

We then resolved to try the effect of small doses of turpentine frequently repeated, and ordered the following mixture :

R Morph. Sulph ..... gr.ii.  
Liquor Ergot.....  
Spt. Terebinth aa..... ʒiv.  
Syrup Acaciae ad ..... ʒiv.

M.

A tablespoonful every three or four hours.

This mixture was very well borne and had the effect of soothing pain and controlling to some slight extent the tympanites which had by this time assumed somewhat alarming proportions. Otherwise there was no favourable change.

We again tried the effect of a large dose of turpentine and castor oil, followed by injections carefully administered, but with no better success. The condition of the patient had now become so alarming from the excessive tympanitis which had supervened despite every effort to control it that we discussed the propriety of introducing the hand into the rectum and reaching the point of obstruction if possible. It was agreed that this was the only hope of obtaining relief for the patient; and accordingly on the 14th, after apprising the patient of the nature of the case and obtaining her consent to the operation, it was performed under the influence of chloroform. On introducing the hand and passing it up to the sigmoid flexure, a tumour of firm consistency and about the size of a turkey's egg was discovered in that region. It seemed to so completely obstruct the passage, that any effort to overcome it was entirely unavailing. The patient sank steadily and died within forty-eight hours after the operation.

I obtained the consent of the husband and friends to make a *post-mortem* examination, of which the following is the result. On opening the cavity of the abdomen we found the tumour before observed at the junction of the sigmoid flexure of the colon with the rectum. Its removal and examination disclosed the following conditions. The growth seemed to have originated in the mucous membrane of one side of the bowel and to have gradually increased in size until it reached the opposite side where it had formed adhesions and completely occluded the passage. Dr. Zimmerman kindly

submitted portions of the tumour to microscopic examination and discovered it to be what is recognized as adenoid cancer.

This case was remarkable for its obscurity. The patient's age did not justify very strongly the opinion that malignant disease existed. Statistics show that only a comparatively small number are the victims of the disease at this age. There was absolutely none of the cachectic expression commonly observed in such cases. The temperature never was above the normal. The pulse was alike natural until within a few days of death. The character of the discharges rather indicated chronic ulceration of the bowels resulting in gradual occlusion. But the ulceration, as the sequel demonstrated, was only a result of previous malignant disease.

We are reminded by the results of this case, how invaluable are *post-mortem* examinations. Without such an examination in this instance we would not have been justified in pronouncing malignant disease as the cause of death, as there were really none of the prominent symptoms present except pain in the region of the complication, and this might have been very properly accounted for as an effect of the ulceration present.

We are only confirmed in the opinion, often before expressed, that professional men cannot be too urgent in their desire to pursue the investigation of every obscure case to the utmost possible limit. It is only by such means that additional light can be thrown upon the varied manifestations of disease in the human system.

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COLONIAL DEGREES.—The *London Gazette* of the 24th August contains an official notification to the effect that Her Majesty has granted letters patent declaring that the decrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Laws and of Medicine hereafter to be granted or conferred by the University of the Cape of Good Hope shall be recognized as academic distinctions and rewards of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence, and consideration in the United Kingdom and in the colonies and possessions of the Crown throughout the world as fully as if the said degrees had been granted by any University of the said United Kingdom.—*London Lancet*.