

Cases of calculus extracted from the female bladder / by E.L. Hussey.

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CASES OF
CALCULUS EXTRACTED FROM THE FEMALE
BLADDER.

By E. L. HUSSEY, F.R.C.S.

Reprinted from THE MEDICAL TIMES AND GAZETTE.

Case 1.—A young woman, of strumous aspect, eighteen years of age, lately apprenticed to a dressmaker, was admitted on May 12, 1858, into the Radcliffe Infirmary, under my care, with incontinence of urine, caused by a large calculus in the bladder. The calculus had been detected for the first time the day before admission. She had been in the Infirmary in January and February, 1855. I have been informed that the only symptoms of which she complained at that time were a greater frequency of the call to empty her bladder. Lately it had become so painful for her to sit long at work, that she had been obliged to give up dressmaking. She applied to Dr. Freeborn. He introduced a silver catheter, and detected a large stone in the bladder.

The catamenia appeared the day after her admission; and treatment was delayed on that account.

On the 18th she was placed under chloroform. A three-branched dilator was introduced into the urethra. There was not more than an ounce of urine in the bladder; and this escaped at once. The stone was struck with the point of the instrument as it entered the bladder. The blades were expanded, and on introducing my finger a large calculus was felt. It was seized with a strong pair of lithotomy forceps, and brought almost to the orifice of the urethra, when it slipped from the grip of the forceps, and fell back into the bladder. By pressing firmly above the pubes, where the calculus could be felt, it was kept steady, and a firmer hold taken with the forceps. When brought again to the orifice of the urethra, so that its large size could be seen, and an opinion formed of the laceration likely to follow from perseverance in the attempt to drag it through, I made an

incision less than half an inch in length, in the mucous membrane, dividing it directly upwards, toward the symphysis pubis in the mesial line. By continuing the dilatation gradually, moving the forceps from side to side, the parts yielded, and the stone was extracted. It was observed during the operation that the soft parts yielded more readily by raising the patient's knees toward the abdomen, as in the position chosen for lithotomy in male subjects.

The calculus weighed 3iij. Əij., and was composed of lithic acid. It was a thick oval in shape, or rather in the form of a flattened heart. In its long axis it was two inches and six-tenths, in its short axis one inch and eight-tenths, and one inch and four-tenths in thickness. Its greatest circumference was seven inches and a quarter; its short circumference was five inches and an eighth.

There was rather free oozing of bright florid blood from the inside of the bladder during the operation and afterwards.

A draft of liq. ammon. acet. with some vinum opii, some antimony, and sp. etheris nitr. was given at bedtime.

The girl slept all night. The urine escaped freely, without her being able to retain it.

On the 25th I directed her to bathe the parts frequently with cold water. On the 29th she was able to retain the urine during the day, but a little escaped at night.

June 9.—The nurse tells me that less of the urine escapes. Soon after this date she returned home by her own wish.

She was readmitted in July, and she remained a month in the ward.

She was able to hold a teacupful of urine during the day. She can tell by her own feelings when it becomes necessary to empty the bladder, and she has a vessel ready for the purpose. It escapes at night during sleep. Her bowels were generally confined. The catamenia had not appeared since the operation. I prescribed a shower-bath daily, and ferrum tartaratum, with dec. aloes comp. twice a day.

Dr. Freeborn has since informed me that she recovered perfectly, and that she regained the full control over the bladder. She afterwards married; and she died in London in 1873 with some internal disease.

Case 2.—A girl, fourteen years of age, rather below middle height and size, complained that she was not able to hold more than a teaspoon of urine in her bladder, and that she suffered much pain after passing the urine. She has suffered more or less from these or other symptoms of irritability for five years. She was admitted June 2, 1858, into the Radcliffe Infirmary under my care.

The existence of a calculus in the bladder having been ascertained by sounding, I proceeded to remove it on the 9th.

The orifice of the urethra was too small to allow of the introduction of the same dilator which I had used in the former case. A pair of common forceps was therefore passed into the urethra, and, upon allowing the blades to expand, I passed the dilator into the bladder between the expanded blades of the forceps, and the forceps were then withdrawn. The branches of the dilator were opened; and, on introducing my finger into the bladder, the calculus was felt. It was seized with a pair of lithotomy forceps, and extracted without difficulty. There was rather free oozing of blood, which ceased after she was put back in bed.

The calculus weighed 3vss., and was composed of lithic acid, coated with phosphates.

A draft of liq. ammon. acet. with vini opii ℞xv. was given at bedtime. She slept well all night.

June 15.—She is able to retain the urine during the day, but it escapes at night.

She was discharged on the 30th. She was able to retain the urine completely during the day, but some escapes during sleep.

I saw her again on July 24. She told me that less urine dribbled away at night.

From members of her family I have since heard that she recovered completely from the effects of the operation, and that she died about ten years afterwards under some other complaint.

Case 3.—A married lady, forty-six years of age, had suffered for two years from irritability about the organs of the pelvis. She was much wasted, and depressed in spirits. She had been treated by different medical practitioners, and lately she had paid repeated visits by railway to a practitioner at a distance. At each visit caustic was applied to

the uterus under the belief that that was the organ affected. She found after each visit that her sufferings were aggravated by the journey rather than relieved by the treatment. Her father and her father's uncle had both been the subject of calculus.

In November, 1869, Mr. Cresswell, of Wolverhampton, then of Steeple Aston, was consulted upon her case. He gave the opinion that she was the subject of a large calculus in the bladder. At a subsequent visit he introduced a silver catheter, and assured himself of the fact.

On the 18th I was summoned, in consultation with Mr. Cresswell, for the purpose of removing it. A three-branched dilator was introduced into the urethra, and the blades were opened sufficiently to allow me to pass my finger into the bladder, but I could not at first feel the calculus. The bladder was then syringed with warm water. Upon introducing my finger a second time the calculus was felt, and seized with a pair of lithotomy forceps. The urethra yielded slowly to the process of dilatation. When the calculus was brought to the orifice, I applied a second pair of forceps, so as to obtain a firmer hold of it. The calculus broke in the passage before it was completely withdrawn. It was 3iiij. in weight, and was composed of phosphates.

A glass of hot brandy-and-water, with spice and sugar, was administered by our direction before we left the house. The subsequent treatment of the case was left to Mr. Cresswell.

The lady made a rapid and complete recovery, with perfect control over the bladder. She soon became stout and strong, and resumed her household duties. She was in the enjoyment of the best of health when Mr. Cresswell saw her, two years after the operation.

Remarks.—In all these cases the dilatation was effected by the same instrument—the three-branched dilator made by Messrs. Weiss. No inconvenience followed from the use of it, or from the mode in which it was applied.

An instrument in some respects like it is shown in Dionis's "Course of Chirurgical Operations," 1710, Fig. xx., page 168; it is described in the text as a speculum matricis.



