ACCOUNT OF A CASE
IN WHICH SOME
SINGULAR PRETERNATURAL APPEARANCES
WERE OBSERVED IN
THE OVARIUM AND FEMALE BLADDER.

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Read June 24, 1818.

THE subject of the following detail which I have the honour of submitting to the Society, was a lady, thirty years of age, of a fair and florid countenance, and remarkably well formed.

From early life, she had at different periods found a difficulty in passing her water, and various domestic remedies were had recourse to with occasional relief; but as these attacks were but slight and transient, and the general health remained undisturbed, this occurrence did not excite any apprehension in the minds of the patient or her friends as to its probable future consequences.

About two years ago, she was seized with evident symptoms of inflammation of the bladder, for which she was under the care of Mr. Pitman of Andover. Bleeding, both general and topical, were had recourse to, and carried to a considerable extent, and this, with a rigid perseverance in the antiphlogistic plan, and the frequent use of the warm bath, so far subdued the disease, that she was in two months enabled to resume her duties as mistress of a school.

Notwithstanding the relief which she had received from the above treatment, her mind now became deeply impressed with the idea that "she was troubled with the gravel, or that she had something in her bladder;" but her almost unconquerable dislike to be explicit with her medical attendants, led her to be communicative only to her own sex as to the particular nature of her sufferings.

As great uneasiness with considerable tumefaction were at times felt about the hypogastrium, and there was an increased difficulty of passing the water, she was prevailed on to go to town, where she consulted two gentlemen of high repute, who concurred in recommending her to take alterative doses of mercury combined with the extract of cicuta, and oleaginous draughts. She persevered in the use of these remedies for a considerable time without experiencing any permanent benefit,

when in August last she became afflicted with new symptoms of a more alarming nature.

It was in this stage of the disease, and on September 20th, that my advice was first requested. Upon inquiry, we were informed that the seat of pain had been for some weeks past transferred from the region of the bladder to the left side, and she was sensible of a considerable fulness in that part of the body; the functions of the bladder were performed regularly, and the urine secreted did not indicate any disease of that organ; the catamenia had been regular both in quantity and quality; the countenance was flushed, the pulse rapid but weak, and she had frequent rigors which were followed by profuse perspiration. The pain was severe and of long duration, and it was felt, as she described it, from the swelling in the left side, through the back, and occasionally down the inside of both thighs. I visited her several times before I could prevail upon her to allow either Mr. Pitman or myself to examine the swelling complained of, which point being gained, we discovered a large indurated tumor, somewhat oblong in form, extending from the situation of the spleen to the umbilicus.

From all the circumstances, I was led to suspect that the tumor consisted of a diseased ovarium, and in this opinion I was supported by Mr. Pitman.

It may not be improper here to remark, that though (as it will appear from the examination *post mortem*) there had been such extensive mischief going on in the bladder, probably for some years, yet upon the ovarium's taking on a morbid action, all the symptoms of the former disease were suspended, and continued to be so until the patient was released from her sufferings.

As it was obvious from the general appearances of this lady, and the history which had been collected of her long and concealed symptoms, that disease was fast approaching to a fatal termination, it would be superfluous to lay before the Society a particular detail of the remedies prescribed, which could be adopted with no other hope than that of soothing the last days of her existence.

The symptoms continued nearly unaltered until within a week of her dissolution, when the abdomen became uniformly tense and swelled, the breathing much interrupted, and an almost constant sense of suffocation led the unhappy patient to pray fervently for the termination of her accumulated miseries, which desired event took place on the 10th of November.

Dissection.

The body was opened fourteen hours after death, by Mr. Pitman, jun. a young surgeon of great

promise, and the following particulars were the result of the examination.

On opening the cavity of the abdomen, there escaped about two gallons of water mixed with blood. On the *left side* of the umbilical region, there was an ovarian tumor, rather larger than a human heart, the contents of which were a semi-fluid substance a good deal resembling in appearance clouted cream. In the middle of this cream-like substance was found a tuft of hair about the size of a hen's egg. The surface of the tumor was nearly covered by clusters of hydatids, beautifully transparent and connected like a bunch of grapes. On the broad ligament of the left side of the uterus, there arose a number of small white tumors of the size of common peas. The uterus itself was not diseased. The bladder was very much distended, or rather plugged up with a substance similar to that which was contained in the ovarian tumor, and here also was discovered another large tuft of hair. The coats of the bladder were very much indurated, and particularly the inner coat. The urethra appeared to have no direct communication with the bladder, at the under and posterior part of which there was attached a small cyst having the same cream-like substance before described and also a quantity of hair, and what is deserving of particular notice, there was a perfectly formed incisor tooth having the enamel, and its fang firmly attached to the coats of

the cyst*. This cyst or cavity had a communication with the bladder by means of three small foramina, and it communicated also with the urethra on the anterior part.

* The preparation exhibiting these appearances is deposited in the Museum of the College of Surgeons. On examining it more accurately, it was found that the tooth was imbedded in a portion of bone resembling an alveolar process.

Andover, December 1817.