

rate of one or two a week, gradually becoming more severe, and lasting about three months. These were accompanied by jaundice and light colored stools.

Retching and vomiting were symptoms of all attacks. Constipation not marked. The present attack commenced in January of 1893, at which time I saw her. The pain, characteristic of biliary colic, occurred first at intervals, gradually became constant, as also did the vomiting, when she was not under the influence of morphia. No jaundice. Diagnosis: Obstruction of cystic duct. She had never found a stone in the stools. Operation advised when the pain became constant.

No other treatment beyond morphia hypodermically, to relieve pain and vomiting. She would not consent to have operation until April, at which time she was very much reduced, so much so that the prospects were not very bright.

Operation performed under strictly aseptic surroundings, with the valuable assistance of Drs. Johnston and Ames, of Sarnia. The incision commenced at the cartilage of the ninth rib, extending vertically downward for three inches. The gall-bladder at once presented in the wound. The aspirator withdrew two and a half ounces of clear, viscid fluid. The gall-bladder was seized with forceps, sponges packed around it to protect the abdominal cavity, and an opening to the extent of an inch made. Seventy-four stones were removed weighing 340 grains. The only large one, eighty grains, completely blocked the cystic duct, accounting for the constant character of the pain. It could not be removed with any of the forceps at hand, but with a dull uterine scoop was easily brought to the opening. Bile at once flowed freely. The gall-bladder was stitched to the abdominal wall with silkworm gut. A rubber drainage tube packed around with iodoform gauze completed the dressing. The temperature did not go above 100: recovery uneventful, a biliary fistula remaining.

After some weeks an attempt to close the fistula was made, but in six hours the distress over the whole hepatic region was so great the stitches had to be removed. Some days after this, she had an attack of colic, and passed her first gall-stone per rectum, which had evidently become dislodged by the pressure of accumulated bile. This stone and

another passed since are peculiar, one being V-shaped with club-shaped ends, the other being about one-third of an inch long, also club-shaped at one end; both being one-tenth of an inch in diameter, and of the consistency of hard wax. A second attempt was also unsuccessful on account of another attack of colic. The fistula has since been closed with a double row of sutures, the edges of the gall-bladder freshened, and joined with catgut, the abdominal wall with silkworm gut.

There is nothing brilliant about this, it is reported to encourage other practitioners in the country. The operation is one presenting less difficulty than the average laparotomy for pelvic disease. The time, forty-five minutes, the greater part of which was occupied in fishing for stones, could not only be very much shortened, but the operation simplified by the use of Murphy's button.

Correspondence.

The Editors do not hold themselves in any way responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

REPUDIATION OF M. D. A.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—In your last issue is a letter from Dr. Lovett; in it he honours me with some little notice. He writes: "Dr. Burrows knows well that his 'mushroom organization'—the Medical Defence Association—will not stand the light of day," "losing faith in the new organization," etc. Now, Sir, Dr. Lovett is entirely wrong. I have never, in any way, or at any time, been connected with the Medical Defence Association, and I could not readily lose what I never had—that is, faith in it. I believe, with Dr. Lovett, that the organization was self-created, and that the zeal of its most prominent members is not without self-interest. Could Dr. Lovett read some of the letters received from Dr. Coburn Eastwood and others, he would not charge me with having either the confidence or support of that organization. I have only asked fair play, the rising above personalities, and a calm consideration of what is in the best interests of the profession.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

P. PALMER BURROWS.

Lindsay, Feb. 5, 1894.