with an instance of its action upon the skin, nor was I aware of its popular reputation as a hair-producing agent, which it may deserve like its relative, *oleum taglii*.

A noticeable feature in all three of the cases was the ignorance on the part of the patients of the artificial nature of the affection, and of the exciting agent, until their attention was directed to this point.

A CASE OF STONE IN THE BLADDER.¹

BY OTIS K. NEWELL, M.D.,

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THE special consideration which induced me to give the President of this Society the above title for what I wished to present, was brevity, as most of what I have to say is appended matter hinging upon the subject of my paper.

The stone, of which the fragments weigh about five grammes, was removed from a young man eighteen years of age, and furnished a rather exceptional case of vesical calculus, in that it might be said to have been one without symptoms. Aside from pain on active motions such as athletic exercise, the patient felt no great inconvenience. The urine was normal and not over-frequently passed. The patient had been examined and catheterized by a surgeon, but no stone had been felt. On September 21st last, I examined his bladder with the cystoscope, and found a small, dark-colored calculus lying at its base. The mucous membrane of the bladder wall was perfectly healthy in appearance, presenting its normal pinkish-red color and delicately ramifying vessels. I considered that we had to do then with nothing more than a foreign body in the bladder, practically giving rise to no pathological conditions or symptoms, and concluded that, should no complications attend its removal, there should be no symptoms after it. Such proved to be the case. The stone was removed by litholapaxy, and the patient went about as usual the day after the operation. Of course, it should be as little necessary to say that the operation was done antiseptically as that ether was given. The bladder was washed with 1-500 carbolic solution, both before and after the operation.

One thing I particularly wanted to show in connection with this case was the usefulness of storage batteries in cystoscopic examination. Previous to the last month or so whatever I have done with the cystoscope I have done by the aid of the ordinary fluid battery, the one I used having a solution made with trioxide of chromium, practically pure chromic acid. This is a patented compound sold by a firm in Philadelphia and is much like chromic acid in color, but is a fine powder. There is nothing crystalline in its make-up. A large and cumbersome battery is difficult to carry about. I have here a very small storage battery with a current of about eight volts, also a battery of about sixteen volts which is suitable for running an electro-cautery. The larger of these storage batteries I have used only on an experimental cautery which can serve the purpose of the Paquelin and is much less expensive and complicated. With the ordinary current you can get a temperature that will burn organic matter pretty well.

¹ Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, November 11, 1889.

In connection with evacuators there are two points about which I would like to speak. In a recent monograph on "Surgery of the Bladder," (one of sixty-five volumes composing "Deutsche Chirurgie,") is figured, much to my surprise, instead of Bigelow's evacuator, one of Thompson's, which in its make-up is, I think, much less practical than Dr. Bigelow's. Next to that is shown Ultzmann's evacuator, which always seemed to be an unscientific instrument taking into account the laws which have to be considered in constructing an evacuator. Ultzmann's evacuator practically has no trap. The only trap is furnished by the opportunity which the fragments have of dropping down the extension of the evacuator tube into a receiver. In Thompson's a complicated trap is right in front of the drive current of the bulb. There are two points which I would mention as mere oversights in Dr. Bigelow's evacuator which is better than anything excepting my own, which is merely a slight improvement on his, resulting from the great opportunities I had in studying evacuators with him, and from his showing me what he did. I think the two failures in the construction of Dr. Bigelow's evacuator are, first, unnecessary length of tube or rather distance which a fragment must travel in order to be caught; and second, that the trap is wholly unnecessary in any evacuator in which the principle of gravitation is considered. In his oldest evacuator Dr. Bigelow had a long receiver into which the fragments dropped and were pretty successfully retained, and in that old evacuator there was no trap, but later in Bigelow's and Thompson's and Ultzmann's evacuators a great deal of time has been spent in devising the most successful sort of trap for evacuators. I think if it is made as mine with no trap whatever, but with a proper receiver, a prolonged cylinder large enough so that at the moment a fragment is drawn into the bulb and the expansion is complete, by gravitation that fragment drops and no amount of squeezing will bring it out of the receiver again. Now, whichever tube orifice is used, the fact remains that there is an enormous difference between the other evacuators and mine in the distance which the fragments have got to travel, in order to be caught; and there is no comparison between them as regards time required for evacuation. Whereas, in one case, we have metallic fittings with very great weight, here we have an instrument with hard rubber finish and much less weight.

I have noticed in instrument makers both here and abroad a tendency to shorten bladder instruments. There is no reason why two or three unnecessary inches should be introduced into the bladder when a shorter instrument answers all purposes. Of course, for exceptional cases tubes and other instruments of great length must be used.

Reports of Societies.

SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

H. F. VICKERY, M.D., SECRETARY.

A STATED Meeting of the Society was held Saturday, October 26th, at 19 Boylston Place. The Vice-President of the Society, Dr. E. N. WHITTIER was in the chair.

The following gentlemen were appointed Secretaries of Sections: Anatomy and Physiology, Dr. M. H.