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CAUTERIZATION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE UTERUS FOR POLYPUS.

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[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, August 24th, 1857, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MRS. E. W., of very healthy parentage, mother of five children, of medium stature and good muscular development, dark hair and eyes, enjoyed good general health till January, 1856, when she had a neuralgic affection of the head, continuing about two weeks, after which she was not so robust as previously. The uterine functions had always been normally performed; menstruation ceased, without any constitutional disturbance, in 1854.

In the early part of March, 1856, she had an attack of uterine hæmorrhage. This continued, gradually increasing, especially after exercise, and accompanied with pain in the loins, hypogastric region and thighs. I was called to her for this trouble April 1, 1856. She was then flowing freely, and suffering much from expulsive efforts of the uterus. That organ was enlarged, its neck obliterated, and os closed. She was quite weakened by pain and loss of blood. She was treated with opiates, astringents, ergot, &c., p. r. n.

By the 28th of April, the os uteri had dilated, and a polypus had descended, presenting a tumor in the vagina as large as a goose's egg. The hæmorrhage and pains were urgent, and the strength failing. So far as could be ascertained, the polypus sprang from a broad base within the cavity of the uterus, toward the left side and somewhat in front. As I could see no advantage in waiting longer, I applied a ligature by means of Gooch's double canula, as high within the uterine cavity as possible. The ligature came off on the third day, with the included mass. The hæmorrhage and pain were entirely relieved, though a copious and very offensive discharge continued. Her appetite returned, and she regained color, flesh and strength, so that she was able to sit up.

This improvement continued till about the middle of June, when it was evident, by the return of the pain and flowing, that the polypus was again increasing, and re-exciting uterine action. On July 12th, in consultation with Dr. D. L. Adams, of New York city, as it was impossible to apply a ligature, it was determined to break the tumor down and remove it with forceps. It was very soft, so that only such portion as was actually included within the blades of the instrument could be removed at once; but after a tedious operation, the greater portion was removed or broken up, so that it would be discharged. The improvement in her general health was again very marked. Sept. 22d, another operation was deemed necessary, and quite satisfactorily performed. Nov. 26th, it was again repeated. After each of these operations the improvement was marked, and on the whole her general health had improved since April. But at each repetition of the operation, it was evident that an increased portion of the uterine cavity was implicated in the attachment, or by the adhesions of the tumor, and that the period was fast approaching when such merely palliative operations were becoming impracticable.

Feeling anxious to do something more effectual for the relief of the patient, and from the manner in which she had borne the repeated violence done to the interior of the uterus, and being convinced that no ill effects would follow the operation, I determined, when the next operation should become necessary, to apply some caustic to the origin of the polypus. I selected, as the easiest and safest application, the potassa c. calce, a roll of which I held in my forceps, and guarding it with the fingers of my other hand, applied it freely to the origin of the polypus, that having been removed as thoroughly as possible.

The operation was very painful, but there was no one ill effect which could be attributed to the application of the caustic within the uterine cavity. On the other hand, she recovered much more rapidly from the operation than from any previous one—the discharge was much less profuse, and much less offensive. This was February 11, 1857. February 20th, I applied a solution of argent. nit. to the same part. She was after this able to walk about the house, and out of doors, and to ride for the first time since March, 1856.

The tumor again returned, portions were discharged spontaneously, and other portions removed by instruments, but never so completely and satisfactorily as in the earlier operations. The character of the pains changed, and lost the severe expulsive character which they had earlier in the case.

Her strength gradually failed, exhausted by pain and the constant drain of the discharge, and she died in August, 1857. No autopsy was allowed. On examining the abdomen, a few days before her death, it was found very tender over the uterus, which was

apparently irregularly enlarged toward each iliac fossa, and cordate in form.

Were I to repeat the application of caustic within the uterine cavity—and from my experience I should not hesitate to do so in a similar case—I should have the potassa c. calce cast in a globular form and fastened upon the end of an instrument, like Simpson's sound, bent at a curve adapted to the case.

LARGE CONGENITAL ANEURISMAL TUMOR SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY A NEW METHOD.

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[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE history of the following case is familiar to a large number of medical gentlemen, who as students and practitioners have witnessed the various expedients that have been resorted to, at various times during the last three years, at the clinique of the Berkshire Medical Institution, in attempts to arrest the growth of this tumor. As the disease is one of great surgical interest generally, I have thought the case worthy of record, and furnish the following brief account from minutes made at the time of the operation, with a drawing illustrating the successful method of treatment; and which, so far as I know, is new.

Mr. B., an intelligent young man, 20 years of age, was first brought before the class at the Medical College in Pittsfield, by his attending physician, Dr. Lawrence, of South Adams, Mass., in the autumn of 1855. He was somewhat pallid, and anæmic; but was in very good health, with the exception of a large, pulsating tumor extending from near the ear to the top of the head, forward to the temple, and backward to the mastoid process of the temporal bone. It was not covered with hair; was of a bluish color, pulsated, *visibly*, over its whole extent, and communicated the peculiar aneurismal thrill to the ear. The rush of blood through the tumor caused a continued and loud ringing noise in the ear of the patient, and at night especially this was often so disagreeable as to prevent sleep. Within a short time, there had also been several alarming attacks of hæmorrhage, of an arterial character, the blood coming from a small rupture of the thin walls of the tumor. These attacks usually occurred in the night, while the patient was asleep, and awoke him by causing throbbing in the tumor, and faintness. The bleeding had been arrested by long continued pressure.

Dr. Lawrence stated "that the tumor had first attracted notice soon after birth, as a small purple *nævus* in the scalp, just above the ear—that it had steadily increased with the growth of the pa-