

## INVERSION OF THE UTERUS.

(NOTE FROM DR. TYLER SMITH.)

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Will you permit me to state, with reference to the case of inversion of the uterus which formed the subject of a recent paper of mine at the Medico-Chirurgical Society, that Mr. Griffith Griffith, of Portmadoc, Carnarvonshire, who sent the patient to me, considered the case to be one of inversion. She had been under his care for a short time only, but the diagnosis he had formed was a correct one. Mr. Griffith is anxious that this fact should be distinctly stated, as, indeed it was in the paper as read to the Society. In a recent note to me, he mentions that the patient is now advanced in pregnancy, and in excellent health.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Upper Grosvenor-street, June, 1857. W. TYLER SMITH, M.D.

## EPIDEMIC SORE-THROAT.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In your "Annotations" upon "Diphtheria" in THE LANCET of May 22nd, you remark: "There can be no doubt that this disease is, by many practitioners, very frequently confounded with scarlatinal sore-throat, with croup, or with quinsy." I think you might, with justice, have added, that diphtheria may become developed, or, as it were, engrafted upon the affections of the throat you allude to. Witness the following succession of cases:—

On April 17th, I was called to see a young woman, aged twenty-four, who had left her service, in a respectable farmhouse, on account of sore-throat. I found her suffering from regular quinsy, which formed and discharged pus; but, at the same time, the entire fauces, soft palate, and uvula, were of a uniform intense dusky-red, and very painful. This condition yielded to treatment, and especially to free pencilling with solution of nitrate of silver. She returned to her place well.

On April 29th, I was called to see a little girl, aged four, in the same farm-house, who was just showing the incipient symptoms of scarlatina. By next day the disease was fully established in a mild form, with less affection of throat than usual; and this continued till about the end of the fourth day, when the throat suddenly became severely attacked with diphtheria, and, in spite of treatment, the child died of exhaustion and obstructed glottis on May 6th.

By this time the child's mother and aunt, both of whom had nursed her constantly, two female servants who had been with her, and myself, were all attacked with sore-throat of greater or less intensity, and with a considerable amount of constitutional disturbance. The inflammation, in every case, had its dusky-red character, and affected the tonsils and soft palate, extending on the latter, in every case, about a quarter of an inch, not further, from the edge of the arch. In none of these cases was there either ulceration or exudation.

On May 9th, I was called to see the half-brother of the little girl who died. The boy, aged ten, had been removed to a house a mile distant immediately after his sister's disease had been declared scarlatina. I found him suffering from severe sore-throat, but not a symptom of scarlatina. Nor did the slightest symptom of that disease exhibit itself. He had, however, an alarming attack of "diphtheria," with excavations covered with ash-coloured exudations on each tonsil, and with fever of a low type. He ultimately got well under the use of nitrate of silver to the fauces, the constant use of a gargle composed of one drachm of the liquor of the chloride of lime to the half-pint of water, and seven-grain doses of chlorate of potash, every six hours; beef-tea and milk diet.

Here we have quinsy, in the first instance, taking on the idiopathic character; next we have an isolated case of scarlatina, mild in itself, but converted into a fatal disease by the development of diphtheria in a severe form. Further, we have five cases of diphtheria in adults, in a more or less severe form, traceable to the last-mentioned case; and lastly, we have a severe case of diphtheria fully developed in a child, traceable to the locality, but not to personal communication.

I must also add that in the adjoining village I have seen, since the above cases occurred, half a dozen cases of mild inflamed throat, with slight fever, not traceable to infection in any way.

I draw the following conclusions:—That we have had the diphtheritic influence, whatever that may be, epidemically present in the locality, ready to engraft itself upon any affection of the region it more especially attacks, but also capable

of attacking independent of such affection, and also capable of communication by infection.

With respect to treatment, I should certainly recommend large and frequent doses of chlorate of potash, the chlorinated gargle I have mentioned above, and the free use of nitrate of silver. With respect to the latter remedy, I may mention that I always use the solution in pure nitric ether, as advised, I believe, by Mr. Startin, and of the strength of two scruples to an ounce. Personal experience is, perhaps, the best guide; and when my own throat was affected, I tried the solutions both in nitric ether and in water of similar strengths. The nitric ether certainly acted with much more energy than the watery one, appearing not only to diffuse itself more freely over the affected parts, but to penetrate the mucous coatings more readily.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,  
Burton-on-Trent, May, 1858. SPENCER THOMSON, M.D.

## THE SEWAGE QUESTION.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In a letter in your journal of the 29th ult., "A Son of the Thames" writes thus: "It is not proved that the Thames acts prejudicially upon the health of the metropolis." Subsequently, however, he states that "it is probable, to say the least, that the difficulty of ventilating the sewers, when connected with the huge main-drains will be greatly increased, and that, consequently, we shall be more exposed than at present to the reflux of poisonous gases in our streets and houses." Now, Sir, I must say that in this latter statement is an admission that settles the question implied in the first quotation. It surely requires no proof that the Thames is highly charged with sewer gases and a constant source of their exhalation into the atmosphere. These sewer gases are admitted to be poisonous; the Thames, as the recipient of them and of the sewage which produces them, must act prejudicially on the health of the metropolis; if not, I submit that the sewer gases are not proved to be poisonous.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,  
Sheffield, June, 1858. AN OCCASIONAL VISITOR.

## THE GREAT SOCIAL EVIL.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—The interest you take in whatever elucidates and exposes the danger to society attending the *unchecked* state of the great social evil of the present day, induces me to send you the following short illustrations.

A youth of fifteen applied at my Dispensary with gonorrhœa and phymosis, and told me that, having been frequently stopped and spoken to in St. James's-park, he at length yielded, and accompanied the person to a low house close by, every room in which was filled with beds, most of which were occupied by persons of opposite sexes. Another patient told me that he had frequently changed the route home from his office to avoid importunity. He is not seventeen, but has unfortunately fallen a victim. A poor woman brought her child, a girl of fifteen. She was a good girl up to a few months back, but was enticed to enter a brothel, and was kept there some weeks, and then sent home diseased.

My colleague, Mr. Dunn, turned over to my care a youth of fifteen, now suffering from tuberculous consolidation of the right lung. His mother states that he was very well up to January last, when he was induced to accompany home some female, and was then diseased by her. This boy slept with his sister, aged ten years, and gave the disease to her; both were affected with gonorrhœa, and cured by my colleague. Within the last few years I have known perhaps a dozen boys, about fifteen or sixteen years of age, diseased, all of whom stated to me that they were importuned over and over again until they were ensnared; and I doubt not that most medical men can give similar testimony.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Berners-street, May, 1858. W. R. ROGERS, M.D.

APPOINTMENTS.—Dr. King Chambers has been appointed Examiner in Physiology in the new "Associate in Arts" examinations at Oxford.—At a meeting of the select vestry of the borough of Liverpool, held on Tuesday, May 25th, Mr. Joseph Pope was elected to the post of district medical officer by a majority of 11 to 5. Mr. Pope has held the position of senior house-surgeon to the Liverpool Southern Hospital for the past twelve months.