Rosalia, terminating in Arthritis Rheumatismus.

their lives. Both of them used cider moderately and some spirits. The first, who still survives, follows up the habits of his earlier life in respect to food and drink. The second did the same until within a few months previous to his death, when he dropped his usual small allowance of spirits. Judging from the lives of these men, is it possible that flesh is the poisonous thing which Dr. Alcott maintains?

EXANThESIS ROSALIA V. PARISTHMITICA, TERMINATING IN ARTHRITIS RHEUMATISMUS V. ACUTUS ERYTHEMATODES.

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Rosalia, particularly v. P., has been quite prevalent in this section during the present season, and seems to have been unusually fatal. The case of which I am about to give the details, has been quite interesting to me, and I presume will be to others, more especially to that part of the profession who have not met with similar ones. I have before met with two cases of R. v. E., but not in connection with Rosalia. Acute erythematic rheumatism is a rare disease; i.e., not near as frequently met with as other varieties of rheumatism—and I report this case with the view of eliciting observations from others. There has been much written about the best method of treating this disease (acute rheumatism)—much discussion still exists—but not to the purpose. Actual experience and observation seem to be disregarded, and theory alone the topic.

Miss A. A. J., aged about 18 years, Oct. 17, complained of chills, heat, thirst, headache, and considerable difficulty of deglutition. Eyes watery and red; a fiery redness of the face; the inside of the mouth and fauces much inflamed; some hoarseness; dry, hacking cough; considerable thirst; a burning, throbbing pain in the fauces; a burning heat and dryness of the skin; a quick, hard and frequent pulse, numbering 135 a minute. The throat, on examination, presented a fiery red color; a brown fur upon the tongue; bowels costive, and some tenderness in the umbilical and hypogastric region, which on examination appeared tumefied. Some nausea, but had not vomited. A very disagreeable taste in the mouth. Some difficulty in moving the joints. On inquiry, I ascertained that she had suffered for about four months past from paramenia obstructionis v. suppressio, though not very severely.

Being well convinced of the nature of the affection, I put her upon the use of Dover’s powder in doses of 10 grs., conjoined with 3 grs. of camph., to be repeated once in 4 hours. Pl. hyd. 3 grs. once in 6 hours. Emp. epis. of sufficient length to cover the forehead and temples, and use a decoction of rose leaves for a garge.

Oct. 18.—Pain in the head less severe; less difficulty of deglutition; burning heat of the skin about as on the 17th; no chills. In other respects, also, the same. Give an emetic of ipecac. et t. antimony, which operated to advantage, producing a free perspiration. Give a
table-spoonful and a half of ol. ricini, and repeat once in 6 hours until it moves the bowels freely. A solution of alum and decoction of rose leaves for a gargle.

19.—There has been, since yesterday, less burning heat of the skin, and by turns a slight perspiration. No nausea. Physic had operated well. A slight pain remaining in the head; some vertigo and confusion, accompanied with faintness, on assuming an erect posture. Pulse 125. By turns there is some convulsive starting of the tendons, particularly about the time of going to sleep. In other respects, as on yesterday. Give powders composed of s. morph., grs. ¼; ipecac., grs. 3; prot. chlo. merc. grs. 4, and repeat once in 4 hours. Ordered two table-spoonfuls of ol. ricini to be given at nine in the evening, and, if no operation in the morning, to be repeated.

20.—Has rested well during the night. No nausea; some thirst; a free perspiration; no faintness or vertigo; pulse 120; pain in the head entirely gone; no lameness of the joints; no convulsive starting of the tendons. Physic operated well at about 6 in the morning. A heavy eruption made its appearance in the night, about the neck, shoulders and face. Continue the medicines, except ol. ricini.

21.—Equally as comfortable in every respect as yesterday. Pulse 119. Eruption gradually spreading over the back, chest and bowels. During the night had one movement of the bowels. Continue medicines.


23.—In all respects improving. Eruption beginning to fade where it first appeared. Continue medicines.

24.—Rested well the fore part of the night. About 12, began to complain of pain, soreness, burning heat, and stiffness of the joints of the lower extremities, left upper extremity and neck. On my arrival, about 8 o'clock, A. M., I found some tumefaction of the several joints, severe pain, and a deep redness of the skin, in many places inclining to a deep purple hue; this was the case more particularly with the ankle and knee joints of the inferior extremities, and elbow, wrist and finger joints of the left superior extremity. She could not move any of them in the least. There was a good deal of thirst; a severe pain in the head; some pain in the bowels, in connection with diarrhoea; pulse 135, quick, and slightly corded. Eruption had entirely disappeared from the face, neck and shoulders, but upon the bowels and inferior extremities was of a dark red hue and in large patches. Considerable difficulty of breathing; a tendency to cough, but could not, owing to the severe distress such an effort produced. Gave a powder composed of opii, grs. 2; actaea racemosa, grs. 8; ipecac., prot. chlo. merc., aà grs. 3, to be repeated once an hour until free from pain, after that once in three hours. Use a liniment composed of aq. ammo., ol. oliveæ, aà 3 ij.; t. opii, 3 i.; camph., 3 ss., to be rubbed on the joints and wherever there is any pain, soreness, and swelling (until entirely rubbed in dry), once in 2 or 3 hours. Apply a blister to the nape of the neck. Omitted the gargles, as the soreness of the mouth and fauces had consider-ably abated.
25.—To day she is pretty much free from pain when lying entirely still; sweat profusely during the night and the forenoon of to-day. Some ptyalism. Swelling of the joints of the extremities about the same, except the color is not so dark. Eruption beginning to fade away about the hips. Diarrhoea subsided. Continue medicines as on the 24th. It should be remarked here, that the weather for three days past has been cold and chilly, and very changeable—*atmosphere, very damp indeed.* Coat on the tongue of a deep brown color.

26.—Some considerable improvement. Tumefaction of joints considerably abated, and she can move them more freely. To-day the joints of the right superior extremity and shoulder are affected; pain in them is very severe, and the joints of the fingers of the right hand beginning to swell. Wrist joint a little tumefied. Bowels rather costive. Continue the medicines as yesterday, except the omission of actae and prot. merc., for 12 grs. gm. guaic. Eruption is entirely gone.

27.—Pain, soreness and tumefaction abating in every joint, except the right upper extremity and shoulder, where they have increased some since yesterday. Pulse 120, and considerable softer. A free perspiration. During last night had three movements of the bowels. Powders produce some vertigo. Lessen the quantity of opium; in other respects continue medicines as on the 26th. Coat upon the tongue is beginning to come off.

28.—Pulse 100. Swelling of the joints gradually abating. No pain except in the head, and that attributed altogether to the noise in the house. As soon as the house was still, the pain disappeared. Some diarrhoea. Continue medicines as on the 27th.

29, 30 and 31.—Gradually improving. Secretions returning. Coat on the tongue mostly gone, and gaining in strength.

Nov. 1.—The joints are of the natural size. She is beginning to have some appetite. Pulse 75, moderately full. Ptyalism nearly gone. No tendency to cough. Continue medicines as before, except omit gm. guaic.

2.—In every respect better. Coat entirely gone from the tongue. Appetite improving fast. A little tenderness of the gums remaining. Bowels costive. To-day she began to menstruate, and is in no pain excepting what is present in connection with the return of the menses.

3.—She is able to sit up an hour at a time. Strength and appetite improving fast. Has rested well for the last two nights. Discontinue medicines.

6.—She is able to sit up most of the time. Has something of a diarrhoea, and is directed to take 25 drops of tinct. opii once in 4 hours until it gives relief.

9.—To-day she is quite well, is able to labor some, and has improved very fast since the 6th.

I have had, in the same house, another case of rosalia, terminating in enteritis typhodes, variety nervosa, which will be forwarded for publication as soon as I can get time to copy the same from my notes.

*Newport, Vt., Nov. 15, 1838.*