

Dr. Nicol, as well as Dr. Acheson who saw the case with me, united with myself in the opinion that the disease was epithelioma; which opinion was verified subsequently by microscopical examination.

Believing that it was a case peculiarly suited for operation by galvano-cautery—as by this means the greater part of the tongue, including the apex, might be saved, I decided to operate with that instrument. Dr. Acheson kindly assisted, as did also Dentist Sutherland, a personal friend of the patient.

After administering chloroform, the gag being inserted, and the tongue drawn out with clamp forceps, I attempted to apply the galvano-cautery snare. This, however, I was obliged to abandon, as the cancerous mass was too soft to bear the slightest traction with forceps. I then resorted to the cautery knife, and with it at a red heat excised the growth. The incisions were about three inches long and boat shaped, extending from the base to near the tip of the tongue, the central part being over an inch in width. The upper portion of the fibrous septum, contained within the lines, was all removed; also portions of the superior longitudinal and transverse muscles. In the centre of the back part of the base, beneath the hardened external surface before mentioned, the putty-like mass had penetrated very deeply; and it took a long time after the regular incisions had been made to burn it out. The operation lasted two hours, the patient during the whole time being under the influence of chloroform. Fortunately the hæmorrhage was not severe. After rallying, he walked to his boarding house several hundred yards away, assisted by his friend.

Dobel's solution was used as a mouth wash, before and after taking nourishment; for several days he lived on milk, resting comfortably without the use of narcotics.

On the 21st, he came again to the office, as cancer granulations were commencing to form at the base and back of the wound. After applying a 15 per cent. solution of cocaine, I touched these with potassa-fusa, controlling its action with acetic acid. Similar applications were also made on the 22nd and 23rd, and on both days some of the granulations were likewise touched with the galvano-cautery. On the latter day, Dr. Sutherland came again to

the city to visit him, and, with my permission, took him home.

From that time improvement was uninterrupted. Pain and odynphagia subsided; healthy granulations filled in the cavity, and the voice was gradually restored.

Four months later, however, on April 1st, 1892, Mr. McL. returned. He reported that he had been well from the new year to the beginning of March, when a small lump commenced to form again at the old site. He was very hopeless, and it required a good deal of persuasion to induce him to submit to another operation.

On examination, I found the back of the tongue healthy-looking and well filled in, also the front; but in the centre, and extending about three-quarters of an inch along the medial line, there was a firm epitheliomatous growth. It was, however, only one-third of an inch in transverse diameter. Dr. Acheson administered chloroform, and I again dissected it out, with the galvano-cautery knife at a bright red heat, taking a quarter of an inch of healthy-looking tissue all round the growth. This time there was not a drop of hæmorrhage. The operation lasted twenty minutes. The patient returned home the next day.

Of the subsequent history, I may quote briefly from two letters received relative to the case. The first dated June 24th, says: "Mr. McL's. tongue is as fine as a fiddle string. He is splendid, and working every day." The second, dated Sept. 14th, five and a half months after the last operation, reports: "Mr. McL. is splendid. He is well, and looking well, and no sign of the old trouble."

Beside the reason already given, in favor of galvano-cautery operation in this case, there is still one other, as embodied in the record of the first operation, namely, that the cancerous infiltration had obtained such a deep hold upon the central portion of the root of the tongue, that any minor excision by knife would have been useless; and the only hope would have been the removal of the entire organ. As it is, the tongue has been retained, for all practical purposes, in its entirety. What further history will attend the case remains yet to be seen.

The daily average number of patients in attendance at the Toronto Free Dispensary is forty.