

could not feel anything as far as I could reach, which was probably two or three inches down the œsophagus. I then introduced the



Piece of oyster shell—actual size.

horse-hair probang nearly the whole length before the end passed the offending body.

Expanding the umbrella part and withdrawing, brought up this piece of oyster shell, which measured $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches.

You will notice most of the edges are quite sharp and the ends pointed. The

patient expressed relief at once. He was cautioned to use only fluid diet for a few

days, and report, which he did some three or four days after, saying he was all right.

I don't think producing emesis would have been a fruitful or yet wise measure, as the movements might have caused perforation. A skein of thread swallowed might have entangled the body in its loops, but would not protect the walls on withdrawal. The coin extractor would likely have allowed the edges to cut the œsophagus, as its walls would not have been expanded as with the horse hair. Œsophagotomy, I think, should only be done as a last resort. If left in, it would soon likely have caused ulceration, perhaps perforation, pus formation or severe hæmorrhage.

If he has any symptoms of cicatricial stricture, dilating probangs will be required from time to time; but I don't anticipate this, as there was not any dysphagia or any complaint after extraction.

Would this body have become dissolved if it had gone into the stomach?

SPORADIC CRETINISM.—Dr. Wm. Osler, of Baltimore (*Archives of Pediatrics*, February), gives the notes of a case of sporadic cretinism. It was a very well-marked case. The child was placed on the thyroid treatment in March, 1893. In April, 1894, the improvement was very marked. The cretinoid aspect had entirely disappeared. In the next place she had begun to develop rapidly. She had grown four inches in fourteen months. She was also acquiring the power of speech. One seeing the child for the first time would not notice anything peculiar about her. In October, 1894, the improvement had continued. She was then very bright and active. The only apparent defect was that she did not talk as plainly as she should for a child at her age.