

she has continued to the present time. Her eyelids firmly closed, her teeth set fast, and muscles rigid. Her bowels are moved about once a week, and she passes urine daily into the bed; not, I believe, from any want of power of the sphincter. For the last month there has been great difficulty in feeding her by the mouth—The determination she evinced to resist food was extremely annoying; but I felt inclined to be as determined as she, and from that time have fed her three times a day by the rectum, giving her about half a pint of strong beef-tea and wine, alternately with the same quantity of new milk, arrowroot, eggs, &c. After the first lavements, and when I was prepared to operate the second time, she raised her hand to her mouth, and repeated the movement two or three times, evidently wishing to convey the impression that she preferred food to be administered in a more agreeable manner; but I found on trying to give her food by the mouth, that she was obstinate as ever. I therefore persisted in administering food by the rectum. I ordered a certain number of biscuits to be placed on a chair near the head of the bed; the next morning they numbered one less. In the evening I requested the number might be made up, and three had vanished. We found unmistakable evidence that she had eaten them.

Dec. 4th.—Her friends beginning to despair of her, and feeling anxious to know what physical strength remained, as also whether she had the will to eat and power to masticate, I devised a scheme which, if carried out properly, would not only prove to her friends that she could open her eyes and mouth too if she thought she was unobserved, but in a great measure aid me in my diagnosis, and give me a hint as to my future treatment. I said in an audible tone, in the presence of the patient, that I insisted on the father and mother sleeping in another apartment; for she, by her conduct, was destroying their health. She should be locked in the room by herself all night.—Having said so, we arranged that the father should be secreted in a closet in the chamber, with the door sufficiently open to allow him to watch her movements through the night. At one A. M. she raised herself upright in bed, opened her eyes, looked all around the room, turned down the bedclothes, and got out of bed as nimbly as ever, and walked directly to a quantity of food, which had purposely been laid for her. She turned it over, tasted, and finally took a good supply into bed, quietly drawing the bedclothes over her.

8th.—It is five weeks to-day since she spoke to any one. Her eyelids have been closed the whole of the time, and her mouth, too, excepting when forcibly opened; the pulse has varied very little, between 70 and 80. Her body appears much better nourished.