

ART. XI.—*A case of complete loss of the power of Deglutition accompanied by partial loss of the power of motion and sensation in almost every part of the body especially the left side.* By C. R. LAFONTAINE, M.D., Chambly.

June 5th.—Mrs. St. Day, aged 36, of a good constitution, and the mother of five children, states that she was perfectly well yesterday, when she was suddenly seized about 7 P.M. with violent vomiting speedily followed by purging which continued till next morning at 6 A.M. when I was sent for. There was then complete loss of the power of deglutition, great diminution of the powers of motion and sensibility in every portion of the body especially the left side. The extremities were cold, the pulse hardly perceptible. The vessels of the eyes were injected, the upper eyelids were drooping, and the pupil much dilated but controllable by a strong light. She complained of no particular pain; the vomiting and purging had ceased. I ordered bottles of warm water to the feet, friction and sinapisms to restore the circulation. I also gave a teaspoonful of brandy which she kept in her mouth. Before I left partial reaction had been excited. I saw her again at 6 P.M. The pulse was better and the warmth on the surface increased. Otherwise there was no change.

June 6th. Passed a good night: pulse 95: surface natural: bowels and bladder inactive: complained of great drowsiness.

June 7th. Suffering from hiccough but free of other unfavorable symptoms: pulse as before: extremities cold. She complains of thirst, but still quite unable to swallow.

June 8th. I carefully examined her head and spine, and introduced a large bougie into the œsophagus, but could find no proof of disease there.

From the history of the case and from the absence of all the affections of the head and spine, and also of any stricture or spasm of the œsophagus, I concluded that it was paralysis of the œsophagus.

I applied a narrow blister along the spine from the nape of the neck to the sacrum, and dressed with mercurial ointment. I also administered, by means of a tube, calomel and jalup which produced no effect.

June 9th. Ordered a turpentine enema followed by a large dose of castor oil. They were followed by several loose stools of a green color.

From the 9th to the 20th. no remarkable change took place: the bowels were inactive though easily moved by enema; she rested well at night and sat up for some time daily.

June 21st. She was subjected to the influence of electricity several times during the day. From the 20th to the 24th she slowly improved. Her appetite was good; she slept well and was able to read the news-