

CASE OF SCARLATINA ATTENDED BY PROFUSE PERSPIRATION.

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I was called on the 27th July last, to see Mrs. M——, a healthy person, of full habit, and mother of six children, three of whom, I was informed, had just recovered from Scarlatina. She had been seized on the previous day with symptoms of smart fever, accompanied by sore throat. The face, neck, and shoulders, had, on the day of my visit, become covered with a bright scarlet eruption, accompanied by a general aching, or painful sensation over the body and limbs. There was headache, suffusion and redness of the eyes, difficulty of swallowing, the fauces being red and the tonsils tumid, tongue moist, and slightly covered with a white pasty fur, much thirst, the skin moderately hot and *perspiring profusely*. Pulse 130.

She stated that she had frequently been much exposed to the influence of Scarlatina, but had never taken it before. It was very evident that she was now labouring under the disease, not only from the character of the eruption and sore throat, but also from the exposure she had to its contagion in attending her children. The unusual condition of the skin attracted my attention, and on remarking it to the lady, I learned that the children *all had similar free perspiration*, and that this was the case, even with one of them who was so slightly affected with fever, as to be able, during most part of her illness, to keep out of bed. A fourth child took the disease while I was in attendance, but did not perspire.

The condition of the skin prevented my having recourse to sponging with cold water, which I should otherwise have done. I merely directed the throat to be well fumigated, with the vapour of boiling water and vinegar, a little castor oil to be given, and to have cold acidulated water to drink. During the following day she appeared to go on well, the throat being better and deglutition easier, the eruption proceeded in its progress of extension over the body, *the skin perspiring constantly and freely*. Pulse 130.

In the evening she felt a slight uterine pain, accompanied with a bearing down sensation, and also by a

slight hæmorrhagic discharge from the vagina, which alarmed her, for fear of a miscarriage. Having on a recent occasion experienced a similar mishap, an anodyne draught, consisting of tinct. opii. gr. xxxv., and liquor ant. tartarizati gr. xxx. in a little cinnamon water were ordered, which procured her a comfortable night, and quieted the action of the uterus. The uterine pains however returned in the morning, and were not influenced by even a large dose of opium. About noon, she aborted.

After the abortion, she appeared much easier, the febrile symptoms abating, thirst less, pulse fallen to 120, the eruption had begun to fade about the face and neck, the throat better, *perspiration continuing*, bowels gently open, uterine discharge trifling. She, about this time, began to complain of pains in her joints, particularly in the hands and wrists. She had felt a slight indication of this new complaint yesterday, but could hardly define the sensation.

On the 1st August, the eruption had nearly faded away, her bowels were confined and lochia stopped, skin still hot *and moist*; pulse 96. The pains of her hands, wrists, and elbows, were so severe that she could scarcely move her arms. She was ordered calomel gr ij., and pulv. ipecac comp. gr vi. ter in die.

On the following day the pains of her wrists and elbows were even more severe, and deprived her of the use of the limbs—the joints were also much swelled and red, the pains of the other joints (which were now generally affected) pretty much as before; pulse 90, skin cool. To-day, the most painful joints were painted with tincture of Iodine, and she continued her powders as yesterday.

On the following day, (3rd), the pains of her hands and wrists had subsided, the joints were still, however, stiff; and incapacitated her from using her hands. The pains now principally occupied the shoulder joints, to which the tincture was applied, and in a few minutes afterwards she was desired to try if she could not use the limbs, and to her great astonishment she found that she could move them about freely; the pain having almost immediately subsided. She also stated that she had obtained relief yesterday shortly after the application. From this time she began to improve daily, and was able to leave her bed on the 8th of the month—10 days from