**CASE IN WHICH A COMMUNICATION
APPEARS TO HAVE EXISTED
FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
BETWEEN THE STOMACH AND TRANSVERSE COLON
IN
A CHILD FIVE YEARS OLD.**

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**COMMUNICATED BY
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Martin W—, aged 5 years, one of a healthy family of eight children, residing in an open healthy place, was observed on the 10th of December to be not quite well. On the 13th an oval eruption appeared on the forearm along the ulna, of an oblong shape, slightly elevated, not very tender to the touch. On that and the two following days, several spots, of the same kind, appeared on the arms and legs; they ran the usual course of erythema nodosum, disappeared, like bruises, about the eighth day, and left the child languid and feeble, and without any appetite. The bowels having been at first freely moved by a dose of senna tea, and afterwards by three grains of calomel, he had on the 16th of December several small doses of quina, gr. $\frac{1}{4}$, with Dover's powder, gr. j. As he continued ill after the disappearance of the eruption, another medical man was consulted, on the 19th. He was then very languid and weak, somewhat feverish and anxious, having passed a restless night. He had taken some senna tea in the morning, which produced a large solid evacuation in the evening. He was ordered a mixture of castor oil and turpentine, one drachm of each

to a 4 oz. mixture, of which he was to take half an ounce every two hours, and under this the child seemed to improve for two or three days, but still continued languid, and took little or no food, and lost flesh. About the 24th another crop of eruption appeared, and took the same course as the first, leaving the child still weaker; there was also a spot, on the perineum, like purpura, and considerable œdema of the prepuce. On the 30th he had a dose of senna tea in the morning, and repeated at noon; this acted twice early in the evening, and four times in the night with considerable pain. Early in the morning of the 31st, he was attacked with violent pain in the belly, and vomiting. The pain and vomiting continued to come on at frequent intervals, and the child appeared in the greatest distress; and on the 3d of January he vomited a small quantity of very fetid liquid, having a smell like that of pus from an old indolent abscess, and a brown colour, like tea with very little milk in it; he also discharged by stool some of the same fluid tinged with blood. He continued to vomit this offensive fluid until the 5th, when it ceased, having become gradually less in quantity and less fetid. On the 5th he was able to take and retain some medicine, consisting of Castor Oil, Liq. Potassæ, and Tr. Opii, which acted upon the bowels on the following day, the motion being black and hard. The medicine was continued for the two or three following days, and the child improved in every respect, and was considered convalescent. The pain however continued to recur at frequent intervals, and the bowels were constipated. The castor oil mixture was given every morning, and tonics during the day, with no other relief than action of the bowels. The pain came at intervals, and appeared to be caused by flatulence, there being after and during each pain a loud rumbling noise, so loud as to be heard over a large room, and exactly like that caused by pouring liquid out of a narrow necked bottle; the child required the constant pressure of the nurse's hand. The medicine was given every day, sometimes varied with rhubarb and magnesia, until about the 1st of February; the symptoms during all this time having continued about

the same. The child was quite free from fever, and happy during the intervals of ease, which, however, were not of more than about twenty minutes' duration, day or night. The medicine only produced one motion daily, and that rather constipated than otherwise; and as it brought no relief from pain it was left off entirely, and no medicine whatever was given. In about three days the bowels acted, the fæces being hard and scybalous: for some days after this enemas of arrowroot and castor oil were injected, and the bowels soon began to act naturally, the stools being of good colour and consistence. On the 20th of February he was still suffering from frequent pains attended with the same rumbling noise; he was extremely emaciated and weak; the appetite was pretty good; and he enjoyed some animal food, and had two or three wine-glassfuls of table beer in the course of the day; the skin was cool, urine abundant and clear, and countenance placid, when he was free from pain; he slept six or eight hours out of the twenty-four, but was frequently disturbed by the pain, which did not appear to be increased or diminished by any kind of food. The abdomen was a good deal distended and resonant on percussion; it was often seen bulging out over the arch of the colon. Although the child took a sufficient quantity of food he gained no flesh, and was emaciated to the last degree; he lay continually on the sofa or bed, but could raise himself to the sitting posture without pain. On this day, 20th February, he vomited about a pint of thick fluid of a yellowish colour with an acid smell, it appeared to be food converted into chyme; the same thing had happened about every second day for some time before. After having vomited he was quite relieved, and much better for about forty-eight hours, until the sickness came on again. He went on in this way until the 10th of March, when diarrhœa came on, and he was relieved entirely from all pain and sickness; the bowels were moved as often as fifteen times during the day for the first five days, and for a considerable period six times daily, and the child improved rapidly; the appetite was almost voracious, and he slept comfortably at night: the child, however, did not gain flesh

and strength in proportion to the improvement in other respects, and the belly was still considerably enlarged. He, however, did improve gradually for about two months, and at the end of that period, viz., about the middle of May, his appetite began to fail, the bowels became torpid, and the child languid. About the beginning of June the bowels, not having been moved for two days, I gave him a draught of rhubarb and magnesia, which caused vomiting and a good deal of pain. The pain soon ceased, but the vomiting continued. The draught did not operate upon the bowels; and I observed that the matter he vomited was stercoraceous, of a light yellow colour, and semi-liquid. I felt no doubt at this time but that the vomiting had been stercoraceous in February, though the smell was not at that time so decidedly faecal as at this time. During the whole of June and July, the child continued much in the same state; he was free from pain; vomited about every second day; sometimes had an evacuation of the bowels, and in that case did not vomit; but if the bowels were not moved we were sure that he would vomit, and he did so, about every second day; before vomiting he was distressed and languid, but afterwards quite cheerful, and would call for food, which he seldom or never threw up. Aperient medicines invariably caused vomiting, and never acted upon the bowels. At the end of July the child appeared much worse in every respect; the abdomen was much distended, and the vomiting more frequent, while the bowels were moved more seldom, but he had no pain, and I should mention that he had none of the rumbling noise since the attack of diarrhoea in March. About the 27th of July I was induced to give him $\mathfrak{z}$ ss of castor oil, and the dose was repeated on the following day; it did not operate upon the bowels, but great pain and vomiting came on, and total loss of appetite; the child took no food from that time, and on the 2d of August died exhausted.

The body was examined on the 3d of August, seventeen hours after death, by myself and my assistants.

The body was extremely emaciated, the abdomen discoloured, of a greenish hue, resonant on percussion, excepting

at the hypogastric region ; it measured at the scrob. cordis 25 inches, and at the umbilicus $23\frac{1}{2}$.

On opening the abdomen, some turbid serum escaped. The colon seemed to occupy the whole cavity, and formed several coils ; its peritoneum injected, and in red patches, and mottled with dark ashy spots, and in some parts covered with a thin layer of lymph ; there was a small round opening as large as a pin's head at the fore part of the transverse arch. The colon was at least twice its natural size in diameter. The omentum was gorged with blood, and very dark. The stomach contained a small quantity of dark thick liquid, and seemed small. There was an adhesion between the transverse portion of the colon and the stomach, and an opening between them through which I could pass my finger easily from the stomach into the colon.

The small intestines were contracted very short, not being more than three feet in length, and empty.

The colon was filled with thick yellow liquid, like what the child vomited during life, and from which it could not be distinguished ; there were also some small hard lumps of fæces. The rectum was empty, the mucous membrane appeared everywhere healthy.

The liver was of its usual size, of a yellowish white colour when cut into, and rather hard, except at the left lobe, which was healthy ; on the right it adhered to the side of the abdomen.

The gall bladder was full of bile.

The spleen was small and very hard.

The kidneys were healthy.

The bladder contained about a teacupful of urine.

The pleuræ contained about an ounce of serum on each side, and there were considerable adhesions on the left.

The lungs and heart were healthy.