

AN M. D. CURED WITH LOBELIA.

A certain M. D. living in Eaton, was taken sick, with what the doctors call congestive fever, and was reduced very low indeed.—so much so, as to be thought irrecoverable by his physicians. One great difficulty in this case was the impossibility of getting medicines to operate. One one occasion, after they had used all the remedies that their skill could suggest, to produce an operation from the bowels, and had failed to effect this desirable object, they thought proper to call a council. The council met, and after deliberating on the subject for a while, one of them, who considers himself a Beachite, suggested the propriety of administering lobelia in the form of an enema. After some discussion on the subject, they consented to try lobelia in combination with senna tea. The result was an operation in ten minutes. I leave you to comment. It is scarcely necessary to add that the doctor got well.

Your's, GEORGE E. WILKINSON.
Newhope, Md., July 7, 1842.

From the Botanic Medical Recorder.

A WONDERFUL CASE :

A NUT FOR PHRENOLOGISTS AND ANTI-PHRENOLOGISTS.

I am induced to send the following for publication, from the conviction that no similar case has been recorded.

Mr. George Markham, on the 24th of March, 1840, set out turkey-hunting, and about nine o'clock in the morning found a flock and fired on them, and the breech of his gun flew out and entered his head, the screw-end in front, leaving the point above the skin. It entered at the angle of the orbitary arch, next the nose, and just high enough to bury the screw into the bone, running directly back, breaking the face of the cranium for two inches and a half, and at the same time, the screw that passed through the shank of the breech, and held on the plate of the trigger, entered lengthwise, extending from the breach up near the hair, and bored entirely in the brain. The whole fracture was some four or five inches, say two and a half inches in the base, broke by the breech, and two inches in front by the screw.

In this situation I found him, by his piteous yell, a distance of some three or four hundred yards from my house. I took him to my house, and laid him down on some blankets, and sent for his prents—and at the same time sent for Dr. Outlaw, knowing they were in favor of the old school practice. Dr. Outlaw came, and then sent back for Drs. Cock and Burshell; they came, and all were of opinion that he would die as soon as the screws were extracted, and the brain separated.

We waited till the family had got there, and then drew up the breech-pin until we could get a hold of the head of the screw that passed through the shank of the breech-pin, and pulled it out over the eye, and then pulled out the breech. The brain ran out so fast, that we did not wait to probe the wound and get out the fractured bones, but clapped on some lint and bound it up, expecting that he would be dead by the time we could get it bound up and the blood and brains wiped off his face. But he continued to breathe easy and regular, retaining his senses all the time. He was then put under the treatment of Dr. Outlaw, who stayed with him for some time, waiting for him to die; and then left a large paper of salts, and a prescription for the salts to be given in broken doses every two hours. When the time arrived for the salts to be given, the young man's mother came to me to know what I thought of giving the salts. I told her that if I were in her place I would not give the salts, and I thought the doctor would not give them if he was present, for I had no doubt the doctor had given them in anticipation of reaction and fever, and there was neither reaction nor fever, and therefore I would not give the salts, but I would give him composition tea to drink, and give him an injection or two of white shumak tea.

She accordingly gave him the composition tea to drink, and the injections. Next day the doctor returned, and found the young man much as he had left him the day before. He directed the salts again, and left. The old lady came to me again, and I told her as before, and she postponed giving the salts, and continued the teas. The third day the doctor came, and then told the old lady that it was impossible for him to live, and to ask me to give him what I thought best to meliorate his sufferings.

I was then requested to do what I could for the young man. I then prepared a straw bed, and took him up and placed him on that, prepared a bandage and dressed the wound, to keep it open. I then gave him freely of composition tea, and kept the bowels open by the syringe, had him watched seven days and nights, not suffering him to turn his head, and dressed the wound twice a day, and then began to let him move his head very slightly, and gradually increasing till about the 20th day, when he was propped half up in bed, and at the end of five weeks sent him home, but kept the wound open, and did not suffer it to heal up entirely for twelve months.

He lost, I suppose, a small teaspoonful of brain. He is now entirely well, and during his whole affliction, he was as sane as ever he was.

I have learned from this circumstance never to abandon a case while there is vitality.

A. BIGGS.

June, 1842.