

delivery are connected with sloughing of the parts, which may either have been injured in the act of delivery, or become tainted by the presence of a putrid portion of the placenta." The phenomena of floodings being thus shown to be identical with those of hemorrhages from wounded arteries, the same plan of treatment is clearly identical in both cases. Floodings, then, are to be treated by exposure to cool air, by cold applications to the parts, or, if need be, by cooling injections into the uterus and vagina; by elevated position of the pelvis, and moderate doses of opium. If arterial blood flow rapidly and continuously, an examination should be made, and if a wounded artery is detected, it should be secured by the usual surgical means.—*London Medical Gazette.*

ON THE ACTION OF GALVANISM ON THE UTERUS, DURING LABOR.

By PROFESSOR SIMPSON.

The general results obtained from the employment of galvanism, in the eight cases which I have detailed, may be summarily stated as follows:

In one instance (Case 2,) the pains were more frequent in their recurrence, but shorter in their duration during the application of the galvanism. In five other cases (Cases 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7,) the employment of the galvanism neither increased the average frequency of the pains, nor their average duration. In one (Case 5) the pains ceased whilst the galvanism was applied, and returned upon its removal. In the instance which I have last detailed (Case 8,) the uterine action ceased while the galvanism was applied, and did not return upon the withdrawal of the galvanic action, nor for 24 hours subsequently. There was no reason whatever at the time to expect this as a probable occurrence, independently of the galvanism. But even admitting, for the sake of argument, that the cessation of the uterine action was not the result of the galvanic influence used, still the fact is amply sufficient to show that the galvanic current had not, at least, the power either of increasing the pains, or even of continuing and maintaining them when they offered to fail. It may be proper to add, that during the galvanic action, in none of the experiments did Dr. Barry or I find, in the intervals between the *clonic* uterine contractions or pains, any evidence whatever of unusual *tonic* contraction of the uterus, as shown either by any degree of hardness in the general uterine tumour, or by any degree of tension in the pressure of the bag of membranes, or the child's head against the cervix uteri.

It would be hasty and logically incorrect to deduce from the preceding observations, that under no modification, and under no manner of application does galvanism possess the power of directly exciting or increasing the contractile action of the uterus. Forms or methods of employing it may yet possibly be detected or devised affording a different result. But I believe I am justified in inferring from the preceding inquiry, that as employed at the present time, and in its present mode, it is not a means which can be in any degree relied upon for the purpose in question; and is so far practically and entirely useless as a stimulant to the parturient action of the uterus.—*Ed. Monthly Jour. Med. Science.*

SURGERY.

ON THE ECTROTIC OR ABORTIVE TREATMENT OF GONORRHŒA.

Remarks on its treatment by Nitrate of Silver. By Charles D. ARNOTT, M.R.C.S.E., Gorseleston.

That gonorrhœa is frequently productive of annoyance, as well to the practitioner as the patient, is a general admission. Often obstinate of cure, the surgeon is baffled, and the patient wearied and disgusted. These remarks apply to the simple and uncomplicated form of the disease, any treatment of which, promising speed and efficiency in operation, and probable immunity from much severe suffering, demands attention.

Gonorrhœa is, doubtless, a true urethritis of a specific

nature, and by attentive observation may be trace through all the successive stages of the inflammatory process, with as complete precision as may the vaccine vesicle or any other well-marked illustration of this pathologica phenomenon. The poison, for a series of days, varying in different cases; appears to be inert; until at length a degree of vascular excitement supervenes. This comprises the period of incubation. With vascular excitement, or simple turbulence, in the case of secreting organs and surfaces, comes temporary exaltation of their normal function; [so in the urethra an inordinate amount of mucus is secreted during this stage of the process. The exciting cause, however, remaining unabated, the action advances; the vessels of the part become more congested, and there begins to be of only simple exaltation of normal function, but perversion of it, and, last of all, succeeds true inflammation, with total arrest of all natural secretion, and the formation and excretion of true pus—the peculiar product of inflammation. The action having progressed thus far, gonorrhœa is fairly established.

Theoretically, we know that the action having attained the true inflammatory crisis, a speedy restoration to quiescence, or simple and complete resolution, cannot occur, either by nature's operation, or by artificial solicitation; whilst, on the other hand, within this point, the true inflammatory acme, we are enabled, in the majority of cases, to effect a speedy and satisfactory subsidence of the perverted vascular action. These facts intimately bear on the subject of this discussion—the ectrotic treatment of gonorrhœa.

Cases of simple inflammation, in its early stages, admit, for the most part, of complete subjugation by the continuous use of cold, which appears to exert a powerfully sedative or depressing effect on both the nervous and the vascular systems of the part to which it is applied. But in cases of specific inflammation—such, for example, as those produced by the application of a poison, cold seems to be often altogether inert; it seems to possess little or no power in arresting that zymotic process on which such inflammations seem in great part, to depend.

The nitrate of silver, I am disposed to believe, enjoys the double privilege of efficacy in both classes of cases. The endermoid application of this salt speedily subdues erythema occurring on any part of the surface, and simple cases of paronchia, where the inflammation is superficial, timely treated with it, appear to be completely under its control. The initiatory stages of chilblain are reduced by it more effectually than by any other mode of treatment, and it arrests many affections of a similar nature with equal certainty. Similar effects are observed to follow its employment in cases of a specific character, as the stings of gnats, bees, wasps, &c.; and the undoubted service it has rendered in the hands of Mr. Youatt, in the most severe form of poisoned wound we observe in this country—the bite of rabid animals—tends to prove, that in addition to its sedative quality, it has the power of effecting a decomposition or neutralization of the virus, or a complete arrest of the zymosis, by which the poison, in these cases, is multiplied in the system.

The employment of nitrate of silver in the early stages of gonorrhœa will, I also believe, prove highly serviceable, due regard being paid to the selection of cases in which trial of it is to be made. I have observed its operation on four occasions of distinct and undoubted clap, upon all of which, the success attending its use was perfect. One of these was a first attack, open to objection on the ground of error in diagnosis, but so well marked in circumstantial evidence, as well as symptoms, as scarcely to be mistaken; two others were second attacks, thus less liable to fallacy; and the remaining one a fifth attack, in which (to use the expressive language of the patient himself, 'an old stager,' in allusion to the existing ardor urinæ) 'the red-hot fish'