

VESICAL INJECTIONS FOR INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

By the Editor.

Mrs. R —, Jan. 26, 1863, has been suffering for years from incontinence of urine, due to a morbid sensibility of the bladder augmented if not caused by irritable uterus. When the urine accumulates to a few ounces, she is compelled to evacuate it, and all control is lost on coughing. Linseed tea, Buchu, Uva Ursi, Ext. Henbane, Ext. Belladonna, Morphine, &c., &c., had been prescribed at various times without effect; her clothes are now constantly wet with urine.

I injected an ounce of sweet oil into the bladder which remained only a few moments, but it gave great relief. I directed her to repeat the oil, (instructing her how to introduce a syringe into the urethra), and to inject as much lukewarm water as she could endure, giving her a solution of the nitrate of silver 20 grains to the ounce of water, with directions to add a few drops to each tepid injection and to increase its strength as she could bear it, repeating it twice a day; and to inject a little oil afterwards, if the pain should be severe.

Feb. 3, she returned to say that she was quite well, that the first injection of tepid water caused her much pain; but after the second, with the addition of the nitrate of silver she experienced great relief. She now bears them much stronger without trouble. That she has quite recovered is doubtful, arising as it does in a great measure from sympathy with the womb, but I feel confident she will always be enabled to control it for the time. The womb is neither enlarged nor displaced.

The treatment by Dr. Reeves of Carlisle, is much more heroic than the one I adopted, as he injects a solution of the nitrate of silver of the strength of 20 grains to the ounce, even in the most irritable states of the bladder; giving morphine if necessary, and directing barley water as drink. And he says that he has always found the pain caused by this strong solution, to be more a soreness than an acute pain, lasting for a few hours only. The second time the suffering is much less. The cure he considers permanent.

Dr. Behrend, in treating this affection with Ext. Belladonna, begins with $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. three times a day, increasing gradually up to $\frac{1}{4}$ grain in the forenoon, and a grain at night, until the system becomes affected and pupils dilated when it must be discontinued. He thinks the Ext. useless unless this is done, but I have seen it often successful in $\frac{1}{4}$ grain doses without any such effect.

Dr. H. Bence Jones states, that the cause of this affection, may be the accumulation of feces in the rectum, too long retention of urine, pressure on the bladder by the womb or an abdominal tumour, &c., &c. If the urine be acrid, he gives alkalis and barley water, with camphor and henbane at night; and if obstinate 3 grains camphor, with $\frac{1}{4}$ grain opium, three times a day, injecting cold water into the rectum.

Dr. S. D. Gross, in gouty or rheumatic habits, gives 3i vinum, colchici, every night, with morphine. If in neuralgic, he gives strychnine and arsenic.

Professor Miller also gives anodynes both by mouth and anus, in cases of irritable bladder with incontinence of urine; and finds small doses of the alkalis largely diluted, frequently very serviceable. When very severe he insists on the recumbent position, and has recourse to smart counter irritation, by blistering over the pubes or sacrum.

Hospital Reports.

FRacture with Dislocation of the Spine. *Reported by R. T. Langrell, Esq.*—John Lynch, *et. 32*, a healthy labouring man, received, on the morning of the 31st December last, a severe injury from a large beam, weighing, he says, upwards of a thousand pounds. It struck him on the shoulder and back, prostrating him insensible, in which condition, he was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital, under Dr. McCallum, who, on examination, found fracture with dislocation of the 11th and 12th dorsal vertebra, the former being depressed nearly an inch, and the corresponding prominence of the 12th being very marked. On returning consciousness, he suffered from the most excruciating pain in the thighs, and had lost all power over the lower half of his body. Preparations were at once made to reduce the dislocation; to effect this, the upper part of the body was fixed by passing a sheet around the back, and beneath the axilla, and another being arranged around the pelvis; gradual and powerful extension was made, steady pressure being at the same time exerted over the lower and projecting portion of the spinal column. The dislocation was thus reduced without deformity, and gave immediate relief to the pain, but did not affect the paraplegia. Splints were applied to the vertebrae for a time. The paralysis of the bladder and sphincter, so troublesome after the accident, has gradually disappeared, but up to the present, Feb. 10th, the paraplegia remains unchanged.

PHANTOM TUMOUR. *Reported by Kenneth Reid, Esq.* Margaret D —, a healthy looking girl, *et. 16*, native of Canada, was admitted, by Dr. Kingston, into the St. Bridget ward of the Hotel Dieu, on the 7th Dec., 1862. About a year previously, she first noticed a slight swelling in the epigastrium, which appeared after a fright, and continued to increase for some weeks. She consulted a country practitioner of ability, under whose care, the swelling would at times decrease, but the amendment was never permanent. For the past six months she had not been under medical treatment.

On admittance, the swelling, now projecting over 4 inches from the normal abdominal parietes, occupied the position from the ensiform cartilage to the umbilicus. It was perfectly globular in form, about 5 inches in diameter; and so tense that no indentation could be made with the finger.

The Doctor, in remarking on the case, said that the swelling was peculiar, from its perfect resemblance to a tumour, but that its tympanitic clearness on percussion at once dispelled the illusion, and rendered its diagnosis easy; and that by the inhalation of an anæsthetic, the false tumour would be dissipated. He then proceeded to place the patient under chloroform, when the swelling completely disappeared, but returned with returning consciousness. The spine being next examined, a tenderness opposite the sixth and seventh dorsal vertebrae was discovered on percussion; over which region he directed the application of Biniodide of Mercury ointment, giving two drops of Croton oil internally. Next day the swelling was much reduced. The oil was repeated, and continued from time to time up to the 2nd Jan., when she was discharged, seemingly quite recovered.

Mr. Reid has our thanks for this interesting report; it is to be regretted, however, that the menstrual functions had not been inquired into.—EDITOR.