COMPLETE EXTIRPATION OF THE UTERUS BY LIGATURE, AFTER CHRONIC INVER- SION OF THE ORGAN.

By. Dr. JOHN M. ESSELMAN.

A lady, 32 years of age, married fourteen years, had been in bad health ever since the birth of her first and only child, twelve years previously to Dr. Esselman being consulted. She had been attended in her confinement by an old woman; her labour was a protracted and painful one; she had flooded profusely; and was very ill for several weeks after her confinement. After she was able to leave her bed and walk about the house, she was much annoyed by "bearing-down pains," as she called them, in the region of the womb, extending up in the direction of the lateral ligaments of that organ. She had also suffered much from pain and weakness of the back, and from pain and a numb sensation down the inner portion of the thighs, and had been a prey to fluor albus ever since she had left her bed of confinement, with the exception of her catamenial periods, which are very irregular. The secretion was often very profuse, indeed, so alarmingly that she would be confined to her bed for weeks at a time, had to consult physicians, take medicine to check the hæmorrhage, &c.; then she would be put on the use of tonics, to strengthen her system, as well as to correct the fluor albus. At length she was advised by her physicians that she was labouring under prolapsus of the womb, and underwent the routine of treatment in such cases; but all to no effect, except the relief she invariably obtained from the horizontal position.

Disheartened by the little relief she received, she went to Nashville, where she consulted a distinguished practitioner, who diagnosticated a polypus, and he applied a ligature, which was productive of such alarming symptoms that he removed it. Various other medical men were consulted, but without relief being afforded.

When Dr. Esselman was consulted, he found her in a deplorable situation: she was labouring under hectic fever, had profuse night sweats, hacking cough, and all the symptoms indicative of a rapid decline; on examination, he found a tumour occupying the vagina, about the size of a large pear, and answering in every respect the description usually given of a polypus. The vagina itself was very irritable and much ulcerated, so that it was impossible to make a very minute or satisfactory examination. However, from the history of the case, and the opinion of other medical men who had examined it previous to himself, in some of whom he had the utmost confidence, he concurred with them in the opinion that it was a polypus. But being at that time a young practitioner, having been but two years in the profession, he requested that some other physician should be called in to assist him in the operation. An intelligent practitioner was accordingly called in, who took the same view of the case; and, after a few days of preparatory treatment, a ligature of saddler's silk, well twisted and waxed, was applied; a full dose of camphor, laudanum, and hartshorn having been administered two hours previously. The tightening of the ligature gave great pain, and the dose of camphor, laudanum, and hartshorn, was repeated. For the first four or five hours she was very much prostrated, and her pulse sunk to a mere thread: she,

however, then became composed, reaction took place, and she rested tolerably well the first night. The ligature was tightened every morning for eighteen days, at which time it came away, and to the surprise of her physician, instead of a polypus, the tumour proved to be the uterus itself, which was much reduced in size by ulceration and strangulation. The vagina was much ulcerated, and emitted a very offensive sanious discharge, for which frequent injections of a solution of chloride of lime were ordered, and a solution of nitrate of silver was applied to the ulcers. The general system was sustained by tonics, such as the muriated tincture of iron, phosphate of iron, quinine, &c., and a generous diet, when the absence of febrile excitement would admit of it. She was a long while recovering, and did not leave her bed for months after the operation, but finally was restored to perfect health. For the first 12 months after her recovery she required frequent bleeding and purgatives to relieve headach and a tendency to vertigo, as well as a general plethora of the system, occasioned, Dr. Esselman thinks, by the premature suspension of the catamenial secretion."—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, August 16th, 1844:—W. Carey; F. H. Duffort; F. C. G. Ellerton; G. Walker; W. Box; J. Bourne; E. Lawless; J. Terry; W. W. Kemp; H. Bencraft; H. B. Pickess.

VACCINATION.

M. Weninger, of Vienna, has published a case where vaccination was performed on a child eight months old, in July, 1837, and did not become developed till July, 1840, thus remaining latent for three years!—*Lancet.*

CARBONATE OF SODA IN THE PREPARATION OF COFFEE.

M. Pleischel states from experience, that the infusion of roasted coffee acquires a far superior taste, and is rendered more concentrated, consequently that a much larger amount of beverage can be prepared from the same quantity of coffee, by adding to the boiling water, just before pouring it over the coffee, one grain of crystallized carbonate of soda for every cup, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains for every half ounce of coffee.—*Med. Jahrb. des Oestr. St., in Gardeners' Chronicle.*

ERRATA.

In Dr. Black's first Lecture, p. 277, column 2, line, 8 from the bottom, for poorer read purer; p. 278 column 2, line 7 from the bottom, for 1-4688th read 1-468th.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are sorry that the account of the Medical Meeting of the Practitioners in Surrey, forwarded by Mr. Martin, of Reigate, reached us too late for insertion this week.