

sue the case farther, except to say that the progress has fully verified the diagnosis.

My object in giving this account, and in this form, is to call the attention of dentists (and their physicians) to the fact that in the practice of their art they may meet with a similar misfortune, and that its character may not easily be perceived by the most skilful surgeons. In New York, I was assured by Dr. F. (who is a professor, and a very distinguished surgeon), that chancres in the mouth are by no means rare, and perhaps a search would prove them about as plenty in Boston. Should the finger come in contact with such a sore, a hang-nail would give abundant entrance to the poison.

It is almost twenty years since I have practised medicine, and to medical men I do not feel competent to make further comments on the case.

AN ACEPHALOUS FŒTUS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

EARLY on the morning of the 24th inst., I was summoned to visit a young woman, about 18 years of age, residing in an adjoining town, some five miles distant.

On my arrival, I was informed that she was suffering from "cramp in the stomach," to which she had been subject for several years; that about six months previously she had a severe course of typhoid fever, and that since that time she had not menstruated. I was also informed that she had been married nearly three months.

Immediately after entering her room I discovered that she was in labor. On making an examination, I found within the uterine orifice a fœtus, apparently of about four months, which was expelled in the course of half an hour, and which appeared to be in a perfectly natural and healthy condition, except that it was *acephalous*.

On making a further examination, I discovered the *head of another* fœtus, of about *six months*, presenting, which was also expelled in the course of an hour, and which was found to be attached to a separate placenta, and lived several hours after birth.

Milford, Ct., July 27th, 1858.

L. N. BEARDSLEY.

IMPACTED RECTUM FROM EATING PINE CHIPS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE case of impacted rectum reported in the JOURNAL for July 22, reminds me of a somewhat similar case which occurred in my practice some ten months ago.

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A boy, eight years of age, had been complaining for several days of what his parents considered to be dysentery. There were frequent discharges of a watery fluid, tinged with red, of a most offensive smell, and attended with great suffering. Not obtaining relief from such remedies as were at hand, and the mother noticing that some unusual substance occasionally passed, I was sent for in the night. I found a solid mass impacted in the rectum, as high up as the tip of the finger could reach. The patient was making strong efforts to relieve himself, which only increased the distension, and to such a degree that the sphincter remained open, enabling me, by the aid of a candle, to see the obstruction. The parts were so much irritated that the slightest touch produced excruciating suffering. By gentle manipulation, however, portions of the substance were slowly picked away, there being, at the same time, a slight movement downward through the involuntary efforts of the patient, as the bulk diminished. I removed, I think, a teacupful of what proved to be pitch pine chips, angular, and with sharp edges, of the size of a pea, made by a large circular saw at a neighboring mill. Having removed all that could be reached, an injection was given, followed by a dose of oil, after which I left the patient, as the urgent symptoms had subsided. When the laxatives operated, large quantities of the same substance passed away, in several successive movements of the bowels. The father estimated the amount to be a quart, but this must of course be an exaggeration. After the character of the mass was ascertained, it was recollected that the child had had, for a long time, a craving for this particular article of diet, and had eaten large quantities of it. No evils results followed, and he was well in a few days.

Hadley, Ms., July, 1858.

F. BONNEY.

Reports of Medical Societies.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT. BY F. E. OLIVER, M.D., SECRETARY.

JULY 26th.—*Abdominal Tumors.* Case reported by Dr. G. H. GAY.

Mrs. R., æt. 46, had generally enjoyed good health till three years ago, when she felt at times a lump in the left ovarian region, more or less movable, and attended with a dull aching sensation rather than a sharp pain. It seemed to be limited to that spot, and the uneasiness was such that she could not lie on that side. She was about six months pregnant when she first discovered it. As pregnancy advanced, the lump was pressed between the left ilium and lower rib, and became less and less movable, upward and downward only and over a small extent of surface. This motion, such as it was, was very decided. The "lump" could not be moved toward the umbilicus. At the time of confinement, she was much larger than ever before. Almost immediately after the confinement, the "lump" or tumor moved toward the median line, and for twenty-four hours was very painful. The pain then gradually ceased. The abdomen never fell down to the