

In none of these cases, it is almost needless to say, was any incasmetic influence employed.

ACCIDENTS WITH HARD RINGS.*

On the subject of the removal from the fingers of case-hardened steel rings, such as are used for common silk purses, and which no file can touch, no nippers divide, Mr. Thomson suggests the employment of a simple instrument, called a clockmaker's hand-vice, the chops of which are narrow enough to go between any of the finger-joints. By means of a screw, the chops may be closed slowly and just enough to break the ring. This method is only applicable or in fact necessary when the ring is quite hard. If the steel is at all softened, it may be cut by a hard file.

ON THE PRESERVATION OF INFANTS BY INOCULATION. TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE BY W. LOCKHART, M.D.†

It will probably be remembered that Dr. Lockhart published a short time ago a translation of a Chinese Treatise on Midwifery; the present sketch is from the pen of the same author. We shall proceed to give some short extracts from it.

Small-pox arises from poison introduced into the system from the mother's womb; but its form and character is determined by the external impression. "The truth is, that the breaking out of small-pox depends on external impressions; thus disease induces disease, and this eruption makes its appearance."

Inoculation does not appear to be of very recent invention; "it is handed down from the time of Chin Tzang, of the Sung dynasty (A. D. 1014), and was invented by a philosopher of Go-mei-Shan, in Sze-Chuen." The author is very indignant against those who are unwilling to be inoculated; it is, he says, "just as if a person, who had indigestion, were to refuse to eat food." The results of inoculation are stated to be very favourable; "out of ten thousand cases not one casualty will occur. Perhaps in one hundred thousand one or two fatal cases may accidentally be met with, arising perchance from bad management in the family, or because the inoculator has not carefully examined into the state of the patient."

Modes of Inoculation.—"Several pustules are to be chosen, and rubbed down in a cup with a piece of bamboo, or a twig of willow; then taking a fragment of cotton, rolled up into the shape of a date-seed, with this absorb the whole of the moistened lymph, and insert it into one of the nostrils, in the boy on the left side, in the girl on the right." "This is called the *watery inoculation*; it is safe, and may always be trusted." This pellet is to remain in the nostril for twelve hours, at the end of which time, "the spirit of the lymph enters the body, and gradually diffuses itself through the fine parenchymatous viacera." There are also other modes, the cotton may be moistened with variolous lymph; this is called the *lymph inoculation*. "The pustules being broken, you take the lymph; the child must be ordered to hold its mouth, but this is difficult to bear." Or you may put on the clothes of a child affected with this disease and soiled with lymph; this is called *clothes inoculation*. Or you may dry and pound the crusts, and then blow the powder up the nostrils; this is called *dry inoculation*; "and by following one or other of these plans the inoculation will surely take effect."

* Lancet, January 31.

† Dublin Journal, March.

action.—The variolous matter takes rather a curious course. When placed in the nose, its influence is communicated to the lungs; the hair and skin; the lungs transfer the poison to the heart; the pulse and transfers the poison to the spleen; the spleen governs the liver; the liver governs the tendons and transfers the poison to the kidneys govern the bones." "The poison of small-pox, in the marrow of the bones;" but when it manifests itself, it follows the following order:—"the poison passes wholly from the marrow into the blood-vessels, and the poison which was concealed in the kidney is dissipated; from the blood-vessels it passes into the flesh, and the poison of the liver is dissipated; from the flesh it passes into the blood-vessels, and the poison of the spleen is dissipated; from the blood-vessels it passes into the skin and hair, and the poison of the heart is dissipated; from the skin it passes wholly into the pustules, and the poison of the lungs is dissipated." The variolous lymph thus traverses the whole of the viscera to arrive at the bones, where it dislodges the small-pox poison which had remained snugly concealed there from birth, and makes it follow the same course out of the body, which the lymph had taken in entering.

In inoculating, however, there is one most important circumstance which ought always to be attended to, namely, *the choice of lucky days*. "The eleventh day of the moon ought to be avoided, for at that time a person's spirit is in the pillar, or septum of the nose; also the fifteenth day of the moon, because on that day the spirit is in the sides of the body."

RELATIVE FREQUENCY OF AFFECTIONS OF DIFFERENT ORGANS IN CASES OF BURNS.*

Mr. Erichsen has contributed to the Medical Gazette some valuable observations on the lesions of internal organs, consecutive to burns. The relative frequency with which different organs are affected at different ages has been set forth in a tabular form. Of the cases that he refers to, 29 occurred below the ages of 14 years, and 20 above that epoch.

Of the 29 cases, below the age of 14,—

The brain and its membranes were not examined in	8	
They were healthy in	4	
diseased in	4	17 or 80·9 per cent.
The thoracic viscera were not examined in	5	
healthy in	6	
diseased in	18	78·2 per cent.
The abdominal viscera were not examined in	2	
healthy in	6	
diseased in	21	77·7 per cent.

Of the 20 cases that occur above the age of fourteen:—

The brain and its membranes were not examined in	5	
healthy in	0	
diseased in	15	100 per cent.
The thoracic viscera were not examined in	3	
healthy in	3	
diseased in	14	82·3 per cent.
The abdominal viscera were affected in	13	81·2 per cent.
healthy in	3	
not examined in	4	

* Medical Gazette, Jan. 20, 1843.