

ART. XV.—*Cases treated in the Montreal General Hospital, with Remarks.* By W. FRASER, M.D., Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, McGill College.

CASE, No. I.

Paralysis of the Bladder, successfully treated by Galvanism. Reported by Mr. Rintoul, Apothecary to the Hospital.

John Mathews, æt. 60, a British army pensioner, of slender bodily conformation, was admitted into the hospital on the 24th May, 1853, under Dr. Fraser, complaining of inability to pass urine. He states that four days previously he got himself wet, on the subsequent day was seized with a severe rigor, and on the day before admission was seen by Dr. MacLagan of the XXth Regiment, who relieved him by introducing a catheter, and recommended him to come to the Hospital.

Present Condition.—Slightly feverish; tongue covered with a pasty white fur, and its papillæ enlarged. When he attempts to make water, only a few drops dribble away; the prostate seems somewhat enlarged, which is probably senile; no particular pain; has a hydrocele of long standing. The catheter was introduced, and about 12 ounces of urine drawn off, a portion of which was ordered to be reserved for examination. The instrument was directed to be passed thrice daily; its introduction was attended with little or no difficulty. He was ordered an aperient draught, and a warm bath in the evening.

26th. On examination, the urine was found to be normal in quality; no improvement in regard to passing it; complains of pain about the perineum. Ordered a drachm of the tincture of the ergot of rye four times a day, and a blister over the sacrum, with the endermic application of strychnine when the cuticle becomes sufficiently raised by the blister.

27th. At noon, a portion of the cuticle having been removed from the blistered part, $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of finely pulverised strychnine was sprinkled over the cutis vera, and at 6 p.m. $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain more.

30th. No marked improvement as regards ability to pass urine, which is now, when drawn off with the catheter, deeply colored with blood; is feverish, and complains of sickness and headache. Omit ergot of rye, and let him have one ounce of the following mixture every fourth hour:—Acetate of potash, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; wine of ipecacuanha, 1 drachm; water, 6 oz.

31st. Fever gone; feels better, but is still unable to pass his urine, in fact, there is no perceptible improvement in that respect, from the treatment hitherto adopted. The parietes of the bladder were therefore ordered to be galvanized in the following manner: A silver catheter was introduced into the bladder, which was made to rest on the fundus of that organ, and a female catheter into the rectum, which was made to rest on the recto-vesical parietes; they were then put in connection with