

take a second one, a circumstance which alarmed his friends exceedingly. It appeared that since my visit in the morning, he had become very silent, lay upon his side, with his head partially covered with the bed-clothes so as to exclude the light, was fretful and peevish when spoken to, and though his lips were hot and dry, he had not called for any drink. He was remarked to moan whenever he stirred in bed, as if suffering pain. I was struck immediately with the alteration; he would not take medicine, or even a drink from me, answered questions in unconnected monosyllables, and in a surly tone; would not put out his tongue, and when I attempted to feel his pulse, I observed that the least touch induced severe pain, as evinced by the moan that followed, and a strong retraction of the limb. At first, it was supposed that this was merely a sign of impatience at being disturbed, similar to what we observe in cases of meningitis following injuries of the head; but I was soon undeceived, for the same wincing retraction and the same expressions of pain followed the least touch in any part of the body, and were increased in proportion to the augmentation of the pressure, nor was it essential that the hand should come in contact with the skin, for pressure, through the medium of the bed clothes, produced the same effects. The only words he now spoke were uttered to express the pain he suffered from examination. It was likewise observed, that it did not require a great amount of pressure to excite these phenomena, for if a drop of water fell upon his neck or chest, from the spoon which conveyed it to his lips, or if a portion of the powder fell upon these parts, the same consequences ensued. That the convulsive retractions were accompanied by excruciating pain was shown, not only by the deep groans and earnest request to discontinue the examination, but by the expressions of agonizing torture which the features exhibited while contact was maintained, and the perfect calm which followed, when the hand was removed. If the hand was kept on one spot, the surface appeared to become accustomed to its presence and the system became gradually tranquillised, which accounted for his not suffering pain from the bed clothes, or from pressure on the bed. If allowed to remain quiet for a few minutes, and then spoken to, he used to start up suddenly utter a few words incoherently, and then relapse into his former state.

Seeing the imminent danger my patient was in, I requested his friends to allow me to associate in attendance with me, my friend, Dr. Crawford, and one of the military surgeons of the garrison. Dr. Crawford saw him about six o'clock, and took the same view of his disease that I did.

The condition of the pulse (50 weak, irregular, intermitting, and the knowledge that these characters were permanent) prevented our employing venesection; and the rapid collapse of the patient rendered leeching a measure of doubtful propriety. We agreed then to depend on extensive counter-irritation to the nape of the neck, and down the spine; as also to the calves of the legs, warmth to the feet, and the rapid introduction of mercury.

At 8 o'clock, P.M., we were joined in consultation by Dr. Longmore, of the 19th Regt., who agreed with us in

the plan of treatment to be pursued. The counter-irritant\*—applied in the usual way—produced an immense blister in less than ten minutes, extending from the occiput to between the shoulders. The same was applied to both legs; but here it did not vesiculate. The calomel, in five grain doses, was blown from a quill into the mouth every half hour—for the least contact produced a closure of the mouth, attended by spasmodic efforts at deglutition, similar to what we observe in hydrophobia. Mercurial ointment was rubbed into the groins and axillæ, and the blistered surface was dressed with the same. By watching for the relaxation of the muscles of the jaw, allowing of the opening of the mouth, we succeeded in introducing the calomel and a small quantity of brandy and water, at appointed times.

The exalted sensibility was not confined merely to the nerves of touch, for when ammonia was kept near the nose, or when a gleam of light was suddenly thrown upon the eyes, or when he was spoken to in a loud voice, the same spasmodic twitching of the whole frame took place, and the same expressions of anguish were uttered. There was no paralysis of the upper or lower extremities, nor were there any convulsive movements of these limbs; on the contrary, he appeared to have complete control over them, for on one occasion he turned on his side, took a chamber utensil, passed water into it, and then replaced it on a chair near the head of his bed. He occasionally made attempts to get out of bed, but to the amazement of us all, his efforts were most easily restrained.

October 28—5 o'clock.—There was no change perceptible during the night. At 9 o'clock, P.M.—The same state of the nervous system existed. The eyes appeared more animated—pupils sensible to light. The pulse was apparently stronger than the night before, between 50 and 60, but very irregular. It was thought that leeching to the temples might be tried, carefully watching its effects. Accordingly twelve were applied, but the feebleness of the pulse which ensued, prevented a repetition of the depletion. The head was covered with blisters, and the whole of the chest and feet enveloped in sinapisms, a strong turpentine enema administered, and four drops of Croton oil put on the tongue, as the bowels had not been moved for twenty-four hours, and were always difficult to open: the brandy and water was continued at intervals, and mercurial ointment was rubbed into the groins and axillæ, as before.

12 o'clock.—Sinking fast—pupils dilated—breathing more rapid, but no stertor, or puffing out of cheeks.

He lingered on till 5 o'clock the following morning. Frequently when we thought he was on the point of death, he would put his fingers into the mouth and fauces, and extricate the accumulating mucus, and then breathe with comparative ease for some hours. Shortly before death, he made some convulsive efforts to sit up in bed, and appeared impatient of the restraint employed by the

\* The "Counter-irritant" is a preparation sold by one of the Druggists of this city. It is composed of strong water of ammonia and spirits of rosemary. A piece of lint or flannel saturated with it, and placed on the skin, will produce vesication in ten or fifteen minutes, if prevented becoming volatilized by covering it over with tin-foil.