

All this you must remember, qualifies the after-treatment most materially. Thus a man, with these unenviable shoals and quicksands in his urinary passages—we'll say Mr. X. Y. Z., who to-day allows a No. 6 or No. 5 catheter, but goes to-morrow—we'll say to a public dinner—where there is turtle and punch, and comes home in a damp cab, will not allow a No. 4!—all according to the condition of the muscular layer of his urethra, and excess of drink he has indulged in.

These cases of retention vary exceedingly. If I were to divide them into classes it would be according to the "ages of man," as Shakespeare has it; first, the infant or young child, and the retention so peculiar to that age—the retention from congenital phimosis, or from stone in the bladder so familiar in hospitals; next the retention of early manhood—namely, that of spasm without stricture. A young man goes to a drinking party, or such places as oyster cellars, and gets intoxicated and chilled. The age after this is that of our patient in the present instance, aged 52; mark his own description: that for a period extending over eighteen years he has had slight symptoms of stricture without actual retention; he too makes merry, and drinks too much at Christmas. Then you have the combination of muscular or spasmodic and organic stricture and frightful retention of urine. Another class of cases are the inveterate strictures that go from hospital to hospital—poor patients who have had all sorts of surgical devices demonstrated on their perineum; then

"Last scenes of all

That ends this strange eventful history,"

we need only name the retention of old age from prostatic disease. This often takes the form of incomplete retention. The bladder in old people loses tone, its contractile power is lost, and the urine dribbles away in small quantities, and we have second childishness and mere oblivion!

I hear sometimes of enigmatical cases of stricture of an organic kind, the patient being 18 to 20; but you may depend on it that there is no such thing as stricture of an organic form at this age, except from direct injury of the perineum—as, for instance, a boy sometimes falls astride on a gate or branch of a tree, and injures his perineum and urethra; but there is no more reason to believe in organic stricture in a young man, aged 18, than that prostatic disease is common at 40; no, as a general rule, *par excellence*, the age for organic stricture begins at 30 and ends at 50, and spreads over these twenty years pretty equally.

*Treatment of Retention*—Ay, there's the rub! What are you to do in cases of obstinate retention? Your patients comes to you in the