

to his malady and allow it to take its course. The folly of neglect in these cases cannot be too seriously condemned. We must bear in mind that occasionally in the early stage of this malady, the suffering and uneasiness is not marked, not sufficient to attract the attention of the patient. He certainly suffers some discomfort, but he often neglects to consult his surgeon, or if he does so he may state, that he has an attack of piles, and ask for some remedy. This, however, fails to give relief, in due time he resorts to various nostrums which he sees freely advertised as infallible cures, such as pile ointment, or pile liniment, but these are equally ineffectual in curing his malady.

It is very important to success in the treatment of ulceration of the rectum that an early and correct diagnosis should be made. It is alone by careful inspection of the part that a correct knowledge of its condition can be ascertained. The symptoms at the outset are obscure. In some cases the bowels are irritable. The patient may believe that he is suffering from dysentery. As soon as he leaves his bed in the morning he experiences an urgent desire to go to stool, at the time he passes some wind, a small quantity of fluid fæces, mucus or pus, or the evacuation may resemble the white of egg, or it may be dark or grumous, and has been compared to coffee grounds. This latter colour is due to altered blood which has been poured out by the ulcerated surface, and has lain in the bowel over night. The discharge is attended with some tenesmus, and a sense of heat and burning about the lower part of the bowel. The relief after going to stool is but slight, there continues an uncomfortable fulness as though there remained behind something that the patient was unable to get rid of. The pain and discomfort soon subside, but a hot breakfast will bring on a further desire to go to stool, which will be more natural in consistence, and more abundant, still the patient does not pass a healthy-formed stool, but lumpy and sometimes smeared with blood, towards the end of defecation a little fluid fæces or mucus or pus will be discharged, and again will he suffer from tenesmus, which sometimes is very distressing. Cases of this kind are constantly treated as those of