ARTICLE VI.

Cases of Cancer Treated with Cundurango.

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My attention was first directed to this remarkable agent during a professional attendance upon Mr. Flores, the minister from Ecuador, through whom his government had conveyed to our Secretary of State a portion of the shrub, together with printed statements of its successful employment by eminent South American physicians. Having always conceived that a remedy would sooner or later be discovered for the cure of carcinoma and tuberculosis, so long the *approbia medicinæ*, I was at once interested in the direct and encouraging exposition of the Quito doctors. With the hope of benefitting my own patients, and effecting some good for others, I determined promptly to test its merits by actual experiment, regardless of the charges and possible opposition to which I knew my honest efforts would be subjected by the hypercritical and ungenerous of my professional *confreres*. Fortunately, several cases of unequivocal carcinoma were then under treatment. Accustomed to the remorseless ravages of a malady for which even the surgeon's knife afforded no adequate relief, I approached the experiment not without misgivings of success, but with the affixed purpose to render the test as complete as the limited supply of the plant in my possession would allow.

Mrs. Matthews, the mother of Hon. Schuyler Colfax, had been the victim of mammary cancer for a long period, which had already assumed secondary and constitutional symptoms in a marked degree. On the 29th of April last, I placed her on the decoction of cundurango, and had the gratification of observing an early and decided change for the better, in both the local and general conditions. One of its almost immediate effects was the relief of pain, and a free diaphoresis, characterized by an odor distinctly ob-

servable of the infusion itself. Upon the return of Mrs. Matthews to her place of residence in Indiana, I still continued to direct her treatment, and furnished the requisite supplies of medicine.

On the 9th of May, just thirteen days after the commencement of the new remedy, her husband addressed me a letter, from which I make the following extracts:

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“The stony condition of the tumor has given place to softness. This morning I noticed about one-third of the surface has turned from a scarlet to a white color, and it has commenced suppurating as though the thing were dead and coming out. The whole tumor is very much flattened, the discharge is different and not near so offensive. The greatest improvement is in her complexion. From a *tallowy*, puffy-looking, and somewhat bluish skin, she is regaining her old natural look, the skin shrinking, becoming wrinkled and clear.

“I am so happy in the prospect of a cure that I feel like a new man, as though a ton of lead had been lifted from my heart. Is it not a little singular, it has not had any perceptible effect on her nervous system? Her digestion is good, and she begins to feel that she will get well.”

On the fourteenth of the same month Mr. Matthews writes as follows:

“This is the seventeenth day since I commenced the use of cundurango; shall cease for a few days, and note carefully the effect. When I began the treatment, Mrs. Matthews’ breast was almost as hard as a stone, about four inches in diameter, the cancer itself two inches in diameter, with raised edges, hard and scarlet-colored, bleeding profusely at the slightest touch, emitting an odor of the most sickening and disagreeable kind, discharging a brownish, cancerous, limpid fluid; the countenance bloated, tallowy-looking, with a bluish pallor of the whole face; the lips turned blue at the least exertion so that I have been very much alarmed, fearing a rapid crisis and dissolution; at the same time the

tumor itself enlarged with fearful rapidity, so much so that I could notice the growth from day to day.

Now all is changed—the countenance has resumed its old familiar look; she moves about with great sprightliness, the blue of the lips no longer indicating fatigue or effort. The granular swelling under the chin has gone; strength increasing; the tumor itself much flattened and decreased in protuberance; the color changed to a white, maturing sore; the limpid cancerous discharge ceased, and in its place a healthy discharge of white matter much less offensive; the hardened glands are soft to the touch, the whole symptoms indicating most plainly to me that the treatment has, so far, neutralized the poison of the blood, and that another short campaign with cundurango will insure a complete cure.

On the 2d of the present month I visited Mrs. Matthews, at South Bend, and was indeed astonished at the rapid change which had taken place. The tumor had become soft, the color natural, the secondary glandular deposits had all disappeared. The improved complexion, muscular firmness, and elasticity of spirits, all pointed to an early and complete recovery.

Mrs. Handy, residing on M Street this city, was the next subject of experiment with the cundurango. This was a highly-typical and fearfully-advanced case of cancer uteri. The grayish color, unequal, irregular elevations of the ulcer edges, the sympathetic disturbance of the bladder, the paroxysms of intense pain, together with the hot, dry, shrivelled, yellow surface, the wasted muscles, sunken eyes, the small, quick, wiry pulse, revealed one of those sad cases, where all hope of remedy fails.

The cundurango, in the form of decoction, was administered first to Mrs. Handy on the 31st day of last month. A regular record has been kept from day to day, describing the least change of symptoms, but I have not the space to introduce it here. Suffice it even in this extreme case the beneficial effects of this wonderful remedial agent have been

most apparent. The pain has steadily declined, the diseased parts are less tumefied and sensitive, and the discharge is very slightly offensive. The cachetic appearance of this patient has much improved, and she expresses herself as feeling altogether better.

A lady of the family of Hon. Mr. Gorham, Secretary of the United States Senate, has had mammary cancer of several months' duration, and her condition was pronounced hopeless by leading Northern surgeons. I was called to see her on the 1st of June, of this year, and found cancer of the breast, with secondary deposits in the shoulder and humeral portion of the left arm, attended by extreme rigidity of the neck, and almost complete immobility of the affected limb.

A careful daily record has been preserved of this case, also, by which the most decided improvement is indicated. The mammary tumor has grown softer, and the line of skin attachment bisecting the nipple is much less marked. The head, before stiff, is now perfectly free and movable, while the natural mobility of the disabled arm is restored, and the tissues, before hard, are now soft and natural. The general condition progresses favorably *parri passu* with the local improvement.—*New York Medical Journal*.

ARTICLE VII.

Alveolar Abscess with Necrosis of the Maxilla.

By H. L. SAGE.

October 29, 1870. Miss O. N., a young woman of Scotch and Irish parentage, bilio-lymphatic* temperament, called with the intention of having the second left superior bicuspid extracted, and replaced by an artificial substitute; also, the root of the first bicuspid.

On examination, a fistula was discovered over the root of the former; otherwise the gums presented as healthy an appearance as they usually do when thus affected, and the

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*Though the bilious and lymphatic temperaments are said to be opposites yet they may exist together, one preponderating over or controlling the other.