

CASE OF EMBOLISM OF THE PULMONARY ARTERY.

BY ROBERT GOSSET BROWN, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

ON February 11th, 1873, I was requested to visit Mrs. McG—, the wife of a policeman, in consultation with Mr. Winter, surgeon of this place.

The history of the case was, that she had been complaining of rheumatic pains for some days previously to her confinement, which took place five days prior to my seeing her, and through which she passed with more than ordinary ease and rapidity for a first child, without subsequent hæmorrhage or untoward symptoms.

When I saw her she complained of great pain in both knees, especially the right, which was much swollen, and the appearance of which led me to examine carefully for phlebitis; however, our suspicions were groundless, and the case resolved itself into one of rheumatism pure and simple. Her general appearance was leuco-phlegmatic; the skin pungent and covered with moisture of highly acid reaction; pulse 92, full and compressible; tongue coated, but moist at edges; lacteal secretion established; lochia natural; no headache; uterus well contracted; no tenderness upon pressure on abdomen; urine abundant, acid, and, as far as could be judged, highly charged with lithates. Not a trace of endo- or exocardial mischief. Ordered Dover's powder to be taken immediately, and the following mixture every second hour:—Iodide of potassium, one grain and a half; bicarbonate of potash, one scruple; carbonate of ammonia, two grains and a half; camphor water, one ounce. Cantharidine vinegar to be applied with camel-hair brush to the painful part.

I did not see her again, but Mr. Winter tells me she passed a good night, began to improve directly, and that on the 20th so much progress had been made as to justify her being allowed to get up. On the 21st she again sat up, but at 1.30 A.M. on the 22nd her husband was disturbed by hearing a choking sound, and on procuring a light found life extinct.

Autopsy, eighteen hours after death.—Body fat and well nourished, though but small muscular development. Lungs emphysematous and completely empty of blood. Pericardium free; no traces of recent inflammation; about six drachms of condensed halitus. Heart covered with fat; the muscular structure flaccid and pale in colour; both sides full of blood. On opening the pulmonary artery a sanguineous clot, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, forming a perfect cast of the vessel, and extending into the right ventricle, was found. Internal structure healthy, save a general appearance indicative of the commencement of fatty degeneration. Other viscera healthy. The head was not opened.

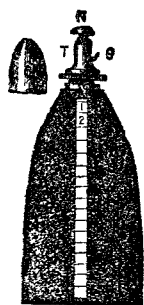
Hampstead.

A NEW CHLOROFORM-BOTTLE.

BY T. W. HIME, M.A., M.B.,

LECTURER ON OBSTETRIC MEDICINE AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AT THE SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, ETC.

THIS bottle is intended to facilitate the administration of chloroform, by giving the administrator a very easy means of regulating the quantity which flows from the bottle. By



a simple mechanical arrangement, pressure on the knob (N), when the bottle is inverted, causes the chloroform to issue from the spout (S) dropwise or in a small stream. Thus the administrator, even in a bad light, is freed from the anxiety of using an excessive quantity. It only requires one hand, and no alteration of parts is required before use. The simplicity of this bottle is not its least advantage, and it must prove a great convenience in hospitals and private practice, and especially to obstetricians. To fill the bottle, the top (R) is screwed off. It can be had in metal, or glass covered with

morocco leather (graduated), from the manufacturers, Jos. Grey & Co., Sheffield.

A Mirror

OF

HOSPITAL PRACTICE,

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Nulla autem est alia pro certo noscendi via, nisi quamplurimas et morborum et dissectionum historias, tum aliorum, tum proprias collectas habere, et inter se comparare.—MORGAGNI *De Sed. et Caus. Morb.*, lib. iv. Proœmium.

THE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, SOHO-SQUARE.

CASES OF OVARIOTOMY.

THE following is a brief record of seven of the cases of ovariectomy performed at the Hospital for Women during the year 1872, for the notes of which we are indebted to Mr. Harding, house-physician. The number of cases in the year was 15, of which there were 9 recoveries and 6 deaths; making the total number of cases from 1865 to the present time 59, with 22 deaths. A report of the remainder of the cases shall appear in an early number.

CASE 1. Multilocular hæmatoma; peritonitis; death on the eleventh day.—Harriet P—, aged forty, married twenty years, admitted Feb. 26th, under the care of Dr. Meadows. Has had eleven children (the last eighteen months ago), and one miscarriage. Catamenia ceased since the birth of last child; was regular before. First noticed the abdomen distended about fifteen months ago, when there was an enlargement on the right side, which has gradually increased.

On admission, the abdomen was found greatly enlarged, the girth round the umbilicus being forty-two inches. A large, freely movable tumour, irregular in shape, and varying in consistence in different parts, could be felt in the abdominal cavity. In front was a uniformly globular, elastic, and distinctly fluctuating mass, about the size of a six-months' gravid uterus; while behind and apparently in direct connexion with it were other tumours which were firm and irregular, and through which fluctuation was much less distinct. Per vaginam the cervix was found thick and hard; the uterine sound passed forward four inches.

On March 5th the abdomen was tapped, and five pints of viscid red fluid drawn off.

Operation, by Dr. Meadows, on March 9th.—The peritoneum and intestines were found in a highly inflamed state, and in places appeared almost gangrenous. About twelve pints of bloody fluid were removed. The pedicle was transfixed, tied with stout whipcord, and returned. There were recent adhesions to the abdominal wall and intestines. The mass weighed 9 lb., and was in a state of decomposition, both the tumour itself and the fluid drawn from it being of very offensive odour. There had been considerable hæmorrhage into the cavities; and on making a section of some of the smaller masses, small currant-like bodies turned out, each of which was filled with bloody fluid, and throughout the mass bloody fluid of a thick gummy character was found. In fact, the entire tumour seemed made up of cells or cysts, varying in size from a millet-seed to an adult head, and filled with bloody fluid.

A trace of albumen appeared in the urine on the fourth day. On the tenth day obstinate vomiting set in; the patient was fed with enemata, but she gradually sank, and died on the next day. At the post-mortem examination the wound was found not at all united. The peritoneum was covered, and the intestines matted together, with lymph. The pedicle appeared healthy, but there was no lymph thrown out round the ligatures.

CASE 2. History of five years' growth; peritonitis; death on the sixth day.—Selina S—, aged thirty-six, single, was admitted under Dr. Meadows on Feb. 26th. Five years ago she noticed that the abdomen was enlarging on the right side. Since then has had intermittent attacks of severe pain in the side. Menstruation regular.

On admission the abdomen was found uniformly enlarged to the size of six months' pregnancy by a tumour of firm consistence, much resembling a gravid uterus. This was moderately movable, dull on percussion, and gave very indistinct fluctuation. Per vaginam the uterus was found retroverted, movable, but the movement of the tumour did not appear to influence it. The tumour was felt in front of