

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

Vesico-Vaginal Fistula of Seven Years' Duration cured in Thirteen Days.—Dr. J. MARION SIMS records (*New York Medical Times*, May, 1854), the following case of vesico-vaginal fistula cured by the method devised by him and described in the number of this Journal for January, 1854.

The subject of the case was the wife of a professional gentleman of South Carolina; the fistula resulted from a tedious labour, in which the child's head remained impacted in the inferior strait for twenty-four hours. "The incontinence of urine began about eight days after delivery, up to which time the catheter was occasionally called for. There was no water discharged during the twenty-four hours of impaction. Attempts were made to introduce the catheter, but without effect. The fistulous opening was, at first, large enough to admit easily a No. 9 catheter, but under repeated cauterizations, for upwards of seven years, it gradually diminished to about the size of a common probe. In April, 1845, four months after the reception of the injury, Mrs. H. was placed under the care of the distinguished Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, who used the nitrate of silver, and then the actual cautery, till about the middle of August, but with no benefit. She then visited New York, and was placed under the care of Dr. Mott; the mention of whose name is sufficient guarantee that all was done for her that science and art could at that day suggest. After remaining in New York about three months, and submitting to the repeated application of the actual cautery, she returned home in the same hopeless condition. From May, 1845, to December, 1852, seven years and a half, the actual cautery was used, on an average, about every four or five weeks.

"Mrs. H. came under my care in February, 1853. The fistulous opening was just above the neck of the bladder, a little to the right of the mesial line, and altogether favourable for a successful operation. It ran diagonally through the walls of the bladder, thus forming a sort of sinuous canal of a valvular character. When lying on the side or sitting quietly, the urine escaped in very minute quantities, enough, however, to render life anything but pleasant or desirable. When lying on the back, it dripped very freely, indeed quite as rapidly as secreted; also while walking. But if, by perfect quietude on the side, the urine was retained till the bladder became unpleasantly distended, then she could walk without its involuntary discharge. The philosophy of this is plain enough. The accumulated urine, by its distension, acted mechanically on the narrow, diagonal, sinuous canal, compressing its sides, and thus closing it as a valve.

"The operation was performed on the 2d of February, 1853. The fistulous track was hooked up, and the vesical septum transfixed, when, by a gentle sweep of the bistoury, a transverse oval opening was made entirely through the coats of the bladder, large enough to admit the end of the index finger. Two silver sutures were passed, and secured by leaden clamps in the usual way, the patient put to bed, and the catheter applied—the whole operation not lasting over twenty minutes. The usual regimen to insure constipation was enjoined. The suture apparatus was removed on the thirteenth day; the cure being complete and permanent. In three days more, Mrs. H. was walking about the house; and in a week she made the journey home, some five hundred miles, without the least inconvenience."

Vesico-Vaginal Fistula successfully treated.—Dr. N. BOZEMAN, of Montgomery, Ala., relates (*New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, May, 1854), an interesting case of vesico-vaginal fistula treated by the method devised by Dr. J. Marion Sims, formerly of Montgomery, and now of New York.

The subject of the case was a coloured woman, 30 years of age, the mother of eight children. Her health had always been good until the birth of her last child, in August, 1852. Her last labour continued for sixty hours when delivery