

Dr. Henry Howard had never seen the injection into the uterus of a saturated solution of acetate of lead fail in such cases, and feared very much the application to the inside of the uterus of an escharotic which could be followed by such disastrous results as occurred in one of Dr. Alloway's cases.

Dr. Reddy had for years been in the habit of applying the acid nitrate of mercury to the inside of the uterus, without any accident, and for the last three years had used nitric acid in the same way with the same fortunate results. On one occasion only, the application being followed by a slight metritis, which he attributed to the fact that he did not, in this case, dilate the canal of the cervix. He used no cervical speculum.

Dr. Trenholme remarked that Dr. Alloway's cases, except the last, were not such as demanded in his opinion the use of nitric acid. He would only resort to it where there was an undoubted granular condition of the mucous membrane. It was unwarrantable where the uterus was only three inches in depth, and not sufficient hyperplasia to cause any displacement. Where there was merely a limited amount of congestion, it could be relieved by leeching, or a pledget of lint saturated with glycerine, which acted by endosmosis. It was only in the granular condition that an escharotic was needed. Probably the fact that the application of nitric acid was not oftener followed by bad results, was due to the prevention of an escharotic effect by the neutralization of the acid by the alkaline secretion. Rest was indicated, especially at the periods of uterine activity, and care in the application of the acid. If canal of cervix were dilated by tents the surface of membrane would be torn, and especially liable to injury by the acid, therefore he did not dilate. The action of the acid nitrate of mercury was a milder means also. He always placed the patient in the dorsal position and allowed a small quantity of water to lie in the lower part of the speculum to prevent an escharotic effect on the external parts. Did not approve of the nitrate of silver at all. The contractions which followed its action were frequently very injurious. As to Dr. Campbell's case, thought if he had persevered in the use of the perchloride of iron, it would have sufficed.

Dr. Reddy remarked that he used a little oil in the bottom of the speculum, to limit the escharotic action of the acid.

Dr. Kennedy had been deterred from the use of nitric acid from the disastrous consequences in some of his friend's cases. Had recently treated two such cases as those reported, by the injection into the

uterus of Savage's solution of iodine and iodide of potassium.

Dr. Fenwick remarked that it was Dr. Athill's intention in the application of the acid to protect the cervix, and therefore used a cervical speculum. Thought that it was scarcely possible to apply the acid to the fundus without dilating the cervix. Sea tangle tents had been objected to, on the ground that spiculae from them might tear the mucous membrane and might sometimes be left in the tear. Some of the modes of treatment of the uterus were very violent and attended with very serious results.

Dr. Alloway remarked that his object in reading his paper was not to justify the treatment, but to bring up for discussion the question of the propriety of Dr. Athill's advice to use the treatment so boldly. Thought that Dr. Athill was not justified in giving such advice, which was productive of grave errors.

Dr. Campbell thought that if he had not used nitric acid his patient would have died, having given other measures a fair trial. He alluded to one case in which enteritis had followed the application of nitric acid to the uterus.

A vote of thanks to Drs. Alloway and Campbell was proposed by Dr. H. Howard, and seconded by Dr. Reddy.

Dr. F. W. Campbell in presenting a motion proposed by Dr. Trenholme, and seconded by himself, relating to the Board of Health, and the action of the present Mayor in reference to it, alluded to the good which it had done, compared the action of the late Mayor, Dr. Hingston, with that of his successor, Mr. Beaudry, expressed the confidence which the medical men had in it, the necessity of it, and the extreme impropriety of the Mayor's conduct. The motion was as follows:—

"That this meeting recognizing the paramount importance of securing the very best possible sanitary condition of the city, desires to record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Board of Health during the short period of its existence, and to protest against the course of action—in reference thereto—pursued by the present Chief Magistrate of Montreal."

Unanimously carried.

It was moved by Dr. Kennedy, seconded by Dr. Nelson:

"That the Secretary send a copy of the above resolution to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Board of Health, and to each of the daily papers."

Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

J. D. CLINE, B.A., M.D.,
Secretary.