

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Hydrocele treated by Tapping, and application of Nit. Silver to interior of Sac.—(Reported by Mr. Alexander Kirkpatrick.)

William Whaley, *æt* 27, a healthy looking Irishman, was admitted into hospital, Sept. 14, 1855, for a scrotal swelling. He states that about three months ago, while in the act of getting on horse-back, his foot slipped, and, in falling against the pommel of the saddle, he injured his testicle. At the time he experienced great pain in this part, and in a day or so it commenced swelling. He sought relief of a practitioner, who gave him a lotion, but the swelling increasing impeded him greatly in work, and he applied for admission into hospital. The tumour, on admission, was found to be confined to right half of scrotum, and presented the following appearances: In shape it was pyriform, the broadest part inferiorly, it was compressible and elastic, and gave no pain on being handled. It communicated no impulse on coughing, and elicited a dull sound on percussion. It bore a strong resemblance to an inflated gall-bladder, in its outward shape, as well as in its size. The surface was smooth, and uniformly rounded. It was semi-transparent, and fluctuated obscurely. The swelling extended along the cord to the external ring.

Sept. 15.—Tumour much about the same, and continued so till 19th, when the following operation was performed by Dr. Wright:—The front surface of the swelling was tapped inferiorly with a small trocar, the stilet was withdrawn, and the canula allowed to remain in situ, immediately about $\frac{3}{4}$ iv of fluid escaped, having the characters of serum in being clear, straw-colored, transparent, limpid, and coagulating by tests for albumen. A camel's hair pencil loaded with strong solution nitrate of silver (*gr. xx. to ʒj.*) was then introduced through the canula, and freely brushed over the inner surface of the tunica vaginalis by moving the handle in various directions. This having been satisfactorily effected, the brush and canula were removed, and the patient put to bed.

Next day proof was observed of the occurrence of the action endeavoured to be excited; the scrotum was more largely swollen than it had ever been before; the right half was three times its original size; the investing skin was red, the tumour felt doughy, and pain was complained of, as well as some secondary fever. A lotion was directed to be applied containing laudanum and diacetate of lead.