

sive, her hollow features wore an air of uncomfortable chilliness. Her eyes, partially closed, were sunk deep into their sockets, her nose pinched, and deathly pale; her lips bloodless, and, parted slightly, they exposed the tip of her dry, glazed tongue, protruding between her teeth, thickly encrusted with sordes; the whole of her wan countenance was bathed in cold perspiration, her breathing was bronchial and very slow, her pulse unperceptible, her voice had failed days ago; her right side was paralyzed, her mental faculties appeared to be intact, although, from utter exhaustion, she could hardly see or hear, or intelligibly whisper her wishes. On lifting the coverlet, her terribly emaciated form was exposed to view—*I use the words in their strictly literal meaning—a living skeleton.* She held her fleshless thighs flexed, resting the sharply defined condyles of the femora on her hollow abdomen, the tibiae and fibulae of the legs, with their overlying integument sunk deeply between them, doubled over the thighs, her feet resting on a pillow. Over the umbilicus, a small piece of lint covered the orifice of a sinous fistula, which, on lifting the dressing, gave discharge to a profuse flow of thin, yellowish matter, horribly fetid, yet distinguished by that indescribable odour peculiar to discharges from abdominal abscesses. Simultaneously with the outgush of the discharge, a rigor, a deathly pallor and a distressing sensation of nausea overcame the faint patient; and these symptoms, I was assured by the nurse, were invariably marked whenever the sore was dressed.

From Mrs. B.'s mother-in-law, an intelligent and observant lady, who had been with her more or less during all her illness, I gathered the following particulars of the case:

On the 18th of June, 1871, Mrs. B. was confined of a healthy male child—her third. During that confinement she flowed profusely, and subsequently appeared daily to be losing strength without any apparent cause. Presently a slight swelling made its appearance in the neighborhood of her "stomach," while the slightest effort to exert herself, or even to rise from her bed, caused a sickening pain in the tumor. The swelling gradually appeared to extend itself all over the abdomen, which also became more and more tender to the touch. There were now periodic chills and fever, accompanied with distressing nausea and vomiting. As the more alarming of these symptoms gradually subsided, the swelling about the abdomen, and the general puffiness all over the surface of