

Case of Malignant Pustule occurring in the Montreal General Hospital.

By J. M. DRAKE, M.D., House Surgeon.

William Little, aged 52, and a native of England, was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital on the 1st of August, 1863, under the care of Dr. Robert Palmer Howard, complaining of swelling of the left eyelid and face. He states that he is employed by the Corporation to bury the dead animals found in the streets; and that he interred on Thursday the 30th July several pigs, dogs, cats, and cows, as well as other animals. On Friday morning the 31st, he awoke about half-past five complaining of slight pain in the eyelid: at the same time he noticed a white speck on the edge like a sty, and some swelling, which rapidly increased. He did not feel sick or ill. At nine consulted Dr. Reddy, who ordered a lotion and poultices, stating it was the bite of an insect. He has been in the habit of taking from two to three pints of beer per day; some time ago used to take half a pint of whiskey in the same time. He is a strong looking man. The swelling is on the left side of the face, extending from the upper part of the forehead to below the chin. The eyelid is quite cedematous, and so much swollen that he is unable to open it. The color of the integument is natural, except over the eyelids, which are of a dull red, and erysipelatous in appearance. The face is much distorted by the swelling, which is soft and doughy,—not hard at any point. No swelling of the neighboring glands. At the point on the edge of the upper eyelid a whitish colored spot is seen, which corresponds with the place where he first noticed inflammation. There is nothing like a boil or pustule or carbuncle. The swelling is uniform, and seems to be merely a serous effusion. There is a slight purulent discharge from the conjunctiva. On opening the eyelid by a speculum, the eye ball and ocular conjunctiva appear healthy; but there is intense chemosis of the palpebral conjunctiva. The swelling appears to be gradually extending to the opposite side of the face.

Constitutional Symptoms.—Tongue moist, and slightly coated with a yellowish fur. Pulse 78, and natural. Bowels moved yesterday,—rather confined. Feels thirsty. No headache. No pain, except in left cheek, where there is slight pain on his attempting to open his mouth.

Treatment.—Apply nitric acid to white spot on eyelid. Free incisions to be made in upper and lower eyelids. Bathe well with warm water. \mathcal{R} Tr. Ferri Mu. 3 iv. Liq. Arseni chlor. 3 j., Tr. Cinch 5 jii. Aqua ad. 5 xii. Take two tablespoonsful every second or third hour. \mathcal{R} Liq. Plumb. Diacct. 3 ii. Tr. opii. 5 ss Aqua Oj. ft. lotio. Apply diligently. Is to have milk diet, and a pint of beef tea. Lemonade for a drink. \mathcal{R} Chlorodyne 3 ss. H.S.