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Selected Papers.

Pendulous Pedunculated Bronchocels successfully Removed.

BY GEO. C. BLACKMAN, M.D.,

Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of Ohio; Surgeon to the Cincinnati Hospital; and to the Samaritan Hospital, &c.

* * * Frederika Ruckdaschel, German, *ret.* 36, unmarried, was admitted February 26th, 1869. She was of fair complexion, and had always enjoyed good health. There was an enlargement of the thyroid gland on the right side, which had existed for fifteen years. It had never given her much annoyance, and it was only on account of the unsightly deformity that she urgently requested its removal. The tumour was of an oblong shape, about three and a half inches in length, and four inches in circumference, looking much like a banana. In the presence of the class of the Medical College of Ohio, and assisted by Dr. Glover Perrin, U. S. A., and others, I divided the integuments over the most prominent portion of the tumour, so as to completely expose the morbid growth. With the handle of the scalpel and fingers the tumour was completely isolated, with but trifling hemorrhage, until its base was reached. The whole mass was then suddenly wrenched from its connections, and for a few moments the hemorrhage, both from the superior and inferior thyroid arteries, was truly appalling. A sponge was quickly thrust into the wound, but was saturated at once, when it was withdrawn, and pressure with the fingers was made directly upon the bleeding vessels. In the course of a few minutes a sponge was again inserted to the very bottom of the wound, whilst another was applied directly over it, and retained *in situ* by means of a needle, which transfixed the lips of the wound, and the twisted suture. The hemorrhage was now arrested and the patient placed in her bed with the injunction to keep the head and neck as quiet as possible. The sponge nearest the surface was removed on the 2nd of March, six days after

the operation, but the other was allowed to remain until the 8th of March, the offensive odour having been corrected by a solution of carbolic acid. The wound, which was of great depth, healed with but little suppuration, and the patient left the hospital entirely cured on the 22nd of March.

Dr. Perrin, who was the first to inspect the extirpated tumour, called attention at once to the fact that it embraced not only the isthmus of the thyroid, but also the left lobe, which was somewhat atrophied. The disease was simply hypertrophy.—*Am. Jour. Med. Science.*

Belladonna as an Aperient in Constipation.

BY F. B. NUNNELEY, M.D.

Although constipation is such a common complaint and a source of so much annoyance, it is scarcely regarded by persons generally as a disease requiring medical aid; yet numerous popular remedies are resorted to for its relief, comprising all known purgatives, often in considerable doses. From time to time these are repeated, in many cases acting as only temporary palliatives, until at last some aperient preparation has to be taken from one to three times a week to ensure as many as two or three evacuations in this time.

It is not intended to enter into the wide subject of the causes and treatment of constipation, but only to offer a few remarks on its medicinal treatment by means of belladonna, from observations made, for the most part, on patients of the York Dispensary, where I gave it to nearly all those who suffered from constipation, simply to restore the natural action of the bowels, and not to cause a flow of secretion from the intestinal mucous membrane. The method followed was, in the main, that recommended by Trousseau. Extract of belladonna was given in doses of gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ on rising every morning. A grain of the extract and gr. *iiij.* of the extract gentiana were divided into six pills, and one to four prescribed for a dose.