

The patient was threatened subsequently with puerperal mania, which danger was happily averted and still later in her convalescence she suffered severely from diarrhoea, but had no sign of any convulsion from the time the first dose of chloral was administered.

CASE OF OBSCURE ABSCESS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE RECTUM.

BY WILLIAM CUBURN, M.D., OSHAWA.

On the 15th of December last, Mr R. L., aged 53. Lower Canadian, French by birth, grinder by trade, was taken ill and obliged to cease work, on the 17th, or two days later, I was asked by his employer to visit him. I may here state I had some knowledge previously of the peculiar diet and mode of preparation adopted by my patient. His diet consisted chiefly, wholly indeed, of bread, buns, cheese and raw pork (the fattest he could buy), strong tea, and when eggs could be had, fresh or old (for it mattered little to him), on an average four to a meal—cooked of course in a plentiful supply of butter—and both eggs and pork highly peppered. As you will have already inferred, he prepared his own food and kept his own room, which was only a few yards distant from his place of work.

It would only require one to stand for a short time in the room in which my patient worked ten hours a-day, to form a correct estimation of how intolerable such a diet as the above must necessarily have been to any system exposed to the temperature of that room. The foregoing, I may mention, had prepared in me anticipations of the case. Upon visiting him, therefore, I was not disappointed to find congestion of liver, kidneys, bowels, and, to a certain extent also, of the lungs.

Upon enquiry, I was told that the bowels up to the time he was taken were acting "as usual," not to say free, nor yet confined, that he had taken some opening medicine, which had acted freely, and that he did not think the bowels were then any at fault. Nevertheless everything tended to confirm the belief in my mind that the excrement was not in proportion to the increment, and had not been for a very lengthened period.