

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Hydrocele, treated by Iodine Injection.—(Reported by Mr. J. L. Stevenson.)

Donald McDonald, a laborer, aged 40, was admitted under Dr. Fraser May 9th, 1854, with a single hydrocele of the left side, of five months' duration.

He ascribed its origin to cold, caught about the beginning of December last, while working in ditches. It went on increasing in size for some time, and at last obliged him to discontinue his work, which he did for a couple of weeks, when it began to diminish; but so soon as he recommenced his labor, it again began to increase. When admitted, it had attained the size of a large orange, and was slowly but steadily enlarging. The testicle was unaffected, and, as usual, situated posteriorly. His digestive organs being somewhat deranged, he was ordered a dose of cathartic medicine.

On the 12th, the tumor was punctured with a trocar, and about four ounces of limpid fluid drawn off. ʒij. of compound tincture of iodine, with ʒvi. of water, were then injected within the tunica vaginalis, and allowed to remain, the canula being immediately withdrawn. The testicle was well supported by a bandage, and a lotion of acetate of lead ordered, in case the inflammation should prove excessive.

On the 13th and 14th, the degree of inflammation was not more intense than was desirable, but he had headache, for which he was ordered a cathartic draught.

After remaining stationary for a day or two, the swelling began slowly to subside, and continued to do so under the influence of pressure by means of adhesive plaster and compound iodine ointment, until the 6th of June, when he was discharged cured, the scrotum appearing then almost of the natural size.

Remarks.—This case exemplifies the safety and success attending the injection of the diluted tincture of iodine, without drawing it off again—as a radical cure for hydrocele. In several cases, similarly treated, the same result has invariably followed, and according to the testimony of all who have had recourse to the practice, it very rarely indeed fails to produce in the serous membrane of the tunica vaginalis, the alteration requisite to check the abnormal secretion of serous fluid, which constitutes that disease. It will, therefore, in all probability, supersede the numerous other plans that have been in use for the radical cure of that complaint.