

married lady, of previously excellent health; she had taken a long, cold ride over rough roads on an evening in the spring: had passed a sleepless night, with much abdominal pain; and had had a rigor in the morning before I saw her. Without going into full description of all her symptoms it is enough to say that I recognized acute general peritonitis, and that, of course, I felt the case to be one of great importance. I treated her by leeches and hot fomentations and aimed to control the pain, and arrest peristaltic action, by large opiates. The acute and urgent symptoms lasted something over a week, when my patient began to improve, and, as I at first hoped, to get well. But she did not get well; there seemed to be an arrest in the progress toward recovery. The acute symptoms passed away, but the bowels remained hard, distended, and tympanitic. They were tender to pressure, and any jar or commotion gave pain. Digestion was impaired. There was constipation. The patient was a confirmed invalid, and passed a most uncomfortable summer, confined entirely to her house. Altogether, the result of her case was a disappointment and mortification to me.

Late in the autumn of this same year this patient was seized, without obvious exciting cause, with a second very severe acute attack. My first treatment of the case had been so unsatisfactory that I now determined to follow Dr. Watson's advice, and bring her under the influence of mercurials; and for that purpose I simply added small doses of calomel to the opium and other remedies I had used before. In two or three days her gums began to grow tender, and there was a little fetor of the breath. The calomel was immediately suspended; but, simultaneously with the appearance of the slight specific effect of the calomel, a marked improvement in all the symptoms, both local and general, was manifest. From that moment recovery steadily and rapidly progressed, until it was complete. My patient has been ever since a healthy and vigorous woman; and I cannot doubt that she owes much of her recovery to the mercurial.

I need not say that this experience made a great impression upon my mind; and I know that it has had a great influence upon my practice. I have since that over and over again had the impression thus made confirmed, and seen both general and local peritonitis, when acute and alarming, yield, and begin to improve, under gentle mercurialization. Of the certainty of this I am as fully convinced as I am of the truth of any demonstrated clinical

proposition. I know, of course, that my experience may have misled me, and that I may have misapprehended its teachings, but, as results now stand, I can accept no other conclusion. In what way, by what modification of vital processes, mercury causes the great change and improvement I have so often seen in such cases I confess that I do not know. I only know the fact.

A word of caution as to the use of calomel. I do not use it indiscriminately in every case of known or suspected peritonitis. I would not have it employed except the case were urgent and obstinate (perhaps I might add dangerous). I would never allow it to be pushed beyond a very gentle impression; and to make this certain I would have its exhibition very closely watched. Used with prudence it does no harm, and is capable of doing great good. I have never seen anything but a slight tenderness of the gums and very moderate fetor of the breath, as I have used it. Never anything like a salivation.

I have never used it in any acute inflammatory disease but peritonitis.

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*Valedictory Address to the Graduates in Medicine, delivered at the Eighth Annual Convocation of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bishop's College, Montreal, April 16, 1879. By GEORGE WILKINS, M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng., Professor of Pathology and Lecturer on Practical Physiology and Histology.*

*Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

GENTLEMEN, GRADUATES IN MEDICINE,—The very pleasing duty of addressing a few parting words to you on behalf of your teachers has this year devolved upon me—pleasing, not at parting with you, but that you should be successful in so honorably obtaining the much coveted diploma that each of you now possess—pleasing, also, that the fair fame of Bishop's University is certain to be held in still higher esteem by the representatives it sends forth to-day, for you must remember your Alma Mater's success is co-existent, and to a great extent dependent, on your success.

The History of Nations may be read in the lives of a few of the more prominent individuals of that particular nation; so in after years will the History of Bishop's University be inseparable from that of its Alumni. To-day, you, gentlemen, begin one chapter in that history; to-day, you commence your battle with the world, and in doing so you under-