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Original Communications.

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.

BY L. M. SWEETNAM, M.D., C.M.

The following case occurred in the practice of Dr. G. B. Smith, of this city, temporarily out of town, who kindly asked me to see the case with him, and these notes are an almost verbatim copy of those written by him as the case progressed.

January 25. Mrs. B., aged 32, was born in Ireland, and married ten years ago. Although never robust she has always enjoyed reasonably good health. Two years ago she had a miscarriage, losing so much blood as to endanger her life; thinks she never completely regained her strength after this attack. Her mother is alive (aged 68); her father died early. About two weeks ago she moved into the house in which she is now living, may have over exerted herself while moving; when in the house but a few days the cellar became flooded and remains so.

On Monday last the 23rd inst., she was in her usual health, her bowels were moved twice during the day, after the last motion she passed about four drachms of blood, and complained of pain in the bowels, especially in the epigastric region.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24th, Opiates were ordered to relieve the pain, hot applications to the abdomen, and a dose of castor oil.

On Jan. 25, Dr. S. saw her with Dr. McC., the pain was still confined to the epigastric region, stomach irritable, milk and lime water ordered. As the oil taken yesterday failed to

operate, an enema containing an ounce of oil was ordered. Pulse 100, small and hard, temperature normal. Saw her again in the evening, vomiting had set in during the day, and the enema had proved ineffectual; ordered hydrarg. submur, grs. viii. to be taken at once. Pulse more frequent, temperature normal.

Jan. 25. Called between ten and twelve to-day. Stomach unable to retain anything for more than an hour or two; complains of weakness rather than of pain. No motion of the bowels yet, pain in the epigastrium somewhat relieved by mustard poultices. Pulse 120, temperature normal, or a little below.

Jan. 27. Temperature, 98; pulse, 126; stomach more irritable than ever, and vomited stercoraceous matter. Patient becoming very weak, ordered nutritious enemata every four hours. Gave two powders of pulv. jalapæ co., grs. xiv. in each. In the evening found that the pulv. jalapæ co. had been vomited, and that stercoraceous matter had been frequently ejected during the day. Patient cannot retain much of the beef tea injections as the greater portion comes away as soon as the support to the perineum is removed; ordered ol. crotonis gtt. ij. in ol. olivæ ʒij, also chloral hydrate ʒj doses to induce sleep.

Jan. 28th. Pulse small and scarcely perceptible at the wrist, temperature 97½. The ol. crotonis given last evening was vomited in fifteen minutes, as was also the chloral. As no food is being administered by the mouth the stomach is less troublesome, but the tendency to vomit is seen even when the lips are moistened with water. As we had so far failed to relieve the bowels we decided to endeavour to fill the intestines with water, by means of the