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A Case of Idiopathic Peritonitis. By E. H. TRENHOLME, M.D., C.M.,
B.C.L., &c.

Michael Doughorey, labourer, aged 26, a native of Ireland, was taken ill at 1 p.m., on the 10th December. He complained of stoppage of the urine, and intense pain of the lower part of the abdomen, when I was called to see him at 3 p.m. of the same day. For some time past he had been working in a very exposed place, and often returned from his work with wet feet, and sometimes with wet clothes. On the day preceding his illness, he had partaken rather freely of strong drink, a thing very unusual with him, as he was of temperate habits, and had never been seriously ill before the present time. He says, the pain came on very suddenly at the time above mentioned, and continued unabated, although he had taken hot drinks, in hopes of obtaining relief. On examination, the abdomen was found slightly distended, the walls very tense and tender to the touch. There was marked tenderness over the region of the kidneys. Vomiting and the desire to defecate and urinate, but without the power to do so, were marked symptoms from the commencement. Ordered him hot turpentine epithems over the whole abdomen, till the surface was well reddened, and to be continued till relieved of pain; put him on grain doses of calomel and opium every three hours, and gradually lengthening the interval between the doses up to five hours, and to support him with cold fluid diet.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Much worse; passed a sleepless night, vomiting, pain and tension of the abdomen increased. The vomiting is not accompanied with much effort, and is more like regurgitation, and vomited matter consists chiefly of what has been swallowed. He has passed no urine for thirty-four hours. I passed a catheter and drew off about ʒij. The medicine had been taken regularly, but the man would not