

these cases are often very obstinate, and many of them go the rounds, and months and years go by and the lumbo-sacral back-ache is always there. Still, notwithstanding this discouraging picture, I believe if the patient is willing to follow your directions, and is content to wait a reasonable time for results, you will be able to reduce the most densely hypertrophied cervix to a healthy condition. If the case has been under treatment before you are called to the patient, the chances are that she has had solid nitrate of silver applied once a week for a longer or shorter time; it matters not which, for the hypertrophied and indurated cervix may be touched with nitrate of silver every week till doomsday without reducing its size. In order to substitute a healthy reparative inflammation for an unhealthy, unmanageable condition, you must cauterise; and nitrate of silver is not a cautery; it acts in these cases as little more than an astringent; the most it does is to cause a slight shedding of the epithelium. You do not apply the powerful cautery to reduce the size of the uterine neck by destruction of the tissue by burning it away, but you apply it to set up a subacute inflammation, under the influence of which the induration and hypertrophy will subside and the uterine structure resume its healthy elasticity. The strong caustics most frequently used in these cases are the acid nitrate of mercury, potassa cum calce, potassa caustica, and the actual cautery. As the last is the only one I ever use, I will describe the manner in which I use it, without further reference to the others. The idea of the actual cautery is always alarming to the patient, and may be said to remind us of the mediæval tortures; and if we were obliged to use live coals, bellows, and red-hot irons, I fear we should get few women to submit to the treatment; but the use of these little sticks of charcoal, that I show you here, you are able to do away with all that is alarming about the actual cautery, and to apply it to the uterus without informing the patient what kind of an application you are about to make. These little sticks are made of nitrate of potash, charcoal, and pulverized acacia, in the following proportions:

R Potass. nitrat., gr. xx;
Carbo ligni, 3 vij;
Pulv. acaciæ, 3 j;
Aquæ, q. s. M.

This paste is formed into sticks; the most convenient size I have found to be about two inches long and about as large around as the little finger; the ends of the sticks may be rounded to a point; after being allowed to dry they are ready for use. If you hold the end of one these sticks in the gas-flame for a moment, you will convert from half to three-quarters of an inch of it into a live coal: this you can do in another room, thereby avoiding the display of combustion before the patient. When once the end of the stick is thoroughly ignited you can put it down until you are ready to use it, without any fear of its going out, for it will continue to burn until the entire stick is consumed, which will require for a stick two inches long from fifteen minutes to half an hour. The patient being placed in a proper

position, you introduce the speculum, which must be a conical one, and may be made of wood, ivory, or block tin; and I have often used the ordinary glass speculum. There is not heat enough from the caustic to do any harm if a glass one is employed; but the wooden one that I here show you is the one I prefer. Having introduced the speculum and wiped the cervix dry, you take the caustic in the forceps and apply it, about four or five lines from the os, to the lip that is most hypertrophied (for in some of these cases one lip of the cervix will be three or four times the size of the other.) Now, if you make slight pressure for a few seconds, you will destroy the tissue over a space of about the size of a three-cent piece and for about two lines in depth. The pain is very slight,—but little if any more than that caused by the application of nitrate of silver. On withdrawing the cautery I sponge the parts with cold water. I then introduce a pledget of cotton saturated with glycerin, and direct the patient to remain in bed for the next forty-eight hours, and to keep her room, reclining on the lounge for the greater part of the time, for three days more. At the end of the first twenty-four hours you may remove the pledget of cotton by pulling upon the thread, and then inject the vagina with cold water; this may be done every day, until the slough comes off, which is generally in from five to eight days. I then paint the cervix every fourth day with the following:

R Potass. iodidi, 5 ss;
Iodinii. Div;
Glycerinæ, 3 j. M.

The actual cautery may be applied with advantage once every month, and the best time is from five to ten days after the cessation of the monthly discharge. If you have the full co-operation of the patient, you will be able to reduce the most densely hypertrophied cervix in from three to five applications. In regard to danger from the use of the actual cautery, of course it would be very easy for a bungler to do harm with it, and great care should always be exercised in the use of any caustic; so far, I have never had any difficulty with it, and I have been using it for several years, and believe it to be more manageable and less likely to do harm than the potassa fusa that is so often used in these cases. I wish you to understand that I only recommend you to use the actual cautery in those cases in which the parenchyma of the cervix is the seat of hypertrophy and induration intractable to agents of less power.—*Philadelphia Medical Times.*

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL, NEW YORK.

NOTES OF TREATMENT.

Intermittent Fever.

Some preparation containing quinine is usually given by all divisions in the treatment of this disease. The following, "Clark's powder," is given almost exclusively on the third division:

R Pulv. opii, gr. j;
Pulv. capsici, gr. iij;
Quin. sulph., gr. x. M.
S.—Dose.