

"9th. Doing well; pulse 90, tolerably strong, with considerable volume; appetite good. Expresses himself as doing well."

From this time he continued to do well. The ligature from external carotid separated Dec. 11th, that from primitive the following day.

"Jan. 22, 1864. Patient says he feels as well and strong as ever; no muscæ volitantes in field of vision. He walks about the city every day when the weather is fine. Union has not taken place in the fractured maxilla. Through a small external opening the ends of the bone can be seen perfectly white and bare, no callus whatever visible.

"28th. This man left Chattanooga on furlough for his home in Indiana, to all appearance as well as ever, except the inconvenience of being unable to masticate his food."

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*Persulphate of Iron in Hemorrhoids.*—Dr. GEO. S. CARTWRIGHT, Ass. Surg. U. S. V., highly extols (*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, May, 1864) the efficacy of the persulphate of iron employed as an ointment in the treatment of hemorrhoids. It is especially beneficial, he states, in ulcerated hemorrhoids; or in those whose constitutions are debilitated from diarrhœa, long marches, and excessive fatigue of any kind.

Of several cases which he relates illustrative of the advantages of this remedy, we select the following:—

"Major —, U. S. A., of full habit, has been the subject of slight hemorrhoids for several years. For the last twelve months, has been obliged to travel a great part of the time in a rough vehicle. Applied to me December 5th, 1863. On examination found a small tumour, external to the sphincter, about the size of a large pea; when at stool it would protrude to the size of a small walnut, and would with difficulty be returned.

"*Treatment.*—Lead water freely applied to the part, and R ferri persulphas ʒss., cerate simplex ʒj. Rub well together and apply on retiring at night. The effect of the persulphas was almost immediate, relieving pain and cauterizing the part.

"I would state that he had previously used ointment of galls, tannin, opium, etc., with only a temporary relief. The effect of the persulphas is permanent, and in the above case he was able to ride on horseback, or take active exercise, within two weeks after commencing the use of the iron, without the least inconvenience. It is now two months since he first commenced the use of it and has not had any return since."

Dr. C. sometimes employs the ointment with double the proportion of the persulphate used in this case.

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*Active Constituents of Ergot of Rye.*—Mr. W. T. WENZELL, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, has investigated the proximate chemistry of ergot, and he states (*American Journal of Pharmacy*, May, 1864) that he has succeeded in isolating two vegetable nitrogenized alkaloids, the first of which he has provisionally named "ecbolina," and the second "ergotina." Mr. W. gives the following account of the physiological action of the alkaloids.

"The experiments were made by comparison with the powdered drug. Unlike most authors, who believe that ergot has no obvious action on the male, I have come to the conclusion that it has as powerful an influence upon the spinal column of the male as it has upon the female. I find a half grain of *ecbolina* to possess the same therapeutic action as thirty grains of ergot. From either the alkaloid or the powdered ergot in the doses mentioned, the following effects have been experienced upon myself:

"The functions of the brain were excited to a species of intoxication, in which participated the muscular system, causing involuntary contractions of the muscles, soon followed by nausea, loss of appetite, a sense of weight and shooting pains through the head, stiffness and soreness of the muscles of the neck and extremities, a creeping sensation along the course of the spine; finally, a state of general relaxation and debility, soreness of the muscles, particularly those of the extremities, and a gnawing sensation in the stomach, with hunger. From the beginning to the end of the ergotic influence, which lasted about three

hours, the pulse was not materially affected until the stage of debility supervened, when the pulse fell about four beats per minute. On doubling the dose, the only difference observed was, that the state of excitement was of shorter duration, but was followed by a greater amount of debility, greater weakness, with trembling of the extremities and pain through the chest.

"Half a grain of chloride of ecbolina was given to a strong, muscular man, weighing 180 pounds, and in perfect health. He complained of shooting pains in the head, nausea, frequent calls at micturition, pain and tightness across the chest, followed by a reduction of the pulse, depression of the mind, a dull pain with a sense of pressure above the orbits, and general debility.

"Experiments instituted with ergotina in a physiological point of view were less complete, owing to the loss previously mentioned. From the effect produced upon myself, I believe it to be less active than its congener, and although capable of causing some cerebral excitement, and a reduction of the pulse, I did not observe the same specific action upon the spinal column and muscular system."

Mr. W. gave a physician a solution of the chlorate of ecbolina to test its medicinal qualities in uterine hemorrhage and in parturition, and he reports having used it in several cases of uterine hemorrhage, with satisfactory results, but says that, "from the symptoms produced in the doses I had directed him to give, he was compelled to lay it aside, from the energetic and poisonous action it evinced, causing great nausea with distressing vomiting and intense headache. He thinks the ecbolina to be a powerful agent."

*The Formation of Crystals of Phosphate of Lime and Magnesia upon the Intestinal Mucous Membrane.*—F. A. LARUE, Professor of Legal Medicine in Laval University, Quebec, has communicated to the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* (March 24th, 1864) the following curious case:—

"On the 1st of February, 1864, I was requested by the Coroner of Quebec to make a *post-mortem* examination of a woman who had been buried two months and some days, and with regard to whose death there had arisen suspicions of poisoning. The body, although putrefaction had already set in, was, considering the time that had elapsed since death, in a tolerable state of preservation. The skin was of a dark-blue colour, and the epidermis came off on pressure of the finger.

"On opening the stomach I found a few ounces of a darkish fluid, which I put aside for analysis. Passing my fingers over the mucous membrane I felt small, hard bodies, which, when taken off and allowed to dry, had the appearance of small crystals of a yellowish-white colour. Having some months previously examined the body of a person who had been poisoned by arsenic, I was so much struck by the resemblance of the crystals before me with those found on that occasion that I felt almost convinced that I had to deal with another case of arsenical poisoning. I accordingly brought the large and small intestines and liver to Quebec for further examination.

"The day after my arrival I proceeded to test the crystals for arsenic by the method of reduction by sulphuretted hydrogen, &c., but, to my great surprise, the result was purely negative. I then tried, by Reinsch's method, a little of the liquid contained in the stomach; but the copper leaf, after having remained in it an hour, was withdrawn as clear and bright as when it was introduced. Thus convinced of the absence of arsenic, I next proceeded to examine the intestinal tube. The stomach and duodenum did not present, either internally or externally, any trace of inflammation. To appreciate, however, the morbid phenomena presented by the several organs, we must bear in mind how long a time had elapsed since death, and also that putrefaction, while it at times simulates these phenomena, at other times causes them to disappear. The mucous membrane of the remainder of the small and of the large intestines was manifestly very much reddened, but only in patches. I had found an *ascaris lumbricoides* in the stomach. I found another in the duodenum, four in the cæcum, and two in the colon. The whole of the mucous membrane of the small and large intestines was found lined with hundreds and hundreds of small white crystals, similar to those found in the stomach. The largest of these crystals might be about