CASE OF RUPTURE AND OBLITERATION OF THE BLADDER—DEATH IN FOUR DAYS.

BY E. M. PENDLETON, M.D., SPARTA, GEO.

The subject of this unfortunate accident was a fine, healthy boy, about 7 years of age, belonging to Dr. Ferrell, of this county. He was lying on the floor of his cabin, about daybreak on Friday morning, the 18th of May, in a sound sleep. A lusty young woman, in walking about the room, trod upon his abdomen. He was lying on his back, and thinks her foot rested about the navel. It occasioned considerable pain, which caused him to awake and cry out. He was not considered seriously hurt, however, until the next morning, when I was sent for (a distance of five miles) to see him. Not being at home, I did not reach the plantation till noon—thirty-six hours after the accident. His pulse was now 102, and rather feeble; skin preternaturally cool; tongue slightly furred, with some thirst. The tympanitis was considerable, with extreme tenderness over the abdomen upon pressure. He had taken a dose of castor oil, which had produced an evacuation, and had passed some water. His countenance was depressed from pain, but did not exhibit the marks of a case in extremis. I ordered warm mustard poultices to the abdomen, a large dose of calomel, to be followed in three hours with a tablespoonful of oil. ricini. If the tenderness and swelling did not subside by 9 o'clock, P. M., to apply a large blister; which was done.

Sunday, 11 o'clock, A. M.—Pulse 125, still soft and feeble, and extremities cold; tympanitis intense, with great tenderness. Had passed no water for nearly twenty-four hours, but had drank a considerable quantity. Medicine had operated copiously—thick, muddy evacuations, with several lumbricoïdes. Blister had drawn well. Ordered spts. nit., dulc., half teaspoonful every hour, in pumpkin-seed tea, with mustard plasters to extremities.

Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M.—Pulse 106, almost imperceptible, with deathly-cold extremities. Had passed a little albuminous fluid per ure-
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thra, or, rather, it dripped from him while at stool. Tongue cadaverous; eyes a little glairy, and countenance shrunk; vomiting a black grumous fluid at intervals. Pronounced him in articulo mortis. He succumbed, Tuesday morning, about daylight, precisely four days from the occurrence of the accident.

Autopsy, about five Hours after Death.—The abdomen still much enlarged, though it had shrunk some. Water had been exuding from the mouth and nostrils, and, upon percussion, the abdomen seemed distended with this fluid. When the knife entered the abdominal cavity, near the navel, the water spouted out nearly a foot high, and continued for a minute or more. The cavity was completely full, and contained about three gallons. After emptying it, we found a considerable quantity of pus in the pelvic cavity, but no appearance of a bladder. This viscus had evidently bursted and become disorganized under a process of inflammation. The stomach, liver and intestines were all healthy. The perineum exhibited some patches of congestion and incipient inflammation. The stomach was likewise distended with water.

The most remarkable feature in this case is, perhaps, the fact that the patient lived four days without a bladder. We have reported it for the information it may afford in diagnosis, and not with a hope of educating any practical good from it. There are, I believe, but few such cases on record; and, never having seen one before, I was very much at a loss in forming my diagnosis. I treated it, however, as enteric inflammation, though I deemed the symptoms as equivocal at the time. One hygienic inference may be drawn from the case, viz., that great caution should be used in producing concussion in that region when the bladder is distended with water. The membranes, being very delicate, are, as the above case clearly proves, subject to rupture. The probability is, that the result would have been different, if the boy had been awake. As it was, the system was perfectly relaxed. There was no propulsive power about the muscles; and micturition not having taken place for some nine or ten hours previous, the bladder was, doubtless, distended with fluid. The woman was not large, but far gone in her first pregnancy—consequently, was clumsy, and not able to recover readily from an unexpected step. In the attempt to do so, she fell, and is of opinion that not more than a moiety of her weight was brought down upon the boy. At all events, it was a fatal step, and one that teaches us a lesson in reference to the care that should always be taken of so delicate a viscus as the bladder.—Charleston Med. Journal.

TANNIN, AS A MEDICAL AGENT.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—For several years I have been engaged to some extent in investigating and experimenting upon the use of tannin as a therapeutic agent, both in private and dispensary practice, and I send you here-with some of the results and conclusions to which I have arrived in my investigations thus far. I have seen but little written upon the use of