improved, the urine has for some days been voided naturally, the pulse is 100 in a minute.

March 6th. All mucous discharge has ceased. By the use of the speculum I ascertain the vagina to be healthy, and can observe the part corresponding to the os uteri, a transverse slit, flat at its edges, without any remaining ulcer.

On the 11th of March the patient sat up, and after the 14th came down stairs daily, occupying herself moderately in her domestic affairs. By the 20th she was restored to as good health as usual. A sponge pessary was worn for some weeks.

It is now sixteen months since the operation; no menstrual loss has appeared, but she has performed conjugal duties without inconvenience, and enjoyed as good health as was usual before being deprived of the uterine organ, a part of the female system whose essential functions have reference naturally to only a portion of the possessor's life, and the absence of which, when once safely accomplished, can be borne without any detriment to health, or abbreviation of the duration of her existence.

HYDROPATHY.—FATAL CASE AT A COLD-WATER ESTABLISHMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

Will you do me the favour to insert the following case in the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal. The circumstances attendant upon its termination, have excited a great degree of interest in this neighbourhood.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. GARLICK.

Leeds, June 4, 1844.

Mr. William Waite, of Leeds, aged 59 years, by trade a joiner and cabinet-maker, consulted me about ten years ago for what I considered a disease of the stomach. Strict attention to diet, local depletion, counter-irritants, with appropriate medical treatment, afforded him complete relief.

In the year 1840, he had a fresh attack, in an aggravated form, which resisted various means employed to subdue it. By the joint recommendation of Dr. Williamson and myself, he crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel, April, 1841, and after an absence of three or four months, returned home surprisingly improved in health, and so entirely relieved of all pain, sickness, and vomiting, as to consider himself well.

He continued to feel quite well up to March last, and on the 23rd of that month he again consulted me. He said that he had been suffering pain for many days in the epigastrium, extending from the anterior abdominal parietes a little to the right of the median line, quite through to the back, and prolonged thence into the right hypochondriac region.

He complained of a distressing sensation of heat at the part, and some degree of acidity of the stomach. Frequent vomiting at uncertain intervals, and sometimes occurring very suddenly was a strongly marked symptom. The pain uniformly came on about an hour

and a half after taking food, and would continue severe for about two hours, when it would leave him, and he would remain easy till a fresh supply of food was introduced into the stomach. If the vomiting happened to occur when the pain was most severe, it would afford him instant relief. Immense accumulations of flatus in the stomach and bowels distressed him much. The bowels were very irregular in their action, sometimes constipated, sometimes in a loose state. There was tenderness on pressing on the epigastric region in one particular spot, but I could not discover induration. He was emaciating and looking ill.

From these symptoms, precisely analogous to those which existed in the former attacks, I had too much reason to fear a protracted illness, and perhaps ultimately a fatal termination. Knowing my patient to be a very intelligent man, I took some pains to explain to him the opinion that I had formed of the nature of the disease under which he was suffering, and the precise part of the stomach which I believed to be more especially affected by it, the pyloric extremity.

After pursuing the plan of treatment which I recommended to him, for about a fortnight, he was persuaded to go to Ilkley, a village, sixteen miles from Leeds, where a cold-water establishment has recently been set up, and place himself under the care of its medical superintendent, Dr. Rischaneck. The opinion which Dr. R. thought fit to give to Mr. Waite, is emphatically expressed in the following extract from a letter which he wrote to his wife on the 19th of April:—"Dr. R. says it is the liver that is affected, and *not* the *stomach* and bowels, only as they are affected by the liver; and he speaks with the greatest confidence that in a little time I shall be better."

The treatment adopted at Ilkley, is so graphically described by Mr. Waite himself, that I cannot do better than again quote his own words. In a letter dated May 7th, he says, "I must now tell you what I am doing. At half-past five the man comes into my bedroom with a cold wet sheet, and I get out and strip, while he turns the bed and bed-cloths back, and spreads a blanket on the mattress, then the wet sheet. I lay down upon it on my back, and he wraps me up in it; he then wraps the blanket very tight round me, and pulls the bed and bed-cloths upon me, and tucks them in round my breast, and leaves me for one hour. He then comes with two buckets of cold water, and takes me out to the side of the bath. He takes off the blanket and sheet. I first wet my head, then sit down in the water; the man washes and rubs me behind, and I the front; and rubbed dry with a dry sheet. Dress; take a pint and a half of cold water; walk half an hour; then breakfast on half a pint of new milk, with a little water, and a little bread and butter. At 11 o'clock, a sit bath—a pint of cold water—walk half an hour. Dine at twelve, on a small bit of mutton and a little rice pudding. At five, I have sheet bath—that is, the man takes a cold wet sheet and flings it over my head. He rubs the back, and I rub the front, from top to the bottom. He then changes for a dry sheet, and we rub from top to bottom. I take a pint of cold water—walk half an hour—then supper, same as breakfast.

"But I have forgot to say that I have a bandage three times round my body that is wet one yard, and two yards dry. This is fresh wet every time I have a bath, that is, three times a day. Now I have given you a

fair account of my work every day; and this will be done until I come home. When I was about to leave the doctor on Saturday, I asked him how soon he thought I should be ready to return. He thinks I shall be ready in three or four weeks from to-day, Tuesday, May 7th."

On Wednesday, May 8th, Mr. Waite writes, "I think I may now say that I am in a fair way of recovery, according to the doctor's account, and I hope he is correct."

On Thursday, May 9th, Mr. Waite became suddenly worse. Excruciating pain in the body, continuing for upwards of twenty-four hours, exhausted the powers of life, and he died on Friday night, May 10th.

Sectio Cadaveris.—I had an opportunity of examining the body of Mr. Waite, on Tuesday morning, seven a.m., May 14th, in the presence of Dr. Hobson, Dr. Drennan, Mr. Atkinson, surgeon dentist,* Mr. York, Mr. Holwell, and two friends of the deceased.

Before describing the appearances that were met with, it may not be improper for me here to say that in a conversation which I had with Mr. Hey, surgeon to the Leeds Infirmary, on the preceding evening, on the subject of this case, I stated to him that I expected to find peritonitis with perforation of the stomach. The same statement was made to my assistant, Mr. Holwell. And now to proceed with the morbid appearances.

On opening the cavity of the abdomen, the most marked evidence of very extensive peritonitis immediately struck the eye, and a perforation capable of admitting the point of the little finger, situate in the anterior wall of the stomach, on its small curvature, and at its pyloric extremity, was distinctly visible before the viscera were disturbed.

A large quantity of fluid was found in the general peritoneal bag, evidently the contents of the stomach which had escaped through the perforation. The stomach was empty. An incision, extending along the large curvature, exposed the inner surface of the stomach, and brought into view three distinct ulcers at its pyloric extremity; each of a size larger than a kidney bean; each presenting, round, smooth, well-defined, elevated edges; and each differing from the others in the progress of the ulcerative stage. In one of them, the mucous membrane only was destroyed; in a second, the ulceration had extended through the mucous coat and the muscular coat, leaving only the peritoneal coat entire; while in the third, the peritoneal coat was also destroyed, and the perforation rendered complete. The whole of the mucous membrane of the stomach was much thickened, but more especially that part of it immediately surrounding the ulcers.

The liver was of a very dark chocolate colour, apparently the result of congestion, inasmuch as its structure did not appear to be morbid. There was not the slightest appearance of abscess,† and there was no other abnormal condition of the body.

Having been asked whether the ulcers, situated in the walls of the stomach, would have proved fatal under any mode of treatment, and if so, whether the

fatal result had been accelerated by the water treatment; I think it right to say that an account of the appearances after death, together with the following written opinion, signed by Dr. Hobson, Dr. Drennan, and myself, has been given to the friends of the deceased, and to the supporters of the water establishment.

"We feel ourselves called upon to state that the morbid condition of the stomach, which has been described in the above account of the post-mortem examination, would, in all human probability, at some time have proved fatal under any mode of treatment; but we are of opinion that its progress might have been retarded, and the life of the patient prolonged, by judicious treatment.

"On the other hand, it is our conviction that the hydropathic treatment would contribute materially to accelerate the progress of that ulceration which, by perforating the coats of the stomach, gave rise to the acute peritonitis which proved so rapidly fatal."

ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF COLD WATER AND THE ERGOT OF RYE IN THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

Midwifery ought to be considered, not only by every member of the profession, but by every member of the community, as the most important branch of the healing art; for by it more lives are saved, and sufferings shortened, and more deplorable consequences averted, than by any other. Any one who thinks otherwise, must, on a calm view of the subject, be impressed with the same opinion. The number of infants who are mutilated, murdered, or consigned to the grave when death is only apparent; and that of the mothers who are kept lingering in agonies, suffered to expire, lacerated, and made cripples or loathsome for life, by ignorant, meddling pretenders to the almost divine art of scientific midwifery, surpasses credulity.

These observations are occasioned by Dr. Toogood's paper, "On the Practice of Midwifery, with Remarks," in your number of May 22d; and, as whatever issues from his pen is entitled to the highest respect, it seems desirable to me to raise from the mire into which he has almost consigned them, two of the most important and influential agents in the good work—cold water and ergot of rye.

It may not be amiss here to state my qualification for the task; and as he and I are sailing in the same ship, on a voyage of discovery, for the improvement of the obstetric art, I presume he will hail me as a worthy ship-mate. It is now nearly half a century (upwards of forty-eight years) since I had my first case of midwifery; and, with the exception of four years and a half spent in London, this has been the field of my labour.

I will not follow the doctor through the whole of his paper, though I should be tempted to do so, if time and better ability permitted, but confine myself chiefly to the use of cold water for uterine hæmorrhage,

* Mr. Atkinson is an active supporter of the water establishment.

† The widow of the deceased has been informed that Dr. R. has stated that her husband died from Abscess.