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CANADA LANCET.

WILLIAM EDWARD BOWMAN, M.D., EDITOR.

No. 4.

MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1863.

VOL. 1.

A M E N O R R H Œ A .

BY THE EDITOR.

In cases of sudden suppression of the menses, the first thing that is usually done is to direct the patient to sit in a warm hip bath for half an hour or over the vapour of hot water, to go to bed, cover up warmly, and to drink a cupful of spearmint or pennyroyal, "tea"; this, every mother knows, gives great relief to the distressing symptoms, although it does not succeed in restoring the catamenia; for they rarely return under any treatment before the following month. During this interval the diet should be light and nutritious, the bowels kept loose, and early hours, cold bathing, and active exercise be enjoined.

But should the pain in the pelvis and loins be very severe, and be accompanied by a quick pulse, flushed face, intense headache and a hot and dry skin, after the hip bath from half a dozen to a dozen large Swedish leeches should be applied to the upper and inner part of the thighs, and the patient to be put upon nauseating doses of tartar emetic, ($\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ grain), or James' powder (3 to 6 grains) every three hours to diaphoresis; when, from 12 to 15 grains Dover's powder, or an injection into the rectum of a drachm of laudanum with 30 grains of pulv. camphor in a wineglassful of gruel, will be found to give great relief. Should the suppression be accompanied by gastric derangement, the antimony ought to be pushed to emesis. If colic supervene, half ounce doses of tincture of aloes and myrrh every three hours in warm sweetened milk until the bowels are freely opened, will entirely remove it; warm fomentations of poppy heads, or a large mustard poultice, would be likewise of great service.

Leeches.—When menstruation is delayed or arrested in a healthy individual, and the menstrual period is again at hand, if the vascular fulness be well marked, a few leeches applied to the thighs close to the vulva, after a warm hip bath, the bleeding being encouraged on their removal, will generally be found to restore the flow within a few hours.

Purgatives.—Next in point of efficacy to leeching, in cases occurring in healthy females, are active purges, aloes generally being chosen as the basis, from its peculiar property of creating fulness of the pelvic vessels. They are most efficacious when given in small doses some days before and continued throughout the periodic efforts, one large one being administered when they are at their height; but the large dose alone often proves sufficient to restore the action of the uterus, for I have frequently noticed an almost magic effect at this period from half an ounce of the compound tincture of aloes.

Black Hellebore.—Drs. Mead, Thompson and many others consider this drastic purgative particularly applicable to suppression from cold, Dr. Mead affirms that he found in it such signal virtue that it hardly ever failed in answering his expecta-

tions. The dose is five grains of the powdered root repeated every three hours until it operates. Or a drachm of the bruised root boiled in half a pint of water and given in doses of an ounce every two or three hours. Or from 30 drops to a drachm of the tincture may be given in milk and repeated in like manner. It is a powerful remedy and requires caution in its employment. To the addition of the extract of black hellebore, Hooper's female pills doubtless owe most of their popularity and efficacy.

Mustard.—This is one of the readiest and most valuable of stimulants in the treatment of amenorrhœa; a table spoonful added to the hip or vapour bath, greatly increases its efficacy; and a mustard poultice applied to one of the breasts for fifteen or twenty minutes, or until it becomes painful, by producing congestion of the gland and acting sympathetically, often succeeds alone in restoring the flow. It should be alternated each night with similar cataplasms to the upper and inner part of the thighs, which will be found to produce a fulness of the parts almost immediately after their application; they should not be allowed to blister the skin, as apart from the pain this occasions, it prevents their reaplication.

Dr. Ashwell highly recommends the internal use of mustard previous to the flow; there can certainly be no objection to its use in doses of 8 or 10 grains, the quantity he recommends, and might easily be taken on a sandwich three times a day.

Electricity.—This agent is not applicable in high states of congestion, but in ordinary cases it seldom fails of doing good. The magneto-electric machine in common use is the one I usually employ, and find it very efficacious and the least troublesome of any; placing one conductor on the sacrum and the other over the pubes, shocks of medium intensity should be passed through the womb for ten or fifteen minutes daily during the catamenial period; and in cases of debility, a less intense application may be continued for several weeks. Some practitioners prefer passing the current through the spine from the cervical region to the pubes, or downwards through the lower extremities, by inserting one disc in a tub of warm water into which the feet are immersed. An isolated conductor carried up to the os uteri and the current transmitted through to the womb from the sacrum is however the most efficacious plan when allowable.

Enemata.—Dr. Meigs recommends a warm emollient enema in suppression; and an injection into the rectum of ten grains of powdered aloes in a gill of gruel, is said to act powerfully in stimulating the uterus and promoting the menstrual flow. They should be retained as long as possible, say from ten to twenty minutes.

Vaginal injections.—It is an old custom in many parts of Europe, to stimulate the uterus, in cases of suppression, by means of vaginal injections of Eau de Cologne and milk. And liquor ammonia by producing engorgement of the os uteri and vagina,

frequently succeeds in restoring uterine action, it should be employed weak at first, a few drops being put into a wine glassful of milk, and be repeated three times a day, gradually increasing its strength until it causes pain, when its use must be suspended. It is not applicable in high states of uterine excitement.

After the restoration of the catamenia, should the headache still continue, some purgative, as the compound aloetic pill, will generally give relief; and if followed by a drachm and a half of tincture of henbane, with a drachm of Hoffman's anodyne, will remove all subsequent restlessness.

Strychnine.—Many authors speak highly of this remedy in obstinate cases of amenorrhœa, and frequently find it to succeed where every other treatment has seemed to be unavailing. It is given in doses of from a twelfth to a quarter of a grain, three times a day, and continued until it produces headache or twitchings. Dr. Copeland, however, prefers the extract of nux vomica, which he gives in half grain doses with an equal quantity of aloes; employing the same precautions as when prescribing strychnia.

Amenorrhœa cannot be called a disease nor should it be interfered with until it produces pain or ill health. It would be wrong to treat a young girl without a womb for amenorrhœa, although the existence of ovaries might cause the perfect development of her frame, and even produce a desire for sexual intercourse. And equally wrong to give emmenagogues to those rare cases of flat-chested masculine looking women who possess neither the one nor the other. Again there are females occasionally met with by very practitioner who do not menstruate but from 10 to 20 years, after the cessation they certainly require no uterine stimuli.

Obstruction.—But when we find a well-formed frame with properly-developed breasts and other external signs of puberty, troubled with constant headache, flushing of the face, severe pain in the back and loins and down the thighs, at each monthly period, without discharges of any kind, and which have rather been aggravated than otherwise by the usual remedial agents, some obstruction of the uterus, vagina or hymen may be suspected. If the uterus or upper part of the vagina, the abdomen swells as in pregnancy, and the irritation thus produced causes, development of the breasts and darkening of their areolæ. If at the lower part of the vagina, or labia, the accumulation by compressing the bladder and rectum, seriously impedes the functions of these organs; if from an imperforate hymen, unless extremely dense it becomes pushed forward between the labia by the distension, presenting the appearance of a tumour. These obstructions after great distress and trouble may of themselves give way from the internal pressure, and recovery take place without interference, but if long continued, they produce a state of the system much resembling anæmia, when the existence of an obstruction may be suspected, from the aggravation produced by iron and tonics. The adherent labia, the hymen, or the false membrane covering the os uteri, may require incision, but the vagina can generally be separated by patience, with the finger, or a piece of compressed sponge bound tightly to its point of adhesion. Happily these forms of amenorrhœa are extremely rare.

Amenorrhœa with debility.—We have treated of amenorrhœa in the strong and healthy, in cases attended with debility, it is our duty to place them

first in the same category, and afterwards to remove the obstruction by like remedial agents. For this purpose, we must ignore the catamenia for a time, and direct our first efforts to arousing the liver to greater activity and to ridding the intestines of all their unhealthy contents. This is best accomplished by administering a blue pill every night for several nights, and following it each morning afterwards by a Seidlitz powder, repeating the latter towards noon if the bowels be not freely opened. Dr. Rigby remarks, that when he notices the papillæ of the tongue red and prominent, and the patient complaining of tenderness at the epigastrium on pressure, he finds that a sinapism applied to this part gives great relief both locally and generally, arousing the circulation, relieving the headache, and causing the extremities to become warmer, and the action of the medicines to be promoted. He further advises that the lower extremities should be put into hot water up to the knees every night, to which, if necessary, mustard may be added. The patient should be directed to keep herself well clad and to wear extra flannel around the pelvis and thighs for a few days once a month, and early hours must be insisted upon, with cold bathing or tepid sponging, according to the season of the year, and active friction afterwards with a rough towel. The extremities should be kept warm by such active exercises as games, running, skipping, riding on horseback &c. The system will soon be noticed to improve under this treatment. After the first few days, the use of iron and quinine may be commenced, with extract of gentian or hop, repeating the blue pill and Seidlitz twice a week. And a little later the patient may be put upon the syrup of the iodide of iron in half drachm doses three times a day, as Dr. Rigby and others consider it one of the most valuable emmenagogues in these cases. Under a regular course of such treatment, the health soon becomes firmly established, and with it an increasing power at each monthly effort, which soon results in the natural flow. Should menstruation, however, be long retarded it may become necessary to interfere.

Cantharides.—When leucorrhœal discharges attend these monthly efforts, Dr. Dewees remarks that they act as a sort of local depletion, and prevent the due congestion of the uterus so necessary to the production of the natural flow. He says that the tincture of cantharides given in half drachm doses three times a day will remove them; he continues the remedy for two or three weeks, and increases the dose when obstinate. Dr. Wood recommends it to be pushed until it produces some slight symptom of stangury, and to be afterwards kept within this point.

Electricity proves one of our most valuable agents in assisting nature at these periods.

Oil of Savine.—Pareira particularly recommends this remedy in doses of from two to six drops in amenorrhœa accompanied by a torpid condition of the uterine vessels; he says that he has employed it in numerous instances, and has never known it to produce any ill effects. He considers it the most powerful emmenagogue in the whole materia medica. Drs. Gregory and Locock, combine it with iron, aloes, and myrrh, and give it in the form of pills.

Mercury.—Dr. Ashwell says that in obstinate amenorrhœa, where there is chronic inflammation or permanent congestion, and any evidence of incipient structural change, there is no remedy comparable with this. He thinks that moderate salivation

should be produced and sustained for twelve or sixteen weeks. If doing good, it should render the tongue clean, moist and healthy looking, cause the digestion and appetite to improve, the complexion to become clear, and the health generally to advance. Should it weaken the pulse, or increase its rapidity, or cause diarrhoea or cough, its use should be at once suspended.

Be cautious particularly against its employment in slight cases, or where there is extreme exhaustion, or irritability, or a tendency to phthisis or stumous disease.

Rheumatism.—Dr. Meigs aptly remarks that when we find a patient, who, having previously been subject to rheumatic pains, bathes her limbs in cold water, or, wearing no drawers, is careless about getting wet or cold feet, the inference is that she has rheumatism of the womb when the menstrual flow becomes arrested or difficult, and the uterus highly sensitive. Such persons he recommends to wear flannel around the hips, dress warmly, and to take sulphur to keep the bowels soluble, after first purging them with the compound powder of jalap. Assuming this inference to be correct, it may perhaps account for the extraordinary successes and failures of Dr. Dewees' treatment with the volatile tincture of gusaiacum. I have frequently ordered this remedy, and occasionally with much benefit, but the success has necessarily been speedy, as I have never yet been able to induce a patient to take a teaspoonful of this disagreeable medicine three times a day for two or five weeks, as he directs. Dr. Dewees says that after forty years constant employment of the gusaiacum, he has never known it to fail in a case of uncomplicated amenorrhoea.

Caution.—Should any organic disease of the lungs, heart, womb, ovaries, kidneys, or other organ retard or suppress the menstrual flow, the tonic treatment alone must be resorted to, as any attempt to stimulate the uterus, would not only prove futile, but be fraught with danger.

After treatment.—Having succeeded in restoring the catamenia, Dr. Charles West remarks that it is not enough to take precautions the first time of menstruating only, that the period of its return should, even in the healthiest girl, be watched for, and all previous precautions repeated again and again, until the habit of healthy menstruation is established. And that this precaution bears with tenfold force on all cases in which the catamenia have been tardily, painfully, or difficultly accomplished; for if the bad habit be not broken through during the first years of womanhood, it will in all probability never be attained; and that many cases of long standing disease of the ovaries date back to some accidental suppression and want of care at the return of the few following periods.

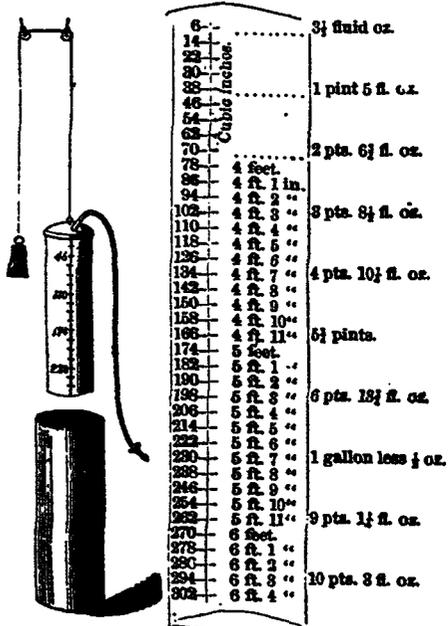
Arrest from sexual excitement.—Having had three cases of this form of amenorrhoea within the past year, I can bear testimony to the correctness of Dr. West's experience, that sexual intercourse, independently of pregnancy, not unfrequently arrests menstruation for two or three months, when its unexpected reappearance gives much joy to the single, and disappointment to those recently married, who find their hopes suddenly dissipated by the unwelcome return of the menstrual discharge.

The habitual sexual excesses of prostitutes, although they sometimes induce menorrhagia, yet in a great majority of cases suppress menstruation altogether, or render its return irregular and deficient in quantity.

A CHEAP SPIROMETER.

By W. E. BOWMAN, M.D.

A cheap spirometer may readily be made from two tin vessels similar in shape to the ones figured in the accompanying wood cut; the one should be about 20 inches long and 6 inches in diameter, and the other 18 inches long and 5 inches in diameter. The latter may be graduated into spaces of eight cubic inches by means of our ordinary gallon measure, which is the old wine measure of Great Britain and the one that is adopted by the United States Pharmacopoeia; it consists as every body knows of 8 pints of 16 ounces each, the ounce measuring 1.8 cubic inches.



Having placed the smaller vessel perfectly upright, measure into it a gallon of water less half an ounce, and with a rule ascertain the precise distance from the surface of the liquid to the brim of the vessel, then placing this measure outside of the tin, mark the height of the water as 230 c. in. In a similar manner with half a gallon and 10½ fluid ounces, mark 134 c. in.

Next divide the space between these two points into 12 equal parts, which will be measures of 8 c. inches each, and with the compasses continue the graduation upwards and downwards, placing the figures on the inverted vessel as here shown. If its diameter be everywhere alike the measure must be correct, its accuracy however may be readily tested by the annexed subdivisions of the same measure. The pulleys and counterpoise may now be adjusted to the graduated tin.

Next fill the larger vessel with water so that the smaller may be just covered when inserted as low as possible into it, and mark the height of the water on the inside of the larger tin. Then raise the small one gently until the 174 c. in. line appears even with the surface of the water, and make a second mark of its level. Finally put the third

graduation in the large tin when the smaller is raised completely out of it.

Lastly, affix two or three feet of flexible tubing and a mouth piece to the top of the small tin, and the spirometer will be ready for use.

The graduation inside of the larger vessel is to detect and obviate any difference in the level of the water within and outside of the rising vessel, which after receiving the breath should be depressed until the water is at its proper level, the tube being closed by the fingers during the adjustment and reading off.

With this scale as a guide the York Glass Company of England has made me a beautiful spirometer of this form entirely of glass, and correctly graduated into cubic inches. It differs somewhat from this one in having a perforated glass stopper in the centre to which the silk covered tubing is attached; and also in having two cords, one each side of the stopper, and four pulleys which prevent it from turning. Thus arranged and mounted on handsome brackets, apart from its usefulness in ascertaining the presence and progress of phthisis, it forms an elegant addition to a surgery.

LYMPH FROM THE COW.—Dr. T. S. Fletcher of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, in a letter to the *London Lancet*, states that for the last five-and-twenty years he has been in the habit of keeping up his vaccine by inoculating cows with human vaccine which he inserts into the teat where it joins the udder; he says that a brown scab becomes formed in from four to seven days, which on puncturing, yields an abundant supply of colourless or light straw coloured lymph.

QUININE IN INDIA.—The experimental cultivation of cinchona plants in India has been a complete success. Specimens of bark grown in India have been received in England, and are now undergoing analysis by Mr. Howard, the eminent quinine manufacturer, who has already obtained beautiful quinine from bark of but two years growth, besides cinchonine and cinchonidine. Meanwhile the plants are multiplying rapidly; five government plantations are established in the Neilgherry Hills, a mountain range in the presidency of Madras, and natives as well as Europeans are undertaking the cultivation in all parts of the hill districts of India.

—*London Medical Times*.

POISONING BY CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.—Every student in medicine is aware that when a solution of corrosive sublimate is placed upon a bright piece of gold and touched with an iron point, it undergoes decomposition, a thin film of metallic mercury being deposited on the surface of the precious metal. Dr. J. C. Johnston of Baltimore, by the practical application of this fact, has succeeded in saving the life of a gentleman in that city that had swallowed two scruples of the bichloride of mercury. In less than half an hour afterwards he had given his patient a bolus composed of half a book of gold leaf, having previously sprinkled a drachm of iron by hydrogen between its leaves, this dose was retained but a short time, when it was repeated with the happiest results, the vomiting and distress ceased and the man recovered rapidly under the ordinary treatment for gastritis. Dr. Johnston thinks if the gold leaf had been rubbed in a mortar with bright iron filings and the mixture given with water, that it would have been more speedily successful than the plan he adopted in his hurry.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, May 7, 1863.

Canada Lancet.

MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1863.

The recent order for the suppression of the use of calomel and tartar emetic in the United States army, has justly excited the indignation of the profession in that country, not from the desire of upholding the employment of any particular remedies, but from the imputation of incompetency, inferred by it of their medical brethren in the service, than many of whom there scarcely exists more highly educated men in the world. At a large and influential meeting of physicians recently held on this subject at Cincinnati, Ohio, a number of army surgeons who had occupied the exalted positions of medical directors and inspectors general of whole divisions, from different parts of the seat of war, bore testimony to the extreme rareness of any of the bad effects attributed to these agents. This with the experience of numerous physicians attending large military hospitals in Louisville, Cincinnati, and other places, sustains the correctness of the resolution adopted by the meeting, that the statement put forth by the surgeon general was untrue, and not sustained by the army and sanitary inspectors, and that the cause of the order was but a mere private opinion concerning the injuriousness of the preparations of mercury and antimony which the surgeon general had constantly held and openly avowed upwards of three years ago, when but an assistant surgeon on duty in Michigan. Had the resolutions been less harsh, and concluded with a request for the rescinding of the obnoxious order, in lieu of a recommendation for the removal of its author from a position in which he is evidently so ably fulfilling his duties, they would have met with universal approval, and probably have produced a proper response from surgeon general Hammond, who doubtless in carrying out a favourite idea, did not reflect upon the light it was placing the medical profession in the eyes of his country and the world, a profession too, whose honour and interest he has so much at heart and which he is so arduously endeavouring to promote in many ways, and none more successfully than in his thoughtfulness for the future, as exemplified in the formation of an extensive army surgical museum which already numbers over a thousand specimens, and in the preparation of a medical and surgical history of the rebellion, works which will redound to the credit of the nation as long as time shall last.

Commencing the *Lancet* with the determination if possible, of sending a few numbers to every medical man, whose address we could obtain, our circulation has necessarily been rapidly on the increase;

the thousand of our first issue became two at the second, and nearly three at the third; and of this the fourth number we have received from our printer, five thousand, and find it far from adequate to meet the end in view, which can only be attained by striking off those from our list, who after a second number, still remain undecided to sustain the paper. This resolution will be strictly adopted with number five. We shall however endeavour to mail an index of our first volume to every physician in Canada, at the end of the year.

Interesting Cases.

COMPLICATED FRACTURE OF THE ARM. By Wm. H. Hingston, M.D., L.R.C.S.E. Fellow of the Leopold Academy, &c. One of the Surgeons to the Hôtel-Dieu, Montreal.

The following case is interesting principally in its sequelæ.

J. S., a healthy man, æt 38, received an injury of the arm, from a fall, on 15th November, 1861, which produced a compound fracture of the humerus. The protruding end of the bone was removed, and the parts were restored to position. The arm continued to be painful and swollen; after a time openings formed near the site of injury, and severe erysipelatous inflammation, once, and less violent inflammation, several times, occurred. These received proper care and attention at the hands of several physicians during a lengthy stay in a neighbouring charity. The condition of the part still continuing to cause much pain and uneasiness, and the arm to be useless, the patient sought entrance to the *Hôtel-Dieu*, under my care, on the 11th May, 1863, eighteen months after the primary injury. On his admission, the lower third of arm, and the upper third of forearm were much discoloured; the hand and lower part of forearm were cold, and the former was much shrunken and of a blue colour. The arm was about two inches shorter than the other, and the elbow firmly ankylosed in a straight position. Two openings communicated with the humerus, one about two inches above the olecranon, and another directly opposite the joint in front; through both openings dead bone could be felt. The radial pulse was almost imperceptible. This condition of things satisfied me that free arterial and venous circulation were interfered with; and that the median nerve was pressed upon in some part of its course; and determined me, with the approval of my confrères, to attempt removal of the dead bone where it could be most easily reached—namely, from the front. I accordingly made a free incision through the skin at the bend of the elbow, and feeling my way carefully along the biceps, separated the tendon of that muscle from its strong spæurotic expansion, using my left index finger as a director. Through the opening made, I was enabled, without further injury to the soft parts, but not without difficulty, to seize upon and remove about two inches of the whole thickness of the shaft of the humerus. No untoward circumstance attended or followed the operation.

It would appear, that, at the time of injury, the portion of the humerus now removed had been separated from the shaft above, and from the condyles below; that, in some way, difficult to understand, the comminuted piece had been so completely dislodged from its position, as to permit the approximation of the two main pieces of bone;

and that, while suppuration had been established in the comminuted piece causing its death, the living ends, impeded, no doubt, but not entirely checked in their effort at union, by the presence of the dying or dead bone, continued their healthy action till it terminated in perfect union: the dead bone, meanwhile, continuing to give great discomfort by its presence, and even to jeopardize the entire limb.

That it is always advisable to cut down upon dead bone, or foreign bodies of any kind, *à travers* tissues so important as those to be met with at the bend of the elbow, and to run the risk of wounding them I am myself disposed to doubt; but the condition of things satisfied me that the shortest way to reach the offending body was probably the best, and perhaps not the most hazardous.

(June 14th.) The entire disappearance of pain, lividity and coldness in the hand and fingers; and of heat and swelling near the site of the injury; and the complete re-establishment of the radial pulse, are satisfactory evidence of the restoration of integrity in the nerves and blood vessels in the neighborhood of the joint.

10 Bonaventure st., MONTREAL, 15th June, 1863.

New Books.

Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry, by John E. Bowman, F.C.S., edited by C. L. Bloxam, Professor of Practical Chemistry, in King's College, London, 3rd Am. from 4th Lond. ed. Blanchard & Lea, Phil., royal, 12 mo., pp. 350, \$1.25.

We hail with much pleasure a new edition of our favourite little author, and this too from the hands of such an able reviser. It has been our guide for years, and well do we bear in mind how in our hard working college days we so often referred to its numerous illustrations, and to its concise and handy rules for the examination of urine, when we had no time to study any thing but what was short and to the point. Here then it is again with all the new discoveries and processes, ever fresh and ready to teach the young, and remind the old, that this important fluid must not be neglected. Its pages are not however confined alone to a treatise on the urine, but comprise practical rules for the detection of poisons in organic mixtures, and essays on the blood, bile, mucus, &c. In conclusion, we need only say that we wish for it the success it deserves.

Chemistry, by W. T. Brande, D.C.L. F.R.S.L. & E., of her Majesty's Mint, and Alfred Swaine Taylor, M.D. F.R.S. Professor of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence in Guy's Hospital. London, Philadelphia, Blanchard & Lea, 8 vo., pp. 696, cl. \$3.50.

This work is intended as a handbook for students, and as an introduction to chemistry for the general reader. It abounds in innumerable interesting facts not to be found elsewhere; and from the masterly manner in which every subject is handled, with its pleasing mode of describing even the driest details, it cannot fail to prove acceptable, not only to those for whom it is intended, but to the profession at large. The entire absence of wood cuts, is however an unusual feature in elementary productions of this kind at the present day, and a few chapters on electricity, would have greatly enhanced the value of the work. These omissions will tend much to lessen its chance of success as a college book, and to retain Fownes' little work still, the formidable competitor for public patronage.

CHANCRES.

BY W. E. BOWMAN, M. D.

Continued.—Treatment of Soft Chancre.

Assuming that the reader is cognizant of the facts so briefly stated in the last two numbers of the *Lancet*, I need not dwell on the importance of a proper diagnosis of the different forms of chancre, before commenting on the treatment of them, which differs so widely.

Although Mercury, taken internally, ends the cicatrization of hard chancre it has no beneficial influence upon the chancroid, which remains stationary or even progresses after salivation.

The virus resting in the sore itself and its underlying tissues, is only effectually destroyed by thorough cauterization.

Pernitrate of Mercury.—Having been invariably successful with this form of caustic for the arrest of soft chancres, in my own practice, I place it "par excellence," first on the list. I prepare it by adding an ounce of red precipitate to an ounce and a quarter of nitric acid, in which it readily dissolves by shaking. It is very painful when thoroughly applied, causing much inflammation, and when the chancre is large, the effusion of serum into the cellular tissue of the prepuce. It has seldom to be employed but once, however, even in aggravated cases; nor have I ever noticed any injurious effect, hitherto, from its employment. Linseed poultices should be kept to the part until the inflammation subsides, and afterwards water dressing; when the gray slough separates, which it does generally in three or four days, the healthy ulcer left afterwards must be treated in the usual way with wet lint and oiled silk; stimulating it with red wash or solution of the chlorate of potash, should the granulations become exuberant. Collections of serum formed after the operation, may be allowed to ooze away through punctures made into them with a needle.

Canquoin's Paste.—Rollet and Diday assert that this caustic, composed of equal parts of chloride of zinc and flour, whilst exceedingly efficacious, gives but very little pain. It is made by drying the powdered chloride over a spirit lamp before mixing it with dried flour, and adding alcohol drop by drop until the paste is formed, which is to be spread thinly on cloth and again subjected to a gentle heat, a disc of this paste corresponding in shape to the chancre and slightly exceeding it in size, is cut out and retained upon the surface, previously cleansed of matter, from one to three hours, and in large phagedenic ulcers from four to six hours, the patient keeping his bed until the paste is removed.

Other Caustics.—Nitric, strong acetic, and sulphuric acids, caustic soda, potassa cum calce, and even the actual cautery or knife have their respective advocates. Dr. Bumstead, to whose work much of our former article was indebted, recommends the nitric acid in preference to all other applications, although he confesses that it sometimes requires to be repeated every second or third day.

When wrong to Cauterize.—Thorough cauterization is inadmissible when a chancroid extends deeply, and is situated directly over the urethra in either male or female, or in the vagina, when lying in contact with the bladder, rectum or peritoneum, on account of the danger of an opening being created into these parts on the separation of the slough.—Again, cauterization is not applicable when the chancroid cannot be fully exposed as in phymosis, or when situated within the urethra, os uteri, &c., and would

be useless unless every ulcer could be reached that would be likely to inoculate anew the eschar.

Nitrate of Silver.—This is altogether too feeble in its action for universal adoption in cases of chancroid, but proves extremely useful in those enumerated that do not allow of a more powerful application. A comparative trial of the merits of the nitrate of silver and the solution of the pernitrate of mercury, would satisfy the most sceptical of the superiority of the latter, for the sore which has long remained stationary or even continued to extend notwithstanding the constant use of the one, will be found to yield rapidly and cicatrize after a single thorough employment of the other.

Stimulating Lotions.—These have the same influence upon a chancre as upon simple ulcers, and although they do not affect its specific character, do much good by keeping the pus removed as fast as it is secreted, and by coagulating the virus and hardening the adjacent tissues, prevent the inoculation of the surrounding parts and check the growth of the sore.

Among the many astringent and disinfecting lotions now in vogue the following may be mentioned as some of those most frequently employed, viz :

℞. Zinci chlor gr. j. aquæ ℥ j. m.

℞. Liq sodæ chlorinatæ ℥ j. aquæ ℥ ij. m.

℞. Ac. nitrici dil ℥ j. aquæ ℥ viij. m.

℞. Tannin ℥ ij. tinct opii. ℥ ss. aqua ℥ viij. m.

But the strength of these solutions must be adapted to the sensibility of the part which varies in different cases, they should never be so strong as to excite pain or produce irritation, and indeed in many cases when constant attention can be paid to them, the lotion might as well consist entirely of water or glycerine.

The dressings should be kept covered with oiled silk and renewed in ordinary cases as often as two or three times a day, that the discharges should not long remain in contact with the sore.

The black wash so much employed all over the world is composed of two scruples of calomel and four ounces of lime water; it is less cleanly and desirable than any of the forms above mentioned.

Acetate of lead is objectionable on account of its forming an insoluble albumenate of lead on the surface of the sore which is with difficulty removed, and hides its progress.

Chancres beneath the prepuce, when it can be drawn back and examined, are often dressed with dry lint, which soon becomes sufficiently moistened by the natural secretion of the part.

Chancres of the Frænum.—The frænum is particularly liable to be destroyed by chancre. When perforation takes place, the bridle should be cut and the raw surfaces cauterized. Diday recommends the separation to be made with a pair of hot scissors which should be dull, these cut and canterize at the same moment.

Urethral Chancres.—The surfaces of urethral chancres when near the meatus should be kept separate by means of wet lint, which should be pushed down upon the sore with a probe, and have a thread attached to it to facilitate its withdrawal. When out of sight, the case must be treated as in gonorrhœa, by first subduing the inflammatory symptoms, by diet, rest, diluents, cathartic medicines, &c., and the employment of emollient urethral injections, afterwards resorting to those which are more powerful.

Phymosis.—If the chancroid be concealed by a tight and inflamed prepuce, free use should be

made of the syringes with tepid bathing of the part which will not only keep the secretion from collecting, but also contribute materially to the reduction of the inflammation. When possible a little dry lint may be passed up to the sore and allowed to remain for a few hours before renewal. When the head of the penis is swollen and painful, it must be kept constantly buried in an emollient poultice or be fomented with infusion of poppy heads.

Iron Internally.—When soft chancres are slow in healing, Dr. Thompson remarks that nothing appears to hasten cicatrization so much, as a mild form of iron given internally, and the potassio-tartrate appears with him to be most successful in such cases; he prescribes it in doses of a scruple in water twice a day.

STRANGURY FROM CANTHARIDES.—Dr. Ameuille of Paris, has brought into notice there the Dublin mode of treating this complaint, introduced by Dr. Mulock, namely, that of giving half drachm doses of liquor potassæ every hour. Dr. Ameuille says that it acts like magic, and that he never finds over two or three doses necessary to effect a cure; it should be given in gruel or linseed tea.

Chlorodyne.—This is the fashionable remedy of the day, 30 drops should be given in a little water or syrup.

We have always succeeded well with tincture of benzene and sweet spirits nitre, equal parts; giving a drachm of the mixture every hour until the patient is relieved.

Dr. Wood recommends an injection into the rectum, of from 40 to 60 drops of tincture of opium in a wine glass full of starch gruel, at the same time directing the patient to drink plentifully of the infusion of linseed.

W. Cumin in the Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine says that in every instance it is wisest to unload the bowels as speedily as possible, and as Dr. Good recommends saline purgatives, it might be well to give a Seidlitz powder every hour until the bowels are freely opened.

Camphor is an old remedy for strangury, it can be given in five grain doses dissolved in a few drops of chloroform and shaken with a little syrup on taking, repeating it every hour or two if necessary; or it may be applied locally to the perineum by means of hot flannel wrung out of boiling water, on which may be sprinkled 20 or 30 grains of the powdered gum; this generally soothes the pain at once.

Vesical Injections.—There is much difference of opinion concerning the propriety of injections of oil or muciilage in strangury, as the benefit derived is said to be more than counterbalanced by the injury done to the irritated membrane of the urethra during the passage of the catheter.

TO PREVENT THE PITTING OF SMALL POX.—Dr. Stanley Haynes of London, says, that a solution of India rubber in chloroform, painted over the face of small pox patients, when the eruption is matured, will effectually prevent the formation of scars. The evaporation of the chloroform leaves the caoutchouc as a thin, dry, impervious and elastic film which prevents the access of air and all consequent pitting and itching. The solution is readily made, as the chloroform will only take up a certain quantity of the rubber. In females it should likewise be applied to the neck. It desquamates with the crusts, leaving some vascularity behind, which, however, speedily disappears.—*Lancet*, April 25th, 1863.

To Correspondents.

Perchloric Acid.—Pour four ounces by weight of commercial sulphuric acid into an ordinary quart bowl, and add gradually one ounce of finely sifted chloride of potash. This operation should be performed in the open air, and the acid be kept lukewarm by placing the bowl in a vessel of hot water. It should not be stirred during the addition of the chloride, which must be sprinkled in very carefully, and by small portions at a time taking about an hour to add the whole of it, otherwise there would be danger of the slight crackling becoming an explosion, and causing its total loss. After this, half a teacupful of hot water is to be mixed with it, and the whole be allowed to rest for twelve hours, by which time the perchlorate of potash will be precipitated as a creamlike sediment, and the supernatant solution of the persulphate must be ejected. To this sediment previously introduced into a retort or Florence flask, add an equal measure of sulphuric acid, and half as much water, and having attached a receiver, distil off the perchloric acid with a gentle heat. When the vapor of chlorine begins to rise, withdraw the lamp, add more hot water slowly, and continue the distillation. This vapour shows the decomposition of the perchlorate from want of water. On emptying the receiver, it will be found that what free chlorine may have passed over, lies on the top of the acid, and does not contaminate it.

Perchloric acid, as thus prepared, is a volatile liquid of a peculiar pungent odour, and rather agreeable, but extremely sour taste. It is employed in the preparation of chlorodyne.

Chlorodyne.—Take of acetate of morphine 15 grs.; perchloric acid ½ oz.; mix and add chloroform 1½ fluid ounces; oil of peppermint 6 drops; tincture of Indian hemp ½ oz.; tincture capsicum 1 drachm; Scheele's hydrocyanic acid 24 minims; treacle ½ oz.; alcohol sufficient to make 4 fluid ounces when mixed.

The perchloric acid forms with the morphine, a jelly like mass, which adheres firmly to the bottom of the bottle until after the addition of the tincture of Indian hemp and alcohol, when it speedily disappears on shaking.

The ordinary dose of this preparation is half a drachm, containing ½ gr. morphine, 1½ m. chloroform, ½ m. hydrocyanic acid, and 2 drops each of perchloric acid and tincture of Indian hemp, with a taste of peppermint and cayenne. It should be taken in a little cold water, and be stirred at the moment of swallowing as the chloroform and Indian hemp soon settle as a bead in the bottom of the glass, and is thus apt to be left behind unobserved. When prescribed, it is usually diluted with syrup, and directed to be well shaken.

We have employed this agent as thus prepared for over three years, and have always been much pleased with its effects as an anodyne, and antispasmodic. When larger doses are required, solution of morphine, should be conjoined with it, as the Cannabis Indica, is apt to affect the head when much increased.

Tr. Ferri Chlor.—You would not have the difficulty mentioned were you to put the 6 oz. oxide of iron, and 20 fl. oz. muriatic acid into an enamelled iron saucepan, and having placed it on a tripod in a chimney, or inside of a box stove, heat it gently over a few live coals until the iron is dissolved; should the quantity of acid be insufficient to do this, a little more may be added; when cold put in the 60 fl. oz. alcohol as directed, and filter.

Muscicæ Bites.—Touch them with a solution of carbonate of potash, one drachm to the ounce of rose water.

Bears' Grease.—There is no difficulty whatever in obtaining genuine bears' grease, or rather oil, of the black bear in Lower Canada, for it is brought into our markets by the country people every fall and winter and is employed by them at home for the same purposes, as neatfoot oil, which it closely resembles. Nor will the greatest care in separating it from the fat of the animal entirely remove its peculiar and disagreeable odour; by melting it in a vapour bath, we have succeeded in obtaining it much purer than the article vended by the "habitants," but still far from being a desirable application for the hair, as its smell cannot be disguised by perfume any more than could that of cod liver oil. The article usually sold for bears' grease in this country, is a compound of 16 oz. olive oil, 3 oz. white wax, and half an ounce of spermaceti, which after melting together, with a gentle heat, and stirring constantly until nearly cold, is perfumed according to the taste of the vender, generally by adding half an ounce of the finest oil of bergamot, with a few drops of otto of roses or of oils cinnamon, cloves and lavender, or the otto of roses alone or combined with a little oil of sandal wood. When desired as a restorative for the hair or as a preventive of dandruff, half an ounce of cantharides should be exhausted in the above quantity, by bruising them coarsely, tying them in a piece of fine cambric and after soaking them in the hot oil, exhausting them by kneading and pressure.

F. All may expect to receive them in a week or ten days. Over a thousand varieties are out of press and ready, and only require to be selected before sending home.

Sir Astley Cooper's Pills.—1½ oz colocynth, 3 oz Barbadoes aloes, ½ oz scammony, ½ oz gamboge, ½ oz cardamon seed, ½ oz castile soap, 2 oz calomel, 15 grs tartar emetic, & ½ oz oil cloves. Weigh with troy weights, sift the powdered ingredients well together, pour in the oil of cloves, and add the soap previously dissolved in a small quantity of water: roll into 5 grain pills. Dose two at night.

Kathairon.—Finest castor oil and alcohol of each one pint, pulv. cantharides one drachm, essential oil of bergamot one ounce, oils cinnamon, lavender, cloves and rosemary, of each ten drops. Mix. When desired of a pink colour, add a few grains of cudbear. Let them stand a week before filtering. If wished it may be made thinner by the addition of more alcohol. It is an excellent article for preventing dandruff, and promoting the growth of the hair.

New Books.—We will with pleasure remit your money to London for books, but it is not necessary; send it yourself getting the post office money order made payable to Messrs J. Churchill & Sons, 11 New Burlington st., London, W., and directing your letter in like manner, when your money will not only be safe, but you will be sure of receiving the books by return of mail. We mention this house as we send to them ourselves: any other respectable firm in England would do the same. With the name of the book, the edition and publishers' names must be carefully copied.

A complete list of the Medical Works published in Great Britain from the 1st of April to the 15th May, 1863, with their sizes, numbers of pages, publishers names, and prices in sterling.

- Hassall, A. H. The urine in health and disease, 2nd edit. post 8 vo. pp. 410, (Churchill,) 12s. 6d.
 Smith, W. A. On human entozoa, 8 vo. pp. 258, (H. K. Lewis,) 8s.
 Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London for 1862, vol. 4, 8 vo. pp. 364, (Longman,) 15s.
 Barker, T. H. On malarious influences in the production of typhus and typhoid fevers, 8 vo., pp. 262, (J. W. Davies,) 8s.
 Buckmaster, J. C. Elements of Chemistry, 2nd edit. 18mo. pp. 278, (Longman,) 3s.
 Fry, Herbert. Guide to the London Charities for 1863. post 8vo., pp. 178, (Hardwicke,) 1s.
 Harley, G. Jaundice, its pathology and treatment, 8vo. pp. 160 (Walton,) 7s. 6d.
 Snellen, Dr. H. Test-types, for the determination of the acuteness of vision, 8 vo., (Williams & N.) 4s.
 Squire, P. Pharmacopoeias of thirteen of the London Hospitals, 12 mo. pp. 160, (Churchill,) 3s. 6d.
 Wood, John. On rupture and its radical cure, 8 vo. pp. 340, (J. W. Davies,) 12s. 6d.
 Barwell, Richard. On the cure of Club-foot without cutting tendons, and on certain new methods of treating other deformities, 12 mo., pp. 240, (Churchill,) 3s. 6d.
 Allarton, George. A Treatise on Median Lithotomy, 12 mo., pp. 540, (Renshaw,) 5s. 6d.
 Fuller, H. W. On diseases of the Heart and Great Vessels, their pathology, physical diagnosis, symptoms, and treatment, 8 vo., pp. 250, (Churchill,) 7s. 6d.
 Graves, Robert J. Studies in Physiology and Medicine. Edited by Wm. Stokes, 8 vo., pp. 510, (Churchill,) 14s.
 Lupton, W. M. Chemical Tables for the separation of one Acid and one Base, Part 1, royal, 8 vo., (Bean,) 2s. 6d.
 Noad, H. M. A Manual of Chemical Analysis, qualitative and quantitative, Part 1. Qualitative, post 8 vo., pp. 220, (Reeve,) 6s.
 Robinson, Matthew. The New Family Herbal: comprising a familiar description of the virtues of English and foreign plants, with household receipts, &c., 18 mo., pp. 480, (Tegg,) 4s.
 Thompson, Henry. Practical Lithotomy and Lithotrity, or an inquiry into the best means of removing stone from the bladder, 8 vo., pp. 284, (Churchill,) 9s.

Medical works published in the United States during the past six months.

- Bauden's Milit. Hospitals of the Crimea. Ballière, \$1.25.
 Beasley, H., Drug. R. Bk. from 5th Lon. ed. Lin. & B., \$1.75.
 Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 12th edit. Lippincott, \$9.00.
 Bedford G. S., Dis. of women and children, 8 ed. W., \$3.50.
 Bedford G. S., Obstetrics, 3rd edit. Wood, N. Y., \$4.50.
 Bowditch J., Consumption in N. Eng. Ticknor, & F. Boston.
 Braithwaite's Retrospect, part 46. Townsend, N. Y., \$1.25.
 Brande & Taylor's, Chemistry. Blanc. & Lea. Phil., \$3.50.
 Cazeaux, P., Midwifery, 3rd Am. ex 6 Fr. ed. L. & B., \$4.50.
 Ellis' Diary of an Army Surgeon. Bradburn, N. Y.
 Hammond's Physiological Memoirs. Lip., \$2.00.
 Hamilton F. H., Fractures & D'tions, 2 ed. B. & L., \$4.75.
 Helmuth W. T., Diphtheria Homeopathic, St. Louis, \$1.25.
 Jacobi A., on Dentition. Ballière, N. Y., \$1.00.
 Lassing H., Popular Electricity. S. B. Smith, 20c.
 Macleod G. H., Surgery of the Cri. War. Lip. \$1.50.
 Meigs C. D., Obstetrics, 4th ed. Blanchard Lea, Phil. \$3.75.

New York Acad. of Medi. Bulletin of, vol. 1, Wood \$1.50.
 Packard Manual of Minor Surgery. Lippincott, \$1.50.
 Paine M., Institutes of Medicine, 7th ed., Harper, \$5.00.
 Simpson J. Y., Lect. on Women. Blanchard & Lea, \$3.00.
 Smith S., Surgical operations. Ballière, \$1.75.
 Smith, H. H., Surgery, 2 vols. Lippincott, Phil., \$12.00.
 Storer, F. H., Solub. of Chem. subst. pt. 1. Cambr., \$2.00.
 Tucker Medical Register of New York. Russell, N. Y.
 Virchow, Cellular Pathology. Dewitt, N. Y., \$4.00.
 Wilson E., Diseases of the skin. Blanchard & Lea, \$3.25.
 Wilson E., Atlas to ditto \$4.50; both combined, \$7.50.

Periodicals received since May 15th.

London Medical Times, up to 30th May. London Lancet, to 30th May. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal to 11th June. Phil. Medical and Surgical Reporter to 6th June. San Francisco Medical Press, April. Bulletin of N. Y. Academy of Med., Nos. 5 and 6. Buf. Medical and Surg. Journal, May. Chicago Medical Examiner, March and April. Chicago Medical Journal, May. Cincinnati Lancet and Observer, June. Cincinnati Medical and Surg. News, June. Ohio Med. and Surg. Journal, May. Phil. Medical News and Libr., June. London Chemist and Druggist, May 15. Am. Drug Circular, June. London Publishers' Circular, May 15th. Am. Publisher's Circular to 1st June. Phil. Dental Cosmos, June. Cincinnati Dental Register, April.

Books and Pamphlets received during the month.

The Medical Register of the United Kingdom for 1863.
 * On Diseases of the Skin, by Erasmus Wilson, F. R. S., 5th American from the 5th revised London edition. Beautifully illustrated with coloured engravings. Blanchard & Lea, Phil., 1863.

A Practical Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations, by F. H. Hamilton, M.D., Lt. Col. Medical Inspector, U.S.A. Professor of Military Surgery, &c., in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, &c., 2nd edition, illustrated with 285 wood cuts. Blanchard & Lea, Phil., 1863.

Obstetrics. The Science and the Art, by Charles D. Meigs, M. D., lately Professor of Midwifery, and diseases of women and children, in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, &c. 4th edition, revised with 129 illustrations. Blanchard & Lea, Phil., 1863.

Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry, by John E. Bowman, F.C.S., edited by Charles L. Bloxam, Professor of Practical Chemistry in King's College, London. 3rd Am. from 4th, and revised London edition, with illustrations. Blanchard & Lea, Phil., 1863.

Treatment of Fractures of long bones, by simple extension, also of fractures and dislocations, in and near the elbow, by John Swinburne, M.D., one of the Surgeons of the Albany City Hospital.

On Poisoning by Aconite, by J. Swinburne, M.D.
 On the effects produced by section of the carotids as illustrated in the Budge murder case, by the same author.

Remarks on Albumenuria as affecting pregnancy, parturition, and the puerperal state, by Dr. Fordyce Barker, of Bellevue Hospital, N. Y.

Subscriptions Paid since May 15th.

Dr. Chevreffs, Nicolet; Dr. R. A. Corbett, Perrytown; Dr. D. W. Longpré, Papineauville; Dr. G. D. Morton, Bradford; Dr. J. N. Bettes, Brighton; Dr. W. Allison, Bowmanville; Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool; Dr. L. Masson, Coteau Landing; Dr. F. Paré, Sherbrooke; Mr. W. Y. Archard, Bradford; Dr. G. A. Norris, Omemea; Dr. J. McMurray, Toronto; Dr. F. Mack, Niagara; Dr. DeDerky, Quebec; Dr. Ghent, St. Jacobs; Dr. H. W. Day, Trenton; Dr. P. J. Muter, Shakespeare; Mr. G. W. Deans, Trenton; Dr. H. Tagert, Vermont; Dr. G. B. Husband, Galt; Dr. J. T. Howard, St. Andrews; Mr. Kenneth Reid, & Mr. B. S. Barrett, Dr. P. Munro, Dr. E. T. Godfrey and Dr. H. Peltier, of Montreal; Dr. J. C. Noyes, Wisconsin; Mr. W. J. Pasmore, Rockwood.

MARRIED.

In this city, on the 9th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Bonar, Mr. Alexander Spence, to Jane Smith, eldest daughter of Dr. W. P. Smith, all of this city.

DEATH.

In Prescott, suddenly of heart disease, on the 29th ult. R. W. Evans, M.D., aged 47 years.

The Canada Lancet is published monthly at the rate of one dollar, (or four shillings sterling) per annum. Remittances may be made to W. E. Bowman, M.D., Editor and Proprietor, or to Mr. John Lovell.

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