

ferred with the free passage of his urine, and that when so afflicted, he was in the habit of himself passing a bougie, which had uniformly succeeded in relieving, for the time being, the difficulty.

Suffering in the manner indicated, on the day just mentioned, he introduced a Gutta Percha bougie, and on withdrawing it discovered that it had become broken, and that about a third of its length had been left in the canal. His fears and apprehensions may be easily imagined. He did not despair, however, but on the contrary, instantly went to work to endeavour to extract the portion thus left behind. He so far succeeded, that by the adoption of all the artifices which came to his mind, he effected the extraction of about an inch and a quarter, but he was obliged to leave the rest behind.

Anxious and uneasy, as related to ulterior consequences, he now resolved to seek medical advice, and applied to me.

After having examined carefully the urethral canal externally, and finding from the examination the perfect freedom of the canal from the presence of any foreign body, I requested him to pass water, which he did in small quantities, but without the least difficulty, thus leading to the inference, that there existed no very particular impediment in the track of that canal.

I then introduced a silver catheter into the bladder, which entered with the greatest facility, and permitted the escape of an additional small amount of water, but upon the most careful examination by this instrument, I could not detect the presence of any foreign body in that viscus, even in the slightest degree.

Under these circumstances, although the patient affirmed the contrary, I could arrive at no other conclusion than that the piece removed by the patient was the whole that had been left in the urethra, and that there existed an additional fragment in the bladder was simply the result of his over excited imagination, or his excessively perturbed state of mind. I therefore endeavoured to quiet his apprehensions with instructions to call upon me again if he experienced the least uneasiness.

A week passed over, when who should come to my office but the self-same patient, but in a state of mind widely differing from that in which I first saw him.

“Here is the bougie!” said he, at the same time shewing me a piece of gutta percha bougie which he had wrapped up in a piece of paper, and which was covered with a considerable quantity of phosphatic deposit, especially at the fractured end.

He then proceeded to relate to me, that being engaged with friends that afternoon enjoying themselves over a bottle of gin, he felt an extreme desire to micturate, and in attempting to do so, the flow suddenly stopped, with the sensation of something having entered the canal from the bladder. He then strained as hard as he could, and both by severe straining, and pressing strongly on the perineum, he succeeded in giving exit to the piece of bougie, which was of No. 6 size, and rather more than an inch and a half in length, the same piece in fact which he shewed me.

The peculiarity in this case consists in the spontaneous expulsion of the piece