

The use of opium appears to have been commenced about the year 1846, (*i. e.* about 12 years ago) and to have been gradually increased up to the present time. He informs me that on one occasion he succeeded in giving up its use for about three months, but his disease becoming worse he resorted to it again.

But to return to his state upon admission; the urine passed only by drops, and there was more or less incontinence, keeping his linen constantly wet. Any attempt to void the urine voluntarily, produced the most violent straining, which lasted from five to fifteen minutes, insomuch that he was extremely reluctant to make the experiment, preferring to allow the urine to ooze away spontaneously.

On the day succeeding that of his admission, an attempt was made to pass a catheter down to the stricture, but the irritability of the passage was such that he could not endure it. Chloroform was administered, and the attempt again made, when the stricture was found to be in the vicinity of the bulb, and to be extremely hard and cartilaginous. Although pressure was exerted against the stricture for a considerable time, the instrument could not be passed beyond it. No bleeding followed the attempt.

On the following day (June 27), another attempt was made, without chloroform, but although persisted in for a considerable time, no instrument could be introduced beyond the stricture.

After allowing him a day's rest, purging him freely, and using the warm hip bath, the attempt was again made on the 29th, Syme's stricture staff being used instead of the ordinary sounds. After pressing the point firmly against the stricture for about ten minutes, it passed slowly into the bladder, being all the time tightly grasped by the stricture, and requiring considerable force to move it in any direction. The instrument was left in about fifteen minutes and then withdrawn. No rigor followed these attempts.

The following day, June 30th, urine was passed in a continuous stream for the first time in several years. The stream was about the size of a crow quill or smaller, in fact it was as small as could well be imagined, and was projected with great force and straining. The patient was in high glee, not only at the restoration of the stream but at its accomplishment without the occurrence of rigors. His faith, however, in the necessity for an operation was somewhat shaken by the unlooked-for success; and he was disposed to object to the knife. The assurance that the improvement would only be temporary decided him to submit, and the operation was fixed for the following day.

1st July.—*Operation.*—As predicted, the stricture had again closed