

INSTANCE OF THE
SALUTARY EFFECT OF COLD WATER INJECTION IN UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE AFTER DELIVERY.

By JOHN TAYLOR, Esq., L.S.A., London.

MRS. S—, aged thirty-nine, of spare habit, but healthy, was pregnant with her sixth child; has always had a quick labour, except the first, which was a twin case. After her last labour, during which nothing special occurred, I was preparing the abdominal bandage, when a fearful gush of blood took place. On applying my hand to the abdomen, the uterus was found soft and large. Continued pressure, with cold applications to the abdomen and vulva, soon produced a good contraction, and arrested the hæmorrhage; still, notwithstanding my continued grasping of the uterus, which I was enabled to do, as the abdominal parietes were very thin, I could feel the organ relax under my hand. This occurrence, with its frightful concomitant gush from the vagina, alternating every three or four minutes with uterine contraction, was repeated, in spite of my most persevering endeavours, for six successive times, when the usual symptoms of excessive hæmorrhage set in. Patient at times pulseless; faintings; jactitation; sighings; cadaverous countenance; calling in a husky, feeble voice for air and water, &c. It was now too evident that life was ebbing fast, and that unless some means could be speedily devised to ensure permanent uterine contraction the patient must sink. Not being prepared for the emergency, and having no ergot with me, nor being in a position to procure any, I was for a moment, as it were, in a cleft-stick; but recollecting a neighbouring mechanic, I sent the nurse to borrow a large syringe, which in about ten minutes she fortunately procured. Having removed every portion of coagula, I injected "per force" about four ounces of cold water, taking care to introduce the instrument gently between my fingers, just within the vulva; the effect was magical; the uterus contracted instantly, with pain for the first time. A second injection of the same quantity insured a permanent contraction with slight pains, and from that time the hæmorrhage ceased. A stimulating anodyne mixture was, as soon as possible, administered at short intervals. No untoward symptoms followed; lochia moderate; no coagula expelled; milk secreted on the fourth day; appetite good; only a slight degree of weakness was at that time complained of.

Surrey-place, Old Kent-road, Feb. 1848.

PRIORITY OF EMPLOYING TWO POINTS OF PRESSURE IN THE CURE OF ANEURISM BY COMPRESSION.

By W. R. WILDE, Esq., F.R.C.S., &c., Dublin.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by inserting the following communication, which I addressed to the president of the Surgical Society of Ireland, and which was reported in the *Dublin Medical Press* of the 19th of January. My reasons for requesting its insertion in your periodical—particularly after it has already appeared in print—are, that I do not consider that this communication and the circumstances attending its publication have received fair play. It was read at the meeting of the Surgical Society, held on the 18th of December. The proceedings of that meeting (with the exception of the notice of my letter) were reported in the usual manner in the *Medical Press* but one following. In the meantime, my letter was placed, I have every reason to believe, in the hands of Dr. Bellingham, who read an answer to it at the meeting of the 8th of January following, and both are published together in the *Medical Press* of the 19th of January.

Now, Sir, if I had addressed my communication to the proprietor, editor, or publisher of the *Medical Press*, and he had placed it in the hands of another to answer it either editorially or with his name, I do not think I could have any right to complain; but I do question the right which any Society has to hold over any communication for the purpose of affording another individual an opportunity of answering it. If such be the law of the Surgical Society of Ireland, why was I not afforded a similar privilege when Dr. Bellingham made a communication to the Society on this subject, in April last? The Council of the Surgical Society are bound in justice and honour to answer these questions.

Furthermore, a discussion arose on my paper being read, in which discussion Dr. Harrison, who was in the chair, and Dr. Stapleton, his colleague, took part; and during which Dr. Stapleton produced the case-book of Jervis-street Hospital, from which the extract contained in my communication was made, and also one of the instruments, furnished with two points of pressure, which had been employed in Hoey's case; but not one of these circumstances has been reported in the proceedings of the Society. If a periodical, at its own expense, reports the proceedings of a Society, it may be at liberty to print as much or as little of such proceedings as it likes; it may publish the speeches or communications of some persons *in extenso*, and those of others it may altogether omit; but this is not the position of the *Dublin Medical Press*. The Surgical Society is supported out of the funds of the College; the College grants this body rooms and lighting, &c., upon the evenings of meeting, and according to the last account, £20 8s. 6d. in money for the year ending June, 1847; and such is, I believe, the usual sum granted out of the funds of the College for that body. I have just called at the College, and upon examining the public account-books, I find that £19 of this money was appropriated to the reporter of the *Medical Press*, who being, as one would naturally suppose, the paid servant of the College, should be compelled to give a faithful account of the proceedings of the Society for which he reports. The Council of the College have no right to allocate its funds without seeing that they are properly applied:—

"To the President or acting President and Members of the
Surgical Society of Ireland:—

In the number of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science* for August, 1846, I published some observations on the 'History of the Cure of Aneurism by Compression,' in which I gave the case of a man named Robert Hoey, and stated that his was the first case in which two points of pressure had been made on the course of the artery, and that such was a manifest improvement on the practice previously in use, as by screwing down one instrument before the other was relaxed, the full current through the artery was continuously arrested, &c. At the meeting of the Surgical Society, held upon the 17th of April last, Dr. Bellingham made a communication upon the subject of aneurism, in which he has referred to my article in the *Quarterly Journal*, and particularly to the case of Hoey. I shall pass over the language and personalities used by Dr. Bellingham on that occasion, because I do not think the Surgical Society should entertain or publish any communication, the language of which was either personal or vituperative. The only statement in Dr. Bellingham's communication which I feel called upon to answer before this Society, is the accusation that I have claimed for Dr. Harrison's patient, Robert Hoey, the credit of having employed two points of pressure on the course of the artery, in the year 1833, while Dr. Bellingham states that that honour belongs to himself, he having used two instruments in a case which he communicated to the *Medical Press* in August, 1844. Dr. Bellingham likewise complains of a discrepancy which he says appears between the account of this case given by Dr. Harrison, at the British Association in Cork, and that which I have published in the *Dublin Quarterly Journal*. If such discrepancy exists, I am in nowise accountable for it. The account which I published was given to me by Dr. Harrison, was read over carefully to the patient himself, (who is a very intelligent man,) in presence of Sir Philip Crampton, as is stated in my paper; and moreover, the proof-sheet of this part of my communication was read and approved of by Dr. Harrison previous to its publication."

The following extract from Dr. Bellingham's communication will put the Society in possession of a portion of his accusation:—

"The discrepancy between these two reports of the same case (published at an interval of three years) is so remarkable, that I might be content with reading the notes of each; but as I had mentioned having seen this patient several times, both at Jervis-street Hospital and subsequently at his own residence, where he is said to have used the two cramps, I wish to take this opportunity of stating, that I never heard of his having employed two cramps until I read it in the *Dublin Quarterly Journal*. I was very much surprised at seeing such a statement. This patient was seen by several other members of the profession, and I have taken some trouble to ascertain from them whether the facts stated were so, but I never could discover that any one else had seen the patient employ two cramps."—*Dublin Medical Press*, May 12, 1847.

The following letters and extracts will, I feel assured, convince the Society that my statement is correct:—

“Camden-place, May 4th, 1847.

SIR,—Having read an account of my case of popliteal aneurism in your work, as treated by Professor Harrison, I beg leave to inform you that you are perfectly correct in your statement of my using *two* cramps; and I further state, that until I did use the two I felt no sensible diminution either in the size or pulsation of the tumour. Those cramps were used with the approval of Professor Harrison, and witnessed in use by Messrs. Collis, *Bellingham*, and other professional gentlemen.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
To W. R. Wilde, Esq.”

ROBERT HOEY.

The next letter is from Mr. Coury, Dr. Harrison's clinical clerk:—

“6, Charlemont-place, June, 29th, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR,—In answer to your inquiries with respect to the case of Robert Hoey, detailed in the third number of your periodical, I beg leave to state, that during the period of his residence in Jervis-street Hospital, as a patient of Dr. Harrison, the general management of his case devolved on me as resident pupil, and I can therefore inform you, that not merely subsequent to, but during, his residence in the hospital, *two points of pressure* along the course of the artery were made, *one instrument being tightened before the other was relaxed*. I beg to enclose the following extract from the hospital case-book, made by me on the 4th of July, 1843. It fully proves the date and application of two instruments.—I have the pleasure of remaining, &c.

JOHN COURY.”

[Before I give the extracts furnished by Mr. Coury, I beg to insert the following paragraph, taken from the Jervis-street Hospital case-book, as bearing upon the subject:—

“June 22nd.—Dr. Harrison now directed, that whenever he required the screw to be loosened for a few minutes, the artery should be first compressed lower down by the fingers, so as to obstruct the circulation through it, and prevent the blood flowing into the sac.”]

“July 4th.—His relative having died, and family matters imperatively demanding his attention at home, he left the hospital; and having received directions to continue its application as usual, was allowed to bring the instrument with him, being also particularly cautioned never to relax the pressure in the groin until he had previously commanded the vessel below, which he was now fully competent to do, by means of *another instrument*, which his own reflection, as well as his occupation, suggested—namely, the ‘carpenter's bench cramp.’ The latter instrument, slightly modified, is found to have been particularly serviceable, and he bears its application with much less inconvenience than any other apparatus.

August 1st.—Since last note he has been visited two or three times a week at his own residence. The pressure has been cautiously maintained, at one time by Mr. L'Estrange's instrument, at another, by the ‘bench cramp,’ and great attention has been given to the point of *never relaxing the pressure of one without first applying that of the other*.”

Independent of the statements of Mr. Coury, and the patient himself, the foregoing extracts from the public records of Jervis-street Hospital, set the question at rest so far as regards the priority of the employment of *two points of pressure*.

Dr. Harrison, vice-president of the College, who was in the chair, confirmed the statements, and Doctor Stapleton, one of the surgeons of Jervis-street Hospital, produced both the case-book from which the extracts were made, and the instruments which were used.

Dr. Bellingham has replied to this communication at considerable length. He says that the statement of Hoey is “utterly untrue;” but Dr. Bellingham knows that he may do so with impunity; for Mr. Hoey is only a cabinet-maker! He also remarks upon the negative evidence of Dr. Harrison's recital of the case at the meeting of the British Association in Cork. To this I have but to remark, that if Dr. Harrison did not quote from, or make use of, the case-book of his own hospital, and did not attach sufficient value to the application of two points of pressure, (which is all I contend for,) when he stated his case at Cork, that is no affair of mine. He will no doubt explain these circumstances. Until, however, Dr. Bellingham is able to prove that the public case-book of Jervis-street Hospital is a forgery, got up to meet the circumstances of this case, my position remains unaltered.

Dublin, February, 1848.

Reviews.

A Manual of Pharmacy for the Student of Veterinary Medicine, &c. By W. J. T. MORTON, Lecturer on Veterinary Materia Medica, &c. London: Longman and Co. 12mo, pp. 382. Fourth Edition.

WE have already had occasion to draw attention to previous editions of Mr. Morton's work, and we may refer our readers to past volumes of our journal for the expression of our approbation of his labours. The “Manual of Pharmacy” is the standard work of study and reference in this department of medicine, and may be fully relied on as a safe and discriminating guide. We are happy to see the volume moving onwards in its path of usefulness, and already, while the remembrance of its first appearance is yet fresh on our minds, starting into a fourth existence of youthfulness and energy.

In the present edition, besides the old matter, which has been carefully reconsidered, we find several novelties of great practical interest. For example: experiments on the relative powers of the various kinds of aloes, and the recommendation of colchicum and hyoscyamus in certain of the diseases of the horses. Colchicum has been administered in rheumatic affections, and particularly in rheumatic inflammation of the eye, and has proved successful in curing this disease when the ordinary treatment by counter-irritants had entirely failed. The dose is from one to two drachms of the corm, twice a day, in combination with nitrate of potash.

Of hyoscyamus the author observes:—

“The extract has also been successfully resorted to in cases of chronic cough, placing it on the tongue of the animal, so that it may slowly dissolve. It has likewise been resorted to for the purpose of allaying constitutional irritation induced by wounds, &c., it having this advantage over opium, that it does not produce constipation of the bowels, but rather the reverse, on which account it has sometimes been conjoined to purgatives to prevent tormina.”

To those of our readers who have given their attention to veterinary medicine, Mr. Morton's recommendation of the diniodide of copper with chlorine gas, in cases of glanders and farcy, will be already known. The action of the diniodide of copper “is that of a stimulant to the absorbent vessels, and a tonic. It has been found of service in farcy, chronic oedematous enlargement of the legs, and those affections simulating glanders. It may be given in doses of from one drachm to two drachms daily, combining it with the root of gentian and some carminative, as pimento or cayenne pepper.” “The well-known fact,” the author observes, “that the salts of copper rank among the most valuable tonic agents for the horse, and that all the mineral tonics, in order to produce their effects, are taken up into the circulation, coupled with the well-known influence of iodine on the absorbent vessels, first led me to think that a combination of these agents would be of service in farcy.” “If given in those diseases that closely resemble glanders, or which soon degenerate into it if remedial means be not employed, I would advise the inhalation of diluted chlorine conjointly with it.” The mode of administering the chlorine is very simple. “Chlorine gas is to be liberated from hydrochloric acid by the action of peroxide of manganese upon it. For this purpose a Florence flask, a stand, and lamp, are all that is required. As much chlorine is to be disengaged into the loose box in which the animal is placed as the attendant can resist the influence of.” “Thus the atmosphere will be sufficiently impregnated, and the animal may be allowed to respire it for some hours.”

With these extracts we close our notice of a very useful practical work, and, as on a previous occasion, we recommend it to the attention of all those who take an interest in domestic animals, and may be called upon to minister to their wants in disease.