

Up to the present time (May) she has had no return of sick-ache.

Case 2.—R. D., aged 30; nurse. She states that she had suffered from sick-headache from childhood. The attacks, however, have not been quite so severe during the past four years. This change in their character she associates with her change of residence, for four years ago she left her native county, Leicester, and has since that date resided in Yorkshire. During childhood the attacks were not frequent—perhaps every two or three months; but after reaching puberty, they occurred regularly every month for a number of years. They invariably preceded the appearance as the menstrual flow. As she advanced in age, the attacks occurred at other times beside the menstrual one, so that on an average they come on once a fortnight. None of her brothers or sisters were affected like herself, but her mother suffered severely from sick-headache as long as she lived.

The usual course of attack is as follows:—After slight headache has existed about half an hour, she generally becomes slightly sick. The pain is always confined to the forehead, and is described by her as being of a burning, throbbing character. As the attack proceeds, the pain in the head becomes almost intolerable, and she is in the habit of going to bed, that she may obtain some slight relief through rest and quiet. The sickness rarely terminates in vomiting, but there is intense loathing of food, her appetite having entirely disappeared. On rare occasions the headache has remained at its maximum of severity for from twelve to twenty-four hours; but the average duration of this period may be stated at about six or eight hours. When an attack is disappearing, the sickness always disappears first; the pain in the head then lessens, becoming of a dull and depressing character; then, in about two hours, all disagreeable symptoms disappear, and the patient regains her usual health, being quite free from any depression or exhaustion.

Since her residence in Yorkshire, her headaches have not, as a rule, been so frequent, occurring not oftener than every six weeks; and it has even happened that she has been free from them for three-months.

On four occasions she has been treated with guarana, and always with the happiest results.

March 31. After travelling, the pronomitory symptoms of an attack appeared. On reaching home she at once took half a drachm of guarana, and in less than an hour was quite free from all inconvenience.

April 27. Awoke with headache, but being inclined to try if it would pass off without treatment, she delayed taking her usual dose of guarana. Feeling no better, however, she lay down in bed about 2 p.m. for a short time, but without relief. She then took half a drachm, relieving the sickness immediately, and the headache very soon afterwards.

May 10. About midnight she began to suffer severely from sick-headache and continued ill all night. In the morning she took a little tea, which

made her sick, but with no relief to headache. At 8 a.m. she took the usual dose of guarana, but with no result; at 10.30 a.m. it was repeated with like result, at 2 p.m. another half drachm was taken, which gave relief very soon afterwards.

Case 3.—M. M., aged 25, single, has suffered from sick-headaches from childhood; indeed, she does not remember a period of her life when she did not suffer from them. When she was a child, they occurred about once a fortnight; but when she reached puberty, they became less frequent, the intervals increasing to four or five weeks. There has never been any connection between the occurrence of menstruation and the date of appearance of a sick headache. For a number of years this young woman has been in delicate health. She labours under phthisis of a very chronic description, though the disease has occasionally assumed a more active form for brief periods, and there have been several rather smart attacks of hæmoptysis. Of late, however, with proper attention to their health, she has continued in moderately fair general condition, and quite able for her work as a nurse, but at the same time very much troubled with headaches.

Since her general health became delicate, her attacks of sick headache have been much more frequent, and indiscretion in diet brings on one at once. As a rule they begin during the night. The first symptom is a dull throbbing pain in the temples; it gradually increases; then sickness comes on; so that in a few hours she is frequently necessitated to lie down in bed. Should the attack prove a mild one, it may pass off in six or seven hours; but it is more common for it to continue during a whole day. On rare occasions, when particularly severe, it has continued for two days. After a sick headache has continued at its maximum for about an hour, the patient invariably vomits a small quantity of bilious fluid, sometimes with some slight relief to the pain in the head.

April 16. Patient awoke in the morning with sick-headache, which continued intense during the day, until 6.30 p.m., when she took half a drachm of guarana, and in half an hour she felt quite relieved.

May 10. Awoke this morning: sick headache in first stage. Shortly after taking the usual dose of guarana, the symptoms began to abate; and by 9 a.m. she was quite free from all discomfort.

Several other cases are related of the same description.—*Practitioner, Sept., 1873.*

THE DIAGNOSIS OF OVARIAN TUMOURS.

NOTES BY DR. C. R. DRYSDALE.

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A patient comes before us with increased circumference of the abdomen and abnormal resistance, and who is believed to be suffering from ovarian disease. Our first task is to see that there truly is a tumour present. It is easy to make up our mind on the point if a clearly circumscribed tumour is felt in the abdomen, but quite different when the borders of the