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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLINICAL MEDICINE.**

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*Case of Ascites—Ovarian Disease—Suppuration of Tumor  
—105 Quarts of Purulent Fluid drawn off during the  
year.*

Mrs. White, a venerable and highly respectable old woman, 79 years of age at the time of her death, became my patient in 1838, in consequence of being affected with ascites. She had, generally speaking, enjoyed good health previously, and, notwithstanding the dropsical affection, looked well, and was very active for her time of life. From 1838 till the end of 1840, she was treated by a variety of diuretic, hydrogogue, and tonic medicines, and was three times tapped, on each of which occasions there generally had been 18 or 20 quarts of the ordinary serous fluid drawn off, and after each tapping she made a surprising recovery, being able always to leave her bed and move about her room on the day following the operation; and on one occasion, a few days after being tapped, she joined in a dance with three generations of her children!

In the winter of 1840 she fell, and hurt her abdomen, while it was much distended; after this accident she suffered a good deal of pain and uneasiness in the epigastrium; but did not apply for relief till she again required tapping. In January, 1841, she was tapped for the fourth time, when, after the abdominal fluid was removed, a large tumor was discovered, principally occupying the epigastric region, being the size of the head of a full grown fœtus: it was very moveable, and appeared attached by a pedicle, about the thickness of the arm of a fœtus. Subsequently this tumor was found to vary its position, but it appeared to be principally connected with the right iliac region, and was diagnosed to be an ovarian tumor. It did not appear, however, that she had ever suffered from any uterine disease. The tumor generally gave her inconvenience and some degree of pain, but not such as might lead to the apprehension of a malignant growth, nor did her countenance afford any indication that such was the nature of the tumor.

In the beginning of July, 1845, she was tapped for

the 19th time, there being an interval between this and the preceding operation of ten months. For some time previously, she had been complaining more than she usually had done. About 15 quarts of the ordinary hydropic serum were drawn off, which did not entirely reduce the bulk of the abdomen, some obstacle, which could not be removed, preventing the full discharge. She did not make her usual good recovery, and filled rapidly. She complained a good deal of a pain in her right iliac region, of a heavy dragging character, as if the tumor were more closely fixed to that neighbourhood; and she could not bear much examination of that part. The pain did not in any way appear to have originated in the operation of paracentesis, as there was no pain in the linea alba, where the puncture had on all occasions been made. Her health began to suffer, and her strength to fail, and great apprehensions were entertained that she would sink if again tapped: she, however, at this time became so anxious to be relieved, that she was again tapped on the 4th August 1845, when 16 quarts of extremely offensive, puriform, brownish or bloody looking fluid, were drawn off, which gave her instant relief. The canula was darkened by the fluid, which, together with the smell, demonstrated that sulphuretted hydrogen was present. The entire abdominal tumor disappeared, and no enlargement could be detected in any part. She bore the operation well, and also the subsequent examination and pressure. She now stated that about a week before the operation, she thought that she perceived a sensation as if something had burst in her abdomen, in the right iliac region. The microscope detected abundant pus and blood globules in the fluid which had been drawn off. She made a very speedy recovery, but again rapidly filled, and was obliged to be tapped on the 1st September; when 14 quarts of well formed purulent fluid were drawn off, which smelled strongly of sulphuretted hydrogen, and exhibited under the microscope abundance of pus globules, but no blood. This operation, as well as the preceding one, was performed while she was lying in bed: she bore it well, and got up next day. On the 6th October, 7 quarts of similar puriform fluid were drawn off, together with some small shreds of coagulable lymph, but the whole