Case of apparently Vicarious Menstrual discharge. By
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EARLY in the month of May, 1815, Mrs. G. aged 58, applied to me for professional advice, and gave the following history of her case. In June 1806, six months previous to the cessation of the menses, she was exposed for seventy-two hours, in descending the Alleghany river, in a small skiff, to a heavy and incessant rain, without any other covering than a blanket. From this time she was afflicted with erratic pains, sometimes appearing to be rheumatic and at other times to arise from wind in the bowels, for three years; when a small indurated gland was observed in the right mamma. This gradually increased till the summer of 1812; when it was as large as a pullet's egg, and discharged a bloody coloured fluid from the nipple. From this moment all morbid sensation was completely absorbed from the other parts of the body, and concentrated in the diseased breast. The pain there, was constant, and a few days previous to the discharge, which was as regular in its monthly appearance as the menses had been, it was exceedingly severe, and of the lancinating and burning kind, and accompanied with a stricture of the integuments, extending nearly across the anterior part of the thorax. The disease continued in this form, while the tumour was gradually increasing in size, till early in the autumn of 1814, when the discharge ceased. From this period till within a few days of the operation the pain was excruciating and the tumour had an unusually rapid growth attaining to nearly double its former size. Its colour was now of a dark leaden hue, and exhibited an alarming appearance. After mature deliberation there appeared to me no other means of relieving my patient but by excision, which I strenuously advised. The operation was performed on the eighteenth day of May, in the presence of two physicians and several pupils. The tumour was excised in less than two minutes, and the dressings were completed in twelve minutes. We supposed that not more than a gill of blood was lost during the operation. For a few hours there was a considerable smarting of the wound; but afterwards she complained of no uneasiness whatever and no unpleasant symptoms supervened. On the third day she sat at the table with her family, and on the sixteenth was discharged cured. She now attended to her domestic concerns, and declared herself to be in better health than she had been for many years previously. Four months have elapsed since the operation and she continues perfectly well. The tumour

weighed twelve ounces. It was punctured and six ounces of a fluid, perfectly menstrual, flowed out. A free incision was then made into the tumour and presented to our view a large sac, whose sides were nearly as thick as a cent, and in the bottom of which was situated a diseased gland of the size of a hickory nut. This gland was somewhat circular, but irregular in its form and ragged about the edges. It was evident that this morbid gland originated the disease; and the sac increased with the quantity of the secretion, until it reached the size above mentioned. The secretion was put into a phial and kept for several days, during which time it was submitted to the inspection and examination of several medical friends, who coincided with me in the opinion, that it was unquestionably the menstrual fluid.

Remarks.

This is the only instance within my recollection, on medical record, of vicarious menstrual secretion. There are many instances of vicarious hæmorrhages from the nose, the lungs, the nipple, the hæmorrhoidal veins, the stomach, the bowels, and even the gums. The advocates for the sanguineous nature of the menstrual discharge place much reliance upon this fact. To prove the futility of such reasoning, it is only necessary to state, that this is a favorite mode, by which nature relieves the system of the morbid irritability, sensibility and repletion, consequent to the suppression of any important secretion, or any customary discharge, which becomes important from habit. A scirrhus liver or spleen or pancreas, the too sudden checking of an habitual alvine discharge, and the healing of old ulcers, have all been the cause of hæmorrhage. But what visionary speculator could believe, that these discharges, although clearly vicarious, are discharges of bile, of pancreatic juice, of alvine secretion, or excretion of purulent matter, in their respective cases? Such a belief would not be more absurd and ridiculous, than that of those physiologists, who declare the menses to be a sanguineous discharge, because in obstructed menstruation, hæmorrhages are occasionally vicarious. In the case of Mrs. G. we have an indubitable instance of vicarious secretion. The discharge was as regular as her menstruation had been, was precisely similar in its appearance and in its being incoagulable, and its elaboration was effected by a glandular apparatus. Like menstruation, this discharge varied in duration and quantity. The same symptoms of nervous irritation, which preceded menstruation, preceded

this discharge also. The stricture of the integuments, extending nearly across the anterior part of the thorax, the lancinating pains, the heat of the parts, the chorded sensation emitted to the fingers on pressure, the depression of spirits, and the languor of body, are abundant testimony of the increased action, irritability and sensibility of the part, all of which were essentially necessary to the elaboration of this fluid. The importance of this function is further proved by the constant and powerful efforts of nature, for so long a time to establish it, and by its completely relieving all the nervous symptoms, with which she had been previously afflicted. In the autumn of 1814, this function became obstructed, and her former complaints returned with increased violence. Small and frequent hæmorrhages from the nose, mitigated in a slight degree her sufferings, till their final removal, by the operation.

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DR. HINTZE of Waldenbough in Silesia observed the following case of menstruation through the mammæ. A young widow, mother of two children, one six, the other ten years of age, of a delicate constitution, of an ingenious mind, and a strictly moral character, always regular in menstruation, catching cold whilst unwell, the catamenia stopt, without producing any disagreeable effects for the time. The next period the menses appeared, they came from the nipples of the breast, without any further change in her health, excepting a transient oppression on the organs of respiration. Emenagogues of all description had been used in vain for many years past, the catamenia kept regular to the abnormal place, till she began using the Altwasser waters, when in seven weeks time, after twenty-seven bathings, they were restored to their natural place.

Observations on the Internal Use of Nitrate of Silver. By
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[From the *London Medico-Chirurgical Journal*.]

CASE I.

ON the 14th of August, 1816, Mr. A. applied to me, oppressed with a variety of very distressing complaints. The leading features of these were, general debility ; debility