

she was associated. She began to occupy her time in needle-work and in writing, and paid more attention to her personal appearance, and to the opinion of others. This improvement was steadily progressive, and resulted in her return to home and friends, apparently perfectly well.

The result, in this instance, was probably due to climacteric constitutional change, but its great unfrequency renders it worthy of note.

Another unexpected and far more sudden recovery occurred here many years ago, which has never been reported. The case is by no means devoid of interest, the more especially as the restoration has proved permanent.

_____, No. 296, *æ.t.* 25, single, was admitted 7th May, 1864. She had been for a short time engaged in school-teaching, and was six weeks insane. She manifested determined suicidal propensities, and had refused food for several days prior to admission.

The immediate cause of her insanity was a failure on her part to master the science of algebra, which without sufficient thought she had promised to teach one of her scholars. Night after night she pondered over the works on algebra within her reach, but all to no purpose. Loss of sleep, intense disappointment, and chagrin at being unable to fulfil her promise, soon preyed upon her mind to such an extent as to compel her to abandon her school, and shortly after resulted in an outbreak of melancholia.

Her suicidal propensity was traceable to hereditary predisposition—even the mode was similar. Her first attempt, which was made at home, was by hanging; a process which her mother had carried out effectually two years before. The fine brass wire used for this purpose left a deep dark indentation, which remained visible for more than two months after admission.

Not only did she refuse ordinary food, but she eagerly caught up and swallowed cinders, buttons, and small stones; and finding these did not destroy life, she secretly stuffed the throat with a bunch of horse-hair and flannel, equal to a good-sized hen's egg.

In this condition she was admitted. The obstruction was apparent, and was at once removed by tickling the fauces and thus bringing on an effort at vomiting. Finding that even after this the blandest liquids were immediately rejected, the stomach tube was used, when a coin or similar substance was pushed forward, and she was enabled to