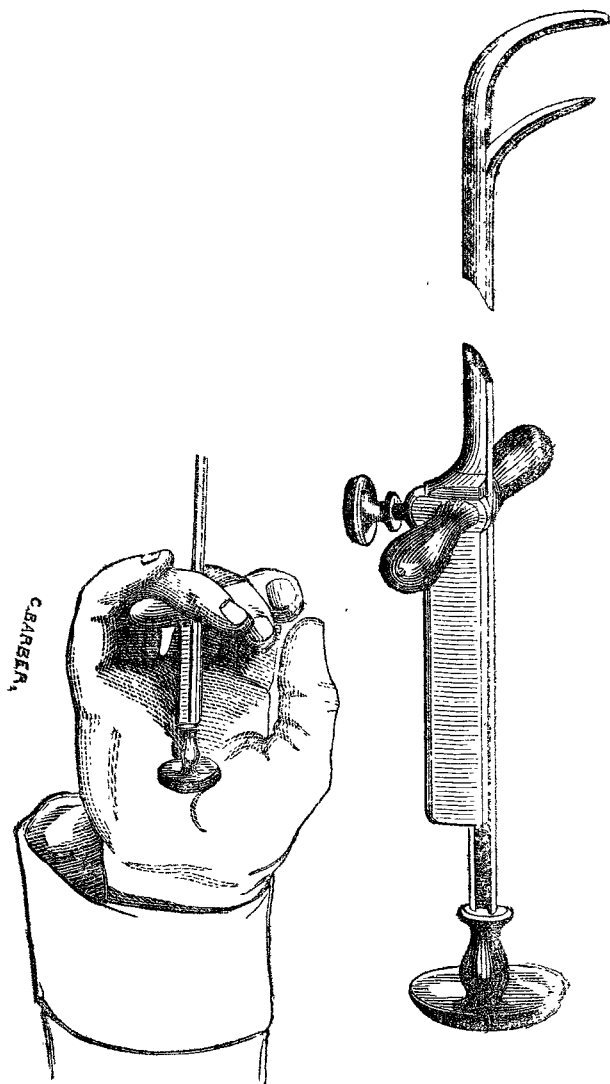


was found impacted in the neck of the bladder. The instrument being withdrawn, Mr. Thompson passed his very small lithotrite, the size only of a No. 6 catheter, the effect of which was to displace the calculus, and render it free in the cavity of the bladder. He then caught it, and, finding it very small, crushed it at once.



The lithotrite is one adapted only for very small stones, and, with no great power, is applied by simple pressure, not by means of a screw. Mr. Thompson stated that he should, in common with most surgeons, much prefer lithotomy, from its known constant success in children's cases, unless the stone should prove to be so small that it might be crushed by simple pressure. In such case he thought it preferable to spare the child the more formidable operation. It has often been our lot to see lithotomy performed for a minute calculus—no larger than an apple-pip, for example; and it appears certainly better to employ a proceeding so simple as that now described. The instrument, at all events, forms an excellent sound, while, at the same time, an exact measurement of the size of the stone can be taken. If it prove to be the third of an inch or half an inch in diameter, it will undoubtedly be safer to cut for it; but if it is obviously smaller than this, a smart pressure of the hand will crush it, and the fragments come away readily enough. On the contrary, if a stone of too great a size is crushed, the fragments, being large and perhaps angular, will be forced into the neck of the bladder, and stop there or in the urethra,—the form and activity of the organ in children being peculiarly liable to cause this to occur. Such an accident must be avoided by care being taken never to crush any but the smallest calculi, and for them it appears to be a much simpler and less hazardous proceeding than lithotomy.

The little patient suffered from considerable irritability of the bladder for some days after, as he had done before, the operation; but the character of the urine soon improved, the pain disappeared, and he rapidly regained the appearance of good health. The nocturnal incontinence was the last irregularity persisting, but ultimately it occurred only about once in five or six nights.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

CALCULUS IN THE BLADDER FOR TWO YEARS; LITHOTRITY SEVERAL TIMES; SUCCESSFUL RESULT.

(Under the care of Mr. BIRKETT.)

In the following case the patient had symptoms of stone for two years, and passed by the urethra a fragment, which evidently had been detached from a larger one. His urethra was capacious, the bladder not irritable, and the stone of very large size, but soft in texture. Lithotritry was performed several times, and occasionally fragments were impacted at the orifice of the urethra in the intervals. With the exception, however, of an attack of orchitis, nothing occurred to interfere with the satisfactory termination of the case.

W. T—, a very healthy-looking man, aged fifty-seven years, of robust frame, active and temperate habits, applied to Mr. Birkett in November, 1859, on account of symptoms of stone in the bladder. About one month before, he had passed from the urethra, after much suffering, an oval calculus, at one end of which a rough surface seemed to show that it had been broken off from another. Unequivocal indications of the presence of a stone in the bladder existing, Mr. Birkett passed a sound, and instantly struck one. Having experienced oftentimes the "attacks of his bladder," he considered that he must have had a stone more than two years. He had had medical advice, which temporarily relieved his sufferings. The urine he passed was occasionally turbid from mucus, and the bladder was irritable; but the urethra and prostate gland appeared to be quite healthy. The urethra admitted a sound of the largest size freely.

After some delay the patient was admitted in Lazarus ward, and, after a suitable preparation, Mr. Birkett broke the stone with a lithotrite in February, 1860. The blades of the instrument when grasping the stone were separated an inch and a half. It was easily crushed. The operation was performed without chloroform, and the patient did not complain of the pain it occasioned. Some fragments and sandy *débris* passed away, and the operation was repeated four times, at intervals of a week, until March, when the right testis became swollen and painful. This affection was treated in the usual manner, and it soon subsided.

Lithotritry was repeated on four successive occasions, and at last all the fragments were discharged. During the time of the operations, alkaline medicines and ferruginous tonics were administered. Very large fragments often passed without any trouble, but occasionally they were impacted near the orifice of the glans penis, and required to be removed. The patient was not sufficiently careful to preserve all the *débris*, and several fragments were lost in consequence. However, from the amount collected, the stone must have been of very large size. In chemical composition it belonged to the class of uric acid.

Provincial Hospital Reports.

LANCASTER INFIRMARY.

A BUNDLE OF FINE HAIRS, TWO INCHES LONG, GROWING FROM THE WALLS OF THE FEMALE BLADDER, AND COVERED WITH CRYSTALS OF TRIPLE PHOSPHATE; SUCCESSFUL REMOVAL BY DILATATION OF THE URETHRA.

(Under the care of Mr. HALL.)

THE occurrence of hair in the bladder is a very peculiar and most unusual circumstance, and when observed in females always excites suspicion of having been introduced by the patient herself. Such instances are known to have actually occurred. On the other hand, examples have been witnessed in which the hair undoubtedly came from the bladder, and there was good reason to suppose actually grew from the mucous membrane of the viscus itself; such, at least, would appear to have been the case in the following example, for the notes of which we are indebted to Mr. Frederic Meggy, one of the pupils of Guy's Hospital, who brought the subject before the Guy's Pupils' Physical Society. The symptoms exhibited by the patient were unusual, and simulated those of urinary cal-