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ON CERTAIN AFFECTIONS OCCURRING IN THE GOUTY DIATHESIS.

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I do not here intend to discuss the question as to whether certain morbid conditions, occurring in persons of a gouty diathesis, are manifestations of "misplaced," "retrocedent," or other form of gout, or whether they are merely coincident, and have nothing to do with the gouty diathesis. Most physicians, however, will bear testimony, that men and women, living abstemious and active lives, who have been "blest with grandfathers," as the phrase is—*i. e.*, who have gouty ancestors, are, *ceteris paribus*, more subject to nervous affections especially, than others. How many a martyr to dysmenorrhœa, for instance, owes her sufferings to her grandfather! How many a delicate, neuralgic, wretched, long-suffering woman or man, owes a life of misery to a sire's constitutional gout!

In Canada we see much less of regular gout, especially in the rural districts, than may be seen at home—by reason of the habitual abstemiousness of the people, as well as by reason probably of the general abstemious and laborious lives of the people's ancestry—to whom gout had been a stranger.

The simple object of this paper is, to briefly state a few cases, from among a multitude of similar ones that have come under my observation; and most practitioners will have noticed parallel cases in their own practice.

CASE I.—A field officer's wife was attacked with mucous enteritis. She was an active lady, in average condition, mother of three children, and 33 years of age. The diarrhœa persisted for many weeks, in spite of all my prescriptions and regimen. She became emaciated, and so weak, as to be unable to walk to her carriage. One

day I asked her if gout existed in her family? Oh yes, she replied; her father (an old English baronet) and his ancestors were martyrs to gout. I then gave her a prescription containing colchicum, bi-carbonate of potash, &c. It acted like a charm. Her diarrhœa became better at once, and she improved in health and strength from that day. If the gouty diathesis had nothing to do with the mucous enteritis, why should colchicum, &c., have so quickly relieved her?

II.—I was hurriedly called to see a good old gentleman, æt. 76. He had just been suddenly attacked with symptoms of cerebral congestion. He was dressed. I found him half reclining in an easy chair, very stupid; could not articulate or move. Extremities cold; head hot; pulse slow and feeble. I feared he would die within 24 hours. It suddenly occurred to me that I had the key of his ailment; for a few days before, he had shown me, casually, an inflamed finger joint. It was retrocedent gout! He was, and is, an active, abstemious and vigorous old man; looks much younger than his years. Finding him in this alarming state, I at once put five grains of colomel on his tongue. Then for a moment I reflected, as to whether, in case he survived the attack, it would be better to put his hands, or his feet, to bed for a season. I decided that the use of his legs would conduce more to his health and happiness than of his hands; so I placed his hands by his sides, each up to the arm in a jug of hot water, containing quantities of mustard and salt, until hands and wrists were partially blistered; got him undressed and into bed; wrapped his parboiled hands in carded cotton, and applied hot bottles to his cold feet, and cold whiskey to his hot head. In a few hours he was better. In 24 hours he was well. But, for two months he walked about town with two gouty helpless hands wrapped in carded cotton and flannel, and looking like boxing gloves.

III.—A Judge, æt. 50, visited Kingston to consult me. He is a literary and scientific gentleman,