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Original Communications.

THE USE OF CHLORIDE OF AMMONIUM IN COMMON GOITRE.

A paper read by A. D. STEVENS, M.D., Dunham, Que., before the District of Bedford Medical Society, January, 1880.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—A few days ago, one of our most active young members gave me a call, and, in the course of our chat, urged me to write something for this meeting of the Association, however short it might be. Having nothing in mind at the time of any possible interest, I declined, but, upon reflection, came to the conclusion that I might say something upon common goitre, or simple hypertrophy of the thyroid gland, that would, at least, serve the purpose of killing time. And here let me observe, that I do not propose to discuss either the pathology, physiology, or etiology of this, or any other of the different diseases that the gland is liable to. I know nothing more of these than is to be found in any modern surgical work: It is simply of the treatment of the affection that I desire to speak. It is now some years since I became convinced that the common treatment of ordinary bronchocele was not at all satisfactory. I refer to the use of iodine, iodide of potassium, and tonics internally, and tincture iodine, blisters, ointments of iodine and mercury and the like externally. I was led to this opinion from want of success in several cases, especially those of a couple of girls about eighteen or

twenty years of age, who had first discovered the deformity at about the period of puberty, and happened to come under treatment at the same time. The girls were both fairly healthy and of healthy parentage, and stood the treatment patiently and well for two or three months, but with the result of only a trifling diminution, if any, in the size of the enlargement. At the end of this time I thought it best to try some other resolvent, and the one I chose was chloride of ammonium. I cannot now tell you how it came about that I selected it, but I had not given it over a month, or six weeks before I noticed a decided impression for the better had been made, and, at the end of three months, had the satisfaction of seeing them both entirely relieved. I have seen one of the girls every few months since, and it has not returned; the other left the place shortly after, and I have never heard from her from that time to this. The dose given was about ten grains, simply dissolved in water, three times a day, with the exception of now and then adding a little "coloring" to the solution, such as the compound tincture of lavender, for the purpose of "inspiring confidence" that it was not always the same medicine they were taking. Nothing else was done or given either internally or externally during the entire term of treatment with the chloride of ammonium, and, I should also add, that these girls were not only relieved of an ugly deformity, but seemed to have grown more robust. Indeed, the constitutional effects seemed