

abdomen, with the right *index* finger in the vagina, the enlarged and tender fundus uteri was distinctly felt, lying somewhat to the left of the middle line, and to this situation the patient referred the most severe pain which she felt on exertion, and during sexual intercourse. The uterine sound entered without difficulty, and with the concavity forwards, to the depth of three and a quarter inches. The point of the sound was rather freely movable, indicating some enlargement of the cavity of the uterus. The introduction of the sound was attended with discharge of blood. Examination with the speculum revealed an open condition of the os uteri, the lips being congested and everted.

I decided to try the application of nitric acid to the lining membrane of the uterus after dilatation of the cervix. With this view two pieces of lamina were introduced and retained by a pledget of cotton wool in the vagina, being allowed to remain for twenty-four hours. The patient complained of a good deal of pain during the process of dilatation, and I found that the pieces of sea tangle had partially slipped out, so that the dilatation was not so complete as it otherwise would have been. A Marion-Sims' duckbill speculum was then introduced to the vagina, the concavity being well smeared with lard to protect it from the acid, and the os uteri brought into view. I now entrusted the holding of the speculum to the patient herself, as I had no assistance. This she did with her right hand thrown back. The anterior lip of the os was now fixed with a sharp hook and drawn down as far as possible. Holding the hook with my left hand I introduced with the right hand a wire gum catheter stilette, around a loop in the end of which a *strip* of lint had been tied, to the interior of the uterus, for the purpose of removing as much as possible of the secretions present. I then passed in another wire similarly prepared, the lint being steeped in the fuming nitric acid, up to the fundus, moving it freely round so as to act on every part of the lining membrane, and then withdrew it. A pledget of wetted cotton wool was then applied against the os uteri, the speculum withdrawn, and the patient ordered to remain in bed for a week. No pain was experienced after the removal of the instruments for two hours, when she complained, but not to any great extent, of pain in the abdomen for an hour or two. During the next four or five days she had pain at intervals, being, however, entirely free from suffering during the greater part of each day. After a week the patient was permitted to leave her bed. The next menstrual period was painless, but the flow was quite pro-

fuse, lasting eight or nine days. From this date, I did not see my patient till some time after the second menstrual period subsequent to the application of the nitric acid. On enquiry, I was told that she considered herself well, that all the pains of which she used complain had left her, that sexual intercourse was painless, that menstruation was also painless, and that her general health which, previous to the commencement of the treatment was failing considerably, was now almost restored.

Progress of Medical Science.

POISONING FROM CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE GENERATED IN THE MOUTH FROM AMALGAM PLUGS IN THE TEETH

Having been invited by an eminent gentleman of the medical profession to attend a convention of the State Medical Society to submit to its consideration a matter of vital importance to the human family, and being unable to comply with the invitation, I have written this article to lay the matter before the medical profession and ask its co-operation.

The matter which I wished to bring to the notice of the profession is the poisoning of thousands of people all over the world from corrosive sublimate generated in the mouth from amalgam plugs in the teeth. Neither Asiatic cholera, nor small-pox, nor any malarious disease, is doing half the mischief in the world that is being done by this poisoning. Every medical man of any considerable practice has undoubtedly had numerous cases of it, but never knew what it was. The symptoms are so numerous and varied in different cases that it would be impossible to give them all in this short article, but I will say that a person poisoned in this way is liable to be treated for dyspepsia, neuralgia, paralysis, consumption, and numerous throat diseases. The patient gradually wastes away as if going into a decline, and no medicine will afford any relief. In many cases the difficulty steals on so gently as not to excite the least alarm, and continues very gradually for a number of years till the patient becomes a total wreck; while in others the attack comes on violently, and the friends and the attending physician think the patient is dying; but he will again rally, and again be prostrated.

There is such a resemblance in the symptoms to nearly all the diseases to which human flesh is heir that the physician is led to treat the patient for some disease which seems to be a very clear case, but his patient gets worse. In more than twenty cases that I have had, nearly all had been pronounced by some physician as having consumption. In nearly all the cases there are at times a very bad cough, eyes sunken, and haggard expression and deep blue or dark color under the eyes, invariably a metallic taste in the mouth, water flowing from the mouth in the night while asleep so as to wet the pillow, and in most cases extreme prostration.