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CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Cases occurring in Practice. By Carr Holstok Roberts, L. R. C. P. L., M. R. C. S. E., L. S. A., late Medical Officer of Health, Alderbury Union, England 253

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

A Case in which a Biliary Calculus was removed by operation from the Gall-Bladder and a cure resulted, 254—When the Hypodermic Syringe may be used, 255—Aconite in the Treatment of Acute Inflammation, 256—The Treatment of Hemorrhage in Abortion, 257—Enemata of Chloral in Sick Headache, 257—Cough Mixture, 257—Night Sweats, 257—On the Diagnosis of Tumors of the Groin, 258—The Therapeutic Value of Croton-Chloral, 258—Damiana as a Nerve Tonic, 259—To Hasten the Action of Quinine. 259—Lumbago,

260—Treatment of Epilepsy, 260—Treatment of Obstinate Vomiting by Small Doses of Iodide of Potassium, 261—The Treatment of Indolent Ulcers by means of Sheet Lead, 261—On Night Cough, 262—Late Suggestions on Ozana, 162—Cough Mixture, 262—Cholera Infantum, 262—Hydrate of Chloral and Bromide of Potash Enemata in the Vomiting of Pregnancy, 263—A New Antiseptic, 263—Turpentine as an External Application in Small-Pox, 263—Anti-Tootache, 263—Origin of Diphtheria, 264—Massage of the Tonsils, 264—Jaborandi in Night Sweats, 264—Treatment of Puerperal and other Hyperpyrexia by Cold, 265—A Physiological Hint to Photographers, 265—Naso-Pharyngeal Disease—Iodoformed Wool, 265—New Experiments in Anæsthetics, 266—Hypodermic Injections of Tincture of Ergot for Retention of Urine, 266—Injection of

Warm Water into the Vagina in certain Classes of Labor, 276—Citrate of Caffeine as a Diuretic in Cardiac Dropsy, 266—Treatment of Gastric Ulcer, 267—On a Neglected Proximate Cause of Dyspepsia, 267—Chorea and its Treatment, 267—Treatment of Colic, 268—The Action and Uses of Belladonna 263

EDITORIAL.

The Longue Pointe Lunatic Asylum, 269—University of Laval at Montreal, 270—The Canada Medical Association, 270—Differential Registration Fees, 270—Honors to a Surgeon, 270—The Abortive Treatment of Eubo, 272—The Effects of the Use of Quinine on Hearing, 271—Cases in Practice, 271—The Voice, 271—Johnston's Fluid Beef, 271—Personal, 271—Reviews, 271—Medico-Chirurgical Society 274

PHARMACEUTICAL DEPART 277

Original Communications.

Cases occurring in Practice. By CARR HOLSTOK ROBERTS, L. R. C. P. L., M. R. C. S. E., L. S. A., late Medical Officer of Health, Alderbury Union, England.

On the 13th June last, I was called in a great hurry to see Mrs. B., a lady living close by. I found her in bed, having been confined a fortnight before of a fine healthy baby, for a week previous to which she had been obliged to keep her bed from excessive pain in her back (attributed, no doubt erroneously, to the impending labor) and constant diarrhoea of a pale yellow color. For some days past she has "felt something in the back passage," and at last succeeded "in hooking out with her fingers" from the anus a large stone measuring five inches in circumference, four inches in diameter and weighing five drachms. The urine is normal. She is not and never has been jaundiced, has suffered occasionally from what she considered her liver, pains in her back and shoulders, but with that exception and shortness of breath, due probably to a fatty heart, has enjoyed good health. She quite embodies Byron's remark, "fat, fair and forty." Her brothers (four) all died at an early age from phthisis, and all were above six feet. She is now at the time of writing (9th July, 1879) apparently quite well, and is about her household duties. The stone is now in the possession of my friend, Dr. Ord of St. Thomas' Hospital, for examination, &c., &c., but it presents all the usual characteristics of an ordinary gall stone. I have on several occasions seen gall stones of a large size which have been discovered on a post-mortem examination,

but never any approaching to the size of such a "star of the first magnitude;" the marvel is that it should have been spontaneously passed with so little constitutional disturbance, and I think my patient is to be congratulated on having successfully effected and survived the birth of such twins.

In September, 1877, when residing in Shrewsbury, I was requested to visit W. F., a man residing in a village about three miles away, and who had been engaged on the railway for some years as a carriage cleaner. I found him in bed, a man thirty-five years of age, short in stature and lymphatic in complexion; had always enjoyed good health until some months previously, when he found, without any ostensible cause, "his legs begin to fail him," and they are now utterly useless. There is complete loss of motion but not of sensibility, he is unable to lift or draw them up from the bed. He had never met with any accident, although he might occasionally have "bumped his back" in getting up from under the carriages. Had been wet through several times, and allowed his clothes to dry on him, but had never experienced any inconvenience or ill result from that. Has been in one or two infirmaries without deriving any benefit whatever, and from one he was sent home with the comforting (?) assurance that nothing could be done for him as the paralysis would gradually spread upwards, and that his would be a living death.

A careful examination failed to detect any pain or tenderness along the spine, or in fact in any part of the body; he had perfect use of his other limbs, and there appeared to be no appreciable cause for such a state of affairs. His bowels were very sluggish and obstinate, his urine was clear, free from albumen and apparently normal, but on examination under