CASE OF SECONDARY SYMPTOMS OF SYPHILIS.

BY FRANCIS MOORE, M. D.

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THE subject of this disease is a female aged thirty-eight, who is known to have had the venereal disease in a violent degree three or four times, the last of which, there is good reason to believe was unskilfully treated, and of course imperfectly cured. More than a year had elapsed from the time of her last affection, during which time she had enjoyed such a state of health as gave her confidence that the disease was fully eradicated. When I first saw her, the submaxillary glands on the left side were swollen to an enormous size, and a venereal node of considerable magnitude appeared on the superciliary ridge of the frontal bone, above the outer angle of the left eye. I immediately ordered the application of mercurial ointment to the tumors, and the internal use of the blue pills. Her mouth very soon became affected and continued so several weeks without checking the disease in the slightest degree, both of them proceeded rapidly to ulceration. In the mean time another node appeared on the external condyle of the right os humeri, which soon became a very extensive and extremely virulent ulcer, threatening the total disorganization of the part and the loss of the limb. The ulcer over the eye assumed a most frightful appearance, occupying a large extent of the frontal bone and spreading to the temporal; the upper eyelid was near falling off, hanging only by a small shred near the inner angle; the probe could be passed along the bone denuded of its periosteum under the eyebrow to the nose.

The submaxillary glands, after several days free discharge, completely healed.

After the unsuccessful use of the usual remedies, mercury, nitrous acid, &c. for several months, I consulted a neighbouring physician who I knew had some experience in this disease; he observed, he had never known a recovery under circumstances so malignant.

At this time the ulcer on the arm nearly embraced the whole joint, throwing out enormous fungi, with profuse sanious discharge. I every day expected the patient would fall by hæmorrhage, occasioned by erosion of the humeral blood vessels. Feeling unwilling to remain an idle spectator of the ravages of disease, and the case being a desperate one, I thought myself warranted in having recourse to experiment.

From the known fact that those articles which have been most efficacious in curing venereal affections contain oxygen in large proportion, and under the influence of an opinion which has always been a favourite one with me, that astringents are of extensive use in the treatment of most ulcers, I was induced to seek for a substance uniting these two properties. As the *red oxide of iron* embraced both these qualities in an eminent degree, I resolved on giving it a trial. I simply mixed the red oxide of iron finely powdered with hog's lard, in the proportion of one part of the iron to two of the lard. In the use of this application for a few days, the discharge was diminished in quantity and altered in quality, the fungous growth was repressed and cicatrization soon commenced. In about three weeks the sores almost healed, in two more they were completely cured; but not without leaving the elbow joint in an anchylosed state. The iron was at the same time given internally.

From the success attending its use in this case, I was led to apply it to some troublesome ulcers on the face having a strong resemblance to cancer, with the satisfaction of effecting a complete cure, after the unsuccessful use of various remedies.

I have been induced to state the above cases, not from any reliance on the antisyphilitic virtues of the oxide of iron; but from a full persuasion that the success attending its application in the cases above cited, entitle it to a high rank among the remedies for ill conditioned ulcers resisting the ordinary modes of treatment.

Note.—In relating the above to a medical friend, I was referred to "Dr. Carmichael's Essay on the effects of carbonate and other preparations of iron upon cancer." I derive much satisfaction in finding my opinion in accordance with such high authority, and will urge it as an additional inducement to give the practice a more extensive trial. I have delayed giving publicity to this case, to ascertain the permanency of the cure; my patient

has now enjoyed perfect freedom from her complaints six months.

Ipswich, 4th May, 1814.

Case of Puerperal Fever with Dropsy, succeeded by Phlegmasia dolens, Gastritis, and spontaneous Hydrophobia. Also a remarkable case of Hysteria, cured by Arum Americanum, with some observations relative to the medical virtues of that plant.

BY JAMES THACHER, M. D.

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AN amiable and accomplished lady, aged about twenty, a native of Denmark, having married a young gentleman of this town, performed a voyage from Copenhagen, during the first months of gestation, and arrived here in October, 1812. The vessel was ill calculated for the voyage; no comfortable accommodations could be afforded, and by close confinement, constant exposure to wet, and frequently to the most imminent danger, Mrs. T. was subjected to sufferings which none but the firmest constitutions could sustain, and which required the courageous spirit of a heroine willingly to encounter. Fortunately, however, she experienced little interruption to her health, or the amusements of the polite circle, until the seventh month, when her lower extremities were severely affected with œdematous swellings, and attended with circumstances indicating depletion by the lancet. Having, in a feeble condition, advanced to the usual period, she experienced a laborious and protracted parturition, by which she was greatly exhausted, and immediately after she was seized with strong convulsions which continued about five minutes. Every proper application was instantly resorted to and she had no recurrence of convulsions. No unusual circumstance intervened till the fourth day after child-birth, when she was visited with coldness and shivering, severe pains over her forehead, flushings in her face, great anxiety and restlessness. The region of the uterus, and whole abdomen soon became tumefied, extremely tender and painful to the touch. To these succeeded pains in the back, hips, and sides, with laborious respiration. The lochial