CLINICAL RECORDS.

Aspiration of the Colon in Peritonitis. By D. M. WILLIAMS, L.K.Q.C.P.I.,
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ALFRED B., aged thirteen, a confectioner's apprentice, was taken ill April 30th, 1881, with pain in the bowels. The following day his father gave him a teaspoonful of magnesia, and as he was no better on May 2nd he also gave him one pennyworth of jalap, as his bowels were constipated. This purged him freely, but increased the pain exceedingly.

May 3rd.—I found him suffering from peritonitis. Abdomen very tender; breathing shallow; pulse 120; temperature 103°; tongue clean and moist; very thirsty; bowels not moved since day before; ordered four leeches to the most sensitive spot, followed by hot, wet flannels applied continually as poultices, and five grains of Dover's powder three times a day, if not relieved; iced milk given frequently in small quantities.

4th.—Passed a restless night; is lying on his back in great pain; abdomen very tender and tympanitic; tongue clean and moist; pulse 120; temperature 104°; the powders to be taken every four hours; everything else to be continued.

5th.—Somewhat stupefied by the Dover's powder, but no improvement in his general condition, and has great pain in passing water; perspiring freely; pulse 120; evening temperature 104·5°; abdomen tender and very tympanitic. The following enema was administered:—Turpentine, ʒss., the yolk of one egg, and a teacupful of soapy water. A small motion followed, and he passed water.

6th.—Much the same; had passed water again with much pain.

7th.—Ten grs. of Dover's powder were given at bed-time, but failed to relieve him, so that he had a very bad night.

8th.—His condition was now alarming; the pulse was, for the first time, irregular and compressible—144 to the minute; breathing very shallow; eyes sunken; cheeks hollow; tongue dry; constantly moaning with pain—evidently dying. He placed his hand on the epigastrium, and said the pain was smothering him, no doubt from pressure upwards of the diaphragm interfering with the action of heart and lungs. The abdomen was arched from the xiphoid appendix to pubes, the least attempt at percussion causing great agony. Had not passed water since the 7th. I determined to aspirate him, and passed the finest needle into the transverse colon, and on turning the tap a great quantity of flatus rushed

through, followed by three ounces of fluid fæces, which gave him great relief, but did not perceptibly diminish the size of the abdomen. Fearing the needle was blocked, I withdrew it, and found such was not the case. I had evidently emptied this portion of the colon. Having washed the needle, I pierced the ascending colon; another rush of flatus took place, followed by eight ounces of fæces. I repeated the operation on the descending colon with the same result. There was now very decided diminution of distension and relief of pain, still he complained bitterly of a spot just below the navel, which was quite tympanitic. Taking care to avoid the bladder, I pierced probably the ileum; more flatus escaped, with about half an ounce of fluid fæces. He was now much relieved; pulse had fallen to 96; breathed deeper. 10 p.m.—Much the same as after the tapping; expression of face less haggard; pulse 120, full and soft; temperature 102°; passed water freely, and without pain, an hour after the tapping. To take pulv. Doveri, gr. 10, h. s.

9th.—Had a fairly good night, sleeping for an hour at a time, and perspiring freely; expression of face much better; eyes brighter; tongue clean and moist; pulse 116; passed flatus several times in the night, which had a most offensive smell; still complains of pain.

10th.—Bowels moved freely at six this morning; a large firm motion and three liquid motions since; abdomen much flatter, less tender; tongue dry, probably from the opium; pulse 104; temperature 100°. 9 p.m.—Has been restless all day; bowels moved four times, still complains of pain, especially in the right iliac region, which is dull on percussion. It was only now that he mentioned that on the morning of his illness he had no breakfast, and, being hungry, had eaten a handful of blanched almonds. Ordered: ol. ricini, ℥ii., tinct. opii ℥.x., statim sumend., and to have a starch enema, with half a teaspoonful of laudanum, if not relieved in two hours.

11th.—The oil and enema had been administered, and he passed a good night; bowels moved freely at 6 a.m.; the relief from pain complete; looks much better; pulse 108; dulness in right iliac region gone; stopped all medicine, and ordered milk diet.

From this time his recovery was only interrupted by occasional tendency to diarrhœa, probably due to the jalap, the quantity of which I have since estimated to weigh 90 grains.

REMEDY FOR HAY FEVER.

INTO a 4-oz. wide-mouth bottle, half filled with cotton, and having a close stopper, put the following mixture:—Carbolic acid, 2½ drachms; water of ammonia (specific gravity 0.960), 3 drachms; distilled water, 5 drachms; alcohol, 7½ drachms; and inhale through the nostrils.—*Chemist and Druggist.*