

great magnitude performed by me, and recorded in the "Medical Gazette" of the 12th Oct., 1833, and 22nd Feb., 1834. These were cases of tumours situated directly upon, and in contact with, the common carotid arteries, both of which had a successful termination. One of these tumours was considered by the celebrated surgeon, Mr. Liston, of sufficient interest to be placed in his collection of morbid anatomy; the other is in my own collection. The operation of injecting the Eustachian tubes is considered by aurists of eminence as one of the minor operations of surgery. Mr. Pilcher, in his prize essay on Diseases of the Ears, states, at p. 308, that "a little experience renders the introduction of the catheter through the nose one of the *easiest* of the *minor* operations in surgery." I shall leave it to the profession to judge whether a surgeon capable of performing the operations above alluded to was not, also, capable of performing one of the *easiest* of the *minor* operations in surgery. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. LYON, M.R.C.S.L.

25, Montague-street, Russell-square,
Aug. 5, 1839.

JAUNDICE, FROM SPASMODIC ACTION OF THE DUODENUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—You will oblige me by giving the following case a place in your pages.—Your humble servant,

GEORGE LUCAS, Surgeon.

Ilkeaton, Derbyshire, Aug. 2, 1839.

Mr. —, æt. 64, of temperate habits, was seized in the night with violent abdominal pain, of a spasmodic nature, confined chiefly to the region of the umbilicus. Castor-oil was administered by his family with the view of unloading his bowels, which were constipated, but was not retained. I found him with a countenance expressive of much suffering, bending forwards, and exerting pressure upon the abdomen. Pulse natural; tongue white; conjunctiva tinged with bile; no vomiting since the rejection of the castor-oil, which was mixed with portions of undigested food.—Fomentations were ordered to the abdomen, and the following draught, to be taken immediately, which was to be encouraged to operate, by the use of an injection every hour:—

Powdered rhubarb, twenty-five grains;
Jalap, ten grains;
Aromatic powder, three grains;
Peppermint-water, six drachms;
Infusion of senna, six drachms.

Draught retained; second enema followed by three copious discharges from the bowels, with instant relief to the pain. On the day following he continued free from pain; urine scanty, and highly coloured, staining his linen; tongue white; conjunctiva and general appearance jaundiced; pulse not affected; slight pain on pressure over the duodenum.—Restrictions were now given as to diet, and the following medicine was ordered:—

Comp. rhubarb pill, half a drachm;

Blue pill, half a drachm; mix, and divide into twelve pills; two every night, and half an ounce of castor oil, in a little brandy, in the morning.

Under this treatment the stools, which, at first, were deficient in, soon became impregnated with, bile; the urine changed its colour, and increased in quantity; and all the symptoms of jaundice rapidly disappeared.—To have an ounce of infusion of columba containing carbonate of soda, thrice daily, and to attend strictly to diet. The next report says that the strength and appetite greatly improved; he considers himself well.

In a few days I was again summoned to attend him, and found him labouring under the same symptoms as at first. Similar means were adopted; but as the bowels were very obstinate, two aperient draughts, assisted by several enemata, were necessary in order to relax them. The relapse was, doubtless, owing to his partaking of peas at dinner, as the symptoms manifested themselves not many hours after, and gradually increased in severity, whilst the bowels remained unmoved; the pain continued, and I distinctly witnessed the conjunctival tinge become deeper every hour. By the use of the pills already mentioned, at night, and the infusion of senna, with tartarised soda, in the morning, the bile flowed into the proper channel, and, by a strict adherence to diet and regimen, his health is now re-established.

This case appears to me to afford an illustration of spasmodic action of the duodenum giving rise to jaundice, by obstructing the flow of bile through the ductus communis coledochus. That the pain resulted from spasmodic action is evident from its character, and the instantaneous relief which followed the use of aperient medicines. That the jaundice arose from the spasmodic action it is also fair to conclude, from the circumstance of the eyes becoming so deeply tinged with bile immediately after the commencement of the pain, and gradually losing that colour upon its cessation from free alvine evacuations.