

ployed in diseases of so severe and intractable a nature, and infinitely greater than attends the use of any remedy in a disease hitherto considered by the first authorities as incurable.

In proof of this assertion, I shall adduce four cases, two of which occurred in my private practice, and the other two were witnessed in the wards of the Montreal General Hospital, by a large and intelligent class. I could adduce others, but these I bring forward sufficiently support the views I am anxious to inculcate.

CASE I.—A gentleman consulted me last February, under the following circumstances. He had suffered for some months from inflammation of the bladder, marked by frequent desire to pass water, accompanied by heat and scalding, violent straining, pain in the region of the bladder, above the pubis and in the perinæum, and a constant feeling of heat and weight in the lower portion of the abdomen. These symptoms gradually increased in severity. The urine became at first bloody, and afterwards purulent, and the desire to void it became so urgent, that it had to be yielded to, at least every fifteen minutes; the discharge of the fluid being followed by pain and scalding at the neck of the bladder, and along the course of the urethra. His general health became impaired, and his sleep being so frequently disturbed, a haggard and anxious expression of countenance, and extreme irritability of the system, were soon established.

When he first consulted me, fully one-half of the fluid passed from the bladder was pure pus; and after repose, a deposit of blood globules was found to intervene between this and the supernatant urine—the latter being highly alkaline, fœtid, and albuminous. Examined microscopically, it exhibited some scales of nucleated epithelium, a large deposit of triple phosphate in prismatic crystals, pus, and blood globules. There was no pain in the loins or along the ureters. He had a stricture of long standing, about one inch from the orifice of the urethra. In addition to the above characters, the urine was frequently mixed with tenacious masses of lymph, varying in length from half an inch to an inch, and entangling a quantity of earthy matter, they frequently obstructed the passage of the urine through the stricture, and required to be broken up and squeezed through by the pressure of the patient's fingers.

Having dilated the stricture, so as to allow a large sized catheter (No. 11 Weiss) to pass, I determined to treat the disease by injections of nitrate of

silver; and accordingly, on 17th of February, I injected into the bladder a lotion composed of eight grains of lunar caustic, two drachms of tincture of hyosciamus, and four ounces of distilled water.

The injection caused hardly any inconvenience, except that of inducing a strong desire to empty the bladder, which was prevented by compressing the penis, until the fluid had been in the bladder for about one minute, when it was allowed to escape. The next day, the patient stated that he was somewhat better, but the quantity of pus and blood was not, however, much diminished, and the flakes of lymph were more numerous and larger than before. Although he continued improving, yet, as the amendment was not as rapid as I anticipated, injection of the viscus was again resorted to on the 5th of March. On this occasion, the quantity of caustic was increased to sixteen grains in the four ounces of distilled water, and the hyosciamus was omitted. A decided improvement immediately followed; the frequency of making water was greatly diminished; instead of requiring to be voided every fifteen minutes, the bladder could retain its contents for more than two hours at a time, and the quantity of pus had greatly decreased. An injection, of the same strength, was again employed on the 28th of March, and with happy results. The urine could now be retained for three or four hours, was passed without pain or scalding, was clear and transparent, and, to the naked eye, free from pus; but, when examined microscopically, a deposit of pus globules and some epithelial scales were perceptible. On the 18th of April, I repeated the injection, and since then he has been completely free from any symptoms of his troublesome disease; he has resumed his former mode of life and pursuits, and has been subject to various changes of temperature whilst travelling, without experiencing the least return of his former symptoms.

I should mention that, pending the treatment for the cystitis, he had a severe attack of laryngitis œdematosa, which was near proving fatal.

CASE II.—Mr. —, aged 33, consulted me, July 22, 1847. He stated that four years ago, after exposure to severe cold, he began to suffer from difficulty in making water, and from pain referred to the region of the bladder, and extending along the urethra. At first, he was not obliged to empty the bladder more frequently than usual, and the urine was unmixed with either pus, or blood. About three years ago, however, the symptoms

* C'est encore dans les cas de suppuration, qu'on trouve des productions pseudo-membraneuses dont parlent les auteurs. C'est l'expulsion de ces fausses membranes par l'urètre qui a fait répéter à tant de médecins que la tunique muqueuse de la vessie pouvait être entièrement détachée et expulsée par portions avec les urines. —FERRUS Dict. de Méd., Art. Cystite.

* By a strange coincidence (for I believe there were no other instances of the disease in the town at the time), I had two other cases of this affection under my care on the same day that this gentleman was attacked. In one, a female recently confined, hoarseness set in at 8 o'clock p.m.; at 11 o'clock, I was sent for, and she died a few minutes after my arrival.