neutral salts; but as no harm, at least, has resulted from its employment, and as something will reasonably be expected to be done, it will be right to give nitre, combined with the compound powder of tragacanth.

By this gentle treatment the first species of gonorrhœa will generally be cured in from five to eight weeks, although it would seem that little more is done than removing impediments to a natural cure.

(To be continued.)

FOREIGN BODY IMPACTED IN THE UTERUS.

By WILLIAM BUSH, Esq.

Senior Surgeon to the Bath Ear and Eye Infirmary, and to the Eastern Dispensary of Bath.

In the report of the Birmingham Pathological Society, recorded in the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal* of May 31st, I remarked a case by Dr. Fletcher, of a foreign body—a wooden skewer, an inch in length—having found its way into the rectum, the presence of which the patient could not explain. Having just previously met with a case of a foreign body thrust into the uterus, I am induced to make it public, believing it may be read with some interest by many of the profession.

On the 8th of May last I was requested to see professionally, a French lady, about 60 years of age, visiting this city. On enquiry, I found that she had been suffering from a leucorrhœal discharge for some years, arising, as she had been informed by her French medical attendant, from a tumour in the uterus, (which, however, on examination, I could not detect,) for which she was frequently in the habit of injecting water (or endeavouring to do so,) into the uterus, by means of a common metallic apparatus. Finding, however, that the tube of the instrument, in her opinion, was not sufficiently long to reach the womb, her ingenuity contrived to invaginate the metallic tube within a piece of an elastic one. On using, in the morning, this home-made apparatus, she found that it answered the purpose intended of entering the womb, but on removing the metallic instrument, she perceived, to her dismay, that the elastic tube (three inches in length,) was left behind. She immediately attempted to remove it, but her efforts to effect this only served to thrust it still further into the uterus, and under these circumstances I was sent for. On examination by the speculum vaginæ, I found that the os uteri and neck of the uterus were extraordinarily flaccid, and the former as wide open as if she had been recently confined. The tube was lying *within* and *directly across*, the dilated womb; little difficulty, however, was found, in extricating it from its perilous position.

Remarks.—This case is not given as affording any particular analogy to Dr. Fletcher's, still I cannot but consider it may throw some light upon the manner in which the piece of skewer found its way into the rectum, for it is scarcely possible to suppose a piece of wood of the size mentioned being swallowed without being known to the patient, either in the act

of mastication or otherwise. The above case points out the injurious consequences of introducing injections into the womb; its flaccid and dilated condition and its discharge might be attributed to the remedy in which she was persisting. If injections are used, they should be used alone to the vagina; and if this case is a sample of the method adopted in France for leucorrhœal discharges, &c., no wonder that we hear of simple ulceration of the neck of the uterus being so common a disease there. My friend, Dr. Samuel Edwards, late of this city, has long believed from his experience, that mechanical violence is not unfrequently the cause of this disease in virgins, and those who have not borne children.

In conclusion, may not the frequent injections resorted to by the French throw some light on the fact, (which is, I believe, proverbial,) that women rarely have more than two or three children in that country? On mentioning the particulars of the above case to a medical friend of, mine to-day, he stated, from what he had heard, that the last-named circumstance might be accounted for by their resorting to mechanical means to prevent conception from taking place. How far this may be the case, I will leave for others to determine.

28, Gay Street, Bath.

June 8, 1848.

POISONING BY FOWLER'S SOLUTION: ABORTION: MORTAL FAINTING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

If you think that the annexed case of fatal poisoning by arsenic, besides being remarkable for the minute quantity taken, presents also some points of medico-legal interest, will you obligingly allow it a place in your Journal.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY T. CASTLE, M.D., (Edin.)

Leeds, June, 1848.

H. T——, a widow, being reported to have died suddenly from poison administered to her by a man with whom she cohabited, a legal examination was deemed requisite.

Fifty hours after death the body presented the following appearances:—Under parts of the body generally discoloured, from cadaveric extravasation; extremities of the fingers blue; abdomen tense. On opening the abdomen the stomach and intestines were seen distended with gas; inflammation of the former and of the small intestines was at once detected through their coats, and on exposing their mucous surface it was found to be general and intense. At the cardiac extremity of the stomach, and towards the lesser arch, several patches were seen of a deeper tint than the surrounding inflammation. Passing the colon the inflammation re-appeared in the rectum, which had apparently suffered in an equal degree with the stomach.