

3d.—Restless in night from pain between the shoulders. Lies on side, with knees drawn up. Epistaxis for a day or two. Respiration and voice strongly bronchial throughout left back. Souffle with the first sound heard loudly over the whole back, resembling the distant puff of a steam engine. The intercostal spaces are freely drawn in and out during respiration, the ribs rising and falling. (Omit Cannabis. Acetate of morphia.)

5th.—Dulness of percussion sound and absence of respiration in left front chest. The voice is abnormally resonant in the upper part. Behind, the signs are as on Jan. 3d. No pain. Can move all her limbs. Cannot turn upon the right side without increased dyspnoea.

12th.—Sitting up. Left chest more resonant in front down to the 4th rib, and over the whole back. Vesicular respiration can be heard as far down as the 4th rib in front, where it becomes bronchial. Behind, the respiration is less bronchial. Impulse of heart very distinct to the finger in the 6th intercostal space. Its action is tumultuous; souffles mixed.

13th.—Left chest normally resonant throughout, behind; respiration in same region vesicular, though rather harsher than on the right side. Souffle with the second sound only of the heart.

At this time she had taken of Cannabis, of undoubted purity, 144 grains, besides about an ounce of the tincture, in which I had no confidence. She had also taken less than a grain of acetate of morphia, 18 grains of sulphate of quinia, a scruple of tartrate of iron and potass, and several cathartic doses. Two blisters of three inches square were applied to the thorax, one only of which produced vesication, and might as well, perhaps better, have been omitted. The treatment, in fact, was by Cannabis Indica.

20th.—Nothing abnormal could be discovered in the percussion or respiratory sounds. Heart sounds perfectly distinct at apex, and no souffle perceived there. The souffle with the second sound is loudest in the axillary region; less so to the left of the base in front, and just below the spine of the scapula, still less in the rest of the back. She was up and dressed all day.

A UTERINE CUPPING INSTRUMENT.

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THE frequent necessity for the abstraction of blood from the uterus in the modern method of treatment for inflammation of that organ, and the expense and loss of time incurred by the use of leeches in sufficient numbers to effect the desired object, have suggested the necessity for some apparatus by which a given quantity of blood could be abstracted in a short time and with but small expense. I had been in the habit of scarifying, and partially ex-

hausting the air in the speculum by means of a wad of cotton, held in a pair of ordinary dressing forceps, when it occurred to me that the more perfect apparatus here represented, and about to be described, might be substituted.

Fig. 1 is a speculum of any metal, thickly plated with silver, with its walls parallel, instead of converging as in the ordinary speculum. Fig. 2 is a piston of about an inch and a half in length, made to fit the speculum perfectly; at either end is a rim (*b b*) of sufficient depth to retain the band of thick porous buckskin represented by the dotted line on each side (*a*), and it is bored from the bottom, so as to form a cup with the base upward. The piston-rod is a cylinder, with walls sufficiently thick for strength, expanded at the top to a diameter of half an inch, and terminating in a ring sufficiently large to admit two fingers, without pressing upon the valve, *c*. The top of the piston-rod is slightly excavated in the form of an unequal square, to admit the valve, which is composed of a block of metal glued to a piece of buckskin, one end of which is left free for a hinge, and fastened, by two small screws, to the wide side of the square depression. The piston-rod is joined to the piston by means of the screw end at *d*. When the instrument is used, the speculum is introduced, and free scarification made by means of a lancet fastened to a piece of wood or whalebone. The piston, being well oiled, is then pushed to the bottom; when withdrawn, the valve closes over the mouth of the cylinder piston-rod, and a vacuum is produced in the speculum, thus making a cupping instrument, on the ordinary principle, and applicable to the uterus. The instrument in my possession was manufactured by A. D. Puffer, of Dock Square, Boston; and in every instance where it has been tried, it has admirably answered the purpose intended.

February 18th, 1858.

FIG. 1.

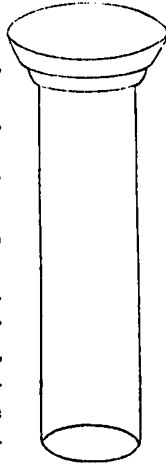
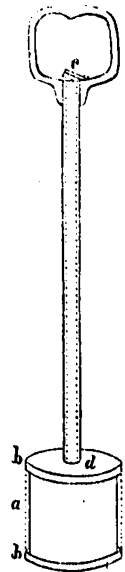


FIG. 2.



VERATRUM VIRIDE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Having noticed in the JOURNAL of the 11th inst. some remarks made by Dr. Coale, on the effects of the *veratrum viride* in controlling arterial excitement, I thought I would