

culated from the previous symptoms. Its seat was probably deep in the soft parts around the mastoid process, and I regret that the notice of the case, taken by me at the time, gives so imperfect an account of symptoms which would have been very interesting now. The discharge of matter by the ear is a common occurrence in abscesses lying near that organ; but it is not very easy to understand how it could get to the nose; and some doubt may be perhaps entertained of the accuracy of the statement. I can only say, that my account of the case, taken at the time, mentions this, and that my own recollection is in accordance with it. There are cases on record where matter was evacuated by passages equally circuitous, and I reported to the Society, at a former meeting, one in which an abscess discharged itself from the bladder, rectum, and lungs.

So far the case is curious; but an inference of a practical kind may be deduced from it. It was inflammation surrounding and enveloping the *portio dura* as it emerges from the cranium, which gave rise to this peculiar distribution of the pain. In fact, perfect hemicrania was produced. Is it wrong to presume that in various cases of pain occupying one side of the head or face, inflammation or irritation of a nerve is present?

2. *Cases of Inflammation of the Orbital Linings.* By J. CRAIG, Esq. Surgeon.

— a female, aged 33. I saw her on the 23d of October 1833, and found her complaining of most agonizing and deep-seated pain in the left eye, or rather in the orbit, extending to the head;—so intense, that during the night she was quite delirious; the conjunctiva was a good deal inflamed, and the eyeball protruded forward, with a feeling of much tension; the iris was slightly contractile, and vision somewhat impaired; the eyelids were distended, and unnaturally protuberant; and the pulse was strong, full, and beat 120. She was bled from the arm to thirty-five ounces, and six leeches were applied to the eyelids; she had a dose of calomel and rhubarb at bed-time, and jalap on the following morning; and saturnine lotions were applied to the eye after the bleeding.

24th. The local symptoms were more aggravated; the palpebræ were red on the surface, much swollen, and œdematous; the globe of the eye was more protuberant, and the least attempt to move it caused the most excruciating pain; the iris was quite immoveable, and vision gone; the constitutional symptoms were considerably relieved. The leeches had bled freely, and the medicine operated well. She had a blister applied behind the ear, and ten leeches to the eyelids.

25th. Very much the same. Had the aperient medicine re-

peated, as also the leeches, and to continue the saturnine applications.

26th and 27th. Symptoms not in the least relieved, and the protrusion of the eyeball still greater. Took twelve ounces of blood from the temporal artery; applied the leeches again to the palpebræ; a large blister to the forehead and temples; scarified the conjunctiva (which was much inflamed) very freely, and repeated the aperient medicine at bed-time and in the morning, and also ordered an antimonial mixture to be given every two or three hours.

28th. Last night the suffering was so extreme that she was unable to lie down, having sat up all night supported by pillows; early in the morning, of her own accord, applied again nine leeches, which bled freely. Had the aperient medicine repeated at bed-time and in the morning.

30th. The pulse became small and feeble; the eyeball dreadfully protuberant, but pulsation distinctly felt by the patient deep in the orbit; the bowels were operated upon well, and the febrile symptoms almost abated. Ordered a large warm poultice over the eye.

November 1st. During the night an abscess burst through the upper eyelid, near to the inner canthus, external to the *conjunctiva*, and discharged a considerable quantity of healthy purulent matter. Through the opening a probe could be passed over the eyeball, towards the external canthus, deep into the orbit. The pain was much alleviated, but the eye still very protuberant, and the eyelids red and œdematous. I directed a poultice of turnip to be applied over the eye.

2d. The opening still discharges a good deal of matter; the painful symptoms a good deal relieved. The bowels are regular, and the tongue clean. She was ordered two glasses of wine daily, and to continue the poultices.

3d. During the night another opening formed through the lower eyelid close to the inner canthus, through which a probe could be passed below the eyeball to the external canthus of the orbit, and matter was discharged freely from the opening.

From this date she had no bad symptoms. The poultices were continued for several days, then simple dressing, and a zinc lotion, and she recovered remarkably well, with vision quite perfect, but the eye easily fatigued.

In this case the pain was more severe than can well be described; the tumefaction and redness of the eyelids, and protrusion of the eyeball, presented a horrible appearance; the stretching of the retaining muscles, and deep-seated tender parts, the consequently altered position of the optic nerve, and insensibility of the retina, all deserve attention.

With regard to the treatment, it was from the commencement strictly antiphlogistic; and though, from the inflamed state of the eyeball itself and conjunctiva, I did not at first suspect a deep-seated abscess, and, for the sake of affording temporary relief, was on the point of evacuating the aqueous humour, yet the distinct pulsation felt, though not preceded by any rigor, induced me to change the application, and apply a warm poultice, which in a few hours gave relief.

Mrs R. was seized with a severe pain, extending over one side of the head, but principally situate in the left orbit. This she, for some days, attributed to decayed teeth, which she had extracted without relief. When I first saw her, she laboured under considerable fever; the pain, particularly over the forehead, was so acute as during the night to be accompanied with delirium; the eye itself was slightly prominent, hardly inflamed, and vision was quite perfect; there was a constant discharge of tears.

She was purged freely; had her hair cut out; leeches repeatedly applied to the temples, followed by cold applications to the head, and saturnine lotion over the eyeball. The fever abated, but the deep-seated pain in the orbit, the malar bone, forehead and temples continued. At one time I had a suspicion of matter forming in the malar antrum, but satisfied myself it was not the case. The eye became very gradually more prominent; the eyelids red and œdematous, and purulent matter was discharged through the nostril. At length an abscess pointed towards the inner canthus, external to the conjunctiva, was opened by Mr Liston, who saw the case with me, and a quantity of thick cheesy matter was discharged.

The discharge continued for some weeks before it altogether subsided, partly from the opening, and partly through the orbit. Astringent lotions were used, and the case terminated favourably.

Ratho, December 20, 1833.

3.—*Case of Hydrocephalus.* By J. H. BALFOUR, M. D.,
F. R. C. S.

IN the beginning of May 1833, I was called to see James Cumming, a child thirteen months old, who was reported to have been attacked the evening before with convulsions, which had continued to recur at short intervals. When I saw the child he was in a severe convulsion, which was soon checked by the use of the warm bath, and the application of a stream of cold water to the head. When somewhat recovered from the fit I examined the gums, and found one of the teeth of the lower jaw