CASE
OF
INFLAMMATION
OF
THE ILIAC AND FEMORAL VEIN,
WITH AN ACCOUNT
OF
THE APPEARANCES AFTER DEATH.
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FRANCIS MERCHANT, æt. twenty-six, a journeyman printer of intemperate habits, was conceived to be labouring under pulmonary disease, which was accompanied with swelling of both ankles.

The swelling of the right ankle however gradually subsided, whilst that of the left, about a month previous to his decease, extended upwards, and increased, attended with pain about the ankle, calf of the leg, knee, ham, groin, and lower part of the abdomen. The pain in the knee was so con-

siderable, in the early stage, as particularly to engage the attention of the mistress of the house in which he lodged, who thought he must have hurt the knee. Together with these symptoms the whole limb became hotter than the other, and tender upon pressure.

When I first saw this patient on the 31st of October, a week before his death, I found him in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, having cough, purulent expectoration, diarrhoea and considerable emaciation. The whole of the left lower extremity was now enlarged to double its natural size, the swelling extending from the foot to the crural arch. Everywhere it pitted upon pressure, but it was no longer painful when touched, except at the groin, where uneasiness was still experienced.

The colour of the skin of the limb was whiter than natural, and presented an appearance perfectly similar to that observed in common anasarca. The subcutaneous veins above the ankle were distinctly marked, being distended with blood. The patient, who had lost all power of motion in the limb, died on the 8th of November.

On the following day Mr. Grainger examined the body, in the presence of Dr. Macann, several other gentlemen, and myself. An incision was made along the inner part of the thigh, commencing

at Poupart's ligament, and continuing below the knee. On exposing the vena saphæna major and its branches, these veins were observed very much distended; and being laid open, were found filled with coagulated blood, but there were no appearances of disease of their coats. The cellular tissue of the whole limb was very much infiltrated with a limpid fluid, a quantity of which escaped from the incision of the integuments. The lymphatic vessels were quite healthy; and the lymphatic glands in the groin were rather enlarged.

The deep-seated veins were next examined, and presented a similar appearance to that of the superficial veins; the femoral vein being tense, and filled with coagulated blood.

The dissection was continued so as to expose the left iliac veins. The trunk of the external and common iliac vessels were found even more distended than the femoral vein. The common iliac vein had an unnatural colour, approaching to a greenish hue; and it seemed as large as the inferior cava. The distension of this vessel suddenly terminated at that part where it is united with the right common iliac vein. The left internal iliac vein was filled with blood for about two inches of its course, and the rest of it appeared natural.

The femoral and iliac veins on the right side were nearly empty, and quite healthy in their appearance, forming a strong contrast, when com-

pared with the gorged and distended state of the veins on the left side.

On laying open the upper part of the femoral vein, as well as the external and common iliac veins, they were found filled with a coagulum, of much firmer consistence than is usually met with in healthy veins; and had much of the fibrous appearance of the blood which is found contained in aneurismal sacs. On separating this coagulum, a thin but distinct membranous layer was seen adherent to the internal coat of the vein, and it required some force to separate them. The femoral vein, which was examined as far down the limb as the triceps muscle, was found in the same condition.

The morbid appearances observed in this instance, were very similar to those which have been described by Dr. Davis, in his paper on Phlegmasia Dolens, inserted in the 12th volume of the Transactions of this Society. Had the subject of the disease been a woman, in the puerperal state, would it not have been considered phlegmasia dolens?

Morgagni, letter 56, art. 10, in treating of disease of the iliac veins, relates the case of a woman, whose left limb was œdematous; and upon examining the body after death, he found the left iliac vein filled with a coagulum, as he terms it, of a polypous nature, the canal being quite obliterated

by it. The crural vein was at least a third part narrower, and appeared to have been in that state for a considerable time.

I lately attended a woman, 63 years of age, the mother of a family, who, several months previous to my seeing her, was attacked with swelling and lancinating pain in the right foot, which extended upwards to the groin, where, as well as in the knee and in the calf of the leg, she experienced considerable pain.

On my first visiting this woman, on the 20th of December, I found the whole limb, from the foot to the hip, swelled to double its natural size, colourless, and pitting upon pressure. The urine was secreted in natural quantity. Cupping and blistering, in the course of the femoral vein, were had recourse to, which treatment was followed by a very considerable reduction in the swelling. A bandage was afterwards applied. The leg and thigh are now of their natural size, but remain without power; the foot is still slightly cedematous.

Argyll Street, February 26, 1827.