only ; for if applied in the same manner to similar parts in a healthy condition, the pain is frequently very acute, the nitrate then acting as an excitant of inflammation, which identical application, in the former instance, produced (however paradoxical it may appear) the subsidence of that inflammation which already existed.

I am fully aware that the nitrate in solution has been frequently recommended in similar affections ; but it will be found upon trial to cause as much suffering as when applied in substance : and requiring to be much more frequently repeated, before the desired effect is obtained, constitutes an important objection to this mode of its employment.

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REMARKS ON THE USE OF BLISTERS IN PREVENTING ABORTION.

BY LUNSFORD P. YANDALL, M.D.

ABORTION is one of the most serious evils incident to a state of pregnancy. Apart from the immediate danger accompanying it, arising out of the tendency to hæmorrhage, it is apt, having occurred more than once, to become a settled action of the system—parturient efforts recur at a stated period, and it is difficult to induce the uterus to bear its burden beyond that period. The hopes of parents are disappointed, and the health of the mother falls ultimately a sacrifice to repeated miscarriages. It is therefore a matter of great moment to correct a habit fraught with so much mischief.

It is well known that the common treatment in such cases is often ineffectual. Bleeding on the access of pains, and especially of hæmorrhage, will sometimes arrest the disposition to abortion, and the prospect of its success is greater as it is more promptly resorted to, and the number of miscarriages has been fewer. The recumbent posture is of the utmost consequence, as well as the avoidance of all mechanical violence, and all excessive mental emotions. Where the habit of the female is nervous, irritable and delicate, much may be done during the intervals between conception, in giving strength and tone to the system, by exercise in the open air, and a departure from the artificial mode of living by which such a habit is formed. If, on the contrary, an undue fulness of the system characterize the patient, the use of purgatives, a vegetable diet, and moderate exercise, may correct the tendency. But where they all fail, and the habit has seemed to have been confirmed, I have known the remedy about to be mentioned succeed in averting a threatened abortion.

A lady in the eighth month of utero-gestation, having enjoyed good health, was seized with profuse hæmorrhage from the womb, without any evident cause, and without premonition. Miscarriage followed in a few hours. Her health was impaired by the premature confinement and loss of blood, and she did not again conceive for a year. Things promised well until she reached the period at which the previous abortion had occurred, when in spite of all the usual means, labor came on, and she was delivered of an eight month's child. In three months she was

again pregnant. My attention in the meantime had been attracted to some cases detailed in the Medical Journals of the day, in which blisters were reported to have been effectual in preventing similar accidents. As our patient approached the period of her former miscarriages, she became threatened with the same disaster. A blister was immediately applied just above the knee, and to the sacrum. The relief was prompt and effectual. All pain and uneasiness in the uterine region ceased. As was anticipated, the threatening symptoms recurred after a few weeks, but were again removed by the application of a single blister above the knee, on the inner part of the thigh. A resort to the same remedy, as often as the disposition to abort manifested itself, did not fail to afford relief, and the result was that she carried her child to the full term, and was safely delivered.

A case similar in many respects occurred in the practice of my friend, Dr. Becton, about the same time.

The second case in which I had occasion to employ this remedy was not less striking. Mrs. C. had suffered repeated abortions, and had despaired at last of being delivered of a living child. She was prevailed upon to try the blistering. She applied them only to the knee. The result was eminently satisfactory. Each application gave relief, and she reached the full term in safety.

A lady fell under my care, whose health had suffered from repeated miscarriages in the West Indies, and who had visited this country with the hope that her constitution might be invigorated by a change of climate. At the wonted period of pregnancy, the evil symptoms presented themselves, and there was every appearance that she would give birth prematurely. The remedy, however, which had succeeded so well in former cases, was recommended to her, and was employed with the same signal success. She returned to her home in a few months afterwards, the mother of a healthy child.

The result of the above cases is given to the profession, as tending to confirm the value of a remedy not extensively in use. I cannot believe that its apparent success was in any degree accidental in these cases, nor in the other cases published in the journals of this country which led me to apply it. If it should prove equally efficacious in the hands of other practitioners, its general introduction into practice must be attended with great good.

Before closing this brief notice, I will state, as a fact relating to a kindred subject, that in some cases of pruritus I have found frequent washings with tepid water more successful than any other application. It has given relief from the distressing sensation, after cold water, ice, borax, acetate of lead, and the whole round of astringent lotions, had been used ineffectually.

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