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NEW SERIES.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

CASE OF VASCULAR TUMOUR OF THE MEATUS URINARIUS, TREATED BY THE ACTUAL CAUTERY.

Under the care of G. B. MASFEN, Esq.

E. D., aged 35 years, married, but separated from her husband, a spare, but well made woman, of dark complexion, was admitted an in-patient of St. Mary's Hospital on the 13th of April, 1853. For the last four years she had been suffering from severe scalding pain in the vulva, intensely aggravated by making water. She had been under treatment more or less nearly the whole of that time; and had taken medicines internally, and had used injections, but without the least benefit. She had not been subjected to a vaginal examination, and appeared afraid of it, in consequence of the pain which the least interference with the parts gave her, and which had prevented her using the injection very regularly. The bowels were regular, appetite good; but the tongue was white and furred, skin harsh and dry, and the whole system was thoroughly emaciated. She had a trifling vaginal discharge, and the catamenia were regular.

On examining the vagina, a large vascular tumour was observed protruding from the orifice of the meatus urinarius. It was about the size of a small walnut ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter), of a bright scarlet colour, and of a granular fleshy appearance; the slightest touch caused it to bleed, and produced severe pain. It had dilated the orifice of the urethra to the size of a fourpenny piece. The patient was placed under the influence of chloroform for a more minute examination. I then found the hæmorrhage so excessive on the application of a probe, and the pedicle situated so far up the urethra, that no attempt could be made to remove it, either by scissors or ligature. I therefore determined to apply caustic; and the nitrate of silver was thoroughly applied to its whole surface every morning, the patient having been previously rendered insensible by chloroform.

April 23rd. No effect having been produced, potassa fusa was substituted for the nitrate of silver every morning.

April 28th. No visible diminution of the tumour having taken place, it was decided to effect its removal by the actual cautery.

The patient was placed completely under the influence of chloroform, and the tumour was extirpated by the actual cautery, in the presence of six of my colleagues. The operation occupied about an hour and a quarter, the irons being speedily cooled by the very watery nature of the tumour. She was perfectly insensible for an hour and a half, and took six drachms of chloroform. A pledget of wet lint was then placed in the vagina, and she was taken to bed. On emerging from the state of anæsthesia, she said she had felt no pain, and was not conscious that anything more had been done than the application of the caustic as usual, although she had given her consent to the operation. Ordered—

R Tr. opii $\mathfrak{m}\mathfrak{x}$; sp. amm. arom. $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{ss}$; aquæ $\mathfrak{z}\mathfrak{j}$. Fiat haust. statim sumend.

April 29th. Has had less pain and difficulty in making water since the operation, than she has had for three years.

May 13th. The slough has separated, leaving the orifice of the urethra undamaged, though still very much dilated, and no trace of the tumour remaining.

May 19th. The surface of the urethra has healed over, and the orifice is gradually contracting.

May 24th. Patient complains of a little difficulty of making water. The orifice of the urethra of the natural size, and still contracting. A sponge tent was inserted, the application of which did not give pain.

May 25th. The tent has come away this morning, having been in twenty-four hours.

May 27th. The parts appear perfectly healthy. She has no pain or difficulty in making water.

May 30th. Discharged cured, and left the house.

There has been little added to the pathology or treatment of this disease since the description of Sir C. M. Clark in 1821. I have thought this case worthy of notice, from the long time which was allowed to elapse before the nature of the case was discovered, and from the large size to which the tumour had consequently arrived; also because the treatment is, so far as I know, novel. The advantage of chloroform in such an operation is particularly evident, as without it the risk of injuring the normal structures would be so great as to render it almost, if not quite, impossible.

At the present date (November 1854), nineteen months after the operation, the patient has been entirely free from pain or any bad symptom. She has gained flesh, and is now actively engaged in her business, silk spinning; she describes herself as being "quite another woman."

Since writing the above, I am sorry to have to add that the disease has reappeared. The patient states that she remained perfectly well till March of the present year, when she first experienced a slight itching on making water; this has become scalding, and at last so severe that she was induced to apply for advice. There is now a similar tumour, the size of a dried pea, which I propose to remove in the same manner as before, but she is at present disinclined to submit. The great extent of the original tumour, and the large slough resulting from the operation, led me to expect this result, as it was difficult to be sure that the whole of the tumour, and the subjacent mucous membrane and cellular tissue, had been entirely removed.

Mr. Baker Brown, in his work on the *Diseases of Women admitting of Surgical Treatment*, says that he has heard of this mode of treatment, though he has never seen it tried.

Worcester Infirmary.

CASE OF HYSTERICAL PARALYSIS.

Under the care of Sir CHARLES HASTINGS, M.D., one of the Physicians to the Infirmary.

[Reported by Erlin Clarke, M.B., House-Surgeon.]

H. P., aged 16 years, a pale, delicate-looking girl, who had resided with her parents in the country, first became a patient of this Infirmary June 25th, 1853. She had never menstruated, and now presented herself for the relief of cough with hæmoptysis. The Union surgeon had looked upon the case as one of phthisis; but on careful examination, no physical evidence of that disease could be detected, and the cough and hæmoptysis soon yielded to ordinary