

was applied, and in twenty-four hours the pain was almost entirely gone, and the swelling to a great degree had subsided. The dressing was renewed daily, and in eight days the patient was going about attending to his business. The part was free from pain and natural in every respect.

Case 2. Mr. McC—, aged sixty, slipped and sprained his ankle so severely as to confine him to bed. The treatment was the same as that employed in Case 1, and the patient was out and walking in the streets in ten days.

Case 3. Mrs. A—, aged seventy-four, in stepping from her carriage missed her footing, and twisted her left knee violently. In a few hours the part was greatly swollen, hot, throbbing and painful; the least motion of the joint caused excruciating agony. Pressure over the ligament was especially painful. Next day I saw the patient, and applied the clay dressing. The day after the patient was much easier, the swelling rapidly subsiding. The pain was almost *nil*, and movement of the part was not followed by such distress. The lady was walking in her house in ten days after the injury.

Dr. Hewson, of Philadelphia, about ten years ago, introduced earth as a means of treating fibroid tumors of the uterus, and also sprinkled burns with the dry earth, claiming that the tendency to deformity in the latter cases was lessened. However, I am not aware of sprains being previously dressed with clay, and it was thought as well to lay the efficacy of the method before the profession. A number of other cases could be cited, but they would simply be a repetition of those already mentioned. While speaking of clay, it would, perhaps, not be amiss to state that the powdered dried earth sprinkled on the surface of an ulcer, and adhesive straps applied over it, is a capital dressing for cases which are so weak, that even the weakest ointments tend to break down the granulations.

CATHETERS.

A male catheter may be improvised from a piece of wire bent double upon itself, the blunt double end passing readily through the urethral tract to the bladder. The distention of the urethra by the wire will allow the urine to pass.

A female catheter may be made from a short piece of straw, the end being closely wrapped with a piece of thread; or the end of the straw may be dipped into melted sealing-wax. The stem of an ordinary tobacco-pipe is also efficient. Such crude substitutes, if well oiled, are readily introduced. (Levis.)

Catheters may be improvised from hollow flower-stalks and stems, as a dandelion-stem, or from hollow sticks, as elder. Lacking other material, a piece of macaroni may answer for temporary use; but it should not be left long in situ, and must be thoroughly oiled before introduction. A lead-pencil may be soaked in water or steamed, and split at the joint where the two pieces are put

together in the process of manufacture; the lead can then be scooped out with a knife, and the two pieces be tied together with fine thread wrapped around them. If the end of this is rounded and the whole well-oiled, a very serviceable catheter may be made. It is not necessary that a catheter should be hollow, for a stick grooved on the outside will answer as well. The grooves may be spiral or longitudinal. A piece of coarse cord, wrapped spirally around a stick or lead-pencil, is a ready means of forming such grooves. A glass tube, the ends of which have been rounded in a flame, will often be available; it is hardly necessary to caution one against the liability of breakage in the urethra. A feather stripped of the feathery portion, and all roughness taken off by singeing, the end being opened and the pith pushed out, will often be available. A rubber tube well oiled, can be used; the sharp corners of the tube may be blunted by holding the tube in a flame for a second or two, or a plug with a shoulder may be fitted to the tube. This hollow plug can be made of lead or wood, and in all cases must be tied into the tube. A rubber catheter of this description, or any catheter for that matter, may often be readily introduced by injecting water through it very gently, so as to open up the canal in advance of the point of the catheter. Even so simple a thing as a paper lamp-lighter may be pressed into the service. This should be made from a strip of stiff writing-paper and tightly rolled spirally. If the strip is covered with paste before rolling, the spiral turns will be tightly held together when the paste is dry. To make sure that the bore is open, the strip may be wound over a string to be withdrawn after winding. If the smaller end of the lighter is dipped into melted sealing-wax, a very fair catheter may be made.

Whatever may be used for a catheter, care should be taken that no portion of it is left in the bladder. Whenever any substance is passed into the urethra for purposes of mechanically relieving existing trouble, the instrument should be freely oiled or greased. Vaseline is the best, if procurable; but, wanting it, lard or oil may be used, or even soap. Oil is injurious to all rubber goods, and will destroy rubber catheters in a short time; but the alternative of using soap as a lubricant is rather harsh on the mucous lining of the urethra. Other things being equal, a given expedient used for a catheter will be more useful the better the lubricant. Even water is better than nothing to facilitate the passage of a catheter.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE OESOPHAGUS.

An ordinary riding-whip, knotted far enough from the end to insure the proper degree of flexibility, may be an efficient expedient in forcing down a body caught in the oesophagus. (Levis.)

A skein of floss silk, or a small skein of worsted doubled, and tied firmly to a string, may be of use in snaring some foreign bodies, and thus extracting them.