

*Note.*—The editor of the *Western Journal*, in which the foregoing paper was first published, appends, to it the following note :—Cases of this kind, we think, are unfrequent : but we have met with one or two, somewhat analogous, under circumstances very similar. They occurred in old and debilitated habits, at the close of an attack of bilious fever, in which calomel had been administered, not very liberally, but to a greater extent than we would again be willing to give it under similar circumstances. Very slight salivation ensued, which was suddenly arrested, and the tumor quickly appeared, excessively painful, and very tedious, but at length terminating favorably, by healthy suppuration. Some unfavorable remarks were made, though we thought unjustly, as we considered the affection owing to some idiosyncrasy, which we could neither foresee nor control,—the calomel, probably, from some accidental circumstance, having affected the parenchyma of the gland, instead of its secreting vessels. We suspected, at the time, that the too early use of the quinine, by introducing a slight continued form of febrile irritation, with a red, dry tongue; had some influence in producing this result. The course pursued was, bitters, aloes and rhubarb, as a laxative, fomentations and poultices to the inflamed gland.

## LEUCORRHŒA.

*Leucorrhœa, with Affection of the Knee simulating Rheumatism.* By MR. SMART, of Cranbourn.

Mrs. W. aged 32, a delicate person, a keeper's wife, always subject to irregularity of menstruation and confinement of bowels,—mother of three children, with the interval of six years between each birth,—about two months ago, in consequence of fatigue and damp, was seized with menorrhagia and leucorrhœa; she kept about for a fortnight subsequently, and then was obliged, with an apparently inflammatory swelling of the right knee, to take to her bed, where she has been ever since.

She was attended at first by a gentleman who treated her complaint as acute rheumatism, without relief. Five weeks ago she became my patient, and I fell into the same error. The joint was considerably swollen; very painful—constantly so, but more at night; very tender; *not* red. She said it was preceded by flying pains in various parts. She took colchicum, calomel with opium, steel, purgatives, but all without benefit. By this time I well began to doubt the correctness of my diagnosis, and my attention was directed to the situation and course of the pain she suffered in the whole extremity. A small blister was put on the inside of the knee, the surface dressed afterwards with morphia; but this, with leeches, lotions, and fomentations, was without avail. Her bowels were kept regular under the use of castor oil. She latterly informed me of a copious foetid discharge from the vagina, with great pain in the loins, which had existed a long time. I found the os uteri turgid and very tender. Then it struck me that the disease of the knee might be connected with this affection. Some femoral glands were enlarged and tender, and she pointed out the course of the pain from *Poupart's ligament*,

*along the inside of the thigh, round the inner condyle of the femur (where it was most acute) to the front of the tibia, down to the foot.*

October 2d.—R. Argenti Nitratis ℥j. solve in Aquæ 3 vj. to be applied to the cervix uteri several times a day, by means of a piece of sponge attached to the end of a bougie.

5th.—Remarkable change for the better. The pain, with its depressing influence, she had borne so long, being *now entirely removed*, her spirits and strength are regaining their natural elasticity. She is able to bend the joint, which she had not done for the last five weeks; she can change her posture in bed with facility; the slightest motion before caused acute pain. The knee feels stiff; less swollen; less tender. The lotion gave no pain.

#### Pergat in usu lotionis.

12th.—Is down stairs; sits up all day; complaining of great weakness in the loins; discharge “next to nothing;” not fœtid; the knee of its natural size, but she is unable to extend the leg; the thigh still tender; occasional darting pains down the leg to the foot; appetite good; bowels regular.

#### Pergat.

24th.—Gaining strength; walks lamely.

Nov. 17th.—After straining herself in lifting, &c. discharge is apt to gush from her. Lumbar weakness nearly gone.

29th.—No more discharge; has had daily a “sign” of the catamenia; has left off using the lotion.

Dec. 26th.—Quite recovered; has had a regular return of the catamenia. The limb sound.

*Observations.*—This is a case of irritable action of the lumbar nerves, occurring in a susceptible constitution, accompanied by profuse leucorrhœa and an inflammatory state of the neck of the womb, which in all probability re-acted on the original cause, exasperating it, prolonging it, and tending to propagate its morbid actions to parts remotely situated. The saphena nerve bordering on, if not actually in, an inflammatory condition, was the medium of this communication. In its course over the knee joint, being tied down by the tendinous fibres spread over the capsule, that restraint would prove an additional exciting cause of irritation to the neighboring structures.

Hence a disease of the knee-joint closely resembling inflammation, which, however, I would regard more in the light of neuralgic irritation, differing from inflammation, in resisting every method of treatment, but that which was adapted to remove disease from a distant part.

This case, too, bears testimony to the good effects of the nitrate of silver, as recommended by Mr. Jewell.—*Medical Gazette.*

For the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.

#### TREATMENT DEMANDED BY MALIGNANT DISEASES.

THE insusceptibility of the system, in malignant diseases, to the curative action of ordinary remedies, in their usual doses and frequency, is incre-