

abdomen. If the small piece of lint be first dipped in melted wax before application, this will be prevented, without any interruption to the union of the wound.—*Lancet*.

### CASE OF IMPERFORATE VAGINA.

BY A. B. SHIPMAN, M.D. OF CORTLANDVILLE, NEW YORK.

Miss —, ætat. 15, of a good constitution and plethoric habit, was taken on the 14th of May last with a total retention of urine. She did not inform any one of her condition until the evening of the 15th, when the pain and distension were such as to compel her to disclose her case to her mother. Several domestic remedies were made use of, but to no purpose, when I was sent for, at 11 o'clock in the evening. On arriving at the house, I found her suffering great pain, and perspiring profusely; there was but little fever, tongue clean, bowels regular.

She was of good size, of a healthy robust aspect, and every appearance indicated that she had arrived at the period of puberty, although I was assured that she had never menstruated. I found the abdomen greatly distended, and proposed using the catheter; this, after some reluctance, was at length consented to, and I drew off six pints of urine with complete relief. On visiting her next day I found she had made no water since I left, and I used it again, and drew off three pints more, bled her to sixteen ounces, gave a cathartic of sup. tart. potass. and jalap with mucilages. After this she passed water freely, and was otherwise as well as formerly. On the 19th of June, I was sent for again; she had remained perfectly healthy since the last attack in May, just one month. About three days previous to my visit the last time, she was taken with pain in the hypogastric region, which increased to such a degree as to deprive her of sleep for the last two nights. She had made water freely, and when I arrived a cathartic of ol. ricini, which they had given her, had operated freely; this, together with fear, kept her quiet while I remained. There was no febrile action, tongue clean, skin warm and moist. A slight examination of the abdomen discovered considerable fulness there; but I did not examine her critically, as the patient was very timid. I gave her an anodyne of morphine, and left with directions to repeat it if necessary. On the 21st I was again sent for, and was informed that she began to complain immediately after I left, the anodynes gave no relief; that she had now pain in the back and hips, extending down the thighs, with alternate intervals of ease, but of short duration. She had not slept since the 17th, and looked exhausted, like one worn down by long and severe suffering—she was covered with a profuse cold perspiration, and the remedies which had been used, such as the steam of hot herbs and stimulating drinks, had all served to aggravate her sufferings.

The pulse was now frequent but soft, the tongue moist but coated; she passed water frequently, but in small quantities at a time; the abdomen was much distended, and tender upon pressure. I was led from this assemblage of symptoms to suspect retained menses, and communi-

cated my views to the mother, when I made an examination, and found, as I expected, the vagina closed by a firm but elastic membrane, and by pressing it upwards with the finger, could distinctly perceive fluctuation.

I proposed, as the only remedy, that the membrane should be laid open; this was readily assented to, and with a scalpel I carefully made an incision in the most prominent portion of the membrane, which was about on a level with the nymphæ. As soon as the membrane was divided, which was nearly half an inch in thickness, dark fluid blood, about the consistence and color of molasses, to the amount of three pints, escaped. I enlarged the opening sufficient to admit the fore finger, and found the vagina dilated into a large smooth cavity. The base of this membrane was situated about half an inch beyond the nymphæ, and the edges of it, after the opening was made, felt like a firm ring surrounding the vagina. As the menstrual fluid continued to flow, I did not then introduce a tent, but the next day I employed one of as large a size as could be passed, which was retained by the T bandage. The patient experienced immediate relief after the operation, and fell into a sound sleep, which continued for several hours—the menstrual fluid continued to flow for three or four days, when a discharge resembling the lochia took place. This lasted several days, when the patient regained her usual health and strength, and on the 16th of July the menses again made their appearance and continued eight days without pain or inconvenience.—*United States Med. and Surg. Journ.*

#### MORTALITY OF PARIS.

On the 1st of September last, the Royal Academy of Medicine, Paris, received the report of the Council of Health for the year 1830. We select the following particulars from the chapter dedicated to the mortality of Paris :—

The disease most fatal to the inhabitants of the French capital is phthisis pulmonalis, which destroyed 1148 males, and 1448 females. The period of life at which consumption was observed to prevail most, is between the ages of ten and forty years.

It is a generally received opinion, that *pulmonary consumption* is less prevalent in warm climates than under a cold and moist atmosphere, but it is well ascertained that the disease is as prevalent and fatal in France as in England or Ireland; it may also be remarked, that the deaths amongst the females were one-quarter more than amongst the males, and this proportion was still higher for the years 1827—8—9.

The next disease, in regard to the number of deaths produced, is *pulmonary catarrh*, which may be considered as the consumption of old persons. The mortality was 995 males, and 1132 females.

*Aneurism of the heart* appears to be a frequent disease in Paris; the report gives 194 cases of death in the male, and 396 in the female. This disproportion of aneurisms affecting the arch of the aorta (for this, doubtless, is expressed by the report under the term aneurisms of the heart) is remarkable, because it is a fact generally known, that spontaneous aneurisms are much more frequent in the male than the female, at least