

In Spasmodic Obstruction of the Bowels.—Vidal procured relief by using a sixteenth of a grain of strychnia every four hours. Dr. Parker of Charleston, has likewise reported a case of obstruction of the bowels, which, after resisting various purgatives and enemata, yielded to strychnia, given in doses of a twelfth of a grain three times a day. Homolle is stated not only to have removed impacted feces by its means, but actually to have relieved strangulated hernia, when the necessity of an operation seemed to be inevitable. Stillé, &c.

Dysentery.—The tonic influence of this remedy upon the bowels is further shown by its efficacy in some forms of dysentery. In the last century, Bagstroom employed powdered nux vomica in scruple doses with wonderful success. Hufeland also resorted to it, with the happiest results, in an epidemic of dysentery at Jena, in 1795. He prescribed rather less than a grain of the extract every two hours. In his *Enchiridion* (p. 366), he directs but ten grains of the powder daily, and this only after other means have failed. Rademacher has found it occasionally necessary to combine it with opium. Mr. Vaux, of Ipswich, gave as much as seven grains of the powder three times a day, and reported his success as remarkably uniform. Frisch prescribed it with advantage in sub-acute dysentery, and Ricamier in chronic diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea from Exhaustion.—Dr. Nevins, of Liverpool, highly recommends the employment of nux vomica in diarrhoea from exhaustion, and especially when occurring among the poor and in children. He was led to its adoption from the frequent disappointment he experienced in the employment of astringents and ordinary tonics in such cases. His favorite prescription is as follows:—

Alcoholic extract nux vomica, pulv. rhubarb. and blue pill, of each half-a-grain; saccharine carbonate of iron, one grain; opium, an eighth of a grain. M. To be made into one pill if for an adult, or more if for children.

3. One such pill to be taken three times a day.

In many cases he omits the opium entirely. He says that nux vomica exalts the nervous energy of the bowels, and enables the lacteals to absorb the nutriment from the food, whilst the iron is allowed to act as a tonic, and the rhubarb and blue pill to improve the secretions. A change for the better is generally perceptible in a few days, and he has seldom occasion to continue the prescription longer than a fortnight. Braith, &c.

Dr. Bardsley has published six cases of chronic diarrhoea in persons advanced in life, and of feeble constitution, which were cured by the extract of nux vomica, administered in doses of a sixth of a grain three times a day. Stillé, &c. W.E.B.

PLASTICITY OF BLOOD-CORPUSCLES.—In the proceedings of the Royal Society, Dr. Sharpey remarks: "the plasticity of the blood-corpuscle is unrivalled by any other physical body. It will assume all sorts of protean shapes under the slightest influences, elongating to a mere thread; it will pass through a narrow chink; it will envelop itself around an acute projecting angle, or protrude feelers and tails under the influence of currents. In its natural state, it possesses sufficient elasticity to assume its original shape on the cessation of the modifying influences; but when gum or gelatine has been added, or when the plasma has been permitted to thicken spontaneously, the corpuscle maintains any form it may have assumed, till again altered by fresh influences."—*British Med. Journal*.

Review.

A TREATISE ON THE CHRONIC INFLAMMATION AND DISPLACEMENTS OF THE UNIMPREGNATED UTERUS. By WM. H. BYFORD, A.M., M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, &c., Chicago Medical College, Lind University. 8vo. pp. 215; Lindsay & Blackston, 1864.

This treatise, coming as it does from the hands of a physician of acknowledged ability and experience, demands our careful consideration. And although we cannot agree with him in what we hold to be the extreme views of Dr. Bennet, and impute to chronic inflammation of the womb every ailment in the opposite sex; or in hysterical affections to refuse all attention, to the state of such important appendages as the ovaries, organs which have been entirely ignored in Professor Byford's new work; still we are willing to give him a fair hearing and to allow our readers to form an opinion for themselves, for, apart from these defects, the book is decidedly practical and useful. We shall, as usual, allow our author to speak for himself.

Well-marked cases of inflammation and ulceration of the uterus, he observes, are usually accompanied by a long list of diseases, which although generally nervous, sometimes consist in functional aberrations of important vital organs¹.

The Stomach.—Of these, none are more frequently affected than the stomach, as shown either in a lost, an increased, or a depraved state of the appetite. Whilst nausea, vomitings, gastralgia, in short, almost every form of disordered stomach, may be looked for, as the result of the sympathetic influence of diseases of the uterus upon this organ². Extreme cases of indigestion, however, are rare.

The Bowels.—Constipation is a very usual accompaniment of diseases of the womb, and sometimes alternates with diarrhoea or dysentery³.

The Liver.—When the functions of the liver are seriously disturbed there is apt to be at one time deficiency of bile and at another redundancy. Occasionally paroxysms come on in which this fluid is poured out so copiously as to induce full and free discharges of it from the stomach, or by its descent to occasion bilious colic and diarrhoea. In other cases, the bile becomes absorbed and the skin jaundiced⁴.

The Nervous System.—There is scarcely a disagreeable or excruciating sensation that is not experienced by patients with diseased wombs; and these pains, he observes, are strictly neuralgic in their character.

Cephalalgia.—The whole head will sometimes pulsate and throb with terrible pain, but usually the cephalalgia is partial, as on the side of the head, the temple, brow, or eye. But if the pain persist or recur frequently in the occiput, as a dull aching, or on the summit of the head, as a burning sensation, it may be considered as a pretty certain evidence of uterine disease, even when no complaint is made of this organ. When the inflammation and ulceration are removed, the headaches will be found to cease.⁵

The Spinal Cord.—Pain in some portion of the spinal cord is almost universally present in affections of the womb; most commonly it is complained of in the sacral and lumbar regions, and is fixed and almost constant.⁶ It is increased by pressure, and sometimes darts along the nerves around the body.⁷

The Pelvis.—Sympathetic pains about the pelvis are also usual, and become aggravated by all the circumstances that increase those in the back, and