

CASE No. 2.

Intemperance—Rapid Ascites—Profuse Hæmatemesis and Death.—C.B., æt. 38, was admitted 12th January, 1879. Has been a tippler for several years—has had delirium tremens three times. Denies ever having suffered from any symptoms of gastric disturbance. No morning nausea or vomiting—no loss of appetite, flatulence or irregularity of the bowels. Has been about and following his trade as usual and did not think there was anything the matter with him until *ten days ago*. Then noticed swelling of his feet and ankles, and very soon after fulness of the abdomen. On admission patient found to be a man of small stature, moderately emaciated. Complexion of a very decided dingy or muddy hue, but no jaundice—capillaries of cheek-prominences much distended and strikingly evident, abdomen greatly swollen, hard, tense and fluctuating—superficial veins much enlarged. Liver,—dulness very much diminished, barely two inches in the line of the nipple. Urine scanty, of a remarkable red color; abundant lithates; no albumen; shows marked reaction for urohæmatin. The feet and legs are moderately œdematous.

He was treated by pretty frequent doses of sulphate and carbonate of magnesia, and a diuretic mixture of acetate of potash, squill and digitalis, with the effect only of maintaining the ascites, without much increase. No notable change was observed until the 24th, when in the evening, without warning, patient vomited up half a pint of dark, somewhat clotted blood. Ice and tannic acid were given, but before morning he had brought up altogether forty-six ounces. The pulse rose to 120 and he felt weak, but the bleeding stopped, and for the next two days, whilst the same treatment was being followed, did not recur, and he was pretty comfortable. There was some diarrhœa with black blood in the stools. At 10 a.m. of the 27th, and again at 1 p.m. he vomited blood profusely—four and a half pints, quite dark and clotted. Was very prostrate after this; small, rapid pulse, pallor and faintness, Was given acetate of lead and an ice-bag applied over the epigastrium. Without further bleeding he died at 5 p.m.