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Hospital Reports.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

POISONING BY CHLOROFORM TAKEN INTERNALLY: RECOVERY.

By T. HOLMES, Esq., Surgical-Registrar to the Hospital.

THE following case forms, I believe, the second in which a poisonous effect has been produced by the exhibition of chloroform internally. The other may be found in one of the volumes of the *Medical Gazette*, but I have not been successful in verifying the reference. It occurred at Sheffield, about six years ago. The probability of a recurrence of this accident, from the extended use of the drug, and the custom, which is now so prevalent, of persons keeping it for their own use, render it a matter of interest to record the effects produced by a large dose; and I have therefore to lay before your readers the following account of an accident, which occurred a few days ago in St. George's Hospital.

CASE. H. P., a young man of dissipated habits, was admitted some time since, under the care of Mr. Hawkins, on account of extensive warty growths in the groin. He had been suffering lately from pain and want of sleep; and the accident, which nearly cost him his life, originated in his anxiety to relieve himself from this latter inconvenience. It appeared that he had been some time since in a military hospital, where he had had something to do with the dispensing department. Here he had managed to secrete a four-ounce bottle of chloroform, which he carried away with him; having previously been in the habit of helping himself to that drug and inhaling it, to relieve the irritation of the disease from which he was suffering. On the evening in question (August 12th), he began to inhale the chloroform by removing the stopper from the bottle and holding it to his nose; but, as this did not produce the desired result, he drank off the whole remaining contents of the bottle. The latter had been full, or nearly so, when he first removed the stopper; it was a well stoppered bottle, provided with a ground glass stopper, so that the chloroform had been preserved from evaporation; and it seemed, from the testimony of the patients who were near him, and saw him swallow the drug, that the bottle was nearly full. The quantity swallowed, therefore, may be taken to be not less than three and a half ounces. He immediately displayed symptoms of violent intoxication, and under these circumstances, Mr. Gunning, the acting assistant-apothecary, was sent for, and arrived a few minutes after he had swallowed the chloroform. He found the patient vomiting violently, and in a state of wild excitement—so exactly resembling a man in a state of intoxication, that he had some suspicion as to the correctness of the story. The patient was persuaded to lie on his bed, and immediately passed into a state of profound insensibility. The stomach pump was now put into requisition, and the nature of the fluid evacuated, which smelt strongly of chloroform, left no doubt as to the cause of the intoxication. There were no convulsions, except that a constant hiccup showed con-

vulsive action of the diaphragm. The pulse was frequent, weak, and jerking. The pupils varied in their condition, being sometimes observed dilated, and at others contracted. The breathing soon became slightly stertorous. Various measures were tried to awaken him, viz., galvanism to the region of the diaphragm, cold affusion, shaking, etc., but without avail. Mr. Gunning remained with him for six hours (viz., from ten P.M. to four A.M.), during which his condition did not seem to vary perceptibly. He awoke at seven A.M., after an insensibility of nine hours, and was kept awake by the measures usually adopted for persons labouring from the effects of narcotic poisons. Strong coffee was given, and produced sickness. A full dose of calomel and senna was also administered. He suffered much that day from sickness and pain in the stomach.

August 14th. The sickness still continues after any food. He also complains of soreness and pain in the region of the stomach. No other symptoms. Mustard poultices to the region of the stomach.

August 16th. To-day he has kept down a small quantity of food. This seems the first food which he has kept down since the accident.

After this he recovered rapidly.

LINCOLN COUNTY HOSPITAL.

CASE OF TAPEWORM CURED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHEREAL OIL OF MALE FERN.

By T. SYMPSON, Esq., Surgeon to the Hospital.

J. F., aged 27 years, applied as a casual patient at the Lincoln County Hospital, on July 18th, 1851. He was then complaining of burning and gnawing pains referred to the abdomen, epigastrium, left breast, the head, and along the course of the spine, which were more or less relieved by the action of the bowels. There was great sense of lassitude, nausea, and anorexia. He was much emaciated; the countenance was sunken; tongue coated with a white fur; bowels relaxed three or four times daily; pulse 80, small, feeble, regular; urine copious, clear.

He stated that he was a Pole, born in the province of Warsaw, and that he quitted his native country seven years ago, in consequence of being engaged in some political disturbance, and came to England, where he took up the trade of a glazier. He had been about four years in Lincoln. He said that in childhood he frequently passed round worms; and about six months after his arrival in England, he parted with twenty feet of tapeworm, since which he had been continually voiding portions, and had been losing flesh. He was ordered to take two drachms of Hooper's ethereal oil of male fern immediately, in a wine-glassful of milk.

About three hours after taking the medicine, he brought me a large portion of the worm; and two hours after that, another portion, to which the head was connected—the two measuring eleven feet six inches, and presenting a good specimen of the *Bothriocephalus latus*.

He subsequently took a few doses of quinine, and has ever since enjoyed perfect health.

The complete cure, the character of the worm, and the finding of its head, render this case more than ordinarily interesting.