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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

treatment. She, however, complained of considerable tenderness and occasional pain in the region of the left ovary, and in this situation was observed the cicatrix of a recently closed ulcer; the girl stated that at intervals of a few weeks there was a profuse discharge of matter from this spot, and that a surgeon who had examined her some months previously had told her that the wound communicated with the uterus. While under our observation, however, the cicatrix remained firmly closed, and the amenorrhoea being the only apparent deviation from health, excepting the occasional passage of lumbrici, she was made an out-patient on the 30th July, and in a few weeks discontinued her attendance. It appears that shortly after this time she became subject to convulsive attacks, at first only slight, but afterwards increasing in severity, and putting on an epileptic character; these occurred usually about twice a-week; at times she soon recovered from their effect, but at others they left behind a degree of weakness in the left arm, and for a few hours an almost complete aphonia. There was still no appearance of menstruation, and October 14th, 1854, she was readmitted. She was now suffering from loss of power in the left leg and arm; she could not stand without support, and the leg was dragged after the body in walking. She could move the arm slightly, but not to any useful purpose; she still complained of uneasiness in the region of the left ovary, where there was a slight degree of fullness observed. While in the hospital she continued to have occasional attacks of convulsions, but they were not severe, and it was noticed that the left side of the body remained motionless. After one of these attacks she completely lost her voice, and this state continued for some days. During the whole of her illness she has never had any pain or uneasiness in the head, and the facial muscles have not been paralysed in the slightest degree; neither have the muscles of the affected limbs, although flaccid and relaxed, suffered materially in their nutrition: these facts, taken in connexion with the deranged state of the uterine functions led to the opinion that the hemiplegia was not the result of any organic cerebral disease, but rather a form, and a somewhat uncommon form, of that protean malady, hysteria.

She was accordingly treated on this supposition with tonics, as quinine, zinc, etc., with good diet, and for some days seemed to improve; she then passed a lumbricus, and a brisk purgative was given, which brought away two or three more, but was followed by an aggravation of the paralytic symptoms; she had now complete hemiplegia of the left side, with greatly diminished sensibility of the limbs, aphonia, and refused to swallow any nourishment. Strong beef-tea was administered in small quantities by the rectum, and in a few days she again began to take food by the mouth. The tonic remedies were resumed, but the right side of the body now began to be affected with loss of power and diminished sensibility. This increased till she was unable to feed herself, or to move in bed, and she lay thus for some weeks, taking but little notice of what was passing around her. During this time the muscles of the face and tongue were under perfect command of the will; the pulse, though feeble, was regular, and not above 90, and there was no degree of fever. Urine limpid, and passed occasionally in large quantity, and the appetite remained pretty good. For more than a month this state continued, then she appeared gradually to improve; she regained, in some degree, the power of moving the right arm and leg, and in January was put upon full doses of the carbonate of iron, with the use of galvanism, daily to the affected limbs; the improvement was from this time progressive, and she was discharged March 31st, 1855, able to walk about the ward with ease. She was sent into the country for change of air, and I have since learnt that she has much improved in her general health, though there is still some degree of weakness of the left arm and leg, and the catamenia have not yet appeared.

St. Mary's Hospital.

ALBUMINURIA OF PREGNANCY, AND ITS RELATION TO POST PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE.

Under the care of Dr. TYLER SMITH.

[Reported by H. Vernon, M.D., Resident Accoucheur.]

CASES of this kind are important, inasmuch as they are frequently met with in practice, and if detected early, are sometimes amenable to treatment; while, if allowed to run their course unchecked, they produce some of the gravest complications of the puerperal state.

CASE I. E. F., a single woman, presented herself at St. Mary's Hospital, as an out-patient, on the 22nd of October, complaining of difficulty of breathing, obstructed menstruation, and swelling of the legs. She had not menstruated for five months, but upon being questioned denied the existence of pregnancy. On examination, however, the gravid uterus could be felt as high as midway between the pubis and umbilicus, through the parietes of the abdomen, which were thin and flaccid, the mammary areola was dark and distinct, the placental bruit could be heard loudly at the left fundus, and the rapid pulsations of the fetal heart were distinctly audible. The urine, on being tested became semi-solid under the influence of heat and nitric acid. The nature of the case being evident and urgent, she was at once admitted as an in-patient.

The general condition was that of febrile excitement, the pulse rapid and hard, the skin hot and dry, and the tongue glazed and of a vivid red colour. She complained much of headache and insomnia. The bowels had been for some days constipated, and the urine, in addition to its albuminous character, was very scanty, of high specific gravity (1020), strongly acid, and loaded with urates. The urine was examined by the microscope, but no indications of any organic renal disease were found. The feet and legs were largely oedematous, as high as the knee, the following being the measurement taken at the time. Round the calf the girth was fifteen inches, the ankle eleven inches, and the foot, over the instep, ten inches. During the first twenty-four hours after her admission she passed, by measurement, ten ounces of urine only, the specific gravity being as high as 1032. She was, in the first instance, purged freely by the compound jalap powder, and began to take the following mixture on the 23rd of October:—

R Potass. acet. ʒij; ol. juniperi mxx; spir. æth. nit. ʒiij; infusi scoparii ad ʒxii. M. Cap. ʒiss ter die.

The bowels were so obstinate that she required drachm doses of the compound jalap powder every night to produce anything like free evacuations. A good deal of fluid was in this way obtained from the bowels, but the kidneys continued to secrete very scantily, and the quantity of albumen did not diminish.

October 25th. The pulse continuing hard and frequent, and there being pain and weight in the lumbar region, four ounces of blood were taken by cupping. She was also ordered a warm bath at night, with a view to its diaphoretic effect. The cupping relieved the pain in a marked degree, and the urine now increased to a pint in the twenty-four hours, the fluid evacuations from the bowels being also considerable.

October 28th. The bowels more readily obeyed the action of the purgatives, and the dose of compound jalap powder was diminished to half a drachm.

October 29th. The lumbar pain having returned, she was again cupped to four ounces, and six minims of the tincture of digitalis were added to each dose of the diuretic mixture.

October 31st. Specific gravity of the urine 1008, and considerably increased in quantity; it was pale, and but faintly acid. The albumen had very much diminished in quantity, and the general febrile condition had considerably abated. The amount of water passed in twenty-four hours now reached thirty ounces.