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SPONTANEOUS PTYALISM.

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BY WALTER CHANNING, M.D.

C., between 30 and 40 years of age; not married; catamenia regular. July, 1857, had feeling of coldness in left thorax, referred to the heart; strength remained, and she did her work, being a house-maid. This heart trouble continued for several months. In January, 1858, had very severe heartburn, at which time the coldness in the chest entirely ceased. Accompanying this heartburn were nausea and vomiting, following every meal, for six weeks, when spitting of a dense, opaque, white frothy mucus, or saliva, began—night and day, most at night—resembling froth on milk at milking. This came up in the throat, when it was ejected without cough. After it had stood, the froth disappeared, and the substance exactly resembled thick, clear arrow-root gruel. In the morning, the white matter was streaked with blood, occurring in the first raising in the morning, and going off soon after. Has been attended by Dr. —, who treated her case as dyspepsia. She came under my care about two months ago, her spit being still bloody in the morning. Having tried bismuth and other means, among which was the chlorate of potassa, in full doses, for a few days, the last with some benefit, she got the nitrate of silver with opium in pills, after which, for a few days, the bloody raising ceased. The white frothy matter continued to be spit as freely as ever. She then got the following pills (this was the 28th of May), and this evening, June 4th, gives me the above report of her case, adding that she has lost much flesh. *R.* Opii, gr. vi.; cupri sulphat., gr. i. *M.* Ft. pil. No. vi. One at bed time, and a half one in the morning.

Reported next day, a good night, with very little spitting; has been daily improving to the present date, June 4th. At times, no raising for four hours or more. Before this, was constantly spitting, so as often to interrupt speaking. She has had some measure of the quantity raised, using a vessel to receive it, and says it was daily from one to two quarts. Says that for the last week the spit has had a taste similar to that produced by holding a cent in her mouth. Says, in addition to above symptoms, that she has had

VOL. LIX.—No. 11

sense of weakness at the stomach, accompanied by a soreness which extended quite to her throat. Has for the past week felt very little of these troubles. Her appetite, which had much failed, has improved in the last week. She feels altogether like a different person from what she was a few weeks ago. Directed her to take half a pill, night and morning, for three days, and then half a pill only at bed time—her nights having from the first been most disturbed by spitting.

June 20th.—Spitting has entirely ceased. The appetite is good. Food produces no trouble. Patient reports herself as in perfect health, and is gaining flesh.

Cases, resembling the above, have before come under my care. Spontaneous pytalism is an occasional sign, and may be a disease of pregnancy. It becomes the last in its excess, and in the difficulty of checking or removing it. It disturbs sleep. It diminishes or destroys the appetite. In C.'s case, above, it was not easy to get down enough food for sustenance. There was at times nausea, and sometimes vomiting. These accompany it in pregnancy. When the cupri sulphas was used, the stomach was quiet; and neither nausea nor vomiting was produced by doses which not infrequently produce both. Did its combination with opium prevent these? May it not be used, in the same preparation, in other functional disturbances of the stomach, whether from reflex function, or from organic lesion?

Other cases have come under my care, without the existence of pregnancy, and so resemble closely that of C. These have long resisted treatment, and have at length worn themselves out.

CAUSTIC POTASH AS AN APPLICATION TO THE INTERIOR OF THE UTERUS.

BY HORATIO R. STORER, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ONE case of this operation, performed in February, 1857, is already on record.* A second is now reported.

The patient, Mrs. B., was sent me by Dr. McIntire, of Goshen, N. H., in January, 1858. The usual symptoms of intra-uterine polypus were present, of long standing and increasing; the disease had been properly diagnosticated, and the necessity of operating decided upon.

On dilatation by tents, I found that the mass was fibrous, sessile, wholly above and within the inner sphincter, and attached laterally, or could not be surrounded by ligature, nor grasped by forceps or the chain of an *écraseur*. I therefore decided on the application of caustic potash.

* Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Nov., 1857, Vol. LVII., p. 289.