

chief. As may be expected from this fact, the complaint is generally worse in winter than in summer. Sometimes the pain stretches to the back of the head, and more frequently up the side of the face, like toothache.

I have met with the combination of symptoms constituting phlegalgia oris, only in females. It generally commences during pregnancy or lactation, but sometimes arises without being connected with either of these.

The digestion is often impaired, and the patient is never actually robust, though her general appearance may not indicate any deviation from health.

For several years after I became acquainted with phlegalgia oris, I was in the habit of directing my patients to take wine, porter, or some alcoholic liquid; and prevented local smarting, by instructing them to coat the tongue with thick mucilage of gum senegal just before using them. I also often succeeded by giving bitters, the object of the treatment being to communicate greater vigour. Many years ago, however, a case occurred which baffled my most earnest exertions to cure it, and convinced me that these remedies, though capable of removing recent or slight affections, were altogether incapable of curing protracted or severe ones. The case was that of a lady, who after the birth of one of her children, was afflicted with phlegalgia oris. The ordinary medical attendant having failed to give relief, several medical gentlemen were consulted. At the end of several years, no benefit having been obtained, she repaired to Edinburgh to obtain the opinion of an eminent operator, at that time residing there. A consultation having been held, an assurance was given that her complaint arose from a concretion lodged somewhere about the root of the tongue. To remove this an operation was performed, but a concretion could not be found, and she returned home deeply mortified with the result, and with her impressions of the candour of the profession considerably lessened.

About fifteen years from the commencement of the disease, I was consulted, being somewhere about the twelfth medical man who had seen her, and, like all my predecessors, I failed to cure. Ten or fifteen years afterwards she died of another disease, the sensation of scalding remaining to the last. Mercury, arsenic, iron, opium, belladonna, borax, the local application of nitrate of silver, and several other medicines were tried at different times, but without benefit.

No case equalling the one now shortly sketched, in duration or severity occurred to me till last January, when I was consulted by an elderly female for phlegalgia, which