

Practical remarks on some exhausting diseases, particularly those incident to women.

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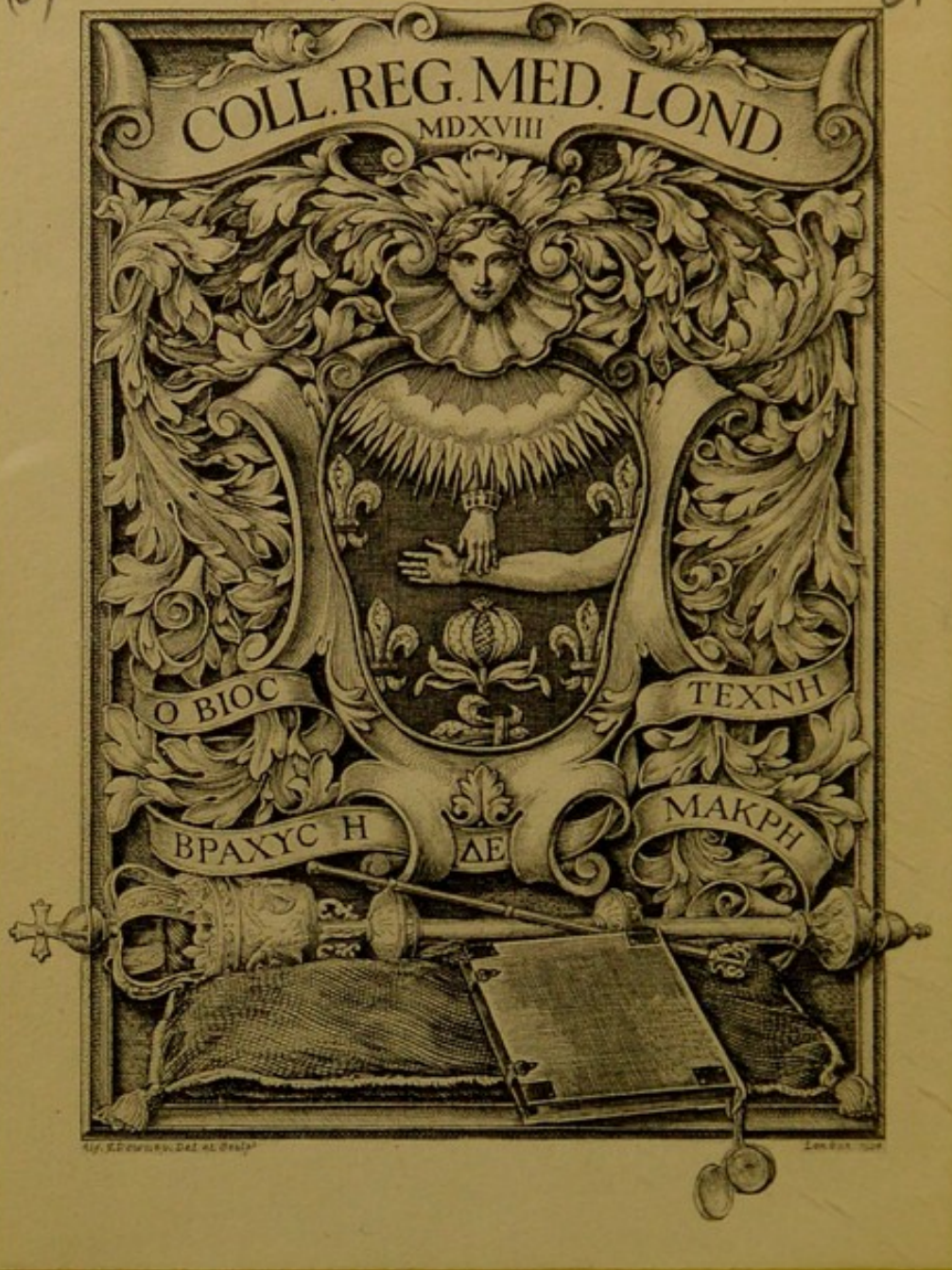
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TO SIR CHARLES MANSFIELD CLARKE, BART.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,

IT has always been to me a source of extreme gratification that I had the good fortune in early life to be instructed in the treatment of the diseases of women by yourself. I endeavour to show my sense of obligation, since I cannot make you any adequate return for your kindness to me on numberless occasions, by dedicating to you this my first little literary effort, and, wishing that you may long enjoy the entire regard of the medical profession, which you have so long possessed, and so well deserved,

I am, my dear Sir Charles,

Your attached Friend,

and faithful Servant,

JAMES EYRE.

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BY THE REV. FREDERICK G. ...

It has always been to me a source of
great satisfaction that I had the good fortune
to be invited to be invited in the presence of
the friends of woman by your church. I cannot
express my sense of obligation, since I cannot
say that you are always true to your high
and noble and unobscured mission, by this
invitation to you that my dear friends should
and wishing that you may long enjoy the
best of health and the most successful
and happy progress and so well deserved

I am, my dear friends,

Very truly yours,

FREDERICK G. ...

1888

P R E F A C E.

THE author of the following observations makes no apology for presenting them to the medical public. Having opportunities of acquiring practical information in an almost equal degree with gentlemen who are attached to large metropolitan hospitals, he regards it as a duty to communicate for the general good, any knowledge which he may from time to time acquire. In the present instance, he has endeavoured to bring into prominent notice a successful treatment of certain maladies which are frequently found very difficult of cure; and he trusts that this contribution to therapeutics will be kindly

received by his working professional brethren, especially those who, like himself, are far advanced in their arduous career, and who must be well aware that the actual treatment of disease is at once the most important and the most defective department of medicine.

Lower Brook Street, March, 1845.

PRACTICAL REMARKS,

&c.

THE object of this Essay will be attained, if the writer shall succeed in inducing others to give a fair trial to a comparatively novel remedy in pyrosis, in certain cases of gastric disorder, in the slowly exhausting hæmorrhage from mucous surfaces, but, above all, in atonic menorrhagia, which, though arising from various causes, and hence often most perplexing to the practitioner, will, it is confidently predicted, become henceforth as amenable to treatment, as it has been hitherto unmanageable.

In these pages it will be seen that no right to the discovery of new properties in a valuable preparation is assumed; on the contrary, the merit of its first exhibition is given, as it belongs,

to another: the author is merely entitled to the credit of having availed himself of the ample means of investigation which he possessed, and devoted his diligent attention to the subject during a period of more than three years; and he now desires to promulgate, in a more comprehensive and convenient form than the pages of a weekly journal would admit, the satisfactory results at which he has arrived.

A medical man very actively engaged in practice, has not much time for study; he will be performing a duty, however, which he owes to society and to himself, by attentively reading all the periodicals relating to practice, which are published in the United Kingdom: this will not be difficult, for they are not numerous, and many recoveries of patients will assuredly result to him from this salutary and needful occupation. The little work now presented to the public, may be adduced as one instance of the advantage of attending to the periodical literature of the day. During seven years' practice as

physician to a well-supported public institution in this metropolis, the writer encountered, in an augmented number of instances, a difficulty which he had often before experienced, namely, that of arresting the atonic species of uterine hæmorrhage, which, whether as a result of unduly prolonged menstruation, as a sequela of labour, or abortion, as occurring during pregnancy, or as caused by organic lesion, will if not restrained, exhaust the powers of the constitution, and eventually destroy the patient. In searching for information and guidance, during the summer of 1841, his attention was excited by an article in one of the leading* hebdomadals, written by Charles B. Lane, Esq., then a London surgeon, on some newly-ascertained qualities of the oxyde of silver, not only in the cases just alluded to, but in certain other ailments: this gentleman refers to a Paper published by him a year before in a Quarterly Review,† a perusal of which

* Lancet, July 10th, 1841.

† Dr. James Johnson's Med. Chirurgical for 1840. Mr. Braithwaites' Retrospect, vol. i. art. 75.

tells us that M. Serre of Montpellier, believes it to possess power as an anti-syphilitic, the dose being from half a grain to six grains in twenty-four hours, adding that it is not a caustic, when applied outwardly, but differs as much from nitrate of silver, as chloride of mercury does from the bichloride. Its usefulness was proved in gastrodynia, pyrosis, menorrhagia, hæmorrhage from the bowels, in diarrhœa, in one case of irritable bladder, and in another where there was colliquative perspiration; its effects are stated to have been speedy, and produced without a single bad symptom. Dr. Golding Bird is reported to have tried it in one hundred cases, and "thinks well of it in menorrhagia," considering its properties to be tonic, and to a certain degree sedative; Dr. Clendinning, physician to the St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary, thought it useful in epileptic, and gastralgie affections; Dr. Ryan also gave the same opinion; lastly, a statement of Mr. Lane's implies that in two instances, it seemed to facilitate impregnation, in consequence, it is presumed, of its inducing

a healthier state of the uterus. The result of the writer's observation has been fully confirmatory of the high character here given of the oxyde; it has been administered by him in a large number of cases, the records of most of which have been kept, and it is now intended to present as full a report of them, as may enable just and candid judges to compare its action with other remedial means which have been too often hitherto ineffectually employed.

The pyrosis which is so often met with in practice, and occurs chiefly in women, is thus defined by Cullen:—"Epigastrii dolor urens cum copia humoris aquei, plerumque insipidi, aliquando acris, eructata." It is generally called the water-brash, more descriptively in Devonshire "the water-pang." Though not a dangerous disorder, it is a destroyer of comfort, and was pronounced by Dr. Baillie to be one of the *opprobria medicorum* of his day.* Some † ascribe its origin

* Lectures and Observations in Medicine, 1825.

† See an able review of Dr. Claessen's work in Dr. Forbes British and Foreign Medical for October, 1844.

to the pancreas ; others, as Dr Mason Good, to paresis, or inactivity of the proper absorbents of the stomach. Whatever opinion be the correct one, the pathological conditions being so obscure, it will be found, that however it may be induced, the oxyde of silver given in half-grain doses thrice daily, will prove more effectual in its cure than any medicine which has yet been employed. That it has not once failed in the author's hands, let the following illustrative cases, a few of many, bear witness ; all the patients were women. It should be premised, however, as costiveness generally existed, that one or two of Dr. Hamilton's pills (of Edinburgh) composed of Ext. coloc. c. Əij., Ext. hyoscyami Əj., divided into xii., were given every night.

CASE I.

M. D., of middle age, married, applied January 10th, 1843. Was first treated on Dr. Bardesley's

plan, taking the following powders three times a day. \mathcal{R} Trisnit. bismuth gr. v., Pulv. tragac. c. gr. x. (adding Hydrochl. morph. gr. 1-8th.) Ft. pulvis. Bowels to be kept open by Hamilton's pills. In four days no relief having been obtained, quarter grain doses of the oxyde were substituted. In ten days this patient not being better, begged to return to the medicine first prescribed ; but, soon finding her mistake, resumed the oxyde Feb. 11th, and persisting steadily with half-grain doses thrice daily, till March 9th, was, on that day, discharged cured, and eighteen months afterwards had suffered no relapse.

CASE II.

M. H., aged sixty, April 8th, 1843. Had been tormented with paroxysms of pyrosis during a long period. Began with $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. as in the preceding instance. May 17th, reported herself free from pain, and the eructations of fluid ; and on June

7th, said, on her dismissal, that she felt better than she had done for the last three years.

CASE III.

M. B., aged thirty, married. July 1843. Had suffered the water-pang numberless times during sixteen years, had borne several children, but never suffered from the complaint during pregnancy; had been ill eighteen months. There was no tenderness on pressure of the epigastric region. The usual dietetic rules being directed, the minimum dose was commenced with, which in less than a fortnight removed all her distress; but on transgressing, by eating improper food, she experienced a relapse. A return to the oxyde, however, soon produced ease, and on Dec. 7th, 1844, she had remained well, though not pregnant, and gratefully declared that for years she had not enjoyed such health.

CASE IV.

J. J., aged fifty-five, widow. Aug. 15th, 1843. Symptoms decidedly marked ; she had pains and eructations, with costiveness ; no tenderness on pressure : to commence with the usual dose. Was much better in a week. Sept. 8th, felt nearly well ; quite free from complaint on the 19th, stating that she had been benefited before, but never in so short a time.

CASE V.

E. D., aged twenty-three, single ; sempstress. Sept. 14th, 1843. Had been ill two months, bringing up a pint or more daily, of a tasteless watery fluid ; could not bear pressure ; ordered to apply a dozen leeches to the pit of the stomach, and the bowels being confined, to take the colocynth pills. On the 18th, the tenderness having sub-

sided, began with the oxyde. 21st, nearly well. Oct. 2nd. Still improving: desired to try the following tonic mixture: \mathcal{R} Acidi hydrochl. d. \mathfrak{zj} ., Inf. chirayitæ \mathfrak{zvi} ss., Tinct. card. c. \mathfrak{zss} . Ft. mist. Coch duo ampla ter quotidie. Nov. 1st, slight return of pyrosis: directed to resume the powders, which in eight days removed all her ailments; and in Sept. 1844, she called, and stated that, during the past year, there had been no return of her complaint.

CASE VI.

S. B., aged thirty, married. Sept. 15th, 1843. Had paroxysms of pain sometimes before, but more frequently after eating, with watery eructations. These symptoms had lasted three weeks; the epigastrium was impatient of pressure. To apply ten or a dozen leeches, and in a day or two begin the oxyde in the customary $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. doses. 25th, nearly well; 27th, no uneasiness whatever.

Prescribed \mathcal{R} Ferri Sulph. \mathcal{D} j., Pilul. galb. c. \mathcal{Z} jss.
Ft. pilul. xxx. quarum capiat ij. ter quotidie. The
middle of October dismissed well.

CASE VII.

S. B., aged fifty, married. Sept. 5th, 1844.
Ceased to menstruate two years ago; had pyrosis
during three months to a harassing degree; was
then cured by a neighbouring surgeon: this time
had been ill two months. Began with $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. doses.
After taking it thrice daily during eight days, was
so much relieved that she discontinued it. Ap-
plied again, however, on the 12th, and then was
ordered to have increased doses of $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. : this was
persisted in till the 17th, when 2-3rds of a grain
produced so complete an amendment that, on the
28th of November, all the symptoms having
steadily and gradually improved, and the patient
not having felt any pain during some weeks,
she was discharged cured.

CASE VIII.

M. H., aged twenty-three, single. Oct. 8th, 1844. Had suffered great pain in the stomach five weeks before, especially after meals, which complaint lasted a fortnight, and was then removed, and she had now no tenderness on pressure, or watery ejections; but being more harassed by a recurrence of the pain, was ordered gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ mixed with gr. v. P. glycyrrhizæ, at the usual intervals. The first six doses had no permanent effect, though partial relief followed the employment of the second. On the 23rd, having felt no uneasiness during an entire week, she did not think it necessary longer to attend.

CASE IX.

M. A. S., aged 17. Oct. 22d, 1844. Had menstruated a few times, first period a year and a

half before : in February last vomited, to the best of her belief, a quart of blood ; (no hæmatemesis before or since ;) has now great pain in her stomach, particularly after taking warm fluids ; no eructation ; pulse slow and weak. Prescribed gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ ter die. 29th, nearly well. To take twelve more of the powders. Nov. 3rd, pain had gradually and entirely ceased. Dismissed.

CASE X.

M. S., aged forty-one, married. Nov, 20th, 1844. Had suffered great pain in her stomach for six years, which once lasted, with little intermission, a year and a half ; has borne two children ; catamenia regular ; bowels open, no tenderness in the region of the epigastrium, but frequent inclination to vomit. Desired her to restrict herself as much as possible to a milk diet, and, as directed in all the preceding cases, never to take

food which had once disagreed. In six days this patient was so much relieved by $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. doses of the oxyde administered thrice a-day, that to use her own words, since she had taken these powders she had felt herself quite another person. Dec. 2nd, the pain had entirely ceased, and she could eat mutton with impunity, which she had not ventured to do for months: the milk constipating, cocoa, or black tea, was substituted; on Dec. 31st all medicine was left off, being unnecessary, and on the 24th of Jan. 1845, she reported herself perfectly well.

More instances might have been given of the valuable qualities of our remedy in gastric derangement, but fearful of tiring, by repetitions of similar favourable results, the writer proceeds, in the second place, to detail how far he has found the oxyde useful in hæmoptysis and hæmatemesis; and in order that a due estimate may be formed of the comparative utility of the medicine, a few cases in which it was exhibited will be subjoined.

Hæmoptysis and hæmatemesis can scarcely occur at repeated short intervals without exciting anxiety in the mind of the attending practitioner, though the danger is not so great, as Dr. Alison and others have observed, when the hæmorrhage is vicarious. A year's observation of M. Louis' practice at La Pitié (in 1832) satisfied the author as to the correctness of the opinion entertained by this great pathologist, that when a succession of sanguineous sputa or coagula are ejected from the lungs, tubercles will probably be found to exist. Admitting this to be the fact, it is nevertheless believed with the talented Editor of the Medico - surgical Review "that hæmoptysis should be checked as soon as possible." In hæmatemesis there can be no doubt of the necessity of its prompt suppression. It must be allowed, however, that it is sometimes difficult at first to distinguish whether the flow proceeds from the mucous membrane of the bronchiæ or of the stomach: still it is considered that the treatment should be mainly conducted on the

same general principles. When the pulse indicates a plethoric state of the system, and there is much arterial action, it is scarcely necessary to say that blood should first be taken, either generally or topically, according to the age and constitution of the patient, before having recourse to astringents. Mental irritation, or excitement, must be guarded against, and active bodily exercise forbidden; one daily evacuation from the bowels especially insisted upon, with the free use of cold or even iced potations: this and an adherence to an unstimulating and nutritive diet, will pave the way for the employment of a preparation, which, though yet recently recorded among our palliative means, will, ere long, it is confidently anticipated, take rank as the most effectual of them all. Would that we could claim for it a more exalted position than this, namely, that of a positive curative agent!—A veteran British pathologist* tells us, and a recently

* See Medico-Chirurgical Review.

deceased northern professor* was accustomed to teach that "in cases of hæmorrhage, the use of astringents is most important; internal bleeding is now known in almost every case to depend on a relaxed state of the minute capillaries, which allows the blood to escape by a kind of exudation, no rupture of the vessels being present; and as this state may accompany congestion or relaxation, the hæmorrhage may be active, or passive; in the former case, astringents would not only be useless, but injurious; hence the obvious necessity of carefully investigating the conditions of the system, on which the hæmorrhage may depend." Women are much more subject to hæmoptysis than men. M.

* The late amiable and talented Dr. Fletcher, of Edinburgh, on whose premature grave we would fain, in association with all who knew him, drop a parting tear. This gifted individual helped to direct the studies of many physicians and surgeons, who are second to none in this metropolis; and he enjoyed, in common with Mr. Abernethy and a former London lecturer now partially retired from practice, the enthusiastic affection of his pupils in a degree almost unparalleled.

Louis says,* “ Le sexe avait une influence marquée sur l'hémoptysie ; on l'observait, plus souvent, chez les femmes, que chez les hommes, dans la proportion de trois à deux. Ainsi de quarante-deux femmes soigneusement interrogées, sous ce rapport, trente-six avaient eu des crachements de sang ! et sur trente-huit hommes, vingt-et-un seulement étaient dans ce cas.”

Another of the most careful and trustworthy of French physicians, M. Chomel, has found that sanguineous discharges take place more frequently in cold than in warm weather ; this information, derived from a sound source, will help to guide us in our treatment as to the regulation of temperature, &c. †

It is surprising how long hæmorrhage may continue without loss of flesh. The author saw a woman at La Pitié in Paris, in May 1832, who had brought up blood daily during ten years, and had not decreased much in size ; but, at this

* Recherches sur la Phthisie, par M. Louis, p. 201.

† Medico-Chirurgical Review.

period, she had great pain whenever the cardiac region was percussed, and there was a slight degree of resonance of the voice commencing. Another case was observed at the Hôtel Dieu, in which blood was vomited every day *at the same hour!* The French treatment resembles our own, though the doses on the other side of the Channel must be allowed to be less "heroic" than those of British practitioners. Diacetate of lead, in England in two or three grain doses, and in much larger ones in Edinburgh and Dublin, duly combined with opium, has been generally found of the greatest use. In hæmatemesis, Dr. Home trusted to oil of turpentine, purgatives, and the resins. Dr. Cheyne of Dublin, advises common salt in water, as an immediate remedy, small bleedings at intervals for months, then tartar emetic, with nitrate of potash, and Pulv. ipecac. (grs. ij.) every quarter of an hour, till the effusion ceases; then every half hour; lastly, ℞j. Diacet. plumbi with a grain of opium for a dose, or a mixture

of sulphuric acid with opium, assisted by purgatives, and blisters. He regards it as often induced by inflammation of the left side of the heart, as did Dr. Fletcher. In all cases the pulse must be sedulously watched. Ergot of rye has been found to be valuable by some practitioners; an instance of its efficacy is reported in one of the periodicals,* as having occurred in the practice of Dr. Roupell of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

“ A young sailor, aged twenty-one, applied, having pain in the chest, cough, free expectoration of puriform mucus, mixed with blood; on auscultation a cavity was found in the upper part of the right lung. He began by taking diluted sulphuric acid, thrice daily, without relief: leeches were then applied, after which profuse hæmorrhage took place; he was then cupped to the amount of six ounces, and had three grains of diacetate of lead every third hour; cold was applied to the chest: in eight hours, there being

* Medical Times for February, 1844.

no amendment, the patient bringing up blood by mouthfull, had ℥j. of ergot prescribed, which he was to take every hour; the first dose checked the hæmorrhage, and by the time that he had taken the third, it had entirely ceased, and about a fortnight after had not returned."

A few instances will now be given in which our remedy was employed.

CASE I.

J. T., aged ̄twenty-two, single, a clothes-salesman, in the Kent Road, applied March 9th, 1842. Had spit blood of a bright red colour, for the first time, eighteen months ago, and had continued to do so, at intervals, in large quantities, ever since; he had a troublesome cough, and was getting thinner; no rigors; the pulse was eighty-five, and weak; he had bronchial respiration, justly considered so diagnostic of

tubercles by M. Laennec,* with mucous râle ; dullness under the right clavicle, but no pain on percussion : neither father, mother, sister nor brothers, consumptive ; still the prognosis could not be otherwise than unfavourable. This young man consulted no one during many months, then saw a surgeon, who checked the hæmorrhage, which, however, recurring, has now continued twelve weeks. He came on a Wednesday ; on the Friday preceding he coughed up half-a-pint, suddenly, while walking ; Saturday night the same, and also on Sunday and Monday ; not on the Tuesday : but on his return from town, on the first day of consultation, about the same quantity was thrown up. Ordered him to keep perfectly quiet, to abstain from all stimulants, and to take gr. j. Oxydi argenti, with gr. x. P. tragac. c. thrice daily. The bloody discharge, from this time, gradually diminished, and on the 19th of April he had

* La Respiration Bronchique est des premiers signes qui indiquent l'existence de tubercules accumulés dans le sommet du Poumon.—*Traité de l'auscultation mediate, T. Premier, p. 57.*

gained flesh, and looked much better; his cough was greatly relieved, his appetite was good, and he could sleep seven hours consecutively. Prescribed the following: *R.* Disulph. quin. gr. vi., Acid sulph. d. ʒss., Inf. gent. comp. ʒvii. Ft. mist. Sumat cochl. duo ampla ter quotidie. From this day he ceased to attend; it was ascertained that he went into the country, and he could not be traced afterwards.

CASE II.

S. R., single, sempstress, aged twenty-four. April, 1843. In the preceding year had vomited up half a chamber-vessel-full of blood; was bled, and the hæmorrhage, which then ceased, returned again this month while she was shutting a window, and continued, at times, during a whole week. She had taken no medicine but a Seidlitz powder occasionally, of her own accord. On this, the first day of application, there were no indica-

tions of the existence of tubercles ; the pulse was eighty-eight, and compressible ; she had no cough, and was menstruating regularly. Ordered half a grain of the oxyde, at the usual intervals, which, causing sickness, was reduced to a quarter of a grain : all bleeding soon ceased, and up to the 6th of October, there had been no return.

CASE III.

T. C., a drayman, married, aged 35. After five weeks of fever, accompanied by cephalic symptoms, for which he was cupped and leeches, and had evaporating lotions applied, (when heat and pain required,) coughed up, April 14th, 1843, half a pint of blood ; the next day more ; the next nearly a quart, black in colour, the pulse being 80 and full. Ordered sixteen ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, and a quarter of a grain of the oxyde to be administered every five hours. There was no dulness on percussing the chest ; on the con-

trary emphysema had developed itself, with mucous râle. A blister was applied to the scrobiculus cordis, and five grains of *Pilul. saponis c. opio* directed to be taken every night : blood soon ceased to come away, and he would take no more medicine. Applied again Sept. 10th, stating that now, after the lapse of four months, he had begun to expectorate florid red sputa; the appetite was impaired, the pulse feeble, and he was altogether dispirited. His father and mother were living and in good health, but he had lost four sisters of phthisis, all after marriage. He began once again, at his own urgent request, with half-grain doses, to which was added gr. x. *P. ipecac. c.* at bed-time. Symptoms of confirmed consumption were successively developed, and he died about the end of the year.

CASE IV.

W. N., aged 29, single, coachman in a family.
June 23rd, 1843. A man of temperate habits,

parents living, none of his relations phthisical. A close examination indicated no unsoundness of the lungs; he has had a cough several weeks; pulse sixty, neither full nor otherwise; much out at night from the nature of his employment; last evening coughed up a great quantity of blood, dark at first, then florid. Began with quarter-grain doses of the oxyde: the expectoration, at first sanguineous, became less so day by day, and, on July 2nd, had entirely ceased, along with the cough. After persevering with the powders a fortnight longer, he was well, and continued so till he went into the country in August.

CASE V.

W. T., aged 41, labourer, married, applied Sept. 1843. Had emphysema; chest preternaturally sonorous, no râle; pulse sixty, and feeble; parents both asthmatic; had himself habitual cough, and had been spitting blood from the lungs six days.

Began with a quarter of a grain, increasing the dose after a week, to half a grain. The red expectoration had ceased by the beginning of October, and did not recur till February 6th, 1844, on which day he vomited a pint and a half of florid blood, the next day a quart, and then was bled by a surgeon twice; after which he came and begged to have some more of the powders, which again restrained the hæmorrhage, but symptoms of confirmed phthisis set in, and he died the following September.

CASE VI.

W. G., aged 53, a labourer, married. Sept. 27th, 1843. First spat blood three or four weeks ago; has cough, but no pain in the chest; was bled by a practitioner in his neighbourhood to $\text{ʒ}xij.$; hæmorrhage then ceased for a fortnight only; on its recurrence bleeding was again had recourse to without effect; he had brought up, he said, half

a pint on each of the last two days; the pulse was ninety, and not full. Ordered him a blister to the chest, and quarter-grain doses of the oxyde thrice a day. October 2nd. All sanguineous discharge had stopped, but on the 5th he complained of internal soreness. Applied a dozen leeches, which removed it. 6th. Prescribed a powder composed of P. ipecac. c. gr. x., Nitrat. pot. gr. viii., to be taken at bed-time. 16th. Bleeding had not returned, and the patient ceased to attend.

CASE VII.

A. B., aged 35, an apparently healthy woman. August 13th, 1844. Had been prematurely delivered of twins ten months before; catamenia regular, till March in this year; six weeks free, then an appearance five times in a month, after which all uterine flow ceased, and she began to cough, and expectorate blood, which lasted

ten weeks, and then complained of pain in the side; the pulse was sixty and feeble; her habit leucophlegmatic; she had borne eight children. Desired to begin with the small dose of the oxyde. In a fortnight the hæmoptysis and pain had progressively amended, when she went into the country, declaring herself to be well, and remained so five weeks; on her return, after a fright, brought up blood twice only. November 14th, in good health, and pregnant.

CASE VIII.

M. A., aged 23, married. Was sent for in great haste to this young woman, August 15th, 1844; being unable to attend, transferred her to the care of a friend, who found that she had vomited two quarts of blood. This gentleman bled her, employed the usual astringent means, and left her in a fortnight, tolerably well, with the exception of weakness. She was at this time suckling a

child of two months. October 14th. While asleep was awakened by a second attack ; about a quart was thrown up on this occasion ; there was no acceleration of pulse, nor cough, the hæmorrhage evidently proceeding from the stomach. Half-grain doses of the oxyde were taken during a month, three times a day. Not the slightest discharge had recurred up to the month of January, 1845, and, although the patient was very weak, she continued, with the usual pertinacity of mothers, to suckle the child, and in addition, sat up night after night, nursing her husband, who had at this period a long and severe illness.

On a review of these few cases, whether of hæmoptysis or hæmatemesis, enough has been detailed to evince the great power of our remedy, and, although the author is not so insane as to profess to cure tubercular phthisis, he may be considered, perhaps, to have been useful in his generation, by the endeavour to push into light an additional means of arresting pulmonary

hæmorrhage, though only for a time, and thereby relieving the pitiable distress of patients and their friends, caused by this dreaded symptom ; and, though the good that we do be not permanent, we may yet, on the score of humanity, perchance, propitiate that eminent Parisian physician, M. Velpeau, who, in an " *Essai sur les Tubercules*," published, not many years ago, in the French metropolis, says, " *Angli ipsi superbi, illi æmulatores, qui se nobis præstare semper contendunt, quique nunquam vel pares esse potuerunt, ne quidam duas ideas inter se cohærentes, hâc de quæstione ediderunt.*"

We next proceed, in the third place, to the consideration of uterine hæmorrhage, intentionally passing by, as not relevant to our object, that form of it, which occurs at the period of childbirth. The following pages will be devoted to a review of what has hitherto been, and that which it is believed may in future be effected, in restraining the sanguineous flow from the uterus, which continues

during weeks, and even months after labour, natural or premature; that which exists subsequent to the normal persistence of menstruation; and that kind also, which takes place under other circumstances, to be more particularly adverted to in their order. Let the following authorities have the weight to which they are entitled, as to the absolute necessity of arresting a discharge exhausting in itself, and likely to prove the source of grave evils for the future.

Dr. Copland says, * “ It will appear that menorrhagia should not be confounded with uterine hæmorrhage, but it must not be overlooked *that one often passes into the other*; it is necessary to ascertain its cause, *and when excessive, it must be restrained.*” Dr. Fergusson justly tells us, † that sedulous attention must be paid, during the natural menstrual periods, “ so as to diminish, in every mode, the uterine flux; which, however natural, only increases the local malady.” “ With

* Dictionary of Practical Medicine.

† Dr. Tweedie's Library of Medicine, vol. 4, p. 317.

regard to the general health," he continues, "this soon becomes deeply injured by chronic menorrhagia. There are all the effects of loss of blood, added to all those which result from want of exercise and the habits of confirmed invalids. These cases are most difficult to treat, requiring patient attention for a length of time, and incessant watchfulness: the majority however recover. When death takes place, it is induced either by direct hæmorrhage, of which we have seen but few examples; or by *diseases awakened in a frame rendered apt for their reception*, or by uterine disorganisation." Dr. Locock thus defines menorrhagia: — "All those instances of discharge of real blood from the uterus, which occur in connexion with the menstrual functions. The cases indeed are very rare in which any strikingly profuse menstruation exists, without more or less of real blood escaping at the same time.' There is almost always leucorrhœa, he observes, in the interval, and adds, "*that those who have suffered much from menorrhagia, are*

peculiarly liable to uterine hæmorrhage after abortion or parturition at the full time."* Dr. Fleetwood Churchill divides menorrhagia into three kinds. The first natural, but excessive menstruation; the second, hæmorrhagic menorrhagia, *without uterine change*; the third, with alteration in size and position of the uterus. In treating of the second species, he gives the following quotation from Siebold:†

"The consequences of this complaint are a great liability to abortion on the patient becoming pregnant, and also (from the relaxation produced) a disposition to prolapse of the uterus and vagina." Dr. Churchill continues;—"The second kind rarely occurs in young, or unmarried females, or in persons under the age of thirty, the subjects of its invasion usually being women of leucophlegmatic temperament, whose constitutions have been impaired by disease, and frequent child-bearing."

* Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, art. Menorrhagia.

† Outlines of the Principal Diseases of Females, p. 96.

The cases which will be presently appended, fully confirm this statement in all its details. The great experience of Dr. Lever of Guy's Hospital, must not be lost sight of in this place; he has found that married women are more liable to disease of the uterus, than those who are single, and also, that in 2580 cases, one-third only were organically, and two-thirds functionally, affected.

It will be well now to review the hygienic and curative means hitherto employed, in order that a satisfactory comparative estimate may be formed of the remedy whose qualities are further about to be advocated; and first, tranquillity of mind, when obtainable, with bodily rest in the recumbent posture, local abstraction of blood, where there is tenderness or pain on pressure, cold drinks of an unstimulating kind, with animal and vegetable diet of a character acceptable to the stomach, and the daily administration of a mild purgative where the bowels are costive, comprise nearly all the general directions, as to

the management of menorrhagic cases; it need scarcely be added, that abstinence from sexual intercourse must be rigidly enforced throughout. The diacetate of lead, from Dr. Denman* downwards, has always been a favourite medicament; he says, "Oil of turpentine, and the cerussa acetata, in proper doses, have been recommended, and certainly are very powerful medicines in hæmorrhages, but they seem better suited to those which are habitual and of long continuance." Dr. Watson † in his admirable Lectures, lately given to the world, remarks, "There is a long catalogue of medicinal substances which are esteemed to possess more or less of a specific virtue, when taken internally, in checking the flow of blood; most of these are of an astringent nature, and some of them are eminently useful. The acetate of lead enjoys in this country a higher character, perhaps, than any other of these substances." Dr. Dewees

* Denman's Midwifery, vol. ii. p. 291.

† Medical Gazette, January 1st, 1841.

tells us, "When menstruation is excessive, give surperacetate of lead, two or three grains, with opium, every hour or two."

Of the employment of saturnine or other injections, during the excessive periodic or irregular sanguineous discharges, though directed by high authority in England, France, and America, the author has no experience. The secale cornutum, that invaluable recent addition to our Pharmacology, occupies a prominent place in the catalogue of astringents. Both Drs. Ashwell and Churchill * advise five grains of the ergot to be given thrice daily, the latter gentleman observing, "that the only remedy which seems to have the power of controlling the discharge, *during the menstrual period*, is the ergot of rye, from which he never saw any ill effects, though he has known it fail altogether." As a rejoinder to this experience, however, that of Dr. Lever † must be noticed, who reports five instances of inflammation of the uterus, brought on by the employ-

* Churchill's Outlines, p. 106. † Medical Gazette, Jan. 26, 1844.

ment of the ergot! The gallic acid has its advocates; in a paper read before the Medical Society of Edinburgh, Professor Simpson stated,* “that for the last year he had prescribed this medicine with the most successful result, *but which, like all other remedies directed towards the relief of menorrhagia, had occasionally failed.*” In a case† where the menstrual discharge had become so profuse that Dr. Stevenson was called in, the patient had recently lost a pound of blood, and was exhausted; a glass of port wine was given every four hours, and an eight grain dose of gallic acid, with a little cinnamon, every third hour: the next day she only lost three ounces in sixteen hours; and when seven powders had been given, the hæmorrhage ceased, and the woman entirely recovered. Tannin has been tried, and is well spoken of by M. Dumas of Montpellier, who informs us, that he has employed it successfully in uterine

* London and Edinburgh Journal of Medical Science, July, 1843.

† Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, July, 1843.

hæmorrhage, *during pregnancy*.* Two grains were administered, "with a small proportion of opium," every hour for a few hours, then every three hours; an injection of the same was also thrown up the rectum, in the proportion of ℥i. to a pint of water: the flow was arrested, and the woman went her full time.

The late Dr. Cholmondley, of Guy's Hospital, gave, with great success, drastic purges in acute menorrhagia, strengthening his patients in the intervals. A good practical hint may here be introduced from the experience of Dr. Locock, who advises† in women who are prone to menorrhagia, the use of a full purgative about twenty-four hours before the expected period, when that can be ascertained. This brings to the author's mind, the case of an inmate of the Salle St. Charles, in La Pitié, who told him that she always passed her monthly times very well, but had had during twenty years, *invariably*, a smart

* See cases vii. and viii., p. 49.

† Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, art. Menorrhagia.

spontaneous purging two or three days previously. Several good cases* are given by Mr. Hunter of Dartmouth, in which great benefit was obtained in menorrhagia by the exhibition of the liquor potassæ arsenitis, beginning with four drops three times a day.

In another volume† of the same periodical, we read that savin is one of the most powerful remedies, not only against sanguineous discharges, unconnected with pregnancy, but also against the hæmorrhage which often precedes, and makes us fear the occurrence of abortion, especially in women of a lax fibre, and who have previously miscarried. Dr. Aran has administered from fifteen to twenty grains Pulv. sabinæ, with very decided success, in numerous cases of uterine hæmorrhage, and threatened miscarriage; this remedy has also been pretty extensively tried in the Hôtel Dieu at Paris, with the like benefit. Dr. James Johnson observes, “ Both

* Dr. Johnson's Journal for 1838.

† For July, 1844, p. 195.

savin and ergot, seem to exert a direct stimulant effect on the muscular tissue of the uterus, hence both have been employed, either as emmenagogues, or to arrest atonic hæmorrhage of the organ. We need scarcely add," continues the Doctor, "that no judicious practitioner will administer either remedy in plethoric states of the system, or whenever there is any tendency to inflammatory excitement."

As there may be a polypus within the uterine cavity, when nothing short of an operation will effect a cure, it is impossible not to agree with Professor Simpson of Edinburgh, who tells us* that in every case of obstinate leucorrhœa, or menorrhagia, it is the imperative duty of the practitioner to examine,† "in order that he may ascertain the pathological state of the uterus, which he has in reality to treat." Polypus may exist at the fundus, and the menorrhagia thereby

* Dr. Tweedie's Library of Medicine, vol. iv., p. 337.

† Young practitioners, in particular, are advised to lay it down as a rule, never to examine a patient, *without the presence of a*

caused temporarily arrested, (see case 13,) till the tumour is sufficiently within reach. The following appears to be an example of Dr. Fleetwood Churchill's second kind of præternatural flow, copied from one of the periodicals* of the day.

“ Mrs. A, aged fifty-one, in the beginning of 1841, complained of severe menstrual discharge, occurring every three weeks, accompanied by palpitation; the heart, at this time, was not considered to be hypertrophied, the palpitations were always brought on by the menstrual flow, up to the beginning of 1844, a period of three years; at this time, the discharge took place oftener, and continued longer; the palpitations were now constant, the beat gradually acquiring strength and breadth, being incessant, with strong bellows sound, covering a large area; at length, there was effusion into the cavity of the chest

witness, many having had cause to regret it, who have neglected to observe this precaution.

* Lancet, July 13th, 1844.

and abdomen, with a sense of suffocation, on lying down, or leaning backwards: this patient died exhausted on the 25th of June, 1844. The thorax and abdomen contained a moderate sized washhand-basin-full of fluid, the heart was very much enlarged, the valves were sound, *the uterus was perfectly healthy*, she had never complained of pain in that organ."

A series of cases will now be given, in as brief a form as possible, in which the oxyde of silver was administered, in every suitable instance, three times a day, a quarter of a grain being the minimum, and one grain, *and no more*, the maximum dose. No examination per vaginam, was instituted, in deference to the patient's feelings, excepting where the medicine, exhibited as a kind of test, had failed in producing its usual salutary effects. A journal was not kept during

the latter end of the year 1841, nor in the very early part of 1842, but the evidence became at length so incontestible, that the institution of a record for future guidance, could no longer conscientiously be postponed.

CASE I.

A. H., aged twenty-four, applied, March 4th, 1842. Had been confined nine weeks before, and suffered from menorrhagia ever since, with abundant coagula. There being no symptoms to forbid its use, she was ordered to take gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ oxydi argenti, three times a day. At the end of a week all discharge had ceased, but the pulse, which had been slow previously, having become accelerated, saline medicine was prescribed, and rest enjoined, till the end of the month, after which tonic bitters were exhibited, and on the 4th of June she was dismissed perfectly well.

CASE II.

J. M., aged forty. April 3rd, 1842. Married seventeen years; no family; the catamenia, which were always regular, and never profuse, had first appeared at the age of twelve. Had now been afflicted for three months, in an extreme degree, and the discharge had been unusually profuse the day before she applied for relief; her pulse was feeble; there was no bearing down, nor pain. That the flow under these circumstances might be checked gradually, the minimum dose of the medicine was prescribed: after two days there was an amendment; in a week the hæmorrhage, for such it was, had nearly ceased, and in another, entirely disappeared. The patient having remained free of all complaint till the end of May, was then dismissed cured.

CASE III.

J. K., April 13th, 1842. Age not taken down. Had had several children; miscarried of twins in 1838, also in 1841; had been unwell every day since the beginning of February. Was desired to take half-grain doses; in a week all flow of a sanguineous kind having ceased, leucorrhœa supervened; for this an injection was ordered, composed of Arg. nit. gr. x., Aquæ distill. ℥viij., to be used three or four times a day. April 23rd. Considerable hæmorrhagic discharge, which lasted one day only, and then ceased spontaneously. 26th. There was some pain in the uterine region, *which she said the powders removed.* May 25th. Perfectly well, with the exception of costiveness; to take Conf. sennæ daily. June 16th. No recurrence of disorder. Dismissed.

CASE IV.

A. B., aged 49, upholsteress. April 18th, 1842. Was always regular till eight months before, but now never free from hæmorrhage more than three or four days together; strength greatly reduced; pulse feeble; bowels open; never lost so much blood as on this occasion. Prescribed half-grain doses, which progressively lessened the appearance of blood, when, on the 2nd of May, leucorrhœa alone remained; for this the nitrate of silver injection was ordered, as in the last instance, and gr. ij. Disulphat. quinæ, to be taken thrice daily. In the beginning of June this patient reported herself well, and, on a subsequent inquiry, made a few weeks afterwards, she was ascertained to be in good health.

CASE V.

C. P., aged 40. April 22nd, 1842, (a dispensary patient,*) had menorrhagia in January, which was stopped by Dr. Weber; it had now returned with great severity, and had lasted a week. Ordered grain doses; the flow gradually ceased in a few days; returned on the 16th of May, when it was restrained as before. 24th. Again appeared, but, was completely under control of the remedy. May 30th. Slight appearance. July 17th. Well, and though desired to apply again, if needful, came no more.

CASE VI.

E. P., aged 25. April 28th, 1842. Had been suffering from menorrhagia (with coagula) for five

* St. George's and St. James's.

weeks. To take grain doses. May 1st, hæmorrhage diminished. 3rd. Still better. 5th. Had nausea, and head-ache. Directed to leave off the medicine during two days. 7th. Well of the original complaint, but now had fluor albus. To use the nitrate of silver injection, and have an opiate plaster applied to the loins. 18th. All discharge had subsided. June 1st. Menorrhagia returned, and lasted several days; resumed the oxyde as before, with the same result; fluor albus also reappeared, but soon ceased: the patient being costive, had a mild aperient daily. July 1st. Catamenia appeared in a regular manner, lasting only four days, when she declared herself to be in good health.

CASE VII.

Name and age not taken down. May, 1842. This patient was pregnant; had uterine hæmorrhage a month ago, which was stopped by one of the medical officers of the Dispensary; was

directed now to take grain doses, at intervals of five hours; the bleeding was immediately restrained, and a month afterwards, had not re-appeared.

CASE VIII.

Another patient, also enceinte, had had slight hæmorrhagic flow during three months, when it was entirely suppressed by one of the physicians. It had now existed three weeks, and was, she said, "very bad indeed." Ordered her the small dose, and, in three or four days, all discharge had ceased. In about twenty days it recurred; was again stopped by the oxyde; then, after about the same interval, a third, and again a fourth time, the pregnancy still going on, and the child alive; when she ceased to attend.

CASE IX.

H. G., widow, aged 30. June 17th, 1842. Her last child born nine years since ; applied now for hæmorrhagic menorrhagia, of three weeks' duration ; menses usually appeared every twenty-one days. Prescribed quarter-grain doses, which had their full effect in a week, and the next period passed over naturally.

CASE X.

J. H., aged twenty-four. July, 1842. Single ; a sempstress. Delicate frame ; pulse quick and small ; bowels regular ; menses excessive, recurring once a fortnight, and continuing for a week. To take a quarter of a grain of the oxyde at the end of the fifth day of each period of menstruation. Felt almost immediate relief, and was

dismissed, cured, on the 17th of September. *Came again December 14th, 1844 ; had had the catamenia quite naturally during the last two years, and is now suffering only from rheumatism, which is a family complaint.*

CASE XI.

The writer was called in the autumn of 1842 to a consultation with Dr. R. and a surgeon, by a single lady of Brompton, aged above thirty. She had had an obstinate cough and other ailments, as well as prolonged menstruation to an excessive degree, which had reduced her to a state of great weakness. Thinking that one of her troubles, at least, might be relieved, he suggested the administration of minimum doses of the oxyde: this, though an unheard of medicine to the other gentlemen in attendance, was agreed to be given; and, from this, the patient (not seen again by the writer.) was reported to have derived great benefit.

CASE XII.

E. B., aged twenty-eight, January 11th, 1843. Single. Had been much reduced by hæmorrhagic menorrhagia, which had continued during nine days: no symptoms forbidding, gave the full dose, every five hours. In two or three days the flow had ceased, and the next period passed quite regularly.

CASE XIII.

Mrs. P., aged forty. September 1842. Had borne one child; applied first a year previously, being then afflicted, as at this time, with profuse uterine discharge of a sanguineous character: the former attack was checked by two or three grain doses of diacetate of lead, combined with opium. The oxyde was directed on the present

occasion to be taken thrice daily, which, having complete effect, no more was heard of the patient during another year, when the existence of polypus being suspected, an examination was made, but though there was preternatural enlargement of the uterine region, no tumour could then be detected. The hæmorrhage occasionally recurring, recourse was had, from time to time, to the powders, which always restrained it. In the spring of 1844, a second examination discovered the existence of a polypus at the fundus of the uterus, but which was not within reach of surgical aid. In a few weeks, however, the tumour was forced down, so as to press on the meatus urinarius, rendering the introduction of the catheter necessary two or three times a day: it was then, in consultation with the family surgeon, (Mr. Robarts of Coram Street, who will recognise the case,) decided to pass a ligature round the root of the polypus, which was satisfactorily done, with Dr. Gooch's canulæ. A large fibrous body was removed, our patient rapidly recovered, and is now in excellent health.

CASE XIV.

S. H., aged thirty-eight. May, 1843. Had borne eleven children, but none for the last two years; had now profuse uterine hæmorrhage, which had lasted seven weeks; she also spat blood; her pulse was slow, and the bowels were costive. Ordered a dose of *Ol. ricini* daily, and the oxyde every five hours. This woman was free from complaint in the course of a week, and though desired to come again, if needful, did not return.

CASE XV.

M. R., aged forty-one, 1843, married, but without family. Had menstruated profusely for a fortnight. Ordered her half-grain doses; but, as there was pain on pressing the uterine region,

directed that twelve or fourteen leeches should first be applied: this being done, the soreness ceased, and on the 30th, the flow had nearly, and a day or two afterwards entirely, disappeared. July 11th. Catamenia returned, but in small quantity, accompanied with pain and difficulty, for which the following pills were prescribed: ℞ Camph. ℥i., Ext. hyoscyami ℥ij., P. glycyrrhiz. q. s.; ut fiant pilulæ xij., quarum sumat ij. 5tis horis, urgente dolore. 12th. Pain nearly gone; discharge considerable. 16th. Ordered to resume the powders. 18th. Diarrhœa having supervened, the Mist. cretæ cum opio was substituted. 20th. Well in all respects, with the exception of weakness. August 8th. The menses reappeared with pain. Desired to repeat the camphor pills which, as before, relieved her. 13th. To recommence the oxyde, and, the bowels being costive, to take in addition a dessert spoonful of confection of senna daily. 15th. Declared herself to be better than she had been since January, and did not attend again.

CASE XVI.

L. B., aged 31. July 1843. Had borne a child eleven months ago ; her milk left at four months ; had now been weakened by menorrhagia for five weeks. Directed to take the smaller dose at the usual intervals, which stopped the discharge gradually ; after which she took these pills : ℞ Ferri sulph. ʒi., Pilul galb. c. ʒiiss. Ft. pilul. xxx. Sumat ij. ter die. September 25th, declared that she was quite well.

CASE XVII.

M. D., aged forty. Aug. 23rd, 1843. Had been a sufferer from hæmorrhagic menorrhagia at intervals for several years ; the flow had now lasted nearly a month, accompanied by coagula : the last time was unwell a fortnight. Her pulse was feeble, bowels not confined, appetite tole-

rable. Prescribed $\frac{1}{4}$ grain doses: in five days the discharge, gradually lessening, had stopped. Aug. 28th. Added five grains of calumba to each dose of the oxyde. Sept. 8th. Continued free from discharge, and was much improved in appearance. Oct. 5th. The catamenial period had been passed quite satisfactorily. Called Aug. 28th, 1844, expressly to return thanks, having been regular *during the preceding ten months*, and presenting all the appearance of restored health.*

CASE XVIII.

M. F., aged forty-nine. Aug. 19th, 1843. Had borne nine children, the last eight years before; pulse weak, and slow; had been unwell five weeks; stated that she had never been free an

* The test of the success of our treatment consists in the return of the catamenia, without hæmorrhage or pain, the relief obtained during an interval being often merely temporary.

entire fortnight during the last year; coagula continually coming away. Ordered to take the minimum dose: a diminution of the discharge was soon perceived, and in a week it had entirely ceased. Sept. 19th. Had been well twenty-one days, and "had not felt so comfortable for two years." To leave off the astringent, and take the following mixture: \mathcal{R} Acidi sulph. d. \mathfrak{z} j., Inf. chirayitæ viiss., Tinc. card. comp. \mathfrak{z} ss. Ft. mist Sumat cyathum parvum ter quotidie. A fortnight after this she was dismissed well.

CASE XIX.

M. F., aged forty-three. Oct. 20th, 1843. Had had a hæmorrhagic flow for fifteen months; never free three days consecutively: polypus suspected, but neither this nor any other morbid state of the uterus was then discoverable by examination: there was pain, but no sensation of bearing down. The pulse, being full, \mathfrak{z} xvi. of blood

were ordered to be abstracted from the arm, after which quarter-grain doses of the oxyde were prescribed. Nov. 10th. The discharge had very gradually ceased; three weeks of cessation having elapsed, the catamenia appeared, and, as the loss was not great, were allowed to continue twelve days; there was then about the same interval as before, and a subsequent corresponding, but lengthened appearance; a dull obtuse pain being felt in the hypogastric region, she was ordered to inject a strong tepid decoction of poppy heads three or four times a day, which gave great relief. This poor woman went to an hospital, and after the lapse of a year, for she was not lost sight of, was found to have cauliflower excrescence of the uterus, as described by Sir Charles M. Clarke, in his second volume of the "Diseases of Females, attended by Discharges."

CASE XX.

C. D., aged twenty-two; single. Dec. 5th, 1843. Had been afflicted during three years by an appearance of blood from the vagina whenever she walked, and then only; nausea was almost always present, but she never vomited; her bowels were regular, and her appetite tolerable. Began with the minimum dose; in a week, reported herself free from complaint, and "leading a life of comfort." Dec. 19th, remained well, after which the menses appeared regularly, and *ten months subsequently*, this patient was ascertained to be in good health.

CASE XXI.

J. S., aged forty-two. April 16th, 1844. The mother of many children, the youngest two years old. Had had hæmorrhage many weeks; naturally costive. To take *Ol. ricini* daily, and the small dose of the oxyde.. She had been much debilitated

of late years by excessive menstruation frequently occurring. The medicine had soon its usual good effect, but it was thought necessary to put her upon a course of bitter tonics, with the mineral acids. Health was by these means restored, and in January 1845, the report that she gave of herself was *that for several months she had passed the catamenial periods in an altered and satisfactory manner, in no instance having been unwell more than three days, nor during that time immoderately so.*

CASE XXII.

S. M., aged thirty-six. April 26th, 1844. Had been confined three months before ; discharge, with coagula, coming away daily ever since ; no pain nor bearing down ; pulse quiet. The patient, herself very weak, was suckling a strong child. Gave quarter-grain doses of the oxyde three times a day ; no other medicine : an amendment took

place long before a week had elapsed ; in a fortnight she was well ; and at the end of the year had experienced no return of the discharge, nor appearance of the menses.

CASE XXIII.

M. S., aged twenty-eight. June 13th, 1844. Married ten years. Miscarried fifteen weeks ago and had suffered from hæmorrhage ever since, with hardly a day's intermission. There being no indication of febrile excitement, the oxyde was ordered in the minimum dose, which, in three days, having no effect, was increased to half a grain : six powders then checked, and six more stopped the flow. After she had remained free of discharge for many days, leucorrhœa presented itself. The use of the nitrate of silver injection thrice daily was directed, the employment of which, and taking tonic medicine, completed her cure in a fortnight.

CASE XXIV.

A. P., aged 22. August 13th, 1844. Married, but had no family. Without known cause had suffered from menorrhagia to a great degree for five weeks. Though a very large fine woman, her strength was much reduced: pulse feeble. Prescribed quarter-grain doses, and she began to amend in a few days, after which half a grain was taken, with an occasional dose of *Ol. ricini*, and these means soon restored her to health. She was dismissed on the 31st, *and in November reported that she had since menstruated twice regularly.*

CASE XXV.

H. M., aged twenty-eight. Aug. 22nd, 1844. Had borne three children; weaned the last a fort-

night before. Had menstruated profusely for nine days. Prescribed the customary dose of the oxide, and in a few days all discharge had ceased. This young woman had been suffering from pyrosis eight or nine months, had pain in the stomach after meals, eructated watery fluid, and was habitually costive; the colocynth and hyoscyamus pills were therefore added to the plan, one or two being taken every night. On the 22nd of October this patient was dismissed, without any ailment remaining, but not until the medicine had been gradually increased to two-thirds of a grain. Dec. 21st, well, and had passed over satisfactorily two catamenial periods.

CASE XXVI.

Mrs. V., aged thirty-six. Aug. 23rd, 1844. Sent for by a surgeon: our patient had borne eight children, and thought that she had miscarried (at two, or possibly three months) ten days before,

since which she had had profuse discharge, which neither the diacetate of lead, nor anything else had succeeded in checking: there was no fever, and the bowels had been kept open. The oxyde having been proposed to her medical attendant, and he not objecting, the small dose was directed to be taken every five hours. The flow was kept in subjection during a fortnight, but not having entirely ceased, the quantity of the medicine was doubled. In ten days more, she was free of discharge, but on rising from bed, and making exertion, the hæmorrhage recurred; an examination being then made, no alteration of the uterus, in any respect, could be perceived, and grain doses of the oxyde were desired to be administered, and continued till the 7th of October. She was by this time, with the exception of weakness, quite restored to health, declaring "that to the powders she was sure she owed the preservation of her life." Soon afterwards she was sent to a watering-place, and in the end of December wrote to say that she continued well.

CASE XXVII.

E. W., aged forty-six. August 25th, 1844. Had had many children. Menses always regular, till within the last five weeks, during which time she had been profusely unwell, justly attributing it to grossness on the part of her husband, which it would be improper here to specify. The usual dose of the medicine checked the flux in three days, and in a fortnight she was free from complaint, remaining so three weeks; the menses then returned, for a day or two; after this there was an entire cessation for a whole month, and by the use of mineral tonics, with bitters, the patient became strong, and, at the next menstrual period, the catamenia were present two or three days in the natural manner, and in December her health was quite restored.

CASE XXVIII.

S. L., aged twenty-three. Oct. 7, 1844. Miscarried three months ago; had been grievously weakened by hæmorrhagic menorrhagia ever since, accompanied by pain in the back, but none in the uterus. Ordered to take the small dose of the oxyde: in two days she began to perceive a difference, in a week was well, and has remained so in all respects.

CASE XXIX.

C. L., aged thirty-five. Oct. 18th, 1844. Had borne eight children in ten years, and lost them all! the two last recently from scarlatina. This poor woman had been worn down during eight weeks by profuse sanguineous discharge, abundant coagula coming away. The oxyde in doses of a quarter of a grain, with gr. x. P. tragac.

c, was directed to be taken every five hours. In four days a great change for the better had taken place; in ten more, all discharge had ceased, and, by persisting with the medicine, in double quantity, twice daily till the end of the month, the patient recovered her strength, and in March, 1845, remained in good health.

CASE XXX.

J. L., aged thirty-eight. November 14th, 1844. Had been pregnant twelve times, and borne seven living children. During many weeks, had suffered from inordinate uterine hæmorrhage, which had reduced her to a pitiable state of debility; in addition to this, there was great pain in the hypogastric region, of an acute, but intermitting character, sometimes shooting towards her back, and at others, down the thighs. A sister had died of cancer. The result of an examination confirmed the unfavourable opinion

previously formed of her case : there existed carcinoma of the os uteri, which appeared to have first shown itself, though in a mitigated degree, a year and a half before. A cure was out of the question, but the hope of great relief was held out and was amply realized. Death must soon have ensued, had not the hæmorrhage been checked, which was almost entirely effected in ten days, by the small dose of the oxyde, a dose of *Ol. ricini* being also taken once in twenty-four hours. She was, for the first time, desired to live *absque marito*. The use of a suppository composed of a grain of extract of belladonna,* made into a mass with conserve, procured her a state of permanent comfort, (as it had done

* The opportunity here afforded, enables the author of this little Essay, which is meant to be purely practical, gratefully to thank Sir B. C. Brodie, one of the teachers of his earliest years, for much valuable aid in various surgical difficulties, especially in pointing out the benefit to be derived in carcinoma, from the belladonna suppository. The same remedy has also been of great use in irritable uterus.

in many other cases occurring in the practice of the author,) to which she had long been a stranger. This remedy was resorted to daily. The sanguineous discharge returned in December, but not to an extent which justified its suppression. The plan of treatment will henceforth be directed by symptoms as they arise, and although the poor woman's life cannot be saved, her misery will be, in all probability, greatly lessened by continued and unsparing attention to her case.

CASE XXXI.

S. S., married, aged thirty, applied February 1st, 1845, and gave the following account. She had miscarried three months after her marriage (in 1833), but had been regular ever since, till ten weeks ago, when, having overwalked herself on the third day of the catamenial period, flooding had come on, and continued more or less profusely ever since, accompanied by pain, but

without expulsive sensations. The patient, who was of large stature, and had been very healthy previously to the abortion above mentioned, had been under the care of an experienced and attentive practitioner during the whole of her illness, who, however, had failed to arrest the hæmorrhage by medicine, keeping the patient in the recumbent posture, &c., &c. Half-grain doses of the oxyde were desired to be taken as in the other instances. The bowels being open, and no undue arterial action existing, nothing else was required. The fullest benefit followed; day by day she improved. The first effect was a striking remission of the pain (which had occurred in other patients on former occasions); the next was a progressive diminution of the exhausting discharge, which had caused extreme debility. In a week she was nearly well; in a few days more perfectly so; and on February 22nd left off the medicine, as being no longer needed. She was restored to health and spirits, and full of gratitude for her unexpected cure.

It should be mentioned that in many of these cases of pure menorrhagia, unaccompanied by organic lesion, the patients did not remain in the horizontal posture during the day at all, their straitened circumstances rendering it impossible for them to do so; and yet these were benefited by the treatment as much as others who had at their command every aid which their situation could require.*

This, then, concludes the detail of the majority of those instances, in which the oxyde of silver has been found so superior to all other means employed by the writer during an active professional life of more than thirty years; and he feels himself fully justified in inviting others to test a medicine, by the success of which, their usefulness may be increased, and the care which he

* In the cases that have been detailed, the addresses of the patients who were the subjects of treatment have been kept, so that almost all can be easily traced.

has taken in arranging and presenting his cases, more than amply rewarded. That it is a tonic, and a sedative, as Dr. Golding Bird believed in 1840, and 1841, there can be no doubt; that it is a safe, and efficient astringent, there is good evidence to prove; the property of a specific is not assigned to it, for all know how very few of our remedial agents possess that character.

Every experienced physician will admit that, owing to idiosyncrasy and diversity of constitution the same disorder presents a different aspect in almost every patient, and hence, that each case must be individually studied, and our remedial measures varied, in order to meet its peculiarities. John Abernethy, of glorious memory, (who taught his pupils to think for themselves, and not to submit, without inquiry, to any man's dictum,) was accustomed to say to them, quaintly and characteristically, "Gentlemen, there is no such thing as a remedy for a disease, excepting sulphur, for a complaint which is never alluded to in good society, and (perhaps) mercury in

another disorder, of, at least, equally bad repute.”

It will have been observed that the dose of the oxyde of silver employed by the writer in the foregoing cases never exceeded *three* grains a day, instead of six, as given on its first introduction, and that its employment is not recommended where febrile action exists in any considerable degree. In addition to its value in gastrodynia, in pyrosis, in hæmoptysis, in hæmatemesis, and in the first and second classes of menorrhagia, of Dr. Fleetwood Churchill, it will be found to be productive of infinite benefit in restraining, when absolutely necessary, hæmorrhage proceeding from the intestinal canal, obstinate chronic diarrhœa, colliquative perspirations, leucorrhœa, and other maladies, in the treatment of which, the writer is at the present time, extensively testing its efficacy.

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