

The method of treatment is then fully given, by quoting Dr. Levis' description, which is as follows: "For the purpose, crystallized carbolic acid is maintained in a liquid state by a five or ten per cent. addition of either water or glycerine. After the tapping of the sac, I inject the liquefied crystals of carbolic acid with a syringe having a nozzle sufficiently long and slender to reach entirely through the canula. The object of this special form of instrument is to place the injection entirely within the sac, without any reflow, which would irritate the skin of the scrotum, the fingers of the operator, and without the possibility of injecting it into the connective tissue between the skin and tunica vaginalis. Ninety grains is the maximum and thirty the minimum I have used. As soon as the scrotum is injected, it is freely manipulated by the fingers of the operator so as to diffuse the acid over the lining walls of the hydrocele. A sense of warmth is produced, which is quickly followed by a decided numbness, and the patient is at once able to walk about. I do not enforce rest until 24 hours, when intra-scrotal inflammation renders quietude agreeable or imperative. I have never been able to detect any toxic effects from the absorption of the acid, no general depression, no discoloration of the urine. I believe that the action of strong carbolic acid on surfaces secreting albuminous fluids is to seal them, and, as it were, to so shut them off from the system that absorption cannot readily take place. In a case of hydrocele complicated with a sarcomatous testicle, I had moderate suppuration."

### Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—The following case will, I think, be a curiosity to some of your readers.

Some years ago I was called to a woman, a farmer's wife, whom I found suffering from a large right inguinal hernia. After a good deal of trouble I succeeded in reducing it. She had been troubled with it for some years, and had been in the habit of wearing an ordinary truss. This of itself was a somewhat rare case. But a year or so after, she consulted me for some derangement, as she thought, connected with irregularity of the monthly change. I was somewhat confused by

her answers to some ordinary questions, which went to show she did not understand much about the subject. I then made a digital examination without any exposure, and was surprised to find the vagina a mere cul-de-sac of about two inches long. Telling her I thought likely some operation would be needed, I gave her a placebo, and told her to return in a week, and I would more carefully examine her, and be able to tell what would be required; and, at any rate, before undertaking any operation we would consult some other physician. At the end of the week she returned, and on exposing the parts, as you may well think, I was surprised to find a penis about an inch long, with well marked glans, without any appearance of prepuce, occupying the position of the clitoris, but of only half the usual extent around, the upper face or half of the urethra extending all the way, and visible down towards the vagina. In the right labium was a well marked round and firm testicle, and in the left one, not so well marked, but still quite distinct, the urethra being hid away under the pubis, and the vagina, as I have said, about two inches or less in length. In other words, I found her to be a man with an extreme state of hypospadias, including not only the urethra but the whole extent of the scrotum, and the penis firmly adherent all the way, only about the inch mentioned.

One point worthy of note is the extreme hypospadias much greater than anything I have seen mentioned in the books. But the great curiosity is the fact that she passes as a woman, and has been married more than twenty years to a shrewd, intelligent farmer, who seems not to suspect the least thing out of the usual way. She has a strong masculine voice and general appearance, with considerable tendency to beard. I need hardly add she has no children.

M. B.

December, 1883.

### THE TUBERCLE BACILLUS.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—I send you the following lines, which you may think worth inserting:—"A saturated watery solution of carbolic acid, even though it acts as long as fifteen minutes, is not sufficient to arrest