

ACETYLENE GAS IN CANCER, GONORRHEA, AND ALLIED CONDITIONS.

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In the October number of the Medical Council I read an article on calcium carbide. I began some experiments by placing a small piece of calcium carbide against the abraded surface, packing with iodoform gauze, and depending upon the moisture from the tissue to liberate the gas. The method was unsatisfactory to a marked degree. The oxidation was too rapid, producing a deep and painful wound, while the ash left was often sand like and irritating.

I used a small piece in the cervix of a carcinomatous womb, intending to use some in the womb at the next treatment, but the burn was so deep and painful that I feared to use it in the womb, lest it burn a hole through the body of the uterus. I could see no advantage in the burn over the cautery or acids, the advantage being in the gas, so I generated the gas, caught it in a bag, and made the following experiments:

Case First.—Mrs. T., aged 54 years, cancer of the left ovary, womb and cervix, exuding a profuse and offensive discharge, with alarming hemorrhages about every three weeks. I had discharged the case as incurable and sent her home, she having been at the hospital at Kansas City and other places. (This case was unfavorable for surgical interference.) I had her daughter send for her, and I began treatment by dilating and slightly curetting the cervix and womb. I then slipped a round piece of rubber one-half inch in diameter upon a tapering tube, introduced the tube into the gas bag by long rubber tube, and turned the cut-off pressing the disc against the cervix to prevent the escape of the gas. I applied the treatment for twenty minutes. At the end of that time she complained of pain and faintness. I continued the treatment every other day for four weeks, except one week, when she flowed too freely.

I was astonished at the results. The discharge almost ceased after a few treatments, the tissues contracted and the womb and the cervix (so much as could be seen) became normal in appearance; and now ten

weeks since beginning, it looks well, and the woman feels well. She has no more chills or pain, her skin is much clearer, and she is in her own words "well," with the exception of a flow of blood occasionally for an hour or two. Her trouble dates from a tubal pregnancy of three months' duration twelve years ago.

I canvassed the medical brethren for dead beats and charity patients, and have up to this writing (January 20, 1899) treated three cases of cancer, two of the womb, one of the hand; eight cases of gonorrhea in women, six in men; twelve cases of ulceration of the cervix, seven of endometritis, ten of leucorrhoeal discharges, with good results in all, no other treatment being used. To some the treatment was painful (afterwards), in others free bleeding followed for a short time; some claimed a toxic effect.

Absorption is very rapid. In determining this I used two cut-offs, one to keep the gas from escaping from the bag, the other on a short rubber attached to the tube. It is easily determined by forcing the gas into the womb, shutting off both stops, and using a metal, rubber or glass tube, and applying a match, when the gas will burn with a bright flame, which, of course, will depend upon the contractibility of the womb, to prove the rapidity of absorption. Inflate as directed and apply a match: if the womb is excited it will contract, and the gas will be forced out and burn. When empty, re-inflate and leave the cut-off closed, wait five minutes and apply the match, and it will not ignite.

For treatment of the cervix and vagina I use a hard rubber irrigator that has a soft rubber face, plug up the return pipe and press against the vagina and no gas escapes. I use it about the same length of time as in the womb.

For the male attach a soft rubber catheter, press back to near the prostate gland and force in the gas. If the gas escapes around the catheter place a disc of rubber around the catheter, the distance from the end you wish to insert it. A little paraffine or wax will make it gas proof. Hold the penis firmly and press it close to the meat. In treating for endometritis, etc., occasionally the cervix will be lacerated, and