

from the hospital to a room in a bungalow in a remarkably open and airy situation, and thus avoiding all the noxious influences almost necessarily present in a hospital. The stump was all along dressed with diluted Condy's solution, in the proportion of 2 ozs. to a pint of water, which, when the wound was suppurating, almost entirely destroyed all bad smell. Animal broth and wine or brandy were freely administered, and morphia given to allay irritation and cause sleep.

It is worthy of notice how easily the secondary hæmorrhage was stopped by acupressure with a common surgical needle (which I had in my pocket case), when I was unable to ligature the vessel, and not a drop of blood followed the removal of the needle, 48 hours afterwards. The stump united rapidly and well, and the man is now in better health than before the accident.

BURDWAN, Oct. 16th, 1866.

BILIARY COMA IN THE SIXTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY.

By A. C. KASTAGREE,

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEON, BURRISAU.

On the 24th September, at 4 p.m., I was called to see a female suffering with partial loss of sense and consciousness. On repairing to the spot, I found her as follows: a married Hindoo female, of tolerably fair complexion, aged about 20 years, short in stature and thick in build, lying on her bed, rolling about groaning, and uttering words expressive of suffering, with eyes closed. She was running six months in pregnancy. On enquiry, I was told that eight days since she was suffering with loss of appetite, yellowness of conjunctiva and urine, and complete alvine obstruction for six days continually; that from last night (the 23rd) she became insensible.

At my request she was called by her name, to which she returned no answer; but though devoid of consciousness, still she got up once in my presence to arrange her own clothes, and again got down from her cot to make water, as if by the instinctive impulse of habit, keeping her eyes closed all the while, but on both occasions she could not get to her bed again, and required to be helped.

On examining, I found her eyes perfectly yellow, urine yellow, body of natural temperature, with a yellowish tinge, pulse beating 85 per minute, rather weak, and pupils contracted; by auscultation I caught the fetal pulsation, but the uterine tumour was rather hard to the touch, and tilted up as she lay down.

The state of the os could not be ascertained, on account of her friends objecting to it.

Treatment.—Her head was shaved, and cold lotion applied with aspersion of cold water every two hours; a blister was put on the nape; an enema of castor oil and turpentine was thrown into the gut, but this brought out nothing except what fluid was injected; a dose of castor oil was therefore given by the mouth; this also failing to operate in due time, an emetic of ipecacuanha was then given with the object of emptying the biliary ducts of their contents by the forcible and inverted action of the stomach; this operated twice, after which 20 grains of calomel being put on the tongue, it was washed down by another dose of castor oil. The bowels acted this time twice, first bringing away some hard scybala, then a quantity of dark colored solid fæces, very offensive in smell.

Next morning (25th) patient swallowed a quantity of milk and sago, and opened her mouth at times for water, which was given her; on the whole, some improvement was observed on her head symptoms. At 11 a.m. painful uterine contractions commenced, and continued intermittingly, and every time patient, keeping her eyes closed, screamed out as if from insufferable pain, calling her mother, then at some days' journey from her, to help her. With the husband's consent I examined the os; it was high up at the brim near the sacrum, dilated so as to admit the tip of my index finger. Her skin was now perspiring, and she was every now and then changing position, and throwing her arms and legs about, calling for help, but never answering to questions; her pulse was also somewhat stronger.

Twelve leeches were ordered to be applied on her temples; but her friends not liking their application, and a quack koberaj, just in time, promising to cure her in a day or two, the leeches were not applied, and the patient was put under his care from 12 noon to 6 a.m. next morning; all this while heat was applied on her head by the application of warm ghee (clarified butter), by continual friction, and some pills, supposed to contain arsenic, were also given internally. This diametrically opposite treatment of the koberaj gave another and a fatal turn to her case; and the next morning the Civil Surgeon and myself being

called, we found her in a perfectly comatose state. Extremities stretched out and immoveable, eyes red, pupils dilated, lids half-open, pulse strong and incompressible, and breathing laborious, attended with a gurgling sound. Operative interference being now considered as a mere loss of time, cold water irrigation was at once ordered to the head, and 11 leeches (all that could be procured) were applied on both temples. Her extremities getting cold and pulse weaker in a short time, stimulant mixtures in small doses were given every hour. At 10 a.m. a dead fetus was expelled by the uterus, and after that patient became gradually worse, and expired at 6½ p.m. that evening.

REMARKS.

If the treatment I began was continued uninterruptedly, it is my belief that the patient would have recovered with the miscarriage; 2ndly, the patient would have recovered her senses if blood was taken from the temples on the 20th by means of the leeches; and 3rdly, the koberaj, by applying heat on her head for 13 hours continually, if he did not cause her death, at least hastened her dissolution. On these points I am glad to find the Civil Surgeon coinciding with my opinion.

CASE OF EXTRAORDINARY SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE ACTION OF STRYCHNIA.

By ADAM TAYLOR,

ASSISTANT-SURGEON, 1ST GOORKHA REGIMENT.

BEEROO CHUND, Sepoy of the 1st Goorkha Regiment, was admitted into hospital for the third time in Bhootan with malarial fever, which on the two former occasions was intermittent, but this time presented remittent symptoms.

He was treated without success for twenty days with attees, berberine, and quina in large doses. Lime juice was also given, as his gums showed slight symptoms of scurvy.

On the 15th of this month I gave him in addition to ten-grain doses of quina, $\frac{1}{20}$ th of a grain of strychnia three times a day. He took three doses—one at 8 a.m., one at noon, one at 6 p.m.; about 7 p.m. he felt pain and twitching in the middle of his left thigh; these sensations rapidly increased, and soon the whole leg became affected with cramp, which gradually extended up the abdominal muscles to the thorax and neck; when I saw him at 9 o'clock, he had trismus, severe cramps in the abdomen, back, and chest, so severe in the latter region that much distress was caused by dyspnoea. All the spasms commenced at the spot where the pain was first felt, and shot upwards to the neck or down to the foot, but they were confined almost entirely to the left side of the body. I gave him an emetic, and followed its action with 30 minim doses of chlorodyne.

The tetanic symptoms subsided as soon as the narcotic effect of the chlorodyne was established, but it was not until 36 hours had elapsed that they entirely disappeared.

The man had no splenic or hepatic disease. But his urine was slightly albuminous. There was no appearance of local disease in the thigh, nor had the limb ever sustained any injury.

The pills in which the strychnine was administered were most carefully prepared. Two grains, finely powdered, were rubbed up with two drs. of atta, and the mass divided into 40.

All the pills have been taken by different patients without producing any unpleasant symptoms, except in this case.

Though the strychnia produced thus markedly its effects, it had no curative power over the fever in this instance.

I apologize for relating so trifling a case, but I trust that the fact that, owing to some idiosyncrasy in the patient, even so minute a quantity as one-seventh grain of strychnia in divided doses may produce dangerous effects, without any warning, may be deemed of some interest.

With regard to the question of the administration of the alkaloid in fever, Waring mentions that nux vomica appears to possess considerable febrifuge power in intermittent fevers, and this statement is in an edition dated 1854.

BUXA, BHOOTAN, 17th November, 1866.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- O. C. D., UMRITSUR.—Will be published in our next.
 C. C. D. G., BURDWAN.—More trials suggested before this is brought forward.
 N. L. G., RAIPURE.—Kept over from want of space.
 N. D., KINIANPOOR.—The subject will be taken up.
 B. M. S., CALCUTTA.—Hardly of sufficient interest to publish.
 G. B., RAIPURE.—Ask any Medical man in your neighbourhood.
 U. C. K., BURRISAU.—On cholera, declined with thanks. Your case is of interest, but too imperfect for publication.
 S. C. C., MEDICAL COLLEGE.—Your letter is quite unfit for publication.
 R. L. D.—Your confused case cannot appear in our columns.