

deglutition were also affected; he was ordered fifteen grains of chloral hydrate every second hour, and a purgative enema; pulse 125, temperature 101.7°. Next morning the trismus was less marked, pulse 120, temperature 100°; the iron-wire sutures were removed, the stump to be dressed with solution of chloral hydrate, and fifteen grains of the same to be given every fourth hour; liquid nourishment in the shape of broths and milk and stimulants in small quantities to be given frequently; care to be taken that the bowels are moved at least once daily; up to the 29th July the patient's condition remained much the same, the spasms being frequently very severe; taking food caused great pain, the jaws were never completely locked, and it was always possible to give nourishment by the mouth; respiration was much impeded at times, and the hawking up of very viscid mucus caused great distress; during this time the stump was healing kindly, and its pus was most laudable; the femoral ligature came away on the thirteenth day; from the 29th July to the 16th August the tetanic spasms continued, but were much less severe and frequent; the chloral hydrate was continued daily, being given at intervals proportionate to the frequency and severity of the paroxysms; the man was also on three or four occasions put gently under the influence of chloroform; at last on the 16th August tetanus had entirely disappeared, the stump had healed completely ten days before, and from this date the patient became better and stronger daily: he was allowed to return to his home quite recovered on the 9th of this month. Careful nursing and nourishing had no doubt a good deal to do with this man's recovery, but the value of the sedative action of the chloral hydrate was unquestionable; the length of time that the tetanus persisted is remarkable.

LABORIOUS LABOUR FROM IMPACTION OF THE HEAD; CRANIOTOMY: RECOVERY.

ON the evening of the 22nd July I was asked by one of the residents of the station to see her Masalchi's wife who had been in labour four days; the girl was a primipara about fifteen years of age. I found her lying, greatly exhausted, in a little shed in the compound with a native midwife in attendance; she was removed on a dooley to the dispensary close by; on examination I found a diminutive pelvis with the head of the child impacted at the outlet; it could not be pressed back nor could the finger be passed between it and the pubes; the labia were swollen, dry and glazed; the scalp tumour was very large and had no pulsation in it; all uterine action had ceased. I made a most careful stethoscopic examination and satisfied myself that the child was dead; this being so there was, fortunately, I being alone, no need for a consultation as to what should be done. It was utterly impossible to pass a catheter, the urethra was so compressed. About 9 o'clock the girl was put under chloroform and perforation was performed; three quarters of an hour after the head was born; I did not use the craniotomy forceps, but my fingers, to lessen the chance of injury; the shoulders followed very slowly, each arm was hooked down in turn, but as soon as the shoulders were born the rest of the body followed very quickly, and doing so caused a slight unavoidable laceration of the perineum. The uterus contracted firmly, expelling the placenta into the vagina from which it was removed after a short interval: the child was a large male: no hæmorrhage occurred; a binder was applied, and after remaining an hour I left the girl asleep; there was incontinence of urine for three days, when the bladder completely recovered its tone; there was also vaginitis and the labia sloughed in two places, but these were combated, and the girl discharged quite well on the 10th August. There can be no doubt that if she had been left to the tender mercies of the native midwife she would have died undelivered.

KHERRI, September 16th, 1874.

HOSPITAL OF 8TH BOMBAY N. I.

CASE OF STRYCHNIA POISONING.

By EDWARD SEXTON, M.D., Surgeon-Major, 8th Regiment B.N.I.

ABOUT 1 p.m., on the afternoon of the 8th of September, I was summoned to see one of the hospital servants, a Goorgah of H. M.'s 8th Bombay N. I., who, it was alleged, had poisoned himself.

On arriving at the hospital I found the would-be suicide lying on a cot in the medical ward, in a high state of excitement, and evidently suffering from very acute pain; his countenance wore an anxious expression, the pupils were slightly

contracted, the pulse high, the respiration hurried, and the whole body was bathed in a profuse sweat.

To my hurried inquiries I received a reply that the man had been found about noon lying in the hospital compound in a semi-unconscious state, and that after a little time he had confessed to swallowing fifteen grains of strychnia; the reason for so doing being that he was accused of carrying on a criminal intrigue with a married woman.

An emetic of sulphate of zinc had been administered by the Senior Hospital Assistant before my arrival, but this not having produced any effect, I ordered half a drachm of ipecacuanha and a grain of tartar emetic to be given without delay.

This was followed up by copious draughts of warm water, and had the desired effect of soon bringing on free emesis.

I confess to having felt at first somewhat sceptical as to the nature of the case before me; and did not readily believe that the patient had swallowed fifteen grains of strychnia, or indeed any other form of nux vomica, but any doubts I might have entertained were soon set at rest by the occurrence of violent and unmistakable spasmodic muscular action as soon as the emetics began to act.

All the voluntary muscles became perfectly rigid for a brief space, and respiration was for the time suspended.

The jaw was completely fixed, and the whole body stiffened and straightened out. The paroxysms having become more frequent and severe, I placed the patient under the influence of chloroform, and kept him in that condition for about an hour, but without causing complete anaesthesia; only one slight paroxysm occurred during the administration of the chloroform, and after its discontinuance the patient slept for nearly an hour.

The spasmodic twitchings then returned, but were less violent in their character and of shorter duration than before. In the evening the patient still complained of pain, but the violent convulsions had disappeared, and the administration of a draught composed of chloral hydrate and tincture of hyoseyamus ensured several hours of refreshing sleep.

Next morning the patient was free from all danger; although tonic spasm of the sphincter of the bladder rendered the employment of the catheter necessary; a day's rest in bed, and a dose of castor oil to relieve the bowels, completed the cure; and the patient was handed over to the civil authorities for trial on the third day.

In the foregoing case, notwithstanding the fact that the man declared he had obtained the strychnia from the regimental hospital, and had taken fifteen grains of the alkaloid, I am of opinion that the preparation swallowed was the powdered seeds of *Nux Vomica*, which is sold in the bazaars under the name of *Zahir Kutchla*.

My opinion is based—first, on the fact that all poisonous medicines and drugs are kept in a special press always locked, the key of which remains in the custody of the Senior Hospital Assistant, who avers it never left his possession on the day in question; in the second place, the phial containing the small amount of strychnia kept in the hospital seemed undisturbed, and its contents undiminished in quantity; and in the third place, I do not believe that the patient could have possibly survived after taking so large a dose as fifteen grains of strychnia.

In a case reported by Taylor, which occurred in October 1848, nine grains of strychnia were dispensed in a mixture by mistake in place of salicine; a part only of the mixture was taken, and patient died in less than two hours.

In conclusion, I would beg to observe that the open and undisguised sale of poisons in the bazaars throughout India, offering as it does a strong temptation to a population criminally disposed, is obviously a grave source of danger to the public at large, and it is high time that some restriction by legislative enactment should be placed in such a dangerous and pernicious traffic.

ALLYGURH DISPENSARY.

CASES OF HOSPITAL GANGRENE.

By RADAH NAUTH ROY, Assistant Surgeon, Allygurh.

THE fact that this disease spreads silently but rapidly in the wards of a hospital is well illustrated by the following instances which occurred recently in my dispensary. If there be a bad gangrenous sloughing sore in a ward, which is not properly ventilated, the probabilities of a similar process affecting adjacent cases and spreading to all the inmates of the ward if no precautions are adopted are strong; the progress of the disease in such circumstances is very swift.