evacuations should be inspected, in order to ascertain that no solid fæces remain, and to secure an empty rectum on the day of operation. An enema of water containing a little glycerine may with advantage be administered each morning. A digital examination of the rectum the day preceding the operation may prevent the unpleasant discovery at the last moment of an obstinate accumulation in the rectum, notwithstanding these precautions.

The lithotomy position for the patient during the operation, though perhaps the least delicate, is for the same reason the most convenient, as it permits what is most desirable—an unincumbered view of the parts to be dealt with; and further, it secures, when the hips are elevated and the thighs well flexed on the abdomen, a relaxation of the muscles likely to interfere with free manipulation. I have always found an ordinary dressing-table convenient for the patient to lie upon during the operation, and I prefer sitting on a low chair in front of the patient.

When the patient is in position, I generally commence by compressing a soft sponge about the size of an orange, and passing it six inches or more up the rectum; this precaution prevents the escape of liquid fæces during the operation; and it is hardly necessary to state that the sponge must not be forgotten at the completion of the operation. During the operation, sponges wrung out of spirit and water, one in six, will be found superior to water alone for purposes of clearing blood from the surface of the wound.

In operating on men, the hæmorrhoids must be hooked down with a finger, or secured by ring-forceps and withdrawn. Attempts to obtain a prolapse of the hæmorrhoid by the efforts of the patient, or the use of an enema previously to the administration of an anæsthetic, are undesirable and opposed to sound principles.

The advantages of the operation may be briefly summarised, by stating that the immediate and ultimate results are in every respect satisfactory; and my opinion with regard to the operation may be considered of more moment, when I state that I have had perhaps unusual opportunities of forming an unprejudiced opinion as to the comparative merits of the numerous operations that have been advocated for the removal of hæmorrhoids, and I have, I believe, given them each in turn an adequate and impartial trial.

Dupuytren, Sir Astley Cooper, and Sir Benjamin Brodie excised hæmorrhoids at the early part of this century; and, although Cooper and Brodie eventually abandoned excision in favour of the ligature, Dupuytren continued the practice to the end of his career. When we compare the dangers and difficulties attending excision before the advent of chloroform, the practice of dilating the sphincter, and the torsion of arteries, it is not difficult to understand a preference having been given to the more rapid ligature; but with all the modern aids to sound surgical practice at command, and time a secondary consideration, more precision and greater accuracy are demanded, in order to secure all the advantages which surgery is now capable of affording in this burdensome affliction.

ON THE TYPHOID FEVER AT CANNES.

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ARTICLES have appeared in several recent English journals on the subject of the prevalence of typhoid fever at Cannes during the present season; and, as these contain many inaccuracies and much exaggeration, it is right that the truth with regard to this favourite health-resort should be made known.

Although residing in Cannes, I have for some years retired from practice, and, being personally disinterested, I am requested by Dr. Frank, in the name of the English physicians practising in Cannes, to communicate to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL an exact statement of the principal facts of the case.

It may be well to premise that the present population of Cannes is estimated at 24,000, including 6,500 visitors, and 2,500 Piedmontese workmen.

Among the English visitors of Cannes, during the present season from October 1st to January 25th, there have been thirteen cases of typhoid fever and four deaths. In two of these, the malady had in all probability been contracted before the arrival in Cannes.

Among the French and other visitors or residents in the same time, as far as can be ascertained, there have been thirty-two cases of typhoid, with eight deaths, thus making a total of forty-five cases and twelve deaths, English and French. Of the deaths from typhoid one occurred in October, five in November, five in December, and one in January.

There has been no new case of the disease since January 12th, and of the convalescents, only four remain at present under treatment.

The mortality from other causes amounted to 229 during the same period.

On referring to the last season, we find that in the six months from October 1st, 1880, to March 31st, 1881, there were among the English five cases of typhoid fever, with one death. Among the French and others the exact number of cases has not been ascertained, but there were twelve deaths; and during the summer, from April 1st to September 30th, there were five more deaths, also among the French.

Although, therefore, it appears that there has been an increase in both the number of cases and the number of deaths during the present season, it has not been to such an amount as to justify serious alarm or to warrant the absurd reports which have gone abroad. The disease has now almost disappeared, and it is satisfactory to be able to state, as the unanimous opinion of all the physicians, that its origin has been traced to local causes, which may be, and in all probability will be, corrected and removed.

Dr. Frank informs me that among the English, the fever was distinctly of the typhoid or pythogenic type. In two cases the deaths were from intestinal hæmorrhage, one was from perforation of intestine. In two instances, there were two cases in the same house, and in one instance three; and the two were among those where the sanitary arrangements were most flagrantly in fault. Cesspools imperfectly emptied, and without any, or with faulty ventilation, under, or unduly close to the habitation, (in one case discharging effluvia into the larder) were the common evils discovered. Out of one cesspool, thirteen cart-loads of very offensive ordure were removed. Under such outrageous violation of all health-preserving rules, it is only wonderful that the results were not worse than they have proved; and there is no need to look further for the unhealthiness of Cannes, which is thus traced to evils which, we trust, will be promptly and thoroughly rectified.

The authorities are now fully alive to their responsibilities in this matter. On the representation of the Vice-Consul and some of the English residents, the Mayor immediately convened separate meetings of the English and French medical men, to discuss and give advice on the subject; and he expressed the determination of the council to do all in their power to carry the recommendations into effect. The Mayor, M. Gazagnaire, an enlightened and energetic man, is prepared further to get enacted stringent regulations for the prompt and safe removal of sewage; and to establish at the *Mairie* a permanent sanitary bureau to attend to all matters of public health.

The town of Cannes, like every other in the south of Europe, has no complete system of drainage; and although various plans have been proposed, and are still under consideration, there are great difficulties in the way of carrying them out. In the meantime, the plan of a cesspool to each habitation at a proper distance and depth, water-tight, yet with a high ventilating tube for the escape of pent-up gases—a punctual and complete emptying at fixed times—seems the plan best suited to the wants and habits of the country; and is far safer and more effectual than any partial system of drainage. The emptying process is safely effected once or twice a year; the sewage being conveyed, in steam vacuum carts, to gardens or other lands, where it should be buried or thoroughly mixed with the dry earth of the country, which completely deodorises it and renders it a fine fertiliser of the soil. Soil-pipes from water-closets to the cesspools must be carefully trapped, and made airtight; and ventilating tubes carried up to the roof of the house to permit the free escape of foul air.

The nuisances of Cannes and of all other towns in the south, and therein the causes of typhoid fever, are the too long retention of sewage, or its leakage under or near human habitation; and one of the most common and most pernicious is, where cesspools are allowed to discharge themselves into the *ruisseaux* or little brooks, one or more of which runs down each of the numerous valleys between the series of rocky hills, on which Cannes stands. These *ruisseaux* carry down the surface-water, and after rain are swollen into little torrents, which are used for washing, etc. The law strictly forbids their contamination by any discharge from cesspools. The present mayor has prevented much evil by strenuously enforcing this law. The leakage of cesspools into wells would be another fertile source of disease, were it not that now Cannes is so abundantly supplied with pure water from the Siagne Canal, that the old wells are little used.

With the exception of the cases of typhoid fever above enumerated, which in point of numbers cannot be considered formidable, taking into account the large increase of the population, the physicians of Cannes unanimously report the season to have been remarkably healthy. Four cases of scarlatina in one hotel, and three in one villa have also been reported; but almost all of the mildest character.