

to rise and walk about, which causes no pain or weakness. Health good and strength returning.

November 19th.—Discharged from the Hospital cured, although still a little weak from rigid dieting and long confinement to bed.

No recent authority upon abdominal wounds has failed to emphasize the value of opium in their treatment, especially if the viscera be wounded; but, in the class which the foregoing case illustrates, sufficient stress has not, I think, been laid upon its use. It is to be observed that peritonitis supervening upon these injuries is generally of the most fatal character, the traumatic loss of blood having often been so great that heroic treatment cannot be employed. Nothing can be more important, therefore, than the adoption of such measures as may ward off this complication; and the observation of a large number of cases, of which that detailed is a type, convinces me that of these agents opium, pushed to the verge of narcotism, properly holds the first place.—*Cal. Medical Gazette.*

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#### INSPISSATED CERUMEN:

By D. B. ST. JOHN ROOSA, M. D., Prof. in the University Medical College.

It is intended, in the papers which are proposed under the above title, to present some of the practical results of an experience in ear diseases, reaching over quite a large number of cases, in such a way that they may be useful as a guide to those who see comparatively little of the diseases of this organ.

Among the laity, and even in the profession, hardening of the ear-wax is regarded as quite a common and harmless affection. All forms of deafness are ascribed to this cause, and the first treatment that many ear patients receive, is a vigorous syringing to see "if the wax be not hardened," and this often without any preliminary examination. Impacted cerumen is indeed quite a common occurrence, but it is by no means as simple an affair as has been generally supposed. I do not mean by this, that it is anything more, as a general thing, than a local affection, but as such, it may produce results very detrimental to the function of hearing. It hardly seems to occur more frequently in persons with a soft skin than others, as has been suggested by some authors, for among the patients whom I have seen, careful examination has failed to detect any such origin. Persons with a dry and harsh skin have as often come to me with impacted cerumen, as the opposite class. A frequent cause is the too careful washing of the auditory canals with soap and water, which some overclean persons delight in doing. This rinsing out the canal plugs the natural yellow wax, which is on its way out, down to