

Kirtland. Our old friend Dr. Delamater now fills the chair of General Pathology, Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.

I was extremely gratified, after so many years, to find the doctor in such good health and spirits. His love for teaching, and enthusiasm for the advancement of medical science, and whatever else may conduce to the welfare of humanity, seem only to have increased with his years.

*Boston, 5th Feb. 1849.*

DANIEL V. FOLTS.

## PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS TREATED WITH CHLOROFORM.

BY G. J. HARDING, M.D., HEALTH OFFICER, ST. JOHN, N. B.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. P——, aged 43, within six months (?) of the period of her confinement, and her first child, was found in the morning lying on the floor insensible, in a fit—when her husband arrived to breakfast—and the paroxysms continued every hour, until evening, when I saw her, in the country, where she resides. On visiting her she was speechless and insensible, with strong convulsions every half hour. At that time no appearance of labor, and in this state she remained during the night, being frequently convulsed; having been freely bled, and had a large dose of calomel, and a turpentine enema, with cold applications to the head during the night, without any beneficial effects. In the morning, at 9 A. M., the labor commenced, and a strong fit, during which I gave her the chloroform, as an antispasmodic, and she was immediately relieved from the convulsions, and continued so for four hours, the labor pains continuing every five or ten minutes, and were assisted with ergot. On having another attack of the spasms at 1 P. M., I gave the chloroform again, which appeared immediately to check it, and she was not attacked again with any further convulsions; and at 4 P. M. I delivered her. In twenty-four hours afterwards she spoke to her husband in a rational manner, and has since recovered. I feel satisfied that the chloroform had a beneficial effect in this case in removing the convulsions, as they would not have otherwise subsided until the woman was delivered.

I have not heard of the chloroform being previously administered beneficially in such a case. Indeed my friend, Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, who was kind enough to forward me his work on its general use in common obstetric cases, does not give any observations respecting it in similar cases as here noted. I have, therefore, sent the particulars, if you think such worth noticing in your Journal.

*St. John, N. B., Jan. 23, 1849.*

## SALIVARY CALCULI.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In a memoir of 1846, published by M. Stanski, it is stated that observers have been mistaken as to the nature of substances extracted from the salivary passages. Having met once a concretion, the nucleus of which was

a tooth, he supposes that the various calculi usually found in the salivary apparatus owe their origin to a similar cause. But with this view M. C. Torget does not agree. This gentleman, in a collection of 39 cases, proves that these calculi may occur without even the trace of tooth or any foreign substance accidentally introduced into the salivary glands. The following case is interesting, as it not only exhibits the truth of M. C. Torget's observations, but it also shows the great liability of erring in our diagnosis of diseases of the salivary glands, since physicians seldom meet with calculi in these organs.

Mr. Horne, aged 42, had been for several years past afflicted with what was supposed by his physicians to be an inflammation of the glands of the neck. The disease was situated near the angle of the inferior maxillary bone, upon the left side. Mr. H. states, that for 12 years he had occasionally been troubled with an enlargement of the neck externally and internally, causing him much pain and inconvenience in deglutition. It generally became inflamed as often as once in 5 or 6 months. At these times, the inflammation was usually severe: there was redness of the skin of the neck over the parotid gland, which seemed to indicate that suppuration would ensue—the tongue was swollen—the saliva ran more freely than ordinary, of an extremely pure appearance; and there was considerable constitutional disturbance. This state of things continued for five or six days, causing no little suffering and distress to the patient. He remarks that the inflammation was accompanied with the most excruciating pain, which more than once determined him to have an incision made into it, but the shortness of its continuance caused him to act otherwise.

During the intermission of these exacerbations, the patient complained of no pain, nor any difficulty from the presence of this calculus, except in yawning, or when he opened his mouth suddenly; and even then only a slight "pricking sensation," as he terms it, "as if something was wrong within the muscles of his neck."

Things remained thus till October, 1848, when one day Mr. H. felt an unusual sensation at the roots of his tongue—a giving way—or, as he expresses it, "the substance (the calculus) seemed to jump from its long residence into his mouth." Fearful lest something was wrong, he called his wife, and requested her to see what was the cause of this singular feeling at the roots of his tongue. She immediately came, and found the larger end of the calculus projecting a little from the side of the mouth, which was easily taken out. Since that time he has had no recurrence of inflammation, nor any of the trouble which he had always experienced from the presence of this calculus. It was of a conical shape—and its dimensions are as follows:— $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length; circumference of the larger end, 1 4-27 inch; that of the smaller end, 3-8 of an inch. Its weight is 20 grains. There is no trace of a tooth in this substance. In fact Mr. H.'s teeth are perfectly healthy—never having lost one of his secondary teeth; and he has also the requisite number. The calculus is composed of calcareous matter, principally carbonate of lime. It is formed of concentric layers of a white and grayish appearance, very hard, and firmly compacted.

In conclusion, we would remark that Mr. H.'s health has been very good up to this time—has never been troubled with any other affection, for twelve years past. Prior to 1836, he states, he had occasional attacks of rheumatism, which have never disturbed him since the existence of this calculus.

T. J. W. PRAY.

*Dover, N. H., 1849.*

#### PREVENTION OF BALDNESS.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—The remarks published in your Journal of the 7th ult., on the probable causes of baldness, induce me to call your attention to the accompanying bark, which I procured whilst at Manilla, denominated by the inhabitants of the country where it is produced *gole gole*, or more commonly, *go go*—whilst I lay before you the best information I have been able to procure of its uses and properties.

*Gole gole*, or *go go*, is a production found on several of the Philippine Islands. It is the innermost bark of a tree (no other name but *go go* seemingly known among the Indians who collect it), and is procured in the spring months only, in strips two feet long, which after a few days' exposure to the sun, are tied into separate hanks, each weighing on an average one and a half ounce, when it is ready for the market. The Indians who convey this article have the privilege of landing it at a place, appointed by the authorities, without the payment of duties, where a bazaar is held for its sale in quantities to retailers. From its general use, it is frequently unattainable unless at high prices.

The Spanish ladies and *mestizas* make a preparation, by steeping about one fourth of an ounce of the article in eight ounces of water, to which they add a small quantity of lemon juice, when it is used for the purpose of washing the head and hair, which it instantly cleanses and acts upon as a stimulant. It is likewise used as a cosmetic, prepared in a similar manner; and is applied to the body, by all classes of persons, when they resort to the bath. The bark itself is used in the same manner as a rubber, with the most beneficial effects. Probably from its astringent properties, I find that its use on the head prevents, in a few days, that loss of hair so commonly complained of; and again, from its stimulating properties (which will be shown by one application) will it not be found more beneficial than the numerous preparations now offered as a preventive to baldness?

What appears surprising, is, that an article so generally used in the place of its growth has not hitherto found its way to this country in quantities, as I have found but very few cognizant of it or its manifold properties.

JAMES WELCH.

*Boston, Feb. 12, 1849*