

patient, although extremely exhausted during the operation, rallied very speedily; the wound closed nearly throughout its whole extent by primary union, and at the end of three weeks, was completely cicatrized. The tumour weighed upwards of *nine pounds avoirdupois*, and appeared to consist principally of hypertrophied and condensed cellular substance.

Although morbid growths of the scrotum are not of unfrequent occurrence in tropical climates, I believe such enlargements are rarely met with in Canada. During a twenty years' practice in this country, I have not seen or heard of a similar case.

Five years have now elapsed since the operation was performed; my patient has continued in good health, and his young spouse (by a second marriage) has cheered his old age, by presenting him with more than one living proof of his still possessing, unimpaired, all the functions of the generative organs.

CASE OF CONSTIPATION—EMPLOYMENT OF THE LONG TUBE.

To the Editor of the British American Journal.

SIR,—Should you consider the following case of constipation (which I give without comment) worth a place in the columns of your journal, by giving it publicity, you will oblige

Your obedient servant,

HENRY HOWARD.

KINGSTON, *May 5, 1845.*

Tuesday evening, April 6, 1845, I was called upon to see Mrs. Murphy, aged twenty years, and married about two months. She complained of great pain in the bowels and head; said her bowels had not been moved since the Tuesday evening previous; never was in the same state before; was always particularly healthy; was by trade a dressmaker; lead rather a sedentary life; had taken within the last thirty-six hours, some pills which she got at the Druggists, also two oz. of salts and two of castor oil; but with no effect except to sicken her stomach; had no sleep for the last twenty hours.

On examining the abdomen, I found tenderness on pressure, particularly over the umbilical and left iliac regions; there was some tension in the upper part of the abdomen, but rather a solid feel in the umbilical and left iliac regions; pulse 100 small and easily compressed; tongue covered with a moist brownish fur; conjunctiva of muddy colour; countenance shrunk, and great prostration of strength; stomach very irritable.

Treatment—two grains of calomel, to be taken immediately, and an enema of oil and turpentine every two hours, till the bowels should be acted upon.—

Counter irritation to be kept up all night by means of mustard poultices, and to take one teaspoonful of the following mixture every hour till she would sleep or get relief from pain. R: acetate morphia, one grain and a half, water six drachms.

Monday, 7th, 9 o'clock A. M.—Much worse; took the calomel, which relieved the vomiting; took all the morphine mixture without obtaining any rest; had five enemata but no action of the bowels; pulse 110; very weak; tongue brown and dry; slight clammy moisture on the skin; eyes sunken, and a woe-begone expression of countenance.

Treatment.—Counter irritation to be continued.—Repeat the enemata, and take one of the following pills every hour till the bowels should be acted upon—olei croton, gut. 6, submur. hydr. gr. 6, mica. panis Q. S. fiat. mass. divid in pilul. 3. At nine o'clock P. M., I saw her again and found all her symptoms much worse; her stomach rejected the first pill, and she had been constantly vomiting the last two hours. I then determined to pass up the rectum, and, if possible, to carry up as high as the sigmoid flexure of the colon, a large sized gum-elastic tube, which passed without difficulty for about ten and a half inches, when it met with some slight obstruction which was soon overcome by a slight rotatory motion of the tube with gentle pressure, when it suddenly passed about another inch and a half, which caused an escape of flatus giving her immediate relief from pain. I then injected through the tube, with a large syringe, a quart of tepid water with one oz. of salts dissolved in it. On removing the tube, about three inches of it was smeared with foecal matter. I remained in the house for upwards of an hour, and was astonished to find so rapid a change for the better in my patient: although up to that time the enema had been retained. On leaving, I ordered one of the following powders every two hours: submur. hydr. gr. 8, divid in chart 8.

Tuesday, 8th, 8 o'clock A. M.—Bowels had been well acted upon three times during the night, passing at each time a large quantity of black foetid faeces. She had a cup of tea and a little toast about an hour before I saw her; said she felt quite well; pulse 95, full and soft; tongue white and moist; some tenderness and fulness in the left iliac region.

Treatment.—Counter irritation to be continued, and to take one table spoonful of the following mixture every three hours:—liquor ammon acet, aqua font, of each four ounces; tart. ant. half a grain. She was to have a little oatmeal gruel in the course of the day if she felt inclined. At eight o'clock P. M., I found all her bad symptoms returned; bowels had not been moved since morning; the attendant declared my orders had been strictly attended to