

the fault of another organ? Why not direct our curative or corrective measures directly to the source of mischief? Impressed with the correctness of this idea, I decided to put it in practice in the first case that might come under my care.

It has been now six years since my first opportunity of testing this idea, and within that time I have treated five cases, and in each case a very gratifying result ensued. I thought by exciting an irritation or superficial inflammation of the os and cervix uteri, the reflex nervous phenomena would be concentrated at the point of irritation, and thereby relieve the stomach.

To the first patient I applied the solid nitrate of silver to the os uteri only. The benefit was very noticeable within twenty-four hours. Being somewhat apprehensive, I applied the caustic rather sparingly, and in a few days applied it again, obtaining still greater relief. I used it a third time, but suspected the third application was really unnecessary. The patient remained free from sickness or vomiting to the end of gestation. To the second case the caustic was applied twice only. Improvement followed the first, and complete relief the second application. The third patient required but one application; it was used more freely than the preceding cases, and applied to the os and a portion of the cervix uteri. The fourth patient needed but one application, and this was one of the most harassing and persistent cases of vomiting that ever came under my care. The stomach rejected everything taken into it, and the patient grew feeble and became so emaciated that she was scarcely able to leave her bed. The caustic in this case was very freely applied to the os and vaginal cervix. The relief obtained was beyond my expectation, for it was almost immediate. She vomited only twice or thrice in the thirty-six hours following, and no more after that time. She was able to retain food; assimilation was good, and she gained rapidly in health, strength, and flesh. The fifth case was one in which the vomiting was not so frequent, but quite as persistent. In this case, in addition to the vomiting, the abdomen was quite tender—as I supposed, from the violent retching. The caustic in this case was applied twice before entire relief was obtained.

In all of these cases, before resorting to the caustic, I had faithfully tried, and for some time, remedies which are usually resorted to in such cases, without any benefit whatever in the fourth and fifth cases, and only temporary improvement in the others. These were all cases of first pregnancy, except the second one. In the first and second there was slight erosion of the mucous lining around the os; in the others none whatever, all three being perfectly healthy in appearance.

NOTES OF A CASE, BY DR. MARION SIMS.

I had the good fortune to meet Dr. Jones, of Chicago, last June, when he incidentally related to me his experience in the treatment of the vomiting of pregnancy. I thought the matter of so much importance that I begged him to write it out for publication. Accordingly he sent me the foregoing paper, which I received just as I was leaving home, and not having time to arrange for its publication there, I now send it to the *Lancet*. I am not in the way of seeing much of this affection, but a case came under my observation a few days ago so strongly confirmatory of Dr. Jones's views that I take the liberty of appending it to his paper.

Madame de C —, aged twenty-two, married, at sixteen, was a very delicate child, but is now a tall, handsome woman, weighing 175 lbs. She has one child four years and a half old. During her pregnancy she suffered from nausea for two months or more, but not enough to cause anxiety about herself, and she was safely delivered at the full term. She did not nurse the child, and conception occurred again a year after its birth. Nausea began with conception, and continued unabated for two months, when she miscarried. This was at Arcachon, in 1874. In 1875 she conceived again. Conception was immediately followed by nausea, which persisted in spite of the usual remedies, and she miscarried again at the end of the second month. This was at Havre. In 1876 she miscarried a third time in New York, at the end of two months from the prostration of nausea, which began, as before, at the time of conception. She had the ablest counsel in New York—namely, Dr. Wm. Jones, Dr. Thos. F. Cock, and Professor Barker. Her life was in great danger with each of these miscarriages; and the distinguished accoucheur, Professor Fordice Barker, told her she would hardly survive another such trial as she had just passed through.

I saw Madame de C — on Oct. 24th, 1877. She gave me the history of her miscarriages, and said she feared she was pregnant again. She had just missed her period, and for the last ten days had felt such nausea and disgust for food that she was sure she was pregnant. I gave her some bismuth to take during the day and some bromide of sodium at night. She returned on the 29th, complaining more than ever of nausea, and I prescribed oxalate of cerium. Four days after this Madame de C — sent for me. She had been confined to her bed for four days, so nauseated that she could not take any nourishment whatever. She did not vomit, but she was completely prostrated by the constant nausea and starvation. She was so changed in appearance since I last saw her that I thought there must be something more the matter with her than the mere nausea of pregnancy. Was it malarial? She had just moved