

## A FATAL CASE OF HÆMO-COLIC INTUSSUSCEPTION.

BY

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W. R., male, aged six months, weighing 13 pounds, and well nourished, had never been ill except with constipation for four months just before the present illness.

On *July 23, 1901*, he was taken ill early in the morning, and at 8 a.m. vomited and screamed with pain. At 9 a.m. he passed bloody mucus by stool. As the parents lived nine miles out of town, I did not see the case until 1.30 p.m., when the vomiting was occurring every fifteen or twenty minutes, and stools containing bloody mucus were being passed at about the same intervals. Pulse, 132; temperature, 98° F. A tumour was felt in the line of the colon and in the rectum.

After giving chloroform, the patient was inverted and the intussusception was quickly reduced by a hydrostatic pressure of thirty inches and external manipulation of the bowel. The parents were then warned of the possibility of return of the condition and of the necessity for immediate operation on the slightest symptoms of recurrence.

On *July 30th*, I was again called to the child and told that he had been as well as usual until 8.30 that morning when the former symptoms had returned in an aggravated form. A tumour was now felt at the anus; it was firm and tense, and bled at the slightest touch. Under chloroform, hydrostatic pressure failed to entirely reduce it, and the parents agreed to take the baby to town and permit of immediate operation. However, on their arrival, a confrère was called in and he succeeded in frightening the parents so much regarding the operation that they refused to have it undertaken.

*July 31st.* The tumour protrudes through the anus at times; vomiting is almost constant and all food is vomited as soon as taken. The pulse varies, 132 and upwards; temperature 98°. Condition rapidly ingravescent. At 11 p.m. the patient's father called and said that the baby "was failing rapidly and would not live until morning." He consented to the formation of a faecal fistula, should it prove necessary, but refused to allow a resection. On calling, I found the baby extremely pale, perspiring, lips livid, eyes sunken and surrounded by dark