

of steel internally some years ago, but not lately; the discoloration of the pus, therefore, was due to some physiological change analogous to that which gives rise sometimes to indigo in the urine.

In the course of two or three days, the swelling of the abscess had greatly gone down, with some discharge of blue pus that stained the linen and dressings. On the 7th day, there was a little oozing only of a thin bluish pus, which tinged the linen of a fainter blue colour. At this time, the parts were a little swollen and indurated; the cartilage, however, did not seem to be involved, and there was no foetor from the pus. By the twelfth day, the discharge had almost wholly ceased, with no discoloration at all; the general swelling had further subsided; the skin looked more natural, and of a better colour; a little tenderness was present over the abscess, the original seat of which seemed to have been beneath the perichondrium of the thyroid cartilage. On the twenty-fifth day, the opening had closed and all swelling had subsided, yet a little discoloration remained and the merest tenderness. She was considered to be cured. When seen on the subsequent February 1st—fourteen weeks after her first appearance—she was perfectly well and complained of nothing, nor was there anything to be seen beyond the slight cicatrix to mark the site of the abscess. The thyroid cartilage had escaped great danger; for, although it must have participated to some extent in the inflammation which involved its fibrous covering, yet no subsequent symptom occurred to show that the cartilage itself was injured; and, as upwards of two years have elapsed, we may reasonably infer it has permanently escaped.

It may be observed, however, that suppurative inflammation of the external surface of the thyroid cartilage is extremely rare; and when to this is added the transformation of the well-known yellow into a distinct blue pus, the case is invested with many points of interest, both in a physiological and pathological sense. Blue stains occasion-