

to the cervical canal. He applied at different times, extending over a period of about three or four months, solutions of arg. nit. ac. carbol, tr. iod. co., tr. iod. co. c. glycerine, but without any benefit. On the 23rd December, 1879, there was in the external os a plug of extremely tenacious glary mucus, very difficult of removal. This was removed by means of a piece of dry sponge, and fuming nitric acid to the cervical canal was applied; then immediately a stream of tepid water was thrown against it for a few minutes, and applied a plug of cotton wool, saturated with glycerine, and directed her to remain perfectly quiet in bed, and if she had any pain to let the doctor know at once. At the time of the application the cervical canal was large enough to admit the little finger. About 6 a.m. the following morning the husband called and told that his wife had had a little pain during the night, and asked Dr. Armstrong to see her, which was done as soon as possible. When he saw her she complained of some pain about the lower part of the abdomen, and there was a little tenderness on pressure. At once turpentine stupes, followed by linseed poultices, were ordered, and opium in sufficient quantities to completely relieve the pain given. But the case went from bad to worse. In 36 hours after the application of the acid she had a chill, followed 24 hours afterwards by another, and a third 48 hours after the second. On the 30th tympanitis was present to a considerable degree, and asafoetida enemas were given in addition to the turpentine stupes. In the evening Dr. Gardner saw her in consultation, advised the internal administration of turpentine, which was done, also the use of nutritive enemata, but these were not retained sufficiently long to be of any benefit. Dr. R. P. Howard saw her on the morning of the 31st, but she was then in a dying condition, with copious bilious regurgitation, and in an hour afterward she died.

Dr. KENNEDY remarked that this case was another illustration of the great danger there was in using such powerful applications. Already several cases of like serious results have been reported to the Society, and he was of opinion that nitric acid should seldom be used. It had become the practice to subject the uterus to the most heroic measures, and often the attention was directed solely to this organ while the general condition of the patient was unheeded. Although the application of nitric acid had received the commendation of eminent gynæcologists, still, from the experience gained in such cases, he thought that in the great majority much milder measures

would secure as good results. In his own practice he had not used nitric acid for some time, and believed that he had obtained equally good results with remedies which had not this element of danger in their use.

Dr. EDWARDS reported two cases in his practice in which nitric acid had been used with benefit. In the first case a condition of subinvolution existed, the woman suffering from severe menorrhagia. After other means had been tried and proved futile, it was decided, in consultation with Dr. Reddy, to apply nitric acid to the interior of the uterus. This was done three years ago, since which time the patient has been quite well. The second case was one of endo-cervicitis in which nitric acid was applied to the cervical canal. The result was satisfactory. In both cases the precaution was taken of thoroughly dilating the canal with sponge tents.

Dr. REDDY said he had used nitric acid very frequently, and never had any bad result from its employment. He further stated that on one occasion he had been induced to use iodine instead, and in that case had one of the most severe cases of pelvic peritonitis he ever had to deal with.

Dr. RODDICK said he had on three or four occasions used nitric acid, and considered the secret of success due very much to a thorough dilatation of the canal. When this was not done a drop of the acid might fall within the uterus and set up peritonitis. He did not think that nitric acid should be rejected, but used with care and with ordinary precautions no accident need occur.

The President said that it was well known that a condition of metritis is produced at times by very simple causes. The introduction of a sound or a sponge tent has had this result, also the use of iodine and carbolic acid.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Armstrong was moved by Dr. Roddick, seconded by Dr. Reddy, and carried. The President presented a letter from Dr. Iose Pererira Ryo Filbo of Rio de Janeiro, asking to be elected a corresponding member of the Society. Certain pamphlets of a scientific character accompanied this request. On motion of Dr. Reddy, seconded by Dr. H. Howard, this gentleman was elected a corresponding member.

The meeting then adjourned.

O. C. EDWARDS, M.D.,

Secretary.

OBITUARY.

Sir Dominic Corigan, the celebrated Dublin physician, died a few weeks ago at the age of 79.

Dr. Seaton, the well-known authority upon "Vaccination," died at Notting Hill, London, on the 21st of January, at the age of 65 years.

Henry Hancock, F.R.C.S., an ex-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, died on the 1st of January, aged 70 years.