

ENTERITIS, WITH ABSCESS.

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I was called, on 13th. April, 1869, to see Catherine W——, æt. fifteen, who was suffering from acute inflammation of the bowels. Pulse, 120, with pain, fever and tenderness very strongly marked. I immediately put her under my usual treatment for such cases, viz., large doses of opium, with small doses of calomel internally, warm fomentations and ol. terebinth., applied externally.

The pulse, fever and constant pain subsided in a day or two, but the tenderness did not; besides she was occasionally visited by alarming paroxysms of pain which nothing but free and repeated opiates would alleviate.

The case progressed in this way until about one month from my first seeing it, when I noticed commencing induration in the umbilical region, which in a week's time had spread over the whole abdomen, so that the whole abdominal mass seemed converted into an intensely hard, indurated tumor, in which state it remained for about three weeks, in spite of iodine, internally and externally, and all other means I could think of, or use, to induce resolution in the indurated mass. In spite of the induration and free doses of morphine that were administered to relieve the attacks of pain, her bowels were evacuated daily without the use of cathartics or enemata. Matters continued thus until about the end of the second month from my first visit, when I began to notice an appearance of softening near the umbilicus, which, with chills and general hectic symptoms, left no doubt that matter had formed. In about a week's time the abscess pointed at the umbilicus, and in a few days more discharged itself much to the relief of patient, her friends and myself. It continued to discharge for about another week, when it closed, and her health began to improve rapidly, with, however, occasional slight attacks of the pain, which, however, gradually left her, and she is now a healthy and well-developed young girl. She has been engaged in school-teaching for the last year or two, and is in the enjoyment of perfect health.

I have been induced to send you this case for publication as I have no recollection of ever reading or hearing of a similar one. You will perceive that I have merely given you the leading features of the case, as a detailed account of it would be very tedious, my attendance on it extending over a period of nearly three months.