

Fig. 9.—Cell-like bodies, including brick-red molecular pigment. From *corpus luteum* of cow.

Fig. 10.—Coagulated fibrine with crystals, altered blood-corpuscles, and pigment. From human *corpus luteum*.

Fig. 11.—Granular matter, crystals and altered blood-corpuscles. From *corpus luteum* of cow.

Fig. 12.—Cell-like bodies, including brick-red molecular pigment and yellow oleaginous globules, along with fibre-cells, altered blood-corpuscles, and granules. From *corpus luteum* of sheep.

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ARTICLE IV.—*Case of Poisoning with Corrosive Sublimate.* By F. THOMSON, M.D., Perth, Visiting Surgeon to the City and County Infirmary.

ALEXANDER BROWN, æt. 50, a brassfounder, of intemperate habits, was admitted into the Perth Infirmary on the 9th of July last, at nine A.M. Complained of severe and constant pain in epigastrium, which was increased on pressure; also of intense thirst, and great difficulty in deglutition and respiration. He had vomiting and bloody diarrhœa before admission, but none since. The pulse was soft and regular, but feeble. Temperature of the body natural; intellect entire. He presented all the appearances of one suffering from profuse salivation. The face was much swelled, especially the lower part of it, as also the submaxillary region. The interior of the mouth had a gray sloughing appearance; and the tongue and mucous membrane were very much swelled. There were also patches here and there of a deep violet colour, interspersed with the gray sloughing. The lips were of a deep colour, and there constantly flowed from the mouth a considerable quantity of a yellowish coloured saliva.

On account of the great swelling of the tongue and mucous membrane of the mouth, the state of the fauces could not be ascertained. On his admission, he stated he had taken arsenic, but it was afterwards found that he had swallowed two drachms of corrosive sublimate the previous day, about breakfast time,—viz., about twenty-four hours before admission. The poison was taken in substance, by licking it up with his tongue.

According to his statement, it appeared that in a short time (the exact time he could not tell) after taking the poison, severe pain in the mouth and throat came on, accompanied by swelling of the mouth and fauces, which rendered respiration and deglutition difficult; also a constant burning sensation in the stomach, with paroxysms of pain, vomiting, and bloody diarrhœa.

Between four and five hours after having taken the poison, he was seen by the surgeon of the police, who applied the stomach-pump, and gave him some milk, not being aware at the time what the poison was. At this time he was found with the face swelled, as described above.

The treatment after admission consisted in the administration of the white of eggs and milk, with some anodyne and leeches to allay pain. About half-past one A.M., the day after admission, the house-surgeon was suddenly called to see him, but when he reached the ward, found he was dead. The nurse reported that he had not slept at all,—that the breathing had continued regular, and had not increased in difficulty till a few minutes before death.

*Sectio, 36 hours after death.*—The mouth, fauces, and superior part of the pharynx were much inflamed and swelled. They presented the same gray sloughing and violet-coloured appearances observed during life. The mucous membrane of the larynx was turgid and vascular. The stomach was of a bright red colour, but chiefly at the cardiac extremity. The mucous membrane of the duodenum, upper portion of the ileum, and various portions of the great intestines, were of a bright red colour. This appearance was most marked at the caput-cæcum and sigmoid flexure of the colon. The lungs were much congested, but crepitated on being cut into. The bronchial tubes were filled with frothy mucus; and the mucous membrane was highly injected; the liver, spleen, and kidneys were to all appearance healthy; the brain was not examined.

This case is a good example of the effects of corrosive sublimate in large doses. His having lived for nearly forty hours after having taken such a large quantity as two drachms, although no remedial measures were applied for several hours, may be accounted for by the poison being discharged by the early vomiting; and this was the more likely as it was taken in substance, and could scarcely have been all dissolved by the time the vomiting took place. It was quite evident, on admission to the Infirmary, that nothing could be done for him with any hope of cure. But notwithstanding the length of time which had elapsed from the period when he took the poison, he felt no small relief from the administration of the white of eggs.

It was not ascertained whether the flow of saliva observed in this case began when the swelling of the submaxillary region took place, or at a later period. There was no retention of urine.