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SPINAL MYELITIS DEPENDANT ON AN UTERINE AFFECTION.

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Mrs. — — D., a lady, aged 26, was married in May, 1844, and came with her husband to reside in this city in the month of July following. Her temperament was phlegmatic, and her habit of body decidedly strumous. This was most marked in some of the principal joints, the ligaments of which appeared so destitute of the ordinary tone which characterizes them, that a partial displacement of some of them occasionally occurred when the limbs were made to assume certain positions. This was especially the case with the knee and shoulder joints. To remedy the inconvenience resulting from this affection of the former joint, she wore, constantly, a laced knee cap. Before marriage her catamenial periods recurred, with constancy, every third week. The flow was usually profuse, attended with considerable pain and a good deal of constitutional disturbance. She stated that she had been more than once under medical care for "flying" pains through her chest, which were felt most acutely, and seemed chiefly seated below her right breast. These had been always relieved by blistering, &c. &c. It was impossible to decide, whether these depended on, or were connected with, spinal irritation, but it did not appear that any attention had been drawn to that part from the mode in which she had been treated.

On the 16th July, I was summoned hastily to visit her. She was flooding profusely and had every symptom of a threatening miscarriage, an event which occurred on the 22d, although every means were adopted to avert it. Feeling herself comparatively well on the day following, she very imprudently rose from bed, dressed herself, and when visited, was found reclining upon a sofa. Although warned of the probable consequences, feeling uneasy towards the evening, and under the idea that exercise might benefit her, she walked several times up and down the room, the result of which was, as may be anticipated, a prolapsus uteri. By a rigid maintenance of the recumbent posture, the use of sponge pessaries, aided by astringent injections, cold bathing, strict attention to the state of her bowels and the steady use of tonics, in the course of about six

weeks she was enabled to move about without much inconvenience; and about the middle of October she removed to her own house, and was fully capable of superintending her own establishment. During this time, however, the catamenia recurred, as usual, every three weeks; the flow persisted profusely for about a week, so that from the end of one period to the commencement of the following, there was scarcely the intermission of a fortnight. The pain which she now suffered, at these times, was always attended with a sensation of "bearing down," and a "dragging feeling" extending from the umbilicus, which were evidently referrible to a greater prolapse of the uterus at such periods than at others. In the intervals, she was, generally speaking, free from pain, and felt so much improved as to be able to dispense with the pessaries altogether.

On the 31st December she walked to town for the purpose of shopping, and having effected her object, she returned home in a cab-sleigh, in which she was most severely jolted. The consequence of this was the re-appearance of every symptom of the prolapse to an aggravated degree. Rest, in the recumbent posture, relieved her to a certain extent. The catamenia returned during the night; and being anxious to receive visitors on New Year's day, she got up for the purpose. I found her that day with a flushed face, a quick pulse and considerable febrile excitement, but no other pains than those I have described. In accordance with my advice, she retired to bed. The catamenia was this time more profuse than ordinary, and assumed a menorrhagic character, lasting a few days longer than usual. Such is a general outline of the previous history of the case, and appears to me to be interesting when connected with subsequent events.

For greater convenience, her bedroom had been changed from an upper to a lower storey of the house in which she resided; but the head of her bed was unfortunately placed in the vicinity of a window, every crevice of which had been carefully stopped to exclude draughts of cold air, except by an oversight in one direction, immediately opposite which her head laid at the distance of about eighteen inches. On the 12th of January, symptoms of bronchitis shewed themselves,