

Having now given a description of the case to the present time, it remains for me to give my opinion as to the nature of this mysterious case. Considering that her mother has been at times hysterical, and that there has been sufficient evidence of the early development of the generative organs in most of the female members of the family, coupled with most of the prominent features of the case before us, and from many trifling though important incidents which from defective memory I have omitted, I am inclined to consider it one of hysteria of an aggravated character, complicated probably with a morbid condition of the brain. I entertain hopes that, provided I can sufficiently nourish the body until the uterine organs are more fully developed, my patient may continue to be "*The Dead Alive*."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD BIRD NASON, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

*Bridge street, Nuneaton, December 14th, 1858.*

*On the Hydrochlorate of Ammonia,* By M. J. RAE, M. D., Blackburn.

Late Physician to the Fever Hospital, and Dispensary, Carlisle.

ALTHOUGH the value of new remedial agents, which are from time to time added to the pharmacopœias, may often admit of question, there can be no doubt of the great practical importance of ascertaining the therapeutic action of those medicines which have long held a place in the materia medica; and of determining the diseases which they have the power either of mitigating or curing, and also of determining their comparative value over other and similar remedies in the treatment of such affections. There are medicines possessing considerable and even great curative virtues which are seldom employed by practitioners; and this may be attributed partly to prejudice, to the rage for new remedies, to want of knowledge respecting them, and to other causes. The muriate of ammonia appears to me to be one of these; for although it has long formed part of the materia medica, it has been little used by practitioners in this country, except as an external application. Amongst continental physicians, however, it has been long esteemed as a valuable internal remedy in the treatment of many chronic and febrile disorders. Entertaining a very high opinion of its curative powers, I have prescribed it pretty extensively, in various diseases, for the last eight years in private and for the last four years in dispensary practice, and with satisfactory results. The hydrochlorate of ammonia, besides being liquifacient and resolvent, as mentioned by Sundelin, Wibmer, and others, appears also to possess considerable neurotic action, as is shown by its curative power in neuralgia and other nervous disorders. Its remedial influence is often