

In the other case, the disease commenced on the right side of the soft palate, consumed the entire arch of the palate, and advanced into both tonsils, and at the same time extended backwards upon the pharynx.

In both cases the affection was unmistakable from the first, by its irregularity upon the ulcerated surface, and by the extreme hardness which pervaded both the ulcer and the tissue around. The pain was but slight, considering the amount of exposed surface.

The treatment adopted was the application of arsenic and of the solid chloride of zinc. I believed, and the patients likewise, that the progress of the disease was retarded by the application of the chloride of zinc, but the disease advanced in spite of treatment.

Ulcers of the Tongue.

Of the five cases of ulcer or fissure of the tongue which attended the throat department, four were due to syphilis, and one was due to a carious tooth. In the solitary case the tooth was removed, and was followed by a cure. In the four remaining cases iodide of potassium was given, and the sores were touched with solid nitrate of silver. All were cured, though in a variable time.

Psoriasis of the Tongue.

M. W.—complained of an elevation upon the base of the tongue, which she could distinguish by applying her tongue to the palate, and also by the finger. It had existed for about three weeks, and was now painful on swallowing. I could detect two elevations with my finger, but could not see them well without a reflector. With the laryngeal mirror there came into view a circular patch over the position of the apex of the lines of the circumvallate papillæ, about half an inch in diameter, somewhat elevated, and thickly coated with soft, white epithelium. A second patch of similar character, but about half the size, was seen on the left side of the base of the tongue near the tonsil. She denied that she had had syphilis; and there was no other symptom of that affection. Iodide of potassium was given, and the patches were touched with the solid nitrate of silver. They were cured within a fortnight; but a redness marked the localities which they had previously occupied.

Dryness of Pharynx.

In the three cases which attended the hospital with this affection, there was a dry condition of the pharynx, without any distinct inflammation and without pain; there was no enlargement of the pharyngeal glands, but, on the contrary, the mucous membrane of the pharynx seemed remarkably thin, and of a dry, glazy appearance.

M. C—, aged twenty-five, wife of a labourer, complained of dryness of the pharynx, accompanied by extreme general debility. She did not complain of pain, but said she always liked to drink before swallowing anything solid. She was ordered aromatic spirit of ammonia, with spirit of chloroform, and sedative solution of opium; an astringent gargle of tannin was also given, as the case was looked upon as subacutely inflammatory.

G. P—, a painter aged thirty, with precisely similar symptoms, was treated with a lotion of tannic acid and glycerine.

E. G—, aged twenty-six, wife of an engineer, had suffered from dryness of the throat, together with dryness of the nasal secretion, which adhered to the pharynx and frequently produced fits of vomiting. She stated that she had suffered from these symptoms for two years. On examination, the pharynx appeared perfectly dry and longitudinally wrinkled. The mucous membrane was evidently very thin. Tannic acid and glycerine was applied. Tonics were given internally. No improvement took place. Small doses of mercury were now administered in the form of the perchloride, and a lotion of chlorinated soda was injected through the nose. This treatment was certainly beneficial. The nasal secretion no longer adhered, and the vomiting ceased, but only for the time that the lotion was injected. The patient still occasionally attends the hospital.

Herpes of Fauces and Palate.

In the two cases suffering from this affection an eruption of minute vesicles appeared on the parts mentioned, giving a white colour to those structures. Here and there the epithelium was removed, and the part beneath was red.

R. B—, aged twenty-one, a shopman, complained of

soreness of the throat of a month's standing. Deglutition and even mastication gave pain. Food, either hot or too cold, and all condiments, produced a smarting, burning pain. The eruption covered the fauces and soft palate, and extended into the pharynx. The surface was denuded of epithelium in parts. This patient had been the subject of syphilis. A mixture of iodide of potassium was ordered, and a gargle of chlorate of potash; under which treatment he gradually improved, and so no alteration was made throughout his attendance at the hospital, a period of seven weeks.

(To be continued.)

A SERIES OF CASES TREATED AT WOODHALL SPA.

By ROBERT CUFFE, M.R.C.S.

THE subjoined cases are presented to the profession as illustrations of the marked influence of the bromo-iodine water of the Woodhall Spa on rheumatism.

The beneficial effect of iodide of potassium in the treatment of rheumatism, especially chronic rheumatic affections of the joints, has been frequently noticed, but I think that no artificial combination of iodides can rival the natural water of the spring in curative power. The bromine and iodine of the Spa water are combined with sodium as a base, and it may be a question whether most credit is due to the action of the bromo-iodine element or the base. I myself am inclined to credit the bromine and iodine with the curative power. Be this as it may, there can be no doubt that treatment with the Spa water, baths, &c., gives more satisfactory results than any other method.

Dr. Fuller (whose authority on this subject is universally acknowledged) has said that the Woodhall water is the best in England for the treatment of rheumatism; and I venture to think that the results of treatment at Woodhall may challenge comparison with those obtained at any of the spas of Germany or France. If the following cases prove of interest to the profession, another series will be brought forward to illustrate the influence of the water upon tumours of the uterus, all forms of strumous disease, and, above all, in tertiary and quaternary syphilis, especially where mercury has been unavailingly employed.

CASE 1.—W. B—, aged thirty-three, a draper, came to the Spa in the middle of June, 1868. He had always enjoyed good health until six months ago, when, through exposure to cold, after excessive exertion, he had an attack of rheumatism, and was under treatment for the three months immediately preceding his admission without permanent relief. He is of a fair complexion, tall, and spare; unable to walk except by the aid of two sticks; has chronic pains in the ankle and knee-joints, which are considerably thickened and stiff. Shoulders and hips also affected. He passes restless nights, his appetite is indifferent, pulse feeble, and urine loaded with lithates. He was put on good diet, and ordered to drink the water, and take the baths regularly. By the middle of July the stiffness of the joints had nearly disappeared, and their size considerably reduced. He had improved in appearance, his appetite was good, and he left the Spa able to take daily exercise with the aid of one stick only.

In December he writes to say that his present condition of health is good, and "is able to walk four miles an hour."

CASE 2.—R. I. F—, aged sixty-five, came to the Spa in August, 1869. He is of small stature, thin, of active habits, particularly temperate, and of a highly nervous temperament. In November, 1868, he had an attack of rheumatic gout, and was attended by some of the most eminent medical men in London. He came to Woodhall merely as a *dernier ressort*, without the slightest confidence in it, or hope of deriving benefit from any further treatment.

His present condition shows his ankles, knees, wrists, and finger-joints very much swollen and indurated, with considerable distortion of the fingers, great stiffness of joints, and incessant pain; walks with the greatest difficulty, and is unable to arrange his toilet, or hold the knife and fork in

the usual way. He ascends the stairs by putting the right foot forward, and dragging the left behind.

The treatment ordered was baths at 95° Fahr. every alternate day, and friction to the affected parts whilst in the bath; ten ounces of tepid Spa water to be taken daily; sponging of the joints with warm Spa water night and morning; carriage exercise; simple but nutritious diet, with sherry.

Sept. 7th.—Decidedly improved; is more cheerful; walks better; appetite very much improved; no longer requires assistance at his toilet; uses the knife and fork in the usual way, although with some difficulty; passes restless nights from frequent return of pain. The same treatment continued.

14th.—Has continued to improve steadily; swelling of legs entirely gone; knees considerably reduced in size, although somewhat stiff; great improvement in walking, and can go upstairs in the ordinary way; greater mobility of wrists and fingers; able to feed himself more easily, and dress without assistance. He left the Spa highly satisfied.

On October 11th, 1869, he writes to say that he has derived great benefit from past treatment, and intends to return as soon as the weather permits.

CASE 3.—Miss H. D.—, aged fifty, came to Woodhall in July, 1868. She is of a dark complexion, and robust habit, and has always led a very active life. In January, 1867, she had carbuncular abscess on the left patella, which caused severe inflammation and constitutional disturbance. The knee-joint had been confined in splints for eight months, on the removal of which she had become quite lame. The other knee then became affected with rheumatism, which confined her to her room for nine weeks.

On admission, in July, she was so lame in both knees that she could scarcely go up or down the stairs, and could walk only a short distance by means of a stick. The usual Woodhall treatment, baths, Spa water, &c., was adopted, and the knees padded in lint, soaked in Spa water. In six weeks she had so far improved as to be able to walk without assistance. She left altogether greatly benefited.

In November, 1868, she writes that she has regained perfect use of both her knees, and can walk without the slightest difficulty, which she had not done since January, 1867.

CASE 4.—Mrs. A.—, aged fifty, of temperate and regular habits, dark hair, rather robust, always accustomed to an active life, came to Woodhall Spa in July, 1867. She has suffered from sciatica of the left side, and general rheumatism, more or less, for the last twelve years, her hip-joints being especially affected. A few years ago I assisted Dr. West in removing a large fibroid tumour from the uterus of this patient; it had been diagnosed as malignant, and allowed to grow to an enormous size, so that by its long-continued pressure on the contiguous tissues and nerves it had entailed upon her much after-suffering. She was put under the usual treatment, by baths and internal administration of the Spa water, and in September she returned home, free from suffering. Some weeks afterwards she reported herself in good health.

CASE 5.—Mr. L.—, aged fifty-five, general dealer, has suffered from chronic articular rheumatism for the last ten years, the acute symptoms generally lasting three or four weeks. He is otherwise healthy, temperate, and of regular habits. For three months previous to admission he had been under medical treatment, and when he arrived at Woodhall he was suffering from pain and stiffness of knees and ankles, from rheumatic deposits, and was unable to walk; he was also suffering from general muscular rheumatism.

At Woodhall he was treated in the following manner:—He took baths (temp. 95°) every other day, and eight ounces of Spa water daily. He improved in three days, and left on the 24th of March, quite able to attend to his duties, the duration of treatment being not more than fourteen days.

CASE 6.—Mrs. C.—, aged thirty-five, was admitted in September, 1868, suffering from general thickening (rheumatoid) and stiffness of the large joints, especially of the ankles, producing great lameness; and of the left elbow-joint, the arm being considerably bent and rigid. This condition had existed more than four months, and she had been an inmate of the Stamford Infirmary for that length of time without benefit. She was ordered baths at 95° F.

every other day, continued for half an hour; and two wine-glassfuls of the Spa water three times a day. During the first week there was some febrile disturbance, diarrhoea, a furred tongue and quick pulse. In the second week she complained of a burning pain in the stomach; but, notwithstanding, she improved steadily, gained strength, and was able to walk half a mile. In the fourth week she regained the use of her left arm, when unfortunately, through exposure to wet, an attack of acute rheumatism supervened. Treatment by baths was suspended, and the patient ordered to bed. Towards the end of the week the rheumatic symptoms completely subsided, but an abscess formed on the right wrist. By this time she had regained perfect use of her elbow-joint; there was no lameness; and the only inconvenience she suffered was from the abscess. She left the Spa after being under treatment five weeks.

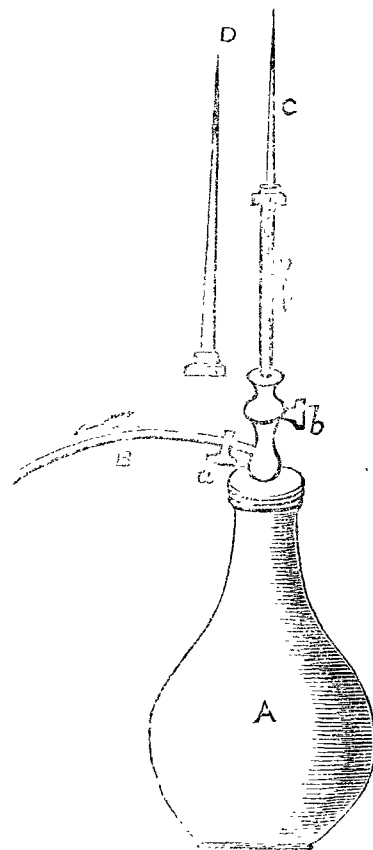
A NEW EXHAUSTING APPARATUS FOR EVACUATING FLUID, PROVIDING AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF AIR.

By ROBERT BELL, M.B., L.R.C.S., &c.

HAVING experienced very great difficulty in evacuating large abscesses, and at the same time preventing the admission of external sources of decomposition, I was led to devise an instrument by which fluid can be drawn off from a chronic abscess, the thorax, or wherever a large accumulation exists; and this without allowing any air to enter the cavity. My instrument also possesses the advantage of having its action reversible; so that a cavity, after being emptied, can be injected without its being necessary to withdraw the perforated needle. The principle involved is borrowed from Dr. Bowditch's syringe; but my apparatus has the advantages of being much more easily worked, not nearly so apt to get out of order, and much less costly.

The accompanying sketch gives an idea of the instrument, and the mode of using it is at once palpable. The perforated needle can be passed through the skin and cellular tissue at the side of the abscess and into the cavity, thus avoiding the necessity of piercing the skin already weakened by the pressure of fluid from within. After the needle is fairly in the abscess, cut off all communication with the external air by means of the stopcock *b* (or, what is still better, have this done beforehand), and empty the ball of air by means of the escape-tube; then turn the stopcock *a*, and the ball is an exhausted receiver; now open the stopcock *b*, and the fluid will flow into the ball. Having got the ball full, shut off *b*, and allow the fluid to escape by the tube provided for the purpose. It is only necessary to repeat these manipulations till the abscess is empty, then withdraw the needle, and close up the wound, which, being very small and passing through healthy tissue, will probably heal without any trouble.

Glasgow, May, 1870.



A. India-rubber ball. B. Escape-tube. C. Perforated needle. D. Longer needle.