A CASE OF BRONCHOCELE.

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I AM induced to offer the following case to the notice of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, in the hope that it may not prove altogether unworthy of their attention, illustrating, as it does, the advantage to be obtained from the use of Iodine, as a remedy in the cure of Bronchocele.

In the summer of the year 1820, being resident during a few weeks in the country, I was consulted by the friends of a young lady, relative to a tumor in her neck, of which the following are the particulars,

Miss —, ætat. 19, tall of stature, with light blue eyes, fair hair, and transparent skin, and inheriting from her father a disposition to scrofula, has had for the last two years an enlargement of

the thyroid gland, which within the last three or four months has increased considerably, and at times occasions her a good deal of uneasiness, particularly when bending the chin towards the sternum, or in singing, and laughing, or upon using any considerable exertion. Both lobes of the gland are enlarged, the left rather more than the right, and upon the whole the size of the tumor may be compared to that of a moderate orange, flattened.

I directed eight leeches to be applied to the tumor twice a week, and prescribed fifteen grains of the carbonate of soda to be taken three times a day. My patient persisted in the application of the leeches, and in the use of the soda for three months, without any material alteration in the size of the tumor. At this time I again saw her, and finding her unwilling to persevere in so frequent an use of the leeches, I directed her to take a drachm of the burnt sponge three times a day, and to apply the leeches once in a fortnight. This she adhered to also for about three months, and upon my visiting her at that period, I found the tumor exactly the same in size, as when I first saw it. Wishing then to try the effect of friction, I ordered her some of the linimentum saponis, and directed a small quantity to be rubbed gently into the tumor for a quarter of an hour at each time, night and morning, and at the same time to continue the use of the burnt sponge. This plan she

readily submitted to, and it was steadily adopted for three or four months, but without at all diminishing the size of the tumor.

My patient now began to be tired of attempting any remedy, and I advised her to do nothing more than once in three or four weeks apply eight or ten leeches, hinting at the same time, that if it should at any time show a disposition to increase materially, she might have recourse to the passing of a seton through the tumor, as recommended by Dr. Quadri; though under the present circumstances of her case, I did not feel myself warranted in advising her then to undergo the operation.

Having been present at a meeting of this society last winter, when Dr. Roget read a letter from Dr. Coindet relative to the cure of some cases of Bronchocele by the use of Iodine, I determined to try it on the above patient; and in the latter part of the month of January of the present year, the tumor being somewhat increased in size, she began the use of it in the following proportions.—Potassæ Hydriodat. gr. xxxiv. Ceræ albæ ʒij. Adipis Suillæ ʒiiss M. the size of a garden bean, to be rubbed into the tumor night and morning, for ten minutes at each time.

She continued the use of this ointment for five weeks, during which time no pain had been produced in the tumor by its application, and at this

time I visited her, and upon measuring her neck, (I having measured it accurately, prior to the use of the Iodine,) I found it had diminished in its circumference three quarters of an inch. I then ordered her to persevere in the use of the ointment, increasing the proportion of Iodine from thirty-four, to forty-four grains, and directed her to abstain from its use, in case any inflammation should arise in the tumor. After using this ointment four or five times, the tumor became tense and painful, and the integuments inflamed; the use of the ointment was accordingly omitted, eight leeches were applied to the tumor, and a dose of the sulphate of magnesia was given to her: the inflammation was speedily abated, and in a week she resumed the use of the ointment; and as no pain was again produced, during its use, for several weeks, I again increased the proportion of Iodine to fifty grains, in which proportion she continued to use it, without any pain, until the latter part of July, when I had the satisfaction of finding, that the tumor on the left side had entirely disappeared, whilst that on the right side, was also very materially lessened.

Wishing then to try the internal exhibition of the medicine in conjunction with the external, I directed her to continue the use of the ointment, increasing the proportion of Iodine to fifty-six grains, and also to take twenty drops of the tincture of Iodine three times a day, in a glass of water.

As my patient resided some miles from London, I was prevented from seeing her again until the first of the present month, when I had the pleasure of finding her perfectly well, the tumor on both sides having entirely disappeared. She was unable to take the Iodine internally, so often as three times a day, in consequence of its having produced sickness, and pain in the stomach and intestines ; but she had continued to take it twice a day for about six weeks, and had taken it then once a day until I saw her, although she had discontinued the use of the ointment for more than a month, as the swelling had entirely subsided.

I am well aware that too much stress ought not to be laid on the successful issue of a solitary case, but as it is confirmatory of others similarly and successfully treated, I cannot but consider that Iodine is a most valuable remedy in a disease where so many different remedies have been tried, and found useless; particularly, as I have at this time a patient under my care suffering from a very considerable bronchocele, but which has very materially diminished under the use of this medicine, the result of which case I shall, at some future period, have the honor of relating to the Society.

*Grenville Street, Brunswick Square,
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