

tincture of digitalis, fifteen drops every two hours, and a third of a grain of calomel for a diuretic every four hours. In addition he will be given a saline purge, one-half ounce of Epsom salt every other morning, with as little liquid with it as possible. This latter arrangement excites very active exosmosis from the tissues; it is tapping the tissues without the necessity of cutting the skin. It was on this treatment he recovered before, sufficiently to avoid the need of a physician, and while by no means a strong man, still able to do his work or rather to oversee his business, as he tells us he did but little work directly.

In these attacks, of course, strict rest in bed was enjoined as one of the most important features. Now we are going to keep him in bed, give him ten saline purges and the whisky, but withhold the calomel and digitalis, to see if they are essential factors in changing his condition.

*A week later.*—The patient has improved; he rests well; can lie with his head lower; his pulse is regular and moderate, being 72. The dropsy in his legs has disappeared. We dispensed with the digitalis and calomel for the first three days after we studied him. The results were not good or satisfactory; his condition grew worse; it seemed as if rest in bed and the whisky and salts were not sufficient to help the struggling heart to regain that equilibrium which it is essential should be approximated. His symptoms grew worse, his dyspnea became more urgent, his œdema increased and his heart impulse was more trembling and uncertain; so that four days ago we began the calomel and digitalis.

It is a disputed point as to the actual diuretic value of calomel. We know about the increase of urine when digitalis alone is given, so we can study what it was in this case. On the 6th of the month, two days before beginning calomel and digitalis, the amount of urine passed was eighteen ounces in the twenty-four hours; the same amount was passed on the 7th, and twenty on the 8th. Then these two drugs were started; on the 11th twenty-eight ounces were passed, thirty-two on the 15th, fifty-four on the 18th. There has been no especial action of the calomel in this case; in a similar one now in the house we tried this treatment, without the mercury, and found the results were as good.

Always predict a recurrence of the attack in

these cases. Hoffman's anodyne and aromatic spirits of ammonia are excellent stimulants in these cases; we will try them.

[Three weeks later, the patient was discharged; equilibrium between the heart and its work being fairly well restored.]

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To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Ottawa Medico-Chirurgical Society held on Friday last, 11th inst., the following resolution, a copy of which I am directed to forward you, was unanimously passed.

Moved by Dr. John Sweetland, seconded by Dr. A. J. Horsey, that this society desires to express its sincere hope that Dr. Edward Playter, of this City be appointed a member of the Provincial Board of Health, not only because of his well known and acknowledged ability as a Sanitarian, but also because there is no representation on the said Board from the whole of the Eastern portion of the Province of Ontario. It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Charles Drury, Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, E. H. Bruesen, Esq., M.P.P., the CANADA LANCET and the *Canadian Practitioner*.

I am, yours truly,

CLARENCE J. H. CHIPMAN, M.D.

*Secretary.*

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### Reports of Societies.

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#### HAMILTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.

*Stated Meeting, 1st April, 1890,*

The President, Dr. J. W. Rosebrugh, in chair. Dr. Cockburn reported a case of Malignant Disease of Bladder.

About the latter end of November, 1888, my father came to me complaining of a feeling of discomfort just over the pubes, not severe, which eased at times, but never quite disappeared. During the next 4 or 5 weeks it gradually and almost imperceptibly became more palpable, till one day, about Christmas 1888, a small clot of blood was washed out with the urine, which from its shape must have been lodged in the urethra. I now be-