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**Dictionnaire des maladies  
éponymiques et des observations  
princeps : Addison (maladie de)**

**ADDISON, Thomas. - Anaemia :  
disease of the supra-renal capsules**

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517-518*

and inquired of Dr. Barlow if he had observed any change in its character as the case proceeded towards recovery.

Dr. BARLOW could not exactly give an answer, but thought it a point worthy of future observation; and, in answer to the President, observed that in the depressed state of the patient he had used cupping with great hesitation and caution; but yet, where inflammatory action existed, there was often much tolerance of loss of blood: considering, also, that the oppressed state of the circulation was the consequence of the inaction of the diaphragm interfering with the respiratory movements, he considered a cautious abstraction of blood might be useful.

Mr. WATERWORTH fully agreed with the author in viewing the case as one of rheumatic pericarditis, with affection of the diaphragm; he had lately seen a similar case, but where the symptoms were of a less formidable character, in which he purged freely, but refrained from bleeding, feeling sure it was a rheumatic attack, and would do well without: he then alluded to the extensive deposits of lithates in the last-named disease, which was not common in simple inflammations.

Dr. BARLOW, in answer to a question from the President as to what peculiar symptoms he would refer particularly in proof of the diaphragm being implicated, stated the character of breathing was of a fixed diaphragm, the respiration being easy while thus confined; the extreme anxiety of countenance, and he thought also that the tendency to collapse, was a most important indication.

Mr. EVANS mentioned a case of extensive inflammation of the diaphragm of the left side, accompanied with intense suffering and pain, with a peculiar terrific countenance, the patient being apprehensive of the least pressure on the chest. The leading symptoms of the case were excessive dyspnoea, difficulty of movement, and a full and bounding pulse: the treatment was bleeding, warm baths, with Cal. c. Opio; but the means failed, and the man died. In this case the exciting cause seemed to be drinking excessively of brandy and water.

Dr. BARLOW agreed that the extent of inflammation would modify the pulse, that double inflammation of the pleura was a disease of great danger, and did not in general bear the loss of blood well.

Some observations were then made as to the external use of belladonna in these cases; and although its too free use seemed to have been injurious in one instance, Mr. Evans stated that he had found it extremely useful in pertussis, when used as in the following liniment:—℞ Ext. Bellad. ℥ij.; Liq. Ammoniac. ℥ij.; Lin. Sapon. ℥iv. bis die utend. supra spinal.

Mr. WATERWORTH had also found it extremely useful, but in larger proportions, in rheumatic pains, particularly in the neck.

Thursday, March 15th.

*Anæmia—Disease of the Supra-renal Capsules.*

Dr. ADDISON, at the request of the President, proceeded to describe a remarkable form of anæmia, which, although incidentally noticed by various writers, had not attracted, as he thought, by any means the attention it really deserved. It was a state of general anæmia incident to adult males, and had for several years past been with him a subject of earnest inquiry and of deep interest. It usually occurs between the ages of twenty and sixty; sometimes proceeding to an extreme degree in a few weeks, but more frequently commencing insidiously, and proceeding very slowly, so as to occupy a period of several weeks, or even months, before any very serious alarm is taken either by the patient or by the patient's friends. Its approach is first indicated by a certain amount of languor and restlessness, to which presently succeed a manifest paleness of the countenance, loss of muscular strength, general relaxation or feebleness of the whole frame, and indisposition to, or incapacity for, bodily or mental exertion. These symptoms go on increasing with greater or less rapidity: the face, lips, conjunctivæ, and external surface of the body, become more and more bloodless; the tongue appears pale and flabby; the heart's action gets exceedingly enfeebled, with a weak, soft, unusually large, but always strikingly compressible pulse; the appetite may or may not be lost; the patient experiences a distressing and increasing sense of helplessness and faintness; the heart is excited, or rendered tumultuous in its action, or breathing painfully hurried by the slightest exertion, whilst the whole surface bears some resemblance to a bad wax figure: the patient is no longer able to rise from his bed; slight œdema perhaps shows itself about the ankles; the feeling of faintness and weakness becomes extreme, and he dies either from sheer exhaustion, or death is preceded by signs of passive effusion or cerebral oppression. With all this, the emaciation or wasting of the body, though sometimes considerable, is not unfrequently quite disproportionate to the failure of the powers of the circulation—relaxation and flabbiness, rather than wasting of the flesh, being one of the most remarkable features of the disorder.

Dr. Addison next proceeded to give the details of several cases which had fallen under his own immediate observation. In only two of these did the patients recover: the one, a man below the middle period of

life, who was looked upon as past all hope, and suspected to be suffering from some latent malignant disease, slowly but steadily recovered under the free use of brandy, but with the singular result of the hair of one side of his head turning permanently grey, whilst the other retained its original brown colour. The second case of recovery occurred in a gentleman above middle age: it was by no means far advanced, but was sufficiently well marked to excite alarm. He left his business, quitted London, and sought recreation in the country. After a time he returned, and appeared to have shaken off the disorder almost entirely. In three cases only was there an inspection of the body after death, and in all of them was found a diseased condition of the supra-renal capsules. In two of the cases no disease whatever could be detected in any other part of the body. Dr. Addison inquired if it were possible for all this to be merely coincidental? It might be so, but he thought not, and making every allowance for the bias and prejudice inseparable from the hope or vanity of an original discovery, he confessed that he felt it very difficult to be persuaded that it was so. On the contrary, he could not help entertaining a very strong impression that these hitherto mysterious bodies—the supra-renal capsules—may be either directly or indirectly concerned in sanguification; and that a diseased condition of them, functional or structural, may interfere with the proper elaboration of the body generally, or of the red particles more especially. At all events, he considered that the time had arrived when he felt himself warranted in directing the attention of the profession to these curious facts. In thanking the Society for the patient hearing with which they had favoured him, he ventured to bespeak their interest not only in regard to the anæmia he had described, but also in cases of purpura, and some of the more anæmiated forms of chlorosis in the female, which he could not but regard as being more or less allied to the morbid state to which he had directed their attention. Indeed, not only had he found the anæmia in question occasionally occurring in connection with purpura, but had observed in cases of the latter disorder certain local symptoms which pointed somewhat significantly to the seat of the supra-renal capsules; whilst the bloodless and waxy appearance of certain chlorotic females bore so close a resemblance to the anæmia described, that it was difficult not to suspect the existence of something common to both.

## ROYAL INSTITUTION.

March 16, 1843.

## PROFESSOR COWPER on the Mechanism of Telescopes.

This lecture did not touch on the philosophical or optical construction of telescopes, but was devoted to their mechanical and engineering contrivances. It was full of lively interest, from the number of models and illustrations exhibited, and from the happy and clear manner in which the explanations were given.

The lecturer exhibited the various movements of different telescopes; explained the use of the theodolite; showed that the mechanic must be assisted by the engineer in the construction of large telescopes, owing to the different rate of cooling of the various parts of large metal castings, and owing, also, to the immense weights which have to be moved and adjusted with ease, accuracy, and steadiness; and he explained the construction of Whitworth's micrometer, by the aid of which it is possible to measure the 50,000th part of an inch.

After explaining and illustrating the vernier and the cross wires of platina in telescopes, Professor Cowper showed the transit instrument; the altitude and azimuth instruments; and various equatorial telescopes; among others, the Northumberland equatorial, Herschel's, Ross's, Cary's, and Lassell's telescopes, also Nasmyth's equatorial, and one of very simple construction, contrived by himself.

Professor Cowper concluded his very interesting and practical lecture by exhibiting and explaining a cheap apparatus, devised by himself, for illustrating the motion of the earth round the sun, and of the sun round the earth, with other astronomical phenomena.

A large model of Lord Ross's telescope was exhibited in the Library.

## PARIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

## On the Use of Chloride of Zinc in taking Anatomical Casts.

M. GOURLIER has recently communicated to the Academy of Sciences of Paris, a discovery made by M. Stahl, which bids fair to be of much service to those employed in taking casts of objects, in which process it not unfrequently happens that much difficulty arises from the adhesion of the plaster of Paris to the surface of the objects to be copied or to the moulds of deep intaglio; thus interfering with the correctness and fineness of the impressions. These incon-