

"At the end of this time (4 years), I was first seized with total retention attended with violent spasms, the attack being apparently brought on by working in a swamp with my feet wet.

"This retention recurred at intervals of from 10 to 12 days and lasted from 4 to 6 hours. The severest spasms during the retention lost their severity immediately on passing the smallest drop of urine. This stage of my disease continued for a considerable period, say from 1½ to 2 years, when the fits became less frequent, in consequence of the use of morphia and opium in small doses.

"About the year 1849 I had the first catheter passed through the stricture. All attempts previous to this having failed, I think, in entering the bladder. After passing the instrument several times, I considered myself tolerably well, and having a horrid antipathy to the catheter, I gave them up. My stricture soon closed again, my water became loaded with mucus, and I was then seized with severe rigors almost daily, occasionally 3 or 4 times during the day and night, aggravated on the least attempt to pass an instrument and almost in every case attended with delirium. The rigors were curtailed both in frequency and severity by the liberal use of opium.

"About 2 years ago, I again ventured on the use of catheters during a course of two months. Being incessantly harassed with rigors I again gave them up, but their use had enabled me to pass my water in a half sort of way, and I was easily pleased then after so much suffering. The stricture again closed and for a long time past I have only been able to void my urine in drops, the rigors, however, diminishing latterly in frequency and severity, and my water becoming clear and void of mucus.

"With the exception of the first five or six years, my linen has always been wet, and for a very long period incontinence prevailed to such an extent that my life became burthensome or at the least disgusting."

J. H.

From the foregoing account it will be seen that symptoms of stricture began to appear as far back as eighteen years ago, and seemed at first to partake largely of a spasmodic character. But even then the rudiments of the organic stricture must have been in existence for he assures me that from the first symptoms of retention the canal began to contract and the stream of urine became smaller and smaller; indeed it is probable that the spasmodic symptoms were produced by the irritation of the incipient organic affection.

The attempts at dilatation seem to have been only very partially successful, and the results very transient, for the symptoms were as bad as ever in a few weeks.