

was discharged well, and again for a recurrence of dropsy about Christmas, 1876.

The man's physiognomy, his habits of life, and the manner in which his present dropsy had commenced, the abdomen swelling before the legs, led me, notwithstanding the cardiac murmur, manifest dilatation of both ventricles, and irregular heart's action, to attribute his dropsy principally to cirrhosis of the liver and an obstructed portal circulation.

Paracentesis abdominis with my fine trocar and fixed shield was performed at 6 p.m. on March 13th. In twenty-one hours, 11,400 cc. of clear, straw-coloured serum had been evacuated by the capillary tube. The specific gravity of the ascitic fluid was 1020; reaction alkaline. The amount of fibrin as well as of albumen in it very considerable; the former manifesting its presence by spontaneous formation of a slight coagulum in the fluid. The tube was removed during the night of the 14th-15th, the fluid having ceased to flow, and the abdomen being quite flaccid.

March 18th.—Condition singularly improved: appetite good; functions normal; urine flow abundant, clear, amber-coloured, alkaline, sp. gr. 1024, no albumen; breathing quite tranquil; sleeps well; heart's apex still beats two inches outside left nipple perpendicular between fourth and fifth ribs; action still irregular; first sound loud and ringing, but attended by no murmur; liver manifestly contracted, small, and cirrhotic.

Towards end of April the abdomen had again filled considerably, and the legs began to be œdematous once more, but his appetite and general health were otherwise fairly good.

May 5th.—The distension of abdomen and interference with the descent of the diaphragm again threatened death by dyspnoea. Breathing shallow and hurried. The auscultatory signs rendered presence of some fluid in right pleura probable, as also œdema of lower part of left lung. Paracentesis again performed as before. The tube remained in thirty-three hours, during which time twenty-one pints of clear fluid were drawn off; it ceased flowing on the morning of the 7th of May.

On May 9th he was so perfectly comfortable and feeling so