

the larynx which are shielded from the direct contact of the spray are, therefore, not medicated.

Dr. Roe has also found that in mild forms of general chronic laryngitis, after he had perseveringly used the spray in the most thorough manner possible, with little or no perceptible improvement, a few direct applications of the same remedy with the laryngeal brush, sponge, or absorbent cotton, thoroughly into the ventricles and whole interior of the larynx, brought about a speedy improvement and cure.

Thus in the treatment of laryngeal diseases the probang (the various laryngeal brushes, sponge-holders, and cotton carriers being but modifications of it) is still an indispensable instrument, and cannot be superseded by the spray, not only when it is desired to apply a remedy to a limited portion alone, but when a general and thorough application to the whole interior of the larynx is necessary.

Hospital Practice and Clinical Memoranda.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF A CASE OF ABORTION, WITH A SYNOPSIS OF THE CRIMINAL TRIAL.

BY J. FOSTER BUSH, M. D., HARV.

I WAS called, October 5, 1881, to see M. C., aged twenty, a strong, healthy girl of Irish descent, who had always enjoyed good health till the present illness. I found her with rapid breathing; abdomen tympanitic and tender; high pulse and temperature; tongue brown and dry; there was an offensive discharge from the vagina, and, upon pressure, a milky fluid exuded from the breasts. She had experienced chills, but they had not recurred to any great extent.

The history obtained was as follows: She had passed two catamenial periods; the flowing, attended with expulsion of clots, had come on between the second and third months, and it was accompanied with pain. After three days the flowing stopped, but the pains increased in severity, and so continued till the time I saw her.

On October 6th she was constantly vomiting fluid of a dark greenish color; the temperature was 105° F., and the extremities were cold. Diagnosis: puerperal peritonitis. Dr. W. L. Richardson saw the case in consultation. In reply to questions, the patient stated that she had gone, on September 22d, to a Mrs. Fenno, living in Somerville, and had had an operation performed, for which she paid ten dollars. This not being successful, she repeated the visit on September 26th, when the operation was repeated at an expense of five dollars. The operation consisted of the application of a sponge on the outside of the stomach, and the passage of a tube within the vagina. The operation each time was very painful.

Subsequent to the use of these instruments an injection was given, and she drank a pint of hot spearmint tea. She was very sick on coming home the second time, and felt that she was dying.

On account of pain a subcutaneous injection of a quarter of a grain of sulphate of morphia was given. The patient died in the evening.

On October 7th an autopsy was made by Dr. F. W. Draper, medical examiner for Suffolk County, who kindly invited me to be present, and has permitted me to use the notes of the autopsy:—

"External examination: The body had been in ice. A quantity of dark-brown fluid escaped from the mouth when the body was turned. The breasts were full, and milky fluid could be pressed from the nipples. The belly was distended by gas. The external genitals were slightly swollen, and were of a darker color than in health. A little thin, fetid matter smeared the other parts. The remains of a ruptured hymen were distinct around the opening to the vagina. There were some superficial excoriations at the posterior and right lateral parts of the entrance to the vagina.

"Internal examination: The heart and lungs were healthy. The investing membrane of the intestines and other abdominal organs (peritonæum) was in a state of acute general inflammation; it was thickened, reddened, and opaque; its adjacent surfaces were agglutinated; its various depressions contained nearly a quart of extremely fetid, thin, greenish-colored pus.

"The interior of the spleen, kidneys, liver, and intestines presented no appearance of disease; their external covering shared in the general peritonitis.

"The stomach contained a quarter of a pint of thin, dark, fetid fluid. The internal structure of the organ was healthy.

"The uterus, bladder, vagina, and rectum were removed together. Their opposing surfaces within the cavity of the belly were quite firmly adherent by recent inflammatory products.

"The vagina was of normal size. Its color was a little darker than natural, and its upper part showed a patch near the mouth of the womb decidedly darker than the rest. There was a little dark colored, rather thick matter upon its lining membrane.

"The opening to the womb admitted the tip of the little finger. Around this opening were slight bruises extending one sixteenth of an inch outward from the margin. The womb was enlarged; its cavity measured three inches in depth from the external opening; its breadth was two inches; the wall of the womb was one inch thick at the thickest. One inch from the mouth of the womb, at the inner or upper end of the canal, were two excavated ulcerations, one anterior, the other posterior; their size was nearly equal, their diameter being about five sixteenths of an inch and their depth one eighth of an inch; their outline was circular, and their color nearly black; the muscular tissue under them was reddened to the depth of one sixteenth of an inch. On the inner surface of the anterior wall of the womb was a raised and reddened area of the size of a quarter dollar. The lining of the womb elsewhere was somewhat thickened, but was of nearly a natural appearance. The passages from the womb to the cavity of the abdomen (Fallopian tubes) were distended with thick pus, and their lining was reddened.

"The right ovary contained a corpus luteum of the size of a large pea."

The person mentioned in the declaration of the dying girl was arrested on the evening of October 6th. The officers found at her house a battery, which they did not disturb, but several electrodes were taken possession of, the character of which corresponded with those spoken of before, and were such as would have been likely to have been used in procuring an abortion by electricity. It is unnecessary to follow the legal proceedings in detail; suffice it to say that the trial justice and grand jury found a "bill" against the defendant, and the case came up for trial in the spring term of

the Criminal Court for Middlesex County, at East Cambridge, before Chief Justice Brigham, but for sufficient cause was transferred to the June term, Judge Pitman presiding; Hon. W. B. Stevens for the government, and Hon. W. B. Gale and O. S. Knapp, Esq., for the defense. The dying declaration was ruled out as evidence.

[I would say that hours were spent in trying to find a justice of the peace, in order to take the girl's ante-mortem statement, but just as that officer reached the house the girl died.]

An outline of the general testimony for the government will be sufficient. It was shown that, on the evening first stated, the girl visited the house of the defendant with a male companion, who waited outside till she returned, the time being about half an hour. That, on the second visit, she was accompanied to within a short distance of the defendant's house by three companions, and was there for about half an hour; and that on the way home she seemed distressed, walked slowly, and appeared different from usual. The government then traced her movements, by numerous witnesses, from this time to the time of her death, thus showing the impossibility of her having had an abortion performed elsewhere. Various police officers who made the arrest and seized the instruments were put on the stand and related the events of the evening, and identified the instruments in court as the ones taken that night. The writer was the first medical witness. He testified as to the girl's illness, and to the fact of having been present at the autopsy. As an expert he gave his opinion that the girl died of peritonitis following abortion. That the ulcerations found at the mouth of the womb could only have been produced by direct violence, and that electricity would produce such effects.

Dr. W. L. Richardson testified as to having seen the girl in consultation, and agreed with Dr. Bush that puerperal peritonitis was the cause of death. As to the character of the ulcerations he could not say, as he had not seen them; but in his judgment the *constant* current would produce ulceration, but the *interrupted* current could not.

Dr. F. W. Draper read the notes of his autopsy. He also testified that the uterine ulcerations could only have been produced by some powerful stimulant. That the stimulant in this case was probably the galvanic current.

Dr. S. G. Webber was called by the government as an expert, and his testimony I will give more in detail. It was that the galvanic current could produce ulceration; that such ulceration would be found at the negative pole, and was caused by the decomposition of the parts; that the dark color was due to changes after the ulceration had been produced; and although ulceration of the parts spoken of could be produced by syphilis, caustics, etc., those described would correspond with those produced by the electric current; that the electro-magnetic current would be unlikely to cause ulceration, but he would not say that it was impossible; that the interrupted current was likely to produce uterine action and abortion.

This hypothetical question was then put to this witness: "Suppose that a young girl, nineteen or thereabouts, on a Tuesday night complained of pain in her back and stomach, and should die a week from the following Thursday from an abortion, when, in your opinion, was an operation, if any, performed?"

"Preceding Tuesday, within a few days."

This ended the government's side.

Dr. Hall, manufacturer of electrical instruments, testified, for the defense, that he had sold the defendant a galvanic battery; that it would be impossible to cauterize any part of the human body unless a very powerful battery was used, or both poles were applied to the parts; that a battery with less than forty cells would not produce a slough; that with the battery he had sold the defendant he could with safety sit on a keg of gunpowder and pass a current through it.

The defendant testified that she was an electric physician, had been in practice over twenty-five years, and was in the habit of giving electric baths to women who menstruated irregularly, or whose catamenial periods had been stopped by a cold; that she never performed abortion.

The rest of the defense was an attempt to prove an alibi on the day of the last visit.

Closing arguments of counsel and the judge's charge are omitted. Verdict, guilty. Exceptions taken.

Recent Literature.

Lectures on Diseases of Children: A Handbook for Physicians and Students. By DR. EDWARD HEN-
OCH, Director of the Clinic and Polyclinic of Children in the Royal Charité, and Professor in the University of Berlin. New York: William Wood and Company. 1882.

This work, which is a free translation of Professor Henoch's Lectures on Diseases of Children, published by Hirschwald in Berlin in 1881, forms a part of Wood's Library of Standard Medical Authors, and is an exceedingly valuable addition to the literature of this branch of medicine. Professor Henoch's idea appearing to be, not to cover the whole ground of diseases of children, but to merely reproduce his lectures on those subjects where he has had the greatest opportunity for personal observation; he necessarily omits much that is usually found in the text-books which already exist on this subject, thus avoiding the useless repetition with which this as well as most of the branches of the medical literature of the present day abounds.

The plan of the work is especially to be commended. It is a concise, lucid exposition of each subject, rich in new observations and original thoughts, taken from the author's wide experience of thirty-seven years, private and hospital practice. The text contains numerous typical illustrative cases, generally accompanied by a thorough description of the post-mortem appearances. It is in this latter respect that the translation, which on the whole is fairly done, fails to reach that degree of excellence which is attained in the original work; for quite a number of these illustrative cases are either entirely omitted or very much curtailed, so that from thirty to forty pages of the original text do not appear in the translation, a fact which would at once make the German edition of greater worth than the American, even if the former were not preëminent over the latter from its superior type and general appearance.

The part of the lectures which appears to be especially original is that which is devoted to the various nervous phenomena occurring in infants and children,