

NOTES ON THE
OCCURRENCE OF TWO EXAMPLES OF
TÆNIA MEDIO-CANELLATA IN THE
SAME PATIENT.

By EDWARD HEADLAM GREENHOW, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

EARLY in May of the present year I was consulted for a young gentleman, aged three years and a half, who had been suffering from tapeworm for eighteen months. I did not see any portions of the worm, but was informed that the little patient had been under treatment for more than a year, and that various remedies had been tried without success. The child looked exceedingly fragile, was thin and anæmic, and the tongue was slightly furred; but beyond these there were no symptoms of illness. I prescribed half a drachm of the ethereal oil of male fern in cinnamon water, to be given at night, followed by two drachms of castor oil in the morning. I also prescribed a course of steel wine on account of his anæmic condition. The child's parents residing some distance from town, I merely learned by letter, in the course of a few days, that the remedy had been successful in causing the expulsion of a large quantity of the worm piecemeal; and I heard no more on the subject until the 21st ult., when the child was brought back to me. I was then informed that the child had continued well for many weeks after I had seen him, but that at the end of that time segments of the worm had begun to re-appear in the evacuations, and the oil of male fern had been again prescribed for him by a physician in Scotland, causing, as before, the expulsion of large quantities of the worm in fragments. Now, however, after a fresh lapse of time, segments of the worm were re-appearing, and the child, who had greatly improved in health, strength, and spirits under my former course of treatment, had now fallen off again in these respects, but still without any more definite symptoms of illness. On this occasion some segments of the worm were brought up for examination, which did not appear to me to belong to the common tapeworm (*Tænia solium*). I now prescribed two drachms each of oil of turpentine and of castor oil, with one drachm of the ethereal oil of male fern and three of peppermint water, to be taken early in the morning fasting; and requested that whatever portions of worm might be expelled after taking the medicine should be sent to me for examination. In a few days I received two bottles, one containing what proved to be two nearly entire tapeworms, and the other a few very small segments, apparently completing one of the worms all but the head, or the root, as it might perhaps be more properly called. Neither of the heads, however, could be found. On examining the specimens, my opinion that they were not examples of *Tænia solium* was confirmed, and having submitted them to my friend Dr. Cobbold, lecturer on zoology and comparative anatomy at the medical school of the Middlesex Hospital, who has devoted special attention to the study of human parasites, he pronounced them certainly to be specimens of *Tænia medio-canellata*—a parasite which is generally considered to be very rare in this country, but which he believes to be much commoner than is supposed.

Perhaps there is no remedy so generally successful in the treatment of tapeworm as the oil of male fern, but occasionally, as in this instance (in which it was tried at least six or seven times) it fails. Probably such cases resemble the one under consideration, in being cases, not of *Tænia solium*, but of *Tænia medio-canellata*, in the treatment of which Küchenmeister says that in his experience the male fern scarcely maintains its reputation as an anthelmintic, but that the oil of turpentine, in various combinations, proves more frequently successful than any other remedy. The history of the present case also bears out Küchenmeister's statements with regard to *Tænia medio-canellata*, that the suckers of this parasite adhere much more pertinaciously than those of the *Tænia solium* to the mucous membrane of the intestine, and also that when the head has not been destroyed the segments begin to re-appear in the evacuations after a lapse of about ten weeks. In the present case it is possible that the heads of one or both of the worms may have been expelled and yet have escaped detection—a question which can only be determined by the patient's remaining during three or four months free from any re-appearance of the parasite.

Upper Berkeley-street, Dec, 1863.

ON THE HYDATIDIFORM OVUM.

By GRAILY HEWITT, M.D. LOND., M.R.C.P.,
PHYSICIAN TO THE BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL,
LECTURER ON MIDWIFERY AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN
AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

IN THE LANCET of October 8th, 1862, I recorded an interesting case of hydatidiform degeneration of the ovum. In THE LANCET of February 21st, 1863, Dr. Moorhead reported a very interesting case of the same kind. I have now to report another case presenting points worthy of attention in connexion with the nature and etiology of this pathological condition.

In January last I was consulted by Mr. —, late surgeon in the Bengal army, and requested to take medical charge of his wife, under the following circumstances:—The age of the lady was forty-three. The termination of the last catamenial period was July 11th, 1862. She had menstruated regularly previously, and had had children. On August 24th, 1862, when nearly six weeks pregnant, while walking with her husband on a grassy slope, she slipped and severely strained herself, and a few moments later slipped a second time, being with difficulty saved from falling. The accident was followed by very much discomfort in the region of the uterus, and a peculiar dull pain was present for several days. The morning sickness, which had been up to that time observed, disappeared from the date of the accident; but the abdomen and the breasts gradually enlarged. Between August 24th (the date of the accident) and November 8th, a very slight hæmorrhage, occurring without apparent cause, was observed on five occasions; and on November 8th, after retiring to bed, a sudden discharge of from eight to ten ounces of a sero-sanguinolent fluid took place. The abdomen was a little smaller after this, but soon again increased in size, and there was constant backache. On December 1st hæmorrhage again commenced, setting in with regularity at midnight, but ceasing during the day. On the 8th it was very profuse, and two doses of ergot were given, without, however, inducing uterine action. On the 9th, at midnight, profuse hæmorrhage again set in, with the passage of clots. Two doses of ergot were given, and shortly afterwards "a mass of hydatids" was expelled in two portions. A discharge varying in amount has since been going on, and it is now (Jan. 12th, 1863) of a bright-red colour. On January 8th a small substance, fetid, of the size of a walnut, was expelled.

The foregoing is an abstract of a written statement of the case which was brought to me. Mr. — considered it probable that something would be necessary to be done to place the patient out of danger. From his account of the case, however, I came to the conclusion that in all probability the whole of the uterine contents had been expelled, and that there was therefore no ground for the expectation that there would be any further hæmorrhage, a recurrence of which Mr. — much dreaded.

On Jan. 14th, the lady having come up to town, I made an examination. The os uteri was soft, and just admitted the forefinger; the vaginal part of the cervix had disappeared, the os being level with the vaginal wall. The uterus was felt to be slightly enlarged, but on examining the abdomen above the pubes, no tumour was there evident. By the use of the sound it was ascertained that the uterus was only half an inch longer than usual. The bloody discharge had ceased for two days. A slightly offensive discharge was still going on, but it was almost certain that the small mass expelled six days before was the last of the ovum, and that the uterus was empty. I advised simply rest, and a slight tonic, with ample diet.

A fortnight later the lady left town quite recovered, no further hæmorrhage having occurred.

The facts of this case, put into a short compass, are—Pregnancy, with regular progress, for nearly six weeks; accident at the end of that time, simultaneously with which accident one of the signs of pregnancy previously observed—morning sickness—disappears, while others—enlargement of abdomen and breasts—continue; occurrence of hæmorrhage, and sero-sanguineous discharges during upwards of three months; expulsion of an hydatidiform ovum about three months and a half after the date of the accident; continuance of discharge; and finally, at the end of another month, expulsion of the remaining small portion of the ovum.

It was until quite recently believed that the hydatidiform degeneration of the ovum was an actual disease of the chorion structures spontaneously arising. That view I have contro-