

23rd.—Was called at daylight this morning and found my patient looking exhausted without any apparent cause, complaining of difficulty in swallowing and inability to cough or to clear her throat. The muscles of the pharynx and larynx were evidently paralysed, though she could protrude and retract the tongue as rapidly and with as much facility as ever she did. The symptoms connected with the pharynx and larynx were certainly alarming, though I was still inclined to the belief that there was even now a good deal of hysteria mixed up with the case, and it resolved itself into this that either my patient was in no danger whatever, or that she was approaching her end, and that rapidly. To solve, if possible, this important question Dr. Wells was asked to see her at noon and after a close examination, including the whole spine, the ovaries, her history, &c., he concluded that her symptoms were nervous. One thing was very clear, viz., that since my visit in the morning a considerable accumulation of mucus had taken place about the pharynx and larynx which was evidently on the increase, and if not relieved would certainly choke her; accordingly a stimulating emetic was ordered in divided doses, and the brandy which she had been taking was to be continued.

4.30 P. M.—A great change has taken place since our visit at noon; death is now imminent. Upon inquiry we found that no part of the emetic had been swallowed, and, therefore, that the larynx had not been unloaded of the accumulated mucus in it. The intellect is perfectly clear, and upon my ordering the nurse to give her some brandy by injection she said in a strong voice "I will take no brandy" and died quietly in about ten minutes after. Such are the few facts connected with this very interesting, but at the same time very obscure case. Unfortunately no *post mortem* examination was obtained, so that in attempting to arrive at its true pathology there must necessarily be a good deal of speculation.

I need hardly point out the peculiar features of this case, the suddenness of the attack, the rapidity of its course, the tendency to paralysis in all the four extremities, spreading thence to the face, the paralysis of the optic nerve and of the 3rd pair, the paralysis of the muscles of the pharynx and larynx supplied by the pneumogastric, and the perfect freedom of the muscles supplied by the hypoglossal, the abundant limpid urine on the first day, and the perfect intelligence of the patient up to the moment of death, all point to this case as one of great interest.

Although at first sight, indeed for the first three days, the symptoms resembled very much those of hysteria, there can be little doubt now that there was considerable and serious difficulty about the medulla oblongata. What this difficulty was, whether it was an abscess, or whether there was