

lessness. This condition will often continue for several days before your patient becomes relieved.

When internal piles are neglected, and have continued for a length of time, you will find the general condition of the person becomes affected. They are apt to become dyspeptic, despondent, bowels more and more constipated, and from constant losses of blood they become pale and haggard. Indeed, we have seen persons that at times are completely incapacitated from attending to their business; and, strange to say, that many will continue to remain great sufferers, and will resort to all kinds of nostrums rather than submit to an operation, which alone holds out any prospect of relief.

Our treatment consists in hygienic, medical, and surgical means, as in the external variety, and the two former means are alike in both. The aperients that are the most valuable are the salines, in combination with sulphur, though I have lately seen a pill of taraxacum and aloes act very kindly. I know aloes is regarded by many as deleterious in cases of hæmorrhoids. This fact has, however, been doubted by some, and Mr. Brodie in his surgical lectures states he has never seen the ill effects arise from this drug that is popularly ascribed to it. It may follow when large quantities of the drug is employed; but this will be found also true of many other cathartics. In the use of such medicines we never desire to produce violent cathartic action—merely to assist the bowels to regular action. Medical treatment will suffice but to palliate in the majority of these cases, or act as an adjuvant to the more radical means, when this affection has been of any long continuance. I know very well that there are hosts of persons suffering from internal piles who never resort to a surgical operation, and I may say are never even counselled to do so by their medical advisers, and yet for long intervals maintain themselves in comparative comfort, and free from very great annoyance. Yet, to accomplish this, great numbers are constantly watching themselves, and may be said to be constantly more or less under some sort of treatment, whereas a comparatively simple operation might suffice to give them more radical relief.

I take it that in those cases where patients are losing large quantities of blood, and in those where the growths are of long standing and constantly protrude, or where they cause great pain and become a troublesome impediment to defæcation, or are in any way a serious source of annoyance, and are affecting the general health—all such, other things being equal, viz., there being no disease present that would contra-indicate an operation—are suitable cases for medical interference. You, of course, would not think of operating upon a woman who is in the condition of the woman I have just shown you, she being pregnant; nor on this man, who is suffering from a tight urethral stricture; and yet both these patients have and are suffering from internal hæmorrhoids. In these instances we do all we can to palliate until after the exciting cause has been removed; then, if they are still the cause of trouble, your operation can be resorted to with every prospect of success. Should your patient be the

subject of a displaced uterus, or of some vesical trouble, in these instances as in every other, seek first the removal of the exciting cause before you resort to an operation.

The modes employed by surgeons for the removal of these tumors are nitric acid, actual cautery, ligature, and the *Céraseur*; at least these are the modes adopted at the present day, though I believe the latter instrument is now very generally and very justly discarded in these affections. Some years ago these tumors we cut off with the scissors, and either left alone or else the wound touched with the hot iron, or the wound brought together by suture to promote speedy union. So serious and even fatal was the hæmorrhage resulting from such a course as this in many cases, that this mode of dealing with these internal growths is no longer employed. We will now consider these different appliances in the order I mentioned them. I believe it was due chiefly to Dr. Houston, of Dublin, for first bringing favorably to the notice of the profession nitric acid in the treatment of this affection. Since that time it has been highly extolled by many writers, and again severely deprecated by others, as not only of no avail, but actually very harmful. I think we may find a reason for both the opposing views not only in the manner in which it has been used, but to the class of tumors to which it has been applied. At first, no doubt, it was applied, and may be yet by some, indiscriminately; and as a result, failure is bound often to occur—and the remedy receives the blame, not the operator. If you wish, therefore, to see its favorable action, you must select your cases and apply it in a proper manner. Its use I think, should be confined solely to those vascular spots of mucous membrane which I have described as sometimes seen in connection with other tumors, and to the small, florid, sessile growths which so readily bleed upon the slightest touch. If you but confine its use to these cases, I feel sure you will meet with happy effects; while, if you apply it to the other tumors, you will often be disappointed. There is no objection to using this, at the same time you treat the larger growths by other means, as I have often done, and with the happiest result. The acid you use should be of the strongest kind, and the parts should be well brought down into view by the means I have described. Then dry the parts and touch them lightly with a piece of wood dipped in the acid, taking great care that no acid comes in contact with surrounding mucous membrane. You then oil the parts and return them; often one application will suffice, if the growth be extremely small, or you may have to repeat the operation after a little interval. The pain attendant upon this is often but slight, and of short duration as compared to other means; and with very nervous patients not so terrifying. The acid acts by the inflammation of the parts it produces, which closes the vessels, and, as a result, the tumor shrivels.

The next operation to which I call your attention is that by means of the actual cautery, and which I have frequently made use of in this hospital, and the application of which I shall now show you.