

little brandy and water, she soon rallied, and made a good recovery. I saw the mother and children yesterday, and they are all doing well.

GLANFORD, Ang. 11, 1869.

Selections.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

Stricture of Urethra—Four Urinary Fistulæ—Syme's Operation—Complete Cure.

SURGICAL CLINIC OF W. W. DAWSON, M.D.

Reported by J. L. QUINN, M. D., Resident Physician, Cincinnati Hospital.

Benjamin G—, aged 33. Colored. Admitted March 13. Says that two years ago while climbing an omnibus, he fell, striking the perineum on the wheel. Soon after this he contracted gonorrhœa, his testicles became very much swollen and painful, but under treatment this disappeared. Upon the subsidence of the gonorrhœa and orchitis, he went to Wisconsin and after riding several miles on horseback a hard swelling appeared in his scrotum near root of penis, this was opened and pus discharged for two or three days. On the third or fourth day, however, urine began to escape through the opening, and now, in addition to the one already spoken of, three others have formed connecting with the urethra at different points, so that when he passes urine, a function which he performs with great pain, it flows through all four channels in addition to the urethra. From one of the fistulæ a small stream is projected three or four feet.

I have said that great pain was caused by the flowing of urine through the false passages; indeed, it would be a difficult attempt to depict the amount of suffering which he has endured during the two years he has been in this most deplorable condition.

He, for this long period, voided his urine with great bearing down, and in a squatting posture, the pain did not stop when the bladder was relieved, but continued some time after. Neither had he any control over his bladder, but was compelled to evacuate its contents at the moment it became the least distended. He twice has sought hospital treatment for relief, first in the Freedman's Bureau Hospital at Louisville, and now in the Cincinnati Hospital. His condition, at present, is not at all good. The stricture is situated in the membranous portion and is very firm, the tract is so contracted that the smallest bougie cannot be introduced, even the slightest attempt giving so much pain that nothing can be done without the administration of chloroform.

The testicles are swollen also to some extent.

April 7. To-day the patient was taken before the class and an attempt was made to pass a bougie without success. He goes slowly under the anæsthetic, resisting its administration.

April 16. Yesterday after another unsuccessful attempt to pass a sound there was very considerable

hemorrhage. Patient has a tolerable appetite, but suffers so excessively from the irritation of the stricture and fistulæ that he is very much emaciated.

May 5. A few days since, the patient was put first under the influence of nitrous oxide and the anæsthesia carried on by chloroform, as suggested by Dr. Samuel Sexton, of this city, but the result was only a less quantity of chloroform used, without any, or at least very little diminution of his resistance to the influence of the anæsthetic.

May 16. His general condition seems to be improving. Has been taking:

R.—Tinc. Cinch. Com., ζ iij ss.

Quinæ Sulph. grs. xx.

Acid. Sulph. Arom. ζ ss.

M.—Sig. 3i. three times a day.

This has resulted in an improvement of appetite. To-day, Dr. Dawson succeeded in passing the stricture while the patient was under chloroform. This was accompanied with smallest-sized steel sound.

May 20. Some better but stricture again impassable.

About this time another experiment was made with nitrous oxide with about the same result as before, he resisted it fully as much as the chloroform alone, but probably came out from under it with less sickness, than if the anæsthesia had been produced, and kept up by chloroform alone.

Still unable to pass the stricture a second time, nor is he in a favorable condition to make an operation on, even if the attempt to introduce the sound had been successful. His spirits are much broken by his long continued and great suffering without assurance of being soon relieved.

May 25. General condition slightly improved.

June 2. To-day the patient was taken to the lecture room to renew the attempt to pass the stricture. It was accomplished but not without a great deal of trouble, the patient being profoundly under the influence of chloroform. The stricture grasped the sound with great firmness as it had done at the time previously mentioned when the instrument was passed into the bladder.

The sound was immediately removed, Syme's staff introduced, and the operation proceeded with in the presence of Dr. Edward Cowles, U. S. A., several medical gentlemen of the city, and the class attending the clinics.

The adventitious tissue in the neighborhood of the stricture was so dense that the knife in dividing it gave a sound as if sole-leather was being cut. The stricture extended from the apex of the prostate from two to three inches forward. There was little blood lost in the operation, a fortunate circumstance, as the patient was not in a condition to bear the loss of any considerable quantity. He came out from the influence of the chloroform very well, no sickness of any consequence, but suffered a good deal of pain from the catheter which was introduced into the bladder immediately after the division of the stricture. He was taken to the ward and a full opiate administered; in about four hours he was perfectly quiet, the bimeconate of morphia was used, it being the preparation which at previous times had proved most efficient and agreeable to him. He was also ordered whiskey and beef essence freely.