

gone, as far as the anus posteriorly, and anteriorly as far as the pubis, Fortunately the urothra was quite entire and uninjured. I now applied the cold water dressings diligently, administered wine and tonics *ad libitum*, and supported my patient energetically and faithfully. And, strange to say, he is now convalescent, quite sound and well, save he is minus his testicles, which were blown some fifty feet from the place where he received the fearful blow.

---

ART. XX.—*Dropsy Cured by Croton Oil.* By J. L. STEVENSON, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.

Having read an article by Dr. Fife in the last number of Braithwaite's Retrospect "on the Treatment of Dropsy by Croton Oil," I determined to try it the first opportunity.

The first case was a lady aged about 30, who came to my surgery on the 27th August, with acute anasarca of the lower extremities. The swelling extended nearly up to the groin; there was considerable dyspnœa and palpitation of the heart; urine scanty and high coloured, no albumen. On the 29th, the swelling had increased to such an extent that the integuments were almost bursting; the urine nearly suppressed. I immediately put her on Croton oil, in half-drop doses every morning. After the second dose the swelling began to abate, the urine increased in quantity, and the dyspnœa entirely disappeared.

Sept. 6th.—The swelling entirely disappeared; urine natural in quantity; feels quite well.

The second case was that of a boy aged 6, to whom I was called Sept. 8th. Had had scarlatina about four weeks previously; subsequently caught cold. The abdomen was greatly distended with fluid, also the scrotum and penis, which were quite transparent from the distension of the fluid. The urine scanty and high coloured, bowels regular, considerable thirst, appetite good. I ordered him Croton Oil in doses of one third of a drop every morning.

Sept. 12th.—Fluid entirely disappeared from scrotum and penis, abdomen smaller.

Continued this treatment for two weeks, at the expiration of which time he was completely well.

From these two cases I think the effects of the Croton Oil are due more to its stimulating the absorbents than to its drastic properties, for in the first case it only caused three or four evacuations every morning and in the second never more than two, and I may state, in neither of the cases did the oil cause any griping.

Stratford, Oct. 13th, 1857.