

October 11th, 1854.—Mr. H. H—, a farmer, married, and the father of a large family; of very temperate habits; has always enjoyed good health, until some weeks back, when he felt his strength failing. He was greatly emaciated. His ancestors were “all liable to complaints of the kidney,” such as gravel, &c. His father died of diabetes after labouring under that complaint for three years.

*Present state.*—Complains of great weakness, and inability of any exertion of mind or body; loss of appetite; nausea and vomiting; breath peculiarly offensive; cough, expectorating sometimes freely; bronchial respiration, sibilant r  le; tongue white; pulse 98, feeble; pain in the loins increased on pressure on the left side; urine pale—specific gravity .15, no albumen; bleeding of the nose sometimes; skin of a dark hue, having the appearance of a mulatto, on the face, front of the arms and thighs, and superior part of the chest; very dark on the hands; finger-nails pale; the conjunctiv   pearly white; enlargement of the lymphatic glands in the axilla, and about the clavicles and in the groins; no tinge of bile in the urine; inside the lips dark.

Some of his friends have been persuading him that he has the jaundice; but the whiteness of the conjunctiv  , the absence of bile in the urine, and the paleness of the finger-nails, convinced me at once that he was labouring under disease of the supra-renal capsules. He was ordered the following mixture:—Dilute nitro-muriatic acid, two drachms; spirit of nitric ether, three drachms; infusion of quassia, seven ounces and a half; mixed: a tablespoonful to be taken three times a day. Mercury pill, a scruple; compound extract of colocynth, two scruples; mixed: to be divided into twelve pills, two to be taken every other night. Mustard poultice to be applied to the chest. Diet: milk, broth, rice, arrowroot, &c.

November 1st.—Nausea and vomiting; shortness of breath; expectorating freely; pain in the limbs in every other respect the same. To have an emetic twice a week, and to continue the mixture and pills; to have a blister applied to the chest.

December 2nd.—Cough and breathing better, but still no appetite; bad taste in the mouth; bowels acting freely with the pills; urine, specific gravity .18; pulse 82; tongue clean; spirits depressed; skin unchanged. To repeat the medicine.

Jan. 1st, 1855.—Better in every respect; appetite improving.

February 2nd.—Better; pulse 84; urine, specific gravity 20; skin not quite so dark on the face; the glands in the left axilla much enlarged. To repeat mixture and pills.

March 3rd.—Still improving; pulse 79; urine, specific gravity .20; cough much better; glands much enlarged in the left axilla; an abscess forming on the left elbow. To repeat the medicine, and to take a spoonful of cod-liver oil three times a day.

April 2nd.—Much better in health and spirits; the abscess on the elbow, and three or four in the axilla, were lanced. The patient complained of pains in the loins and hip-joint. To have mustard poultice to the loins, and to continue the medicine.

May 3rd.—Still improving; abscesses discharging freely; pulse 74; urine, specific gravity .20; rapidly gaining strength; skin recovering its natural colour. Galbanum plaster to be applied to the sores; to continue the medicine and cod-liver oil, and to have a pint of porter daily.

June 3rd.—Better in every respect; less pain in the loins since the abscesses began discharging; is now regaining flesh. To continue the medicine and cod-liver oil; diet as before; to have meat every day.

August 15th.—Some of the abscesses still discharging; is very free from pain; skin resuming its natural colour everywhere except the axilla. To repeat the medicine and cod-liver oil; diet as before.

Sept. 20th.—Some of the abscesses discharging; the enlarged glands about the clavicles disappeared; general health good. To repeat the medicine as before.

October 15th.—The abscesses have all healed; feels quite well; the skin has perfectly recovered.

His an  mic state suggested to me that he had discrasia, and that the abscesses were of a strumous character, so that I am inclined to think that he had tubercular deposition in one supra-renal capsule, if not in both. The abscesses discharging caused a revulsion in this case, as he rapidly improved after they had commenced discharging, under the nitro-muriatic acid mixture and cod-liver oil, with nutritious diet. Three years have elapsed since the patient was under treatment; his health has been good ever since, without fluctuating.

Rhayader, Radnorshire, June, 1858.

## REPORT OF A CASE OF ADHESION OF THE LABIA AFTER CONFINEMENT.

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AN elderly female brought a young woman to my study, stating that she had become large of late, and fancied she had a tumour. This person had been attending with me a case of uterine disease, and thought this a similar case. I appointed to see her at her own residence next day, which I accordingly did, and gathered the following history:—

Married upwards of two years; became pregnant soon after marriage, and engaged a medical practitioner to attend her, whose services, however, were not obtainable at the time they were required. Labour came on rapidly, and the poor woman had no one near her but her mother. She states that all went on well; no abrasion or tearing took place so far as she knew, and she made a good recovery. Six weeks afterwards she returned to her husband's bed, when it was found that no connexion could take place without intense pain, causing him to desist, and all future attempts met with a like result. Some months passed away, and about June or July last attempts were renewed, but ineffectually; and so matters remained up to January last, when she was induced, after much persuasion, to allow me to examine her. She presented the appearance of a woman six or seven months advanced in pregnancy, but she stoutly denied the possibility of any such thing. The appearance of the parts was peculiar; perfect union of the labia had taken place from below upwards, where there was a small opening just sufficient to admit the top of the little finger, and that with pain; at the junction with the perin  um there was a cul-de-sac, having no communication with the vagina. The adhesion was perfect, no mere false membrane, but a thick substance. Happening to have my pocket-case, I at once passed a director down into the cavity of the vagina, and then passed one blade of the probe-pointed scissors into the cul-de-sac, and rubbed on the groove until the metal could be felt, and then cut right up. The bleeding was very great per saltum from both sides; pressure and cold failing to check it, I was obliged to put a ligature on both arteries, no easy matter without a proper assistant: I then passed a sponge inside the reflected labia, and passed a T-bandage over all.

I then directed my attention to the tumour, and on auscultation could hear distinctly the pulsations of the foetal heart, enabling me at once to convey the startling intelligence that the tumour was movable, *very benign*, and capable of removal in the natural manner, now that the way was happily made clear, disclosing at once the remarkable physiological fact that pregnancy may take place without consent, direct contact, or connexion; for I judge that the pain produced by the effort would prevent even “consent.” There must have been abrasion at the time of her confinement, and consequent swelling, causing the labia to meet; adhesive inflammation then set in. The pain produced by any movement of the body rendered rest and quiet necessary; and thus the adhesion became organized and firm, having existed for thirteen months. My patient was up at the end of January, and was doing well. The infant could be felt quite plainly; and she is now convinced that her tumour was a living one. The case is instructive, and as far as my experience goes, unique.

Shaw-street, 1858.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL.—This hospital was established for the purpose of admitting patients for permanent care and comfort, whose afflictions, arising from disease, accident, or infirmity, have utterly disqualified them for the ordinary duties of life. It was instituted in July, 1854, and its fourth anniversary was celebrated by a festival at the London Tavern on the 10th inst., under the presidency of the Earl of Carlisle. There are two classes of patients—the one denominated “home,” the other “extra.” The number of home patients is at present 53, and the extra, 32; giving a total of 85 recipients of the benefits of the institution. The receipts during the year 1856–57 (inclusive of a balance of £656 7s. 1d.) were £4610 3s. 11d., and the expenditure £2556 18s. 5d. A sum of £2800 has already been devoted to the purchase of an estate at Colston, beyond Croydon, where it is proposed, when means will allow, to erect a suitable and permanent hospital. The closing business of the evening was the announcement of subscriptions to the amount of £1370.