

BROMINE IN HOSPITAL GANGRENE.

BY E. L. STANFORD, M.D., SURG. U.S.A.

To surgeon M. Goldsmith belongs the credit of the introduction of this treatment into the military hospitals of this city (Louisville, Kentucky), which as far as I can learn has been successful with every one that has employed it either here or elsewhere. Indeed so confident have we all become by its use, that cases of gangrene are now never separated from other wounded patients in the same ward. I have always found the constitutional symptoms to subside within twenty-four hours after its application, the pulse to return to its normal standard by the second day, and the wound soon to become filled with healthy granulations.

Before using the remedy, all the pulpy mass and debris should be removed by means of a pair of scissors, and the wound be thoroughly washed with warm water, and dried with a sponge. The dead portions may next be scraped away with the rounded end of the tongue spatula of a pocket case, and the part be again washed and dried. Pure undiluted bromine must now be applied to every part of the diseased surface in the most thorough manner, taking care that it enters as deeply into the cellular tissue as the disease. This turns the whole wound into a black eschar, and its peculiar odor disappears in a few hours. The appetite speedily returns, and the patient feels like a new man. The stump may be dressed with a yeast or cinchona poultice, or with simple water dressing.

It is rarely necessary to make more than one application, but if at the end of the fourth day there be any remaining odor, the charred surface may be removed and those points be retouched that are found to be still affected.—*Amer. Med. Times, N.Y.*

Interesting Cases.

To the Ed. of the *Amer. Med. Times, N.Y.*

THE PITCHER PLANT IN SMALL POX.—Monday, May 18, 1863 was called to W. C., a young man 23 years of age, of strong and vigorous constitution. Found him with all the premonitory symptoms of variola, the lumbar pains being particularly prominent. He had been exposed to that disease eight or ten days before. Does not remember ever having been vaccinated.

Tuesday, 19th.—Fever higher, and pain more severe; eruption beginning to appear. I gave him the usual treatment; but without entering into details, suffice to say that on Saturday 23rd there was a copious eruption of pustules about the size of small split peas, diffused over the whole body, particularly on the hands and face. The latter was so swollen as almost to close the eyes; the eruption being so thick even at this stage, as to look like one great pustule. There had been more or less delirium during the night, and the severe lumbar pains were undiminished. It now occurred to me to give the *saracenia purpurea*, a trial, as it was growing in abundance in a marsh near the house. I sent out and procured some of the roots, and directed the nurse to give a teacup two-thirds full of the decoction every four hours.

Sunday evening, 24th, saw him again, had been delicious the night before, but was now calm, pulse slow, skin cool, and many of the pustules shrivelling. From this time the disease never advanced, but all the pustules dried up without maturing or leaving any pitting. The root in this case had cut

short the disease. Let other physicians then give a trial and report on its results.

Yours, &c.,

SAMUEL MITCHELL, M.D.

Cameron Mills, June 23rd, 1863.

We call attention particularly to the above case on account of the pitcher plants growing wild throughout Canada, and the facility therefore with which every physician can try it for himself. The effect of this remedy is one of the great controversies of the day in Great Britain, where it has been sent from Nova Scotia, and administered in the small pox hospitals to some of the most severe cases, and its powers denied. We shall be happy therefore to hear from any physician who gives it a trial; and also to learn the localities in which it is found most abundantly.—*Ed.*

The smallest fatal dose of arsenic on record is two and a half grains, it was contained in a wineglassful of fly water, and proved fatal to a strong healthy girl of 19 years in 36 hours.—*Guy.*

Canada Lancet.

MONTREAL, JULY 15, 1863.

It has become our sad and painful duty to announce in this issue the death of Dr. Wolfred Nelson. In him our city has lost a kind father, a trustworthy friend, and a thoroughly educated and distinguished physician. Commencing the study of Medicine at the early age of 14 years, and possessing unusual facilities for acquiring knowledge, he passed with *éclat* at 19 the highest examination that Canada could then afford him, and settled in the village of St. Denis, on the Richelieu River, where, by his superior abilities and amiable and engaging manners, he soon won for himself the love and esteem of his French Canadian brethren, who elected him to Parliament in 1827. Ten years later, an ill-advised love for his country led him to take an active part in the rebellion, in which, as a commander, he displayed much military talent, but being unsupported, was reluctantly compelled to give up the contest. After ten days of fruitless endeavours to escape the cordon by which he was surrounded, he was brought a prisoner into his native city, and kept in strict confinement for several months, and illegally exiled to Bermuda. Five years elapse, and he appears again before us, houseless and a wanderer, to begin life's struggles anew. Another generation passes away, and we find him—outliving poverty and contumely—at the zenith of his ambition,—returned to Parliament until he would no longer serve,—twice elected to the civic chair of his native city, tendered to him with an enthusiasm unprecedented in city elections; and, notwithstanding his extensive practice and mature age, fulfilling the various duties of Commissioner of Small Causes, Justice of the Peace, and Inspector of Prisons. He sleeps, indeed, the sleep of death,—yet dies not,—such men never die.