AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Case of Prolapsus Recti Successfully Treated. By JOHN PEACH, M. D., of Collington, Md.

In the spring of 1865, I was called to see a negro child about three years old, whose rectum had been prolapsing with each evacuation for more than a month, but at the time I saw the case had been permanently so for a week or ten days. The tumour was about the size of my fist, and tightly constricted by the sphincter. The whole surface was bloody and excoriated, with ulcerated patches in several places. It was with much difficulty reduced by cold applications and prolonged taxis.

The patient was put upon a semi-fluid diet; his bowels kept open, and astringent and anodyne injections thrown into rectum. On the next day I found the rectum again prolapsed, and returned it with even more difficulty than at first. This state of things was repeated for several days in spite of treatment and sparing and appropriate diet, the ulceration in the mean time extending, and sloughing being imminent, so tightly did the sphincter constrict it after protrusion.

I then devised the following mechanism to hold the rectum in place until the relaxed integuments could gain their accustomed tonicity, and at the same time to prevent any possible protrusion, the further occurrence of which would have undoubtedly hazarded the safety of the patient.

Not being near enough to an instrument maker to procure better materials, I took a piece of wire the size of a small bougie and about ten inches in length, bent a hook of two or three inches in length on one end, and fashioned it so as to fit the curve of the sacrum, the external portion fitting closely in the sulcus of the nates and reaching up to a level with the top of the sacrum. The end of the hook was covered with a pad about the size of the thumb and an inch in length. On the upper end of the wire was bent a smaller hook, through which bandages might be passed over the shoulders and around the abdomen to hold it in place.

The rectum was now returned, and the padded end of the hook, well smeared with an astringent ointment, was passed into the rectum, and the other end brought up between the nates and secured by bandages. The curve in the hook was such that the pad lying against the posterior wall of the rectum held it in its normal position against the curve of the sacrum. This contrivance was found not to interfere in the least with defecation or with the child's locomotion.

The previous treatment was kept up and the wire taken off and cleansed after each evacuation. It was worn in this manner for two weeks, then every other day for a week, and finally dropped altogether. There has been no recurrence of prolapsion up to the present time, and the child is now in good condition.

Case of Tapeworm probably contracted by Eating Beef or Veal. By J. H. BEECH, M. D., of Coldwater, Mich.

The following case has a tendency to support the opinion expressed by

Dr. Cobbold before the British Association "that tapeworm is often contracted from eating beef and veal."

A young man, aged 25, single, possessing more than ordinary intelligence, applied to me a few days since on account of indigestion, stating that he had, between 1860 and 1865, discharged several pieces of tapeworm, estimated to amount to full one hundred feet; that parts of it were in the hands of two different physicians, and that he had at home about 25 feet (and he believed the head) which was discharged after he had subsisted for several days principally upon pumpkin seeds, and then taken a large dose of turpentine.

In reference to the commonly received opinion that tapeworm was produced by eating measly pork, he stated that he had not been in the habit of eating much pork; had never eaten it raw except when well cured as bacon or salted for a long time; but that his occupation was formerly that of a butcher and salesman in a meat market, and that he was fond of and frequently ate raw beef and veal; also, that after he became certain that he was afflicted with tapeworm, he subsisted on very rare beef and Graham bread for a long time. More recently he had been boarding among comparative strangers, and had used more thoroughly cooked meat and a greater variety of food. He further stated that many of his former symptoms of the parasite were at present wanting, and it was my opinion that it was not now the cause of his complaint. He is plethoric at present, and fond of company, and doubtless abuses a stomach rendered more sensitive by what it has suffered.

Poisoning by Eating the Fruit of the Rhus Toxicodendron. By J. W. MOORMAN, of Hardinsburg, Ky.

The poisonous effects of the *Rhus Toxicodendron* are well known (see *Griffith's Medical Botany*, p. 184; *U. S. Dispensatory*, 12th ed., p. 836, &c.). Nevertheless but few cases we believe have been recorded of poisoning resulting from eating the fruit of the plant, and it therefore may be well to record two cases of this kind communicated to me by a professional friend.

The subjects of these cases were children, one six and the other eight years of age. The quantity eaten was nearly a pint. In a few hours the children became drowsy and stupid, and in a short time vomiting commenced, first of the partially digested fruit, afterwards of a thick, tenacious fluid of a wine color. Then convulsions of different parts of the body followed, accompanied by slight delirium. Respiration was hurried, pulse at first full and strong, but slow, afterwards small, frequent, and compressible; pupils dilated. Warm water was given to promote emesis and thus clear the stomach of the poisonous matter; afterwards large quantities of carbonate of soda in solution, under the belief that it was an antidote to the poison. Otherwise they were treated on general principles. Both cases recovered, though the youngest convalesced very slowly.

Spontaneous Umbilical Hemorrhage. By J. H. POOLEY, M. D., of Yonkers, N. Y.—

I WAS called, December 17, 1864, to see a girl, thirteen days old, who was bleeding from the navel. The funis had separated five days before in a perfectly natural way, and left an umbilicus quite healthy in appearance. The child, for several days after birth, was very much jaundiced, and its urine highly charged with bile elements; in every other respect it was