

ceased to be passed. When the case came into my hands many of the symptoms of vesical calculus, such as frequent and painful micturition, sudden stoppage of the stream of water, a sense of weight in the bladder, pain from sudden motions of the body, etc., were present, and the patient's general health was much impaired. On passing a steel sound into the bladder the stone was at once discovered, and shown to be of considerable size.

The operation for its removal was performed at the patient's home on the 19th of December, 1883, Drs. Lovejoy, Colman, and Sheldon assisting. The instruments employed were a series of elastic bougies, a pair of long, slender forceps, a Thompson's lithotrite, a Davidson's syringe, and a piece of rubber tubing about two feet long, and one half inch in diameter.

The urethra was first dilated rapidly up to No. 30 of the French scale. It then easily admitted the lithotrite. There was little difficulty in getting hold of the stone, which, as grasped by the lithotrite, measured about four and a half centimetres in diameter. It was soft and readily crushed, but the instrument frequently became clogged, necessitating withdrawal for the purpose of clearing the jaws. Several pieces were removed by the forceps. The remainder was washed out by means of the rubber tubing and Davidson's syringe, the process being to pass in the tube, fill the bladder, and then, depressing the outer end of the tube as far as possible below the level of the table upon which the patient was lying, to allow the water to flow out. In this way it was found quite easy to remove the detritus from the bladder. The patient did not bear the anæsthetic well, and at one time, when we were fairly under way with the operation, she suddenly ceased to breathe, and turned livid. Active efforts were required for some minutes (as it seemed) to induce respiration, and when this did begin again it was attended with an abundant discharge of white froth from the mouth and nostrils. Again after this, an attempt being made to push the anæsthetic to the extent of relaxing the lower limbs, alarming symptoms, similar to those described, though less in degree, supervened. Hence it was found necessary to endure a certain amount of moving about on the part of the patient, and to work more slowly than we might have done had we been able safely to induce complete anæsthesia.

The time occupied in the operation was about two hours. Very little blood was lost, and little injury done to either bladder or urethra.

One hour and forty-five minutes after the operation the patient had a temperature of 99° F., and a pulse of 124 per minute. Her mind was clear, and she complained of pain in the bladder and head. She was given a rectal suppository containing one third grain each of morph. sulph. and ext. bell. Four hours later her temperature was 100.8° F., and pulse 124. She had passed water twice with some gravel. Was bright and cheerful, and had no pain.

December 20th, morning. Passed a comfortable night. Temperature 98.4° F. Pulse 108. Has had but little discomfort when passing water, and no incontinence. From this time on the patient's recovery was uninterrupted. In a week she was about the house. Six weeks later she was found to be free from vesical trouble, and to have gained much in flesh and strength.

The portion saved of the calculus weighed a little

more than half an ounce. Its principal constituents were uric acid and the urates of the fixed alkalis.

The operation of litholapaxy, or lithotritry at one sitting, introduced by Dr. Bigelow, seems to be especially appropriate for the removal of calculi from the female bladder, inasmuch as the urethra is short and easily dilated, and no complicated and expensive evacuating apparatus is required, as shown in this case. Professor Heath used a vulcanite-urethral speculum and a Higginson's syringe to wash out the detritus.¹ He, however, had dilated the urethra to the extent of producing rupture, and had introduced his forefinger. With the method adopted in my case there is no need for any except a very moderate dilatation. Heath claims that no harm resulted from extreme dilatation in his cases. I have myself dilated the urethra so as to introduce the finger for the purpose of removing small calculi and calculous encrustations of the vesical mucosa. In these cases there was a moderate amount of rupture of the meatus superiorly, but the patients recovered promptly. Yet instances are not unknown in which this procedure has been followed by prolonged incontinence. Sometimes, indeed, the vesical sphincter never regains its control over the contents of the bladder. Such a result would be an evil second only to the retention of the calculus. Hence the inquiry is pertinent why the patient should ever be subjected to such a risk. The caustic application recommended by Mr. Heath can be applied through the urethral speculum without extreme dilatation.

Vaginal cystotomy will probably always have to be resorted to in certain cases, such as those of foreign bodies which cannot be removed *per urethram*, encysted calculi, etc., but for all ordinary cases of stone in the female bladder it is safe to say that litholapaxy will be the operation of the future.

Hospital Practice and Clinical Memoranda.

PREGNANCY AND OVARIAN CYST. OVARIAN TUMOR IN A WOMAN OF NINETY YEARS.

BY W. F. GIDDINGS, GARDINER, ME.

THE following cases I thought might be of sufficient interest to the readers of your valuable journal to warrant their being reported:—

I. Mrs. S., aged twenty-four, American, first noticed an enlargement of the abdomen in 1879. She consulted Dr. S. Whitmore, now deceased, who diagnosed pregnancy complicated with an ovarian growth. A consultation was held with our veteran surgeon, Dr. H. H. Hill, of Augusta, who advised tapping of the cyst for temporary relief. At full term she was delivered of a strong, healthy boy, now living, three years of age. The mother made a good recovery from confinement, and the tumor refilled in some four months. Tapping was repeated at various intervals five times, the last two being done by the writer, removing respectively thirty-five and thirty-three pounds. On the 26th of June, 1882, I operated upon her, removing a multilocular ovarian tumor, weighing with its contents fifty pounds. Recovery perfect and uninterrupted, save a little cystitis lasting a few days. On June 16th of the present year I attended her at full term with a fine healthy

¹ See London Lancet of December 23, 1882.

boy weighing ten pounds; labor normal and easy. In quite an experience with ovarian disease this is the second I have seen in which pregnancy supervened. The first, in Boston, passed from under my observation, and its subsequent history I do not know.

II. Mrs. W., aged ninety years eight months, had been noticing an abdominal enlargement for nearly a year, which, increasing to an uncomfortable degree, she sought counsel of a physician, who diagnosticated ascites. I was called April 4th in consultation to tap if it was thought advisable.

The most distressing feature of the case was a profuse and constant salivation, precluding nourishment and sleep. A careful examination revealed an ovarian tumor, and tapping was advised, which I did on April 10th. The old lady, unusually bright and intelligent, related during the operation many interesting medical experiences in her life, and remarked upon the advancement in medical and surgical science since her early life. The fluid removed weighed sixteen pounds. On August 9th I tapped her the second time, removing fifteen pounds; and the day following, being her ninety-first anniversary, she received and entertained several callers. At this writing she is in excellent health, reads with as much interest the daily paper as any person in our city, and discusses the prospects of our presidential election with the interest of a politician.

This is the rarest case of an ovarian growth that has ever come to my knowledge, though I assisted my friend Dr. Crooke, of Augusta, Me., in removing one from a lady seventy-three years of age, which weighed fifty-five pounds, and her recovery was as rapid and uninterrupted as any I have ever seen.

Reports of Societies.

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, ST. LOUIS, OCTOBER 14, 15, 16, 17.

THE American Public Health Association opened its twelfth annual meeting in St. Louis on Tuesday morning October 14th, and after the usual preliminary work proceeded to the discussion of the various topics which had been previously arranged.

A large number of papers were read, embracing the following subjects: The Hygiene of Occupations; The Hygiene of Habitations; The Hygiene of Schools and School-buildings; Heating and Ventilation; Food and its Adulterations; The Disposal of the Dead; Cattle Transportation and Diseases; Water Pollution, and Analysis; Sewerage and the Disposal of Sewage; The Germ Theory of Infectious Diseases; The Health of St. Louis.

In addition to these special meetings were held of the Conference of State Boards of Health, at which the subject of Cholera and the work of State Boards were the chief topics of discussion.

Of the sixty or more papers presented at the meetings of the Association, either in full or by title, a few only need to be mentioned as presenting points of marked professional interest.

On Thursday evening DR. GEORGE M. STERNBERG, U. S. A., delivered a popular lecture on

DISEASE GERMS,

illustrated by photo-micrographic views by means of a

stereopticon. Dr. Sternberg presented the historical view of the subject, embracing the researches of Koch and other observers, and also detailed his own experience with reference to the search for yellow-fever germs at Havana. He had thus far been unsuccessful in finding anything characteristic, and also expressed his disbelief in the assertions of others who claimed to have found such germs, mentioning especially the bacillus of Dr. Domenigos Freire.

Views of the bacilli of tuberculosis, splenic fever, and other diseases were shown upon the screen.

His paper was followed by another by DR. L. BREMER, of St. Louis, on the Bearing of the Discovery of the Bacillus Tuberculosis on Public Health, in which the author expressed very decidedly his belief in the infectious nature of the disease.

The paper by SURGEON CHARLES SMART, U. S. A., on the

PRESENT AND FUTURE OF WATER ANALYSIS,

was one of the best of the session. He expressed very decidedly the impossibility of chemical analysis of itself alone, and without the knowledge of other associated facts or factors, to determine the question of purity or impurity of any given water with reference to its power of communicating infectious disease. Pollution and danger may be affirmed, but purity and freedom from danger cannot be affirmed. His statements were in harmony with the results of experiments recently made by Dr. R. Cory, for the Local Government Board of England, and confirmed by analysis made for him by Dr. Duprè.

Two papers on

THE HYGIENE OF OCCUPATIONS

deserve special notice. One by PROF. GEO. H. ROHÉ, of Baltimore, on the general subject, in which the Reports of the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor were largely employed for the purpose of illustration.

Another paper, presented by DR. WALTER WYMAN, United States Marine Hospital Service, detailed with much minuteness the Hardships of the Chesapeake Oystermen. He showed that this class of men were subject to great suffering and danger in consequence of brutal treatment, exposure to the inclemency of the oystering season, and serious injuries received by the cranks of dredging-machines.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

Several papers were presented on food adulteration, both general and special. One paper in particular showed a lamentable want of knowledge of actual facts as to existing conditions, and repeated some of the older traditions and long-exploded statements of earlier writers as though they were verities of the present day.

DR. B. F. DAVENPORT detailed his experience as Analyst of the Massachusetts Board in the examination of drugs, and also as Inspector of Milk for the City of Boston; and explained the operation of the laws of Massachusetts with reference to the subject of food and drug adulteration. He also advocated the organization of a society of public analysts on a plan similar to that adopted in England.

DR. J. C. MORRIS, of Philadelphia, presented a paper on the Milk Supply of Large Cities, wherein he showed the immense importance of this article of food, and