

Case of inveterate stomatitis : with pemphigus, &c.; &c. / under the care of C.W. Chaldecott.

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of all these surgeons, that he had constitutional syphilis. It appears that in infancy he had some disease of the nasal bones; he says that he has always understood that a nurse who was instructed to inject his nostrils with a lotion, did some mischief which resulted in the falling in of the bridge of his nose; but there are no other circumstances whatever to corroborate the idea of congenital syphilis, and I believe Sir James Paget considered that the evidence was against this suspicion. His own theory is that he acquired one attack of syphilis, a short time previous to his marriage in 1870, from the mouth of a woman he kissed one night in the streets. From his own account also it is clear that at different times he has taken both Mercury and Iodide of Potassium for sufficiently long periods to make it very obvious that they were given for suspected syphilis. A year or so after marriage, his wife gave birth to a fairly healthy boy, who is living and well, though perhaps not very vigorous; but who is without any signs of syphilis. After this she had three or four consecutive miscarriages—again went her full time and has since given birth to three more children who have all lived and have no sign of disease.

This severe condition of stomatitis, on account of which he first presented himself to my observation, had come on about three weeks previously, during which time he had seen Mr. W. Coulson once or twice, and subsequently Dr. Morell Mackenzie, who had prescribed Iodide of Potassium for him in 5-gr. doses once a day.

I first gave him, at his own urgent request, a mercurial aperient pill, and chlorate of potash wash for the mouth. The day but one after this I found him profusely salivated, and with very offensive foetor of breath. He declared that every dose of the iodide mixture made him worse, and I thought it possible that some peculiar form of iodism, aggravated by the calomel dose, might explain his condition, but subsequent events proved that this thought was erroneous.

The patient at this time also drew my attention to a small patch of psoriasis on the inside of the left thigh, against which his scrotum rested. The patient's own impression was very strong, and he was evidently much distressed by the reflection, that the attack was a revival of syphilitic mischief, which he was convinced he had acquired from what he called the "impure kiss."

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson now saw him with me, and at this, his first interview, leant to the opinion that the patient was probably right as to the syphilitic origin of the disease, but having elicited the confession of a chancre in earlier life, thought it more probably referrible to this more distant infection. The inflammation of the whole interior of the mouth with the tongue and lips had much increased, the salivation and fœtor continuing, the latter suggesting to Mr. Hutchinson the possibility of some malignant and ulcerating growth in the larynx or œsophagus, which might be originally syphilitic. This suspicion was increased by the difficulty of swallowing even liquids which was experienced. But I may here at once state that every possible exploration, including a skilled laryngoscopic examination by Mr. Mark Hovell, failed to discover anything of the kind, nor could any tumour be found anywhere.

The small patch of psoriasis on the left thigh in two or three days had quite changed its character. It had spread considerably, and had assumed the form of a papillary growth, much like a mass of crowded mucous tubercles.

Mr. Hutchinson advised that Iodide of Potassium should be vigorously pushed, and the mouth to be daily and thoroughly dusted with Iodoform. Ten grains of Iodide and ten of Bromide of Potassium were given every six hours. Washes for the mouth containing Condyl's Fluid, Carbolic Water with Glycerine, Chlorate of Potash lotions, Borax, &c., &c., were freely used at different times, and the Iodoform applied daily, and this treatment was most diligently persevered in for three or four weeks,

but without any appreciable benefit. Indeed fresh troubles followed. A similar papillary eruption appeared on the opposite groin, and the skin of the penis and scrotum became inflamed and excoriated, and the parts about the right great toe-nail inflamed and suppurated, the nail itself becoming loosened and easily detached in the course of a day or two. The skin and cellular tissue of all the toes on the right foot became thickened and œdematous and covered with crops of eczematous pustules. This inflammation and thickening with pustular eruption gradually extended over the instep and sole of the right foot, and subsequently a precisely similar (but less severe) condition occupied the left foot with exfoliation of the toe-nails.

Next in sequence of events and within a very few days, some small bullæ of pemphigus appeared on the right ankle and instep, and these becoming larger as more and more clusters appeared almost daily, spread over the whole of the right leg. Many bullæ also rose on the trunk and arms, eventually on the other foot and leg and indeed everywhere except his hands and head.

It is necessary to relate that during all this time Mr. Hutchinson and I were in frequent communication about the case, in which he took very great interest, and just on the appearance of pemphigus I had taken the patient to London, and Sir James Paget saw him with us. Mr. Hutchinson had quite abandoned the syphilitic view and was in perfect coincidence with Sir James Paget as to the total want of resemblance to any known form of syphilis, which the disease now presented.

The only case recorded to which Mr. Hutchinson was able to point, and which it resembled in almost every particular, was observed by himself, and the like inveterate stomatitis, the curious papillary growths upon the skin, the exfoliation of toe-nails, and the pemphigus eruption were all described. This man

I took Dr. Bristowe to see the case one day, I think it was just before the pemphigus appeared. He thought it all as extraordinary and inexplicable as did Mr. Hutchinson and Sir James Paget.

it was ascertained, I believe beyond a doubt, had never had syphilis, but he had a tumour (lymphadenoma) in the abdomen, and he died. At the same time Mr. Hutchinson had under treatment two cases of stomatitis closely resembling Mr.—, but in these the disease was confined to the mouth. In one recently, some papillary psoriasis on backs of hands and small bullæ on the toes.

A few days previous to our visit to London, I had discontinued the Bromide of Potassium from his medicine, because of some cerebral disturbance. He was delirious at night, and confused and had delusions in the daytime, giving me to fear that his mind was going, but these symptoms gradually all passed away three or four days after the cessation of the Bromide. He had been able to take large quantities of milk, eggs, good soups, with sufficient stimulants, and except for the soreness of the mouth and other discomforts, he often said that he felt pretty well. All this time he went about in his house and grounds, and he bore his journey to London and back with very little feeling of fatigue.

On the appearance of the pemphigus we commenced the treatment by Arsenic, combining three grains of Quinine with each dose of Fowler's Solution three times a day, and discontinued altogether the Iodine. The Iodoform had not made the slightest impression upon any of the sore places, neither did the application of Solution of Nitrate of Silver to the mouth, nor the solid Nitrate to the papillary growths, seem to have any beneficial effect. The pemphigus now daily extended up the right leg and on various parts of the trunk, till in short, after a few more days he was pretty universally covered with bullæ (except on the hands and head), none of which were very large, but some larger than others, and from the floors of many of which, when they broke and discharged their yellowish serum, a similar papillary eminence to that in the groins and axillæ was seen to be growing. The condition of the poor gentleman at this time had become most deplorable. There was no improvement

in the state of the mouth; every three or four days he had an attack of salivation which lasted, to his great discomfort, for the greater part of the day; and at other times he had to be continually cleaning from his mouth and fauces much most tenacious and offensive mucus. The whole body was covered with blebs and sores, the stench from which, as well as from his mouth, was almost intolerable. He was clothed from neck to feet in lint spread with carbolized vaseline.*

Mr. Walter Coulson, by the patient's desire, now saw him, and by his suggestion Warburg's Tincture was given with the Arsenic for some time instead of the Quinine. It was now the month of May and his illness began in the middle of January. He had been taking arsenic in as large doses as may be given with safety for several weeks, besides abundance of other tonics and very large supplies of nutritious fluid support, all of which he has kept down and digested, but nothing is substantially better. I have thought on some days that there was slight improvement in the mouth—the raw surfaces not so deeply injected, less salivation, and somewhat less tenderness—and so also with the eruption; the papillary elevations drying up and shrinking to some extent, and some of the raw places left by the pemphigus becoming paler and looking healthier; but some of these appearances, inspiring hope and continued perseverance, varied from day to day, and whilst on the one hand we might think and hope that the disease was coming to an end, on the other there was too much room for fear that the poor emaciated and exhausted patient could not hold out much longer.

Mr. Hutchinson saw him again at this period and advised the administration of laudanum in ten minim doses every six hours. A few days after this, by the desire of his friends, I saw Sir William Gull, and described the case to him and all that

* The use of the Carbolic Acid was discontinued after some time as well as the Carbolic mouth washes, because he got green urine. Ung. Carbonis Deterg, and afterwards Zinc Ointment were substituted.

had been done. He recommended, as everything else almost had been ineffectually tried, to give the patient one drachm doses of Liq. Hyd. Perchlorid with the laudanum doses. This advice was carried out for two or three days, but as sickness set in, I stopped all medicine and tried to restore the stomach's sufferance for even small quantities of milk, but within forty-eight hours of this time he died.

The duration of the illness was about five months.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION.

No structural disease was observed in any of the organs and viscera in thorax and abdomen, except that the lower lobe of the right lung was quite solid with grey hepatization. The viscera were all very pale and bloodless. No tumour was found in any part. The head was not examined. The examination of the tongue and larynx revealed nothing more than had been observed during life.

As auscultation and percussion of the chest had been carefully practised on several occasions within a short time previous to death, it is fair to presume that the condition of the right lung was only recent.

