of view, Walther's System of Surgery merits that name better than any other extant. Those who prefer natural grouping to the A B C arrangement, or who, like Gibbon, "can never digest the alphabetical order," will find in this logical and purely rational system, many charms, and some consolation, for the present form of medical writing which prevails in England.

The forms of disease treated in surgery are divided by the Professor into five classes. To the first belongs INFLAMMATION, its terminations and sequelaë (*phlogosen*); to the 2nd, WOUNDS, solutions of continuity (*traumen*); to the 3rd, DISPLACEMENTS OF