

fluenza and kindred diseases. It was then my intention before this time to have written to you further on that subject. But a severe fit of sickness, which afflicted me in June and July, 1842, prevented my writing about that time. And since then, having been considerably concerned in the treatment of fractures, some of which were of the very worst kind; and seeing much evil and misfortune arise from want of an efficient mode of treatment, I was induced to make you this communication respecting a method of managing such fractures, which I can recommend from an experience of more than thirty years. Circumstances permitting, I shall endeavor to write to you further on fever, &c. Yours, &c.

Franklin, N. H., Dec. 28th, 1843.

JOB WILSON.

CASE OF SCROFULOUS ULCERATION OF THE KIDNEYS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

EPHRAIM NORWOOD, carpenter, æt 41; of temperate and industrious habits; scrofulous constitution. During ten months previous to July, 1842, suffered occasionally from pain in the region of the kidney, with swelling and redness; dysuria; sediment of the urine the same as in inflammatory diseases generally. He was flattered and deceived by a number of the most notorious scoundrel quacks that infest the community, and took the nostrums which their fertile minds suggested, from cow's urine to tar pills and muriatic acid. The acid always created the most severe paroxysms, yet he was assured it was dissolving stones in the kidney.

Dr. Coffin was called in the summer of 1842. Paroxysms severe; redness and swelling over the kidneys; much strangury; mucus, and puriform and bloody matter with the urine. Diagnosis, disease of the kidneys; sediment is variable, and insufficient to indicate calculi with any certainty. Drs. Gould of Lynn, Peirson and Holyoke of Salem, coincided with Dr. C. Gave alkaline remedies; morphia to alleviate paroxysms. Regimen, antiphlogistic.

Dr. C. having been taken sick, I was called, February 3d, 1843. Paroxysms are excruciating, endurable only with morphia; continue from one quarter to three quarters of an hour; intervals from one to two or three days, during which, is quite comfortable. Bloody, purulent, and membranous matter in the urine. Dysuria and strangury. Sediment lateritious; urine high colored. Pulse in the interval, 85; in the paroxysm, 95 to 110. Appetite variable; bowels costive; countenance pale, haggard, indicative of great suffering. Unable to lie abed, body being constantly flexed. Prognosis unfavorable. Diagnosis, disease of the kidneys; nothing sabulous being in the sediment, was not confident of stone. Ordered alkaline medicines, with diuretics. Continue morphia; emplastrum and embrocations over the kidney.

March.—No better; constitution sympathizes. Continue same medicines, slightly varied. Food, unstimulating and nutritious. Is examined by a clairvoyant, who pretends to discover calculi in the kidneys, giving

their shape, color, size, consistence, &c. Says he will have one more paroxysm, and then recover.

April.—Is much the same; disease is making inroads upon the constitution.

May.—Goes out little; micturition almost constant; urinary discharges the same. Another magnetized clairvoyant subject examines Mr. N. Discovers calculi, but differs in description from the preceding. Says he will recover. Recommends bal. copaiba, oyster shells, &c.

June.—Failing fast. Sediment the same in quantity and quality. Another disciple of Mesmer consents, in great kindness, to describe the progress of his disease. Discovers calculi in the kidneys, and also one in the ureter, giving it the appearance of a serpent after swallowing a toad. Ordered tonics; continue diuretics.

July.—Is attacked with the influenza, which augments his sufferings and racks his constitution; is sensible of his situation.

August.—Failing rapidly; throat ulcerated; mouth filled with sordes; swelling over the kidneys, the same tenderness and redness along the course of the ureters; sediment and urine the same; micturition constant; much strangury; delirious; pulse 120; sinking; dies Aug. 22d.

Autopsy, twenty hours after death, attended by Dr. Prescott, and other gentlemen. Much ecchymosis; great emaciation and anemia; abdominal muscles tense and collapsed; liver slightly enlarged, color nearly normal; stomach normal; mesentery highly injected and dark; small intestines dark, nearly gangrenous, and extremely fetid; right kidney one third larger than natural, its medullary portion occupied by numerous cavities, from a pea to that of a walnut in size, completely filled with pus and crude, cheesy, tuberculous matter; an ounce of urine in the pelvis. The left kidney enlarged; ulcers less in number and size; contents the same as the right; portion of it not ulcerated thickly studded with small tubercles. Ureters slightly enlarged and highly inflamed, containing minute particles of purulent matter. Bladder contracted, adherent to the symphysis pubis; containing six ounces purulent fluid; mucous coat partially ulcerated, and covered with a layer of lymph nearly gangrenous. Psoæ and quadratus lumborum muscles, with the contiguous vessels, dark, approaching gangrene. No sand, gravel or calculi to be found; and considering the nature and extent of the ulceration of the kidneys, with the almost entire want of sabulous sediment in the urine, the unavoidable conclusion is, that calculi never existed in the kidneys, notwithstanding they were distinctly seen thrice by clairvoyant subjects of superior power.

JAMES M. NYE, M.D.

Lynn, Jan. 11, 1844.

VISITS TO MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from a tour among some of the medical schools of our country. I spent several weeks in Philadelphia, in