

ulceration or erosion of the os uteri, with or without endocervicitis, are so common, and in hospital practice so numerous, that some more efficient and less troublesome caustic than nitrate of silver is urgently needed for their treatment. I have carefully and fully tried the action of most caustics (including carbolic acid), and found none to answer the purpose so well as nitric acid. The great fault of nitrate of silver is the fugitive nature of its action; its influence seldom extends beyond five or six days, even when rubbed upon and held in contact with the parts. It is more a stimulant than a caustic, as it produces no slough, and causes extreme turgescence of the capillaries immediately below the surface influenced, as evidenced by the occurrence of hemorrhage, often sufficient to obscure the parts before it has been removed from contact with them. At the second examination we often find the ulceration or erosion little if at all altered in appearance. This defect must be atoned for by the frequent reapplication of the remedy, necessitating each time the use of the speculum. I believe in this evil really lies the source of the opinion held by some eminent men, that these diseases require little or no local treatment, for our opinions are often unconsciously influenced by our wishes. Nitric acid, on the other hand, is a really efficient caustic, producing a slough, which is peculiarly firmly adherent, and which consequently necessitates a healthy effort by the subjacent parts for its separation. The only other caustic which produces a slough of the same character is nitrate of mercury. Nitric acid, moreover, requires no special preparation; does not spread like potassa c. calce, nor is its action so deep; it produces little or no pain and no hemorrhage. These advantages are trivial compared with the fact, that when once it has been properly applied, in many cases no further interference is necessary, and thus the frequent use of the speculum may be done away with. When the second examination is made, it should be after the lapse of a month, and it will then sometimes be found that there is a small spot requiring a fresh application of the acid, but often the sore appears to be quite healed or to be healing satisfactorily. The fresh mucous membrane which forms in cicatricial in appearance, and when healing is going on satisfactorily, it has a sharply-defined edge, and, being of a pale rose colour, contrasts strongly with the bright red of the sore. The contraction is greater than follows the use of any other caustic; but this is a great advantage, for on account of the relaxed state of the tissues, it is just what is required to insure the permanence of the cure.

"The acid is best applied by means of a small and tightly rolled piece of cotton-wool, which is to be placed by an ordinary speculum forceps in contact with successive portions of the surface until the whole is covered with a white eschar. In a case of chronic endocervicitis, the acid should be applied to the interior of the open cervical canal, and if it is not open the case is not one suitable for the treatment. The contraction which accompanies healing is only to a healthy and natural degree. Provided the caustic

has been used with ordinary prudence, I have never seen anything but good follow its use, and the ease with which a chronic case of cervical catarrh, with ulceration or erosion, may be cured by it is something marvellous. The bulk of my cases have been hospital out-patients, and the comfort the use of nitric acid has been in their treatment is very great, both in certainty of result and in saving my own time. Without local treatment very little can be done for these patients, for hygienic treatment is generally impossible, and medicinal treatment alone is useless. I shall not take up your space by details of cases, although I have copious notes of about forty. By trial of the remedy a proper estimate of its value will soon be formed.

"The use of nitric acid as a caustic is so familiar to us all, especially in the treatment of some diseases of the rectum, that I had some hesitation in bringing the subject before you, and should not have done so but that I believe it is only used by two or three medical men engaged in the treatment of diseases of women. It is mentioned incidentally at the conclusion of a paper by Dr. Lombe Atthill, upon its application to the interior of the uterine cavity, that he uses it habitually in the diseases in question; and Dr. Roe of Dublin, in an analysis of 164 cases of uterine disease, relates a case of extensive ulceration in which he employed it. Mr. Robert Ellis has recommended the use of a saturated solution of nitrate of silver in nitric acid, and I believe Dr. Bennett has mentioned it also: but these writers are exceptions to the general rule. It is not mentioned by Tilt in his admirable work on uterine therapeutics, nor by any other of our standard authors upon diseases of women, all of whom recommend nitrate of silver, or mention its use as the usual practice."

Dr. Edward John Tilt, in an article in the *British Medical Journal* (Dec. 4, 1875), instead of advising nitric acid in all cases of cervical disease requiring a caustic, as Dr. Braithwaite seems to do, holds—1. That, in comparatively recent cases of endocervicitis, nitrate of silver, tincture of iodine, or carbolic acid suffices; 2. That chronic cases of endocervicitis had best be treated by acid nitre of mercury or nitric acid; 3. That hyperchronic endocervicitis with considerable cervical hypertrophy requires potassa fusa cum colce or some strong acid.

ULCERATED NIPPLES.

M. Legroux advises the following treatment: Spread with a camel-hair brush a layer of elastic collodion around the nipple, in a radius of an inch or more; a piece of gold-beater's skin should then be placed over the nipple and collodion, taking care to make a few holes with a pin over the part of the gold-beater's skin which covers the nipple, so as to allow the milk to ooze through. No collodion should be spread on the nipple itself, as some pain might thereby be occasioned. By the rapid evaporation of the ether the collodion dries up, and the gold-beater's skin adheres. The nipple is then more or less pressed