

The limb that was formerly flexed on the pelvis gradually became straight, and the patient was able to leave the Hospital in one month from the time the abscess was opened.

CASE II.

Mrs. B., aged 35, the mother of four healthy children, enjoyed good health till the beginning of July, 1883, when I was sent for to see her about a very severe pain she was suffering from in the right side, over the kidney. There was tenderness on pressure, and any effort at movement increased the pain. I could not detect any hardness nor swelling, and there was no difference in the measurement of the two sides. The temperature varied from 100° in the morning to 102° in the evening; the pulse ninety, frequent and small; the urine scanty and dark co'oured. On examination, a small quantity of albumen was found, but no pus nor casts; the bowels obstinately constipated. Two weeks after I first saw her the thigh became firm'y flexed on the pelvis and slightly adducted; the patient very weak and nervous, and any attempt at straightening the limb caused intense suffering. Morphia had to be given in large doses before any ease or sleep could be obtained. The patient continued for six weeks in much the same condition as above described. About this time I noticed a fulness in the lumbar region, and a difference by measurement of one inch. I could not distinctly make out fluctuation, but felt firmly convinced that there was deep-seated pus. I introduced an aspirating needle and drew off six ounces of sero-purulent matter. The following day the patient was put under chloroform, and a free incision made in the lumbar region, when a very large quantity of pus escaped. The subsequent treatment was similar to the first case, viz., tonics and a free washing of the abscess cavity with a weak solution of carbolic acid. From the time the abscess was opened the patient began to improve; the pain left; appetite returned; sleep was restored, and the limb gradually straightened. In fact the patient went on rapidly to perfect health.

CASE III.

R. E., aged 9, born in Toronto; admitted to the Hospital on the 12th of Feb., 1884.

Family History.—Could not be satisfactorily

obtained; there is a history of syphilis on his father's side, and two uncles of his mother died of consumption.

Previous History.—Boy has always been strong and healthy; never had any severe illness.

Present Illness.—About the second week of January, 1884, a lump appeared on inner side of right thigh; this was opened, and after discharging for a few days healed up; he was in bed at this time about one week; when he got up his mother noticed that he limped a little with left leg, and complained of pain in the small of back. These symptoms became gradually more marked up to the time of his admission to Hospital.

Condition at time of Admission.—Patient has been losing flesh for two or three weeks; left thigh is flexed on pelvis, nearly at a right angle, and slightly adducted; any attempt to straighten the leg causes intense pain over parts supplied by lumbar nerves; there is no tenderness on pressure at any point along the spine; marked tenderness in left lumbar region, and over the kidney, both back and front; slight bulging is noticeable; left side, from spine to umbilicus, measures an inch more than right; no urinary disturbance; temperature, 104° in evening.

Diagnosis—Perinephric Abscess.—The temperature continued high from the time of admission to Feb. 23rd, ranging from 99° in the morning to 101°, 102° or 103° in the evening. On the 23rd of February I aspirated in lumbar region and removed 10 ozs. of pus; patient was relieved by the operation, and on the 24th his temperature was normal both morning and evening. On the 26th I made a free opening into abscess cavity and washed it out; this my assistant continued to do several times a day for several weeks. The patient subsequently was attacked with inflammation of the lungs, which protracted his recovery very much. He left the Hospital about the latter part of June quite well, and has continued in good health up to the time of writing this article.

CASE IV.

W. H., age 58; Scotch by birth, engineer by occupation, married; was admitted to the Hospital on the 7th Sept., 1884.