

to be more like what I have noticed in giving the syrup of the iodide of iron than any thing else. No directions whatever were given as to drinks, diet, exercise, change of air, or any other hygienic measure. Were these all the cases I have treated with my chloride, you might fancy that the iodine given in the first instance had something to do with the results, but that the previous treatment had nothing to do with it I am fully convinced. Just now I am finishing the cure of two more girls—one about fifteen years of age, and the other thirteen. They have been taking the chloride of ammonium about three months in ten grain doses thrice daily, and, so far as I can judge, there is now no trace of the enlargement left. I have seen them both within a week. Then, there are three more (making seven in all), two occurring in girls under twenty years of age, and one in a married woman aged fully forty and the mother of several children. In the case of the latter, the woman had suffered a good deal from disturbance of respiration and circulation, as it had attained an enormous size. The two latter girls were treated similarly, and with similar terminations (though not at the same time), and require no further remarks from me. But the married woman took the chloride two or three months in the usual dose, with the effect of having the growth reduced in size about one-fourth or one-third, and all the circulatory and respiratory symptoms relieved. At this time I discovered she was pregnant, and discontinued the treatment. Whether or not a longer term of treatment would have been completely satisfactory I cannot say, but, it is perhaps worth while to observe that my work was not as happy as in the cases of the girls. Again, if I had another patient suffering from long standing and excessive hypertrophy of the gland, I should try the medicine in larger doses—say fifteen or twenty grains three times a day, and continue it much longer, unless something occurred to prevent.

You may say, if you like, that my experience is too limited—that a half dozen cases is not sufficient to establish a fact, but, while I know that "two swallows do not make a summer," I might say it has been quite enough to convince me that the medicine has a decided preference for the thyroid gland, and possibly for some others. If you will try it in the first

incipient cases that come under your care, I have no doubt you will meet with success quite equal to my own. We are all practising under the same conditions as to climate, soil, water, &c. Bear it in mind, please, and, if convenient, report your results at some future meeting of this Association. The trial will, I promise you, have at least one merit, that of being not a very costly experiment. That I have not been able to show a longer list of cures is because I have not had the opportunity, I firmly believe. The affection is not so very common in this neighborhood, as you all know.

So far as I am concerned I do not feel like claiming an extraordinary amount of originality, but it is perhaps only fair to say that I have examined, or caused to be examined, six different modern works upon general surgery, and do not find the chloride of ammonium in any of them mentioned or recommended in the treatment of goitre. I should likewise say that I have not read of its being used in this difficulty in any medical journal or dispensatory, or, in fact, elsewhere. As I intimated before, I believed it possessed a certain but limited power in producing absorption, but had never prescribed it for any purpose whatever, until I gave it in the cases before alluded to. Again, some of you may think that my details are not as extensive as they ought to be, that the cases would have been more satisfactorily reported if I had taken and given notes, but I do not conceive that it would have thrown much more light upon the subject if I had done so. There is just one thing more that I would like to refer to, and it is this: It is thought by some of our writers, I infer, that the commencement of these tumors or growths is in some way connected with uterine derangement, probably from the fact that many of them make their appearance at or about the time of puberty, but in my cases there was no evidence of any treatment being specially required either for correcting disordered menstruation or uterine disease, or, in fact, any other derangement that I should have been liable to be consulted for. I shall be exceedingly glad to hear any remarks any of you may have to make, or answer any questions bearing upon the subject, keeping in mind always that whatever virtues the medicine possesses, so far as my experience goes, they are most discernible in incipient cases.