

The tumor was about the size of a duck's egg. Sessile and the opening communicating with the spinal cord large; the laminae of two vertebrae being absent. The walls of the tumor were extremely thin in places and became very tense when the child cried or strained at stool. The mother had been attended by a midwife who undertook to cure the tumor by applying a salve, the effect of which with pressure had produced a superficial slough, and a small quantity of serous fluid was escaping from a minute puncture in this part of the tumor.

The child was large and well nourished. Complete in every other part. The parents were very anxious to have something done; so after explaining to them the dangers of interfering by operative procedure with such cases, and the possibility of hydrocephalus supervening, even though the tumor were cured, I resorted to Morton's method of injecting a solution of iodine, gr. 10, pot. iod., gr. 30, and glycerine, ʒi.

I tapped the tumor, without anaesthetising the child, with a small sized trocar and canula; drew off four drachms of fluid, and immediately injected through the canula one drachm of the iodine solution, allowing what would to escape, keeping up a gentle pressure around the base of the tumor to prevent the fluid entering the spinal canal. Considerable inflammation followed in the sac, and evidently caused pain for about four hours, after which the child was easy. I instructed them to keep a piece of lint saturated in a solution of tannin on the tumor continually, and again on the 7th, one week after, I repeated the operation. The sac was smaller, and contained but one drachm of fluid. No untoward symptoms had followed the first operation, and as the signs were favorable the parents were anxious to proceed with the treatment.

Apparently much more pain followed the second operation, but neither convulsions nor symptoms of paralysis followed, and on the 18th, eleven days later, I repeated the operation for the last time. The walls of the sac were much thickened, and the tumor lessened in size, but there was evident fluctuation and tension when the child cried.

In my haste I forgot my injection fluid, but had some iodized phenol in my case which I

used instead, first injecting ten minims of a 12% solution of muriate of cocaine to annul the pain, and immediately after one drachm of glycerine containing 15 minims of iodized phenol. I squeezed as much of this out as I could, put on a dressing of bichloride cotton and ordered them to dress the child. Within two minutes after the operation the child became restless; breathing labored and fast; pulse small, quick, and rapid; muscular twitchings occurred in the limbs and face, and a general convulsive seizure followed soon after; the head was drawn back; the spine arched forward; knees flexed on thighs, and thighs on abdomen; arms drawn up and rigid; thumbs in palms; cheeks drawn in; the under lip completely hidden beneath the upper jaw; abdominal muscles rigid but not retracted; eyes at times staring and then rolled up beneath the lid; the child, I think, did not lose consciousness. I put it in warm baths, gave brandy and bromide of potassium freely every few minutes, until within an hour all rigidity and convulsive twitchings passed off; the child became limp as a rag. I am not sure that it was not drunk. Surface warm but pale, and bathed in perspiration; pulse small, but soft and regular; vomited several times; could detect no odor in the vomited matter but the brandy; while in convulsions it urinated freely. It was reported next day all right but weak.

I saw it two weeks ago—nearly three months after first operation. It was in perfect health, large of its age, and very fleshy. The tumor was not larger than a pigeon's egg. Comparatively hard and non-fluctuating. No change in its appearance or feeling could be detected when the child cried or strained. The parents were satisfied to let well enough alone and so was I. The opening communicating with the spinal canal was not much, if any, smaller.

In the *British Medical Journal*, Oct. 20, 1888, Dr. Geo. Taylor reports a child, æt. 5 months, who had a spina bifida treated successfully by Morton's method.

In the following number of same journal Mr. Rundee reports a girl, æt. 2 years, who had been treated when five weeks old by same method, and who subsequently developed well marked hydrocephalus, but the tumor gradually contracted.