

The next day the friend who accompanied him reported to me that the lens had been several times displaced. He was advised to remain quiet during the day and to continue the calabar, and, if necessary, to report to me the next morning before setting out for his home.

He was also cautioned that he must avoid sudden exertion, lifting, &c.; since he might thus dislocate one or both lenses.

Nov. 11th, 1869.—A boy of about 12 years of age was brought to the Ophthalmic Clinique at the City Hospital, both of whose eyes exhibited partial lateral displacement and slight opacity of the crystalline. His mother was sure he had not good vision; but its exact amount could not readily be ascertained on account of the mental imbecility of the patient.

December, 1869.

CASE OF ABSCESS OF THE LIVER,

Discharging Sero-purulent Matter and numerous supposed Biliary Calculi from an Opening in the Hollow of the Umbilicus, and continuing nearly a Year.

By GEORGE W. DOANE, M.D., Hyannis, Mass.

MRS. C., of this vicinity, aged 80 years last June, while visiting her daughter in Boston, was seized about the first of December, 1868, with severe pain in the right side over the liver, which continued about three weeks and then subsided, so that she was comfortable and about house. In about two weeks after, discovered quite a sized tumor over the region of the gall-bladder, as nearly as they can describe it to me, which was not painful in the least on pressure, and which gradually commenced to settle down until it reached the hollow of the umbilicus, when it became purple, and broke, after being poulticed a few days, about the first of March, and soon discharged the first calculus. It continued to discharge one or two at a time every two or three days up to the 23d of October, when, after experiencing quite severe pain for three days, eight calculi were discharged at one time, and no more have appeared since. The calculi are about the size of common peas—some larger and some smaller—of irregular shape, generally approaching the form of a square; some lighter and some heavier than water, of a resinous, oleaginous appearance, of dark-yellow color, and not looking like those that I have seen passed by the natural channels of the body. The friends judge that as many as a

hundred of these bodies must have been discharged since last March.

The query in this case is, where do these bodies come from. The gall-bladder I have always supposed to be the only place where biliary calculi are formed, and if so, why is not the bile also discharged along with the calculi in this case; or are these concretions, lumps of inspissated bile from some other part of the liver? I can find but few cases on record of calculi being discharged from the side, and none of these state whether bile accompanied the discharge or not. A chemical analysis might probably show their composition and origin; and such concretions, perhaps, may form in the tubuli of the liver.

A few more particulars in the history of this case may not be uninteresting. Mrs. C. is not what would be called of a bilious temperament, and has always lived in a dry, sandy place—the last place to engender any disposition to diseases of the liver—and has lived an active, temperate life in every sense of the term. Perfectly healthy, except having a severe cough ever since she was 18 or 20 years of age; several times in her life so severe that her physician thought she could not live. This cough was always considered to be confined to the lungs entirely, but I am induced to think, from its spasmodic character, has been caused by a diseased liver, creating irritation and spasmodic action of the diaphragm, aggravated at times by colds. For the last six or seven years she has been troubled with a burning sensation over the lower part of the right side, and for about the same length of time her urine has been thick and very foetid, showing that the kidneys were carrying on a vicarious elimination of the effete matters from the body. All this burning sensation of the right side has subsided since the discharge has taken place.

She was under a homœopathic physician while in Boston, and I have no account of the case, except from friends, until I saw her soon after her return home in the early spring. She was then comfortable, and up most of the day. Appetite good. Bowels perfectly regular, and stools natural in color. Slept well and had no pain. I recommended non-interference with the abscess; but as the continued discharge seemed to tell on her system, I advised a plain, nutritious diet, with wine three or four times a day, which has been continued ever since. She has been comfortable through the summer, except for about two or three weeks in September, when she lost

her appetite, and her stools became clay-colored. She soon, however, came round right in her stomach and bowels, but has gradually failed in her general strength, and now sits up only three or four hours a day; she is very comfortable every way except the annoyance of her cough. The opening of the abscess is quite healthy, with a slight fungus around it, and an ordinary sized female catheter can be passed without force upwards and to the right about three inches.

[At the request of Dr. Doane, the calculi were sent for analysis to Dr. White, who has kindly sent us the following statement.]

"The specimens you gave me for analysis are what they seem to be—biliary concretions composed of cholesterin and bile pigment. Their laminated structure is the same as is seen in ordinary gall-stone. In the only case of a similar discharge of these bodies through the abdominal wall that I have seen there was, as in this, no escape of fluid bile.

JAMES C. WHITE.

"Boston, December 8, 1869."

A CASE OF REMARKABLE ENDURANCE.

Reported by JOHN F. BUTLER, M.D., Chesterfield Factory, N. H.

Mrs. J. W., aged about 34, native of Ireland and the mother of several children, has always enjoyed robust health, with the exception of occasional attacks of epilepsy, until about two years since, when pregnant—some two months prior to confinement—she became violently insane. This attack was recovered from at confinement.

At noon of Oct. 22d, 1869, I was called to visit her, and found her again pregnant, at about seven months. She could, or would give no exact data, and a digital examination was not obtained. She was again insane, but not wildly so, and complained of nothing, yet evidently had slight uterine pains.

Oct. 23d.—Saw her again. She was at a neighbor's house and intensely wild. During the night previous she attempted to kill her husband and children. I gave her an anodyne, and left her, with general directions for her management.

About daylight the next morning she entered a former neighbor's house some one and a half miles from her residence. She was wet to the skin, *perfectly drenched*, cold and shivering, and smeared with blood. The lady upon whom she called immediately changed her clothing, gave her hot drinks, and despatched a messenger for me. I

found her lying on a lounge; but on perceiving me she rose and sat up. From her I learned she left home about three or four o'clock, P.M., the day previous, and started across Pistareen mountain to go to her father's. The region will vie in ruggedness with the White Mountains. She wandered about till dark, when, exhausted, she "laid down between two rocks" and gave birth to a pair of twins. Thinly clad, she shivered out the night, and at dawn travelled on again, and arrived where I found her between five and six o'clock, A.M., Oct. 24th. She was calm, pulse 70, and in nowise worse off than most women after confinement under the most favorable circumstances.

Oct. 25th.—Pulse 62. Appetite good, and perfectly comfortable.

Oct. 28th.—Rode home, sitting up in a common buggy.

That a woman could undergo the pains and perils of childbirth alone, lost and half clad, on a bleak mountain and during one of the most violent rainstorms of this inclement season of the year, and not receive detriment therefrom, seems marvellous.

Sed sic est.

Oct. 30, 1869.

Selected Papers.

IMPORTANCE OF A THOROUGH MEDICAL EDUCATION.

From the excellent Introductory Address of Prof. R. M. Hodges to the Medical Class of Harvard University, we take the following extracts:—

The plan of a thorough medical education compels the student to fathom a multitude of subjects, and the question will naturally be asked, why Surgery should be so much more prominent than many other departments of study, operations in private practice being of comparatively rare occurrence, and many physicians feeling no inclination to undertake them.

The indispensable, but purely technical, art of operative surgery separates medical from surgical diseases; but this arbitrary division does not extend to pathology, which is, so to speak, one and indivisible; and the fact that surgery deals with external diseases, visible to the eye and accessible to the touch, makes it an invaluable field in which to study, not merely the elements or certain isolated fragments of pathological inquiry, but almost its entire range,