

**Practical observations on strictures of the urethra and rectum ... / [C.B. Courtenay].**

**Contributors**

Courtenay, C. B.

**Publication/Creation**

London : [The author], [1825]

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f32ppf9u>

**License and attribution**

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

10.  
PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS  
ON  
**STRICTURES**  
OF  
THE URETHRA AND RECTUM;  
RECOMMENDING  
AN IMPROVED SYSTEM FOR THEIR TREATMENT  
AND CURE:

ILLUSTRATING ITS EFFICACY BY NUMEROUS REMARKABLE  
AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT CASES,

In some of which,

**STRICTURES,**  
OF  
*FROM TEN TO TWENTY YEARS DURATION,*  
HAVE BEEN

TOTALLY REMOVED IN A FEW WEEKS,  
AND ITS SUPERIORITY THEREBY FULLY ESTABLISHED  
OVER EVERY OTHER METHOD HITHERTO PRACTISED.

---

BY C. B. COURTENAY, M.D.  
ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

---

FOURTH EDITION, REVISED, CORRECTED, AND ENLARGED,

WITH

**Observations and Practical Comments**

ON

GLEET, SEMINAL WEAKNESS, AND THE MISERIES OCCASIONED BY  
SELF-ABUSE,

*For the Cure of which a Mode of Treatment, the Result of long and successful  
Practice, and at once safe, speedy, and effectual, is adopted by the Author.*

---

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY T. AND J. ALLMAN, GREAT QUEEN-STREET, LINCOLN'S-  
INN-FIELDS; SHERWOOD, JONES, AND CO. PATERNOSTER-ROW;  
ONWHYH, 4, CATHERINE-STREET, STRAND; WALKER,  
197, HOLBORN; AND W. MARSH, OXFORD-STREET.

---

1825.



STRICTURES  
ON  
THE URETHRA AND RECTUM;  
AN IMPROVED SYSTEM FOR THEIR TREATMENT  
AND CURE;  
IN WHICH THE NATURE OF THE DISEASES IS EXPLAINED,  
AND THE MOST EFFECTUAL REMEDIES  
AND MODES OF TREATMENT  
ARE FULLY DESCRIBED.  
BY  
J. H. WELLS, ESQ.  
OF THE CITY OF LONDON.  
LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,  
AT THE SIGN OF THE "GOLDEN SHIELD,"  
IN THE STRAITS OF LONDON;  
AND SOLD BY T. AND J. ALLEN, GREAT BRIDGE STREET; LINCOLN'S  
INN CHURCH, LONDON; AND BY KATHEMERSON, NEW-  
CASTLE, &c. &c. &c.  
1825.

# OBSERVATIONS

ON

## STRICTURES IN THE URETHRA.

---

**T**HE disease of Stricture in the Urethra, so frequent and so distressing, has induced the publication of the Cases contained in this pamphlet, in which various instances of its most troublesome, and apparently hopeless, modes of attack are stated; together with an account of the means successfully pursued for their eradication, in a long and well-studied experience of an improved system, by the application of the most powerful and efficacious of remedies. The statement of these cases naturally suggests some prefatory remarks on the nature of this disease, and the principles on which it is to be cured.

The Urethra, considered as the natural canal for the evacuation of urine, is very simple in



its requisites; its length is sufficient, in reaching from the opening of the bladder, to the external orifice, whence the urine is to be discharged. This simplicity of construction is observable in the organization of birds, of fishes, and of amphibious animals; and also in the human female. Where the urinary canal is the passage for the semen, as in quadrupeds, and in man, a sinuous and complicated canal is required, which must be of an extent sufficient for depositing the semen in the corresponding parts of generation in the female; without which its uses could not be obtained. For this necessary purpose, this canal has many accessories; such as the *corpus spongiosum urethræ musculi acceleratores*, Cowper's glands, the prostate gland, *vesiculæ seminales*, &c. &c. Diseases which so cruelly afflict this canal, seldom arise from its being affected simply in its capacity as a channel for the urine; though they may and do, occur sometimes, in a less painful and a far less dangerous degree, through cold, or accident, or from defective formation. Cases of strangury in children, for instance, may not be ascribable to those parts of the organization, which are peculiarly connected with virility. But they are, almost always, the consequences of some affection of those numerous, finely organized, and complicated accessories, which are



superadded by nature, for the purposes of procreation. In these are found the seats of the sad inconveniences, difficulties, and agonies, under which so many unhappily labour. From the intimate and inseparable connexion of these highly excitable and irritable organs, with the urinary passage, it requires no technical or anatomical explanation, to make it evident how much the latter is liable to be disordered, from the slightest abridgment of the dimensions of its natural tube, to its occasional, or partial local impediments; and, in some cases, of inflammation, to its complete obstruction. The direful effects of disorders in the Urethra are vastly increased to the sufferer, by the constant and necessary call of nature for the evacuation of the bladder; while the seminal discharge is so much seldomer impelled, and that only during a portion of our existence; and even then not being absolutely essential to the preservation of human life.

Thus is the urinary conduit rendered liable to be impaired, impeded, or obstructed in its constantly required execution of one of those natural functions of the human body, which are indispensable not only to the convenience and comfort, but to the preservation of life itself, by maladies which either make our



existence a painful burden, or cut us off by a premature, sudden, and agonizing dissolution.

In all cases of stricture, the urinary tube must suffer a diminution of its capacity, according to the operation of the different causes which affect it. Five separate species of obstruction may be mentioned: four of which result from diseases in the canal, and the fifth from disease in other parts. Three of the first sort, are lessenings of the diameter of the Urethra, more or less, or to a longer or shorter extent; the fourth is caused by an excrescence or excrescences, in the passage; the fifth is occasioned by lateral compression on the Urethra, which may be caused by exterior and contiguous swellings, or by the swelling of the prostate gland.

Of the three kinds first mentioned, the first may be considered as the true permanent stricture. It is caused by an alteration of the structure of some portion of the Urethra; the second is a case of a mixed nature, arising from a permanent stricture, accompanied by spasm; the third may be considered as the true spasmodic stricture.

In most cases of obstruction in the urinary passage, (if not in all,) the symptoms are nearly similar; so that it is frequently diffi-



cult to distinguish the different causes of the complaint. It seldom happens that individuals, afflicted by the disease of stricture, take proper notice of its early symptoms, till they become violent and troublesome. A considerable stricture may actually be formed, before a person observes that his urine does not pass freely; and there may even exist, in consequence of a stricture, a tendency to inflammation, and supuration in the perineum, without his being sensible of any urinary obstructions, or suspicious of any other complaint than the inflammation.

In all these cases, the stream of the urine is diminished, in proportion to the magnitude of the obstruction; but this, as has been said, though probably the first symptom, is not always immediately observed. Sometimes, the urine is voided in drops only, which, of course, cannot escape notice; sometimes, it is forked or scattered. Such symptoms render it necessary to examine the passage by the introduction of a bougie, and if one of an ordinary size passes readily into the bladder, there is good reason to suspect the state of the prostate gland.

The fifth cause of obstruction which has been adverted to, has its origin in some other organic disease, most probably the prostate gland; which being swollen, affects the Ure-



thra, by occasioning lateral compressions of that passage, in a degree sufficient to obstruct the flow of the urine. It may arise from tumour, or inflammation, forming somewhere on the sides of the canal, but if neither of these exist, it will be necessary to examine the state of the prostate gland.

The spasmodic stricture will generally be explained upon a due investigation of the symptoms: and the obstructions in this species of the disease will not be permanent. Obstructions of each kind are very commonly accompanied by a discharge of matter, or gleet; but, more particularly so, in the case of permanent stricture. The sufferer, not unfrequently, considering this discharge as the whole of his disease, applies for professional advice as in a mere case of gleet; of which the surgeon fruitlessly attempts the cure, by the usual remedies; till other symptoms discover themselves, which afford strong reasons to apprehend a stricture. In disorders of the Urethra, as in those of the prostate gland, and of the bladder, it is common for the patient to suffer uneasiness about the perineum, anus, and lower part of the abdomen; and sometimes difficulty in crossing one leg over the other, without pain.

The permanent stricture seldom occupies any great length of the passage. In most cases



that have come within my experience, it appeared no broader than if the part had been surrounded by a packthread; and, in many instances had much of that appearance. I have sometimes seen the Urethra irregularly contracted for more than an inch in length, by thickenings of the coats, or internal membranes, and thereby forming a winding channel. To occasion stricture there is not always an equal contraction of, or protrusion into the urinary tube on both sides; but sometimes only on one side; which may probably have suggested the idea of its arising, in that case, from an ulcer, which rendered the passing of the bougie difficult. The contracted part is of a paler, a whiter hue, than the rest of the canal, and of a tougher and harder consistence. It is well known there are frequently more strictures than one. I have found six of them in one Urethra, contracting the canal to different degrees of diminution, by their respective tightness. In many cases of what are termed single strictures, there will be found small tightnesses in other parts of the passage. These multiplications of the disease are ascertained by the successive resistances which they make to the progress of the bougie. That part of the Urethra which is most curved, and is commonly denominated the bulbous part, is more liable to strictures, than all the



rest of the passage. Years frequently elapse from the origin, or the first perception of them, till they become so far mature as to cause great inconvenience and pain. Strictures are not at all times equally severe; warm weather slightly relaxes them, and thereby renders them far less troublesome; cold, on the contrary, constricts them, and augments their severity. Instances occur in which the person afflicted may pass his urine, in a warm room, tolerably; but on going into the open air for a short time, shall find a total suppression; and on returning to the warm apartment, shall, in a few minutes, recover the power of evacuation. Nocturnal seminal emissions are very frequently symptomatic of a stricture. Inflammations, or previous ulcerations, often cause this disease, occasioning the thickenings in the canal by exudations in its substance or cicatrix, but it is also often the consequence of a gonorrhœa, independent of an inflammation. The contraction, which causes the stricture, is generally formed by plaits, or duplicatures of the membrane; which in some cases, quite surround the canal. When narrow, this is called the *cord* stricture; when broad, the *riband* stricture.

Some writers have considered stricture as one of the effects of the venereal disease; and to be often caused by an unskilful mode of treatment in the cure of it. The celebrated Mr. John



Hunter entertained very strong doubts, whether any stricture was ever occasioned simply by that disease; but he acknowledged that, since most men have been affected, in a greater or lesser degree, by venereal complaints, the refutation of the opinion mentioned was somewhat difficult. He was inclined to think that, generally, they were not produced by venereal causes, on reflecting that strictures are common to most passages of the human frame; being often found in the œsophagus, in the intestines, particularly in the rectum, in the anus, in the prepuce, so as to form phymosis, and in the lachrymal duct, causing the *fistula lachrymalis*. Strictures unquestionably occur where there has been no previous venereal infection. Mr. Hunter had seen a boy, of four years old, afflicted with one in the Urethra; which had occasioned a fistula in the perineum. They are found as often after cases of slight as severe gonorrhœa. Many attribute them to the use of frequent injections; but Mr. Hunter regarded this opinion as a prejudice: and he observes, that he had seen strictures as frequently in patients who had been cured of gonorrhœa, without injections, as with them. Neither did he believe them to be produced by ulcers; which scarcely ever are found in the urinary passage, except where it is in a state of stricture: and it is now



generally admitted that gonorrhœa occasions no ulcers in the Urethra. The same eminent surgeon, treating of the cure of strictures by dilatation, observes, that although the bougie may not pass, at first, in a permanent stricture, yet, after repeated trials, it will occasionally find its way to the bladder.

Success, however, in the introduction of a bougie, is not always to be anticipated, from its having been once or twice passed. Sometimes it can be introduced on one day, and not on the next, notwithstanding a series of attempts; and thus it may continue for weeks and unfortunately even for years. Among other recent deplorable cases of this nature, one might be mentioned of a gentleman afflicted by strictures for upwards of fifteen years. He had consulted most of the eminent professional men in this metropolis, none of whom succeeded in passing, even the finest description of bougie, into the bladder, (three times excepted,) during that long and painful period. At last, however. I had the good fortune to cure him in the course of six weeks; at the expiration of which a full-sized metallic bougie, (No. 12,) was passed easily into the bladder.

To the particular case just mentioned, hundreds of others might be added, all tending irresistibly to prove the decided superiority of the mode of treatment which I have adopt-



ed, and pursued, over the common process of dilatation. Can this one case, taken, not as the most curious, but as a fair specimen of many other cures, be too strongly impressed on the mind of every reader of this little treatise, who is anxious to free himself from so dreadful a calamity? Fifteen years of life, perhaps the most valuable, lost in fruitless efforts at dilatation, the individual labouring all the time under constant uneasiness, and the quick repetition of excruciating agonies, his existence frequently on the very verge of dissolution from the total suppression of a vital function,—and, after all,—liberated and restored to present comfort, and the prospect of future happiness, in the course of a few weeks! Mr. Hunter, whose abilities and experience are above praise, and who understood well and practised the mode of dilatation, had no absolute faith in the permanency of a cure, effected by that system. He thought it seldom to be depended upon. But, let it be particularly observed, that, at the period when that skilful surgeon flourished, the remedy I employ, now proved to be so beneficial in removing one of the greatest physical evils that afflict mankind, was not known. Had he lived to witness its discovery and its effects, his great name would not be wanting in its recommendation and praise.



Of the various branches of the chirurgical and medical professions, none has received so many recent valuable improvements, as that which consists in the treatment and cure of the disorders of the Urethra, and particularly those arising from stricture. For myself, I am happy to say, unconscious of presumption, that I have been so peculiarly fortunate in my experience and practice, that I scarcely know of any case, of whatever duration or complication, of which I should not feel confident in undertaking the cure, in a very short period; probably, in most instances, in a few weeks. Disdaining the practice of empirics, I propose no mode of cure founded on the exclusive operation of any specific medicine, as a secret in my own exclusive possession; a trick by which the unthinking many are but too often grossly and fraudulently imposed upon. I rest my merits solely upon my long and various experience in this country and on the continent, and I repeat that I have found my mode of application so powerful, that complaints, which have long resisted all other systems, have readily yielded to it.

When we contemplate the theories and practice of former times, we cannot fail to be struck with astonishment at the harsh, coarse, and violent manner in which it was attempted to



cure the worst diseases of the Urethra. A similar remark might be applied to many of the great operations of the chirurgical art; the great improvement in the treatment of strictures has come somewhat later; but not too late for the health and happiness of the present and future generations. Wiseman, eminent in his day, who was surgeon to King Charles the Second, was the first who recommended the application of the lunar caustic in the complaint now treated of: and which was afterwards described by Petit. (*See Memoires de l'Academie de Chirurgie*, 1439.) It was not adopted, in general practice, for many years afterwards; until its revival by Mr. Hunter. Modes were employed by different professional men, according to their own theories or experience, none of which were safe or convenient. Indeed, Mr. Hunter's portcrayon is not much superior to the rude manner generally in vogue in the days of Wiseman. Since the time of Mr. Hunter, the use of the lunar caustic has been much practised by Sir Everard Home, in cases where the passage could not be opened by dilatation: but what is intended, in this publication, is, to assert and prove, that the lunar caustic, and other remedies hitherto applied, are far inferior to my plan of treatment, which is a much milder application, occasioning far less



pain than the lunar caustic, and being yet far more effectual. Besides, the application of my remedy is not succeeded by the troublesome hemorrhage which follows that of the lunar caustic.

Since its first introduction, experience has afforded occasion for making very considerable improvements in the mode of its application ; of which the writer of this tract has abundantly availed himself, in a long, extensive, and varied practice. A description of the peculiarities of its most improved mode of application can scarcely be expected here. Indeed, it would be vain to attempt the particularization of the process of a beneficial operation, which can only be learned and understood by repeated practice. The following Cases, taken from a great number, will, doubtless, prove the best test and guarantee of its excellence.

In the recital of these Cases, the names of several eminent professional gentlemen occur, whose treatment is stated to have failed in some instances. The author is fully acquainted with the great ability, professional skill, and experience of those gentlemen, as well as with their honourable character. But the circumstances in which such names are mentioned, only tend to show the superior efficacy of my system for the removal of strictures.



## CASE I.

The Hon. A. G. called to consult me respecting some very painful sensations which he felt through the whole organs of generation; they had troubled him, more or less, for the last three years; but what alarmed him most, was the debility they had produced, so much so, that he was nearly deprived of the *vis generatrix*. I asked him how he passed his urine? He replied, not very freely, and somewhat in a diminished stream to what he had formerly done. I told him I judged from the whole of his symptoms that he laboured under a strictured Urethra. This he could hardly believe, having been cured of that complaint six years before by Mr. (now Sir Everard) Home, who applied the lunar caustic several times. The last time when he broke through the stricture a most alarming hemorrhage followed, —he lost nearly a chamber-pot full of blood, and it did not stop until he fell into a state of syncope. When he recovered, he was removed in a sedan-chair, to his house in Berkeley-square, remaining very weak for some time, from the great loss of blood. Mr. Home recommended him to go into the country for a few months to recover his impaired health and strength,



which he did, and returned quite well. I told him I was certain he had a stricture, and proposed, if he had no objection, to pass a bougie, and ascertain the fact immediately. On passing the bougie about six inches down the Urethra, it stopped, and the existence of a stricture was certain. He was greatly surprised, as Mr. Home had assured him he was perfectly cured. I recommended him to have it destroyed: he declared he would not suffer the pain, and risk the danger of another hemorrhage, for the chance of a cure,—he would rather remain as he was. I assured him I did not use the lunar caustic, and that it was not likely he would experience any hemorrhage. He, however, declined placing himself immediately under my care. Two months afterwards he requested me, by letter, to describe the caustic Mr. Home had used, and the remedy I proposed; which I did. He wrote me that he should be in town on a particular day, and requested I would be with him by nine o'clock in the morning. I attended at the appointed time. He was very much surprised at the slight pain, compared with what he had suffered from the lunar caustic. Not a drop of blood was lost by the operation. After three applications, the stricture was removed, and I was able to pass a metallic bougie (size No. 12) into the bladder. He



continued to pass the bougie daily. In three weeks he was cured without the least hemorrhage, not a single unfavourable symptom occurring. He went with his family to Erington for a month; and, on his return, called on me to say, that by the tonic remedies I had prescribed, the debility he had before suffered was completely cured; and he was happy to add, that he enjoyed more health and strength than for several years previous. About three years after this, I received from him the following letter:—

“ May 28th, 1810.

“ A. G. feels great pleasure in communicating to Dr. C. the perfect re-establishment of his health, in consequence of his mild and admirable treatment of Strictures in the Urethra. He may add, that he has not for many years enjoyed so much comfort and freedom from pain; and he entertains no doubt of his having obtained, through his skill and attention, a perfect and radical cure of that horrid complaint. As he was not a stranger to the manner in which others treated the complaint, he has it in his power, from a fair trial and a just comparison, to pay that tribute of applause to Dr. C. which he sensibly feels and shall be most ready and willing to acknowledge.”



## CASE II.

A Colonel in the army had suffered by strictures, nearly seven years: he had supposed himself cured by Mr. Heaviside, about three years before I saw him. The Colonel had been married about four years; in the first year of which he began to feel symptoms of the return of the strictures; his stream of urine was daily diminishing, and the frequent desire to pass it was becoming extremely troublesome; the constant irritability of the bladder, and the painful sensations of the whole organs of generation, had greatly debilitated them.—He applied to his former surgeon, who advised the removal of the strictures by the lunar caustic; which was applied several times; but so far from increasing his capacity to void urine, the stricture contracted more, after every application, till at last the finest bougie could not be passed without great difficulty. In this state he applied to me, accompanied by his father-in-law, who was extremely anxious to know if this state of the stricture was the cause of his son's not having had any children; they were particularly unhappy on this subject, as a very considerable property would go from the family in case of



their having no issue. On making the necessary inquiries, I found that, during the sexual intercourse, no semen passed the external orifice, but whilst the penis was in its non-erect state, then the semen oozed out:—there could be no doubt that, under such circumstances, it was almost impossible he should have children; but that, as soon as the stricture was cured, or so far dilated, as to permit a free exit for the semen through the external orifice, then the obstacle being removed, it was most probable that his and his family's anxious wishes would be gratified. He said he was so miserable, and so anxious to obtain relief, that he begged me immediately to commence my plan of cure. No symptom occurred that required any particular attention. After four applications, I passed a metallic bougie (No. 11,) through the stricture; about two inches further another stricture appeared, which two applications removed, and the bougie was passed into the bladder with facility. In a fortnight he himself could pass a metallic bougie readily into the bladder. His urine flowed in a copious stream, and the painful sensations which before had so tortured him, entirely left him. He was only three weeks under my care, before he was completely cured. I ordered him steel, and other tonics, to improve his general health, which had suffered consider-



ably, both from bodily illness and anxiety of mind. On his return to the country, I furnished him with a case of metallic bougies, (Nos. 12 and 13,) which I directed him to introduce, twice a week, for the first month; after that, once a fortnight, which might then be sufficient. About eighteen months after this, the Colonel came up to town, and informed me he was quite well, and enjoyed all his wonted good health and spirits, and that his lady had been safely delivered of a very fine boy. I have seen him several times since, and he continues in perfect health.

### CASE III.

Capt. R. of the Royal Navy, had been afflicted with strictures for eight or nine years, before he applied to me. He had been under the care of Mr. Cline, and several other surgeons of equal eminence, who had attempted his cure by the application of the lunar caustic, without success. He had suffered under several attacks of suppression of urine, while on board his ship; and in one instance, his life was despaired of; but by perseverance in the usual means of relieving suppressions, the urine began to flow in



a very fine stream ; in this state he remained for three weeks, when he made water by drops only. His surgeon endeavoured to pass the finest bougie, but could not succeed. When his ship put in at Portsmouth, he got leave of absence for a month, to place himself under my care. His situation was now truly distressing; he was obliged to attempt to make water every quarter of an hour, with much straining and pain in the region of the pubes; his rest was constantly disturbed by being obliged to get up twenty or thirty times in the night, to void his urine. On examination, I found a stricture at five inches and a half from the external orifice; through which I was unable to pass one of the finest bougies. After four applications, I passed a metallic bougie (No. 10,) about two inches further, when it was stopped by another stricture. It took five applications to destroy the second stricture, after which I was able to pass a metallic bougie (No. 10,) readily into the bladder, where it had not remained above ten minutes, when he felt a desire to evacuate. He withdrew the instrument, and immediately his water flowed copiously and rapidly, and, as he declared, more so than for the last ten years. He took an anodyne draught on going to bed. I called on him next morning, when he told me he had passed his water, after I left him, at-



tended with a slight scalding; he had slept soundly all night, quite undisturbed by any inclination to pass his urine, He took next day a dose of castor oil. On the succeeding day, I passed the bougie easily into the bladder; but in my attempting to withdraw it, I was stopped by one of the most violent spasmodic contractions I ever met with in my experience. It seemed as if the instrument was firmly grasped by some invisible hand. I made no further immediate effort to withdraw it, lest I might injure the parts: but suffered it to remain half an hour; when the action having exhausted itself, it was drawn out with little or no resistance. His general health had been greatly injured by his severe suffering from these obstinate and dangerous strictures; I, therefore, ordered him to take ten or fifteen drops of the *Tr. ferri muriat.* three or four times a day in a glass of bark mixture. Three days after I called on him, to introduce the bougie. He had continued to make water with perfect freedom, during those three days. I now passed a metallic bougie, (size No. 11,) which remained in about twenty minutes, and was withdrawn without any return of the spasms. Next day I introduced one (size No. 12,) which was about the natural diameter of his Urethra. After it had been in twenty minutes, I withdrew



it ; but the spasmodic action was renewed ; yet by no means so violently as before. In three weeks from the first visit, he has cured, and passed his water as well as he ever remembered to have done. It is six or seven years since he was cured. I have seen him frequently of late, and he declares he never passed his water better than he does now, and had not enjoyed such general good health and spirits, at any former period of his life.

#### CASE IV.

Capt. P. of the Royal Marines, had symptoms of stricture eight years before I saw him. During two years previous to his calling on me, he had made water eight or ten times a day, and nearly as often in the night, with violent straining, difficulty, and pain, and in a stream, so very small, as to require full twenty minutes to empty his bladder. He had also a very troublesome gleet ; on passing a common bougie to the stricture, he complained of pain and great irritability ; but by repeating its use, two or three days, these symptoms subsided. He had two strictures, one five inches, the other about seven, from the external orifice. The smallest bougie could not be



passed either into, or through the strictures. I therefore determined on the immediate application of my remedy to the first stricture. He felt some pain, and on passing his water shortly afterwards suffered considerable scalding: nor did his urine flow quite as freely as before the application. To alleviate these symptoms, I ordered him the warm bath, an opiate at night, and a dose of castor-oil in the morning. I saw him next day, when the pain and scalding were no longer felt, and he made water, much the same as before. The day following, I proceeded in my cure, when he felt a slight pain, which soon subsided. I saw him two days after; I passed a bougie, which, with some pressure went through the first stricture to the second; on withdrawing it, about a table spoonful of blood followed, accompanied by irritation and pain. The warm bath, opiate, and castor-oil were ordered to be repeated. He called next day, and informed me, that he had, about seven o'clock on the previous evening, been affected by a violent shivering fit, but that, on taking the anodyne draught and going into the bath, he found himself much relieved, and had enjoyed a comfortable night. I introduced a common bougie to the second stricture, with tolerable facility, which I repeated the following day, and with perfect ease. The day following,



I directed my attention to the second stricture, which was by far the more obstinate, as it required no less than five applications for its annihilation.

Two days after the last application, I passed the same sized bougie into the bladder, that I had applied to the first stricture, and it remained in about a quarter of an hour. On withdrawing it, the water flowed in a full stream, and the bladder was evacuated in three minutes of full three pints of thick and turbid urine. When the urine ceased to flow, an hemorrhage succeeded, and I calculated his loss of blood at about three ounces and a half. The hemorrhage being stopped, I advised the Captain to return in a coach to his coffee-house, and keep himself quiet for the rest of the day. About ten at night, he sent for me in great haste, and when I arrived, he said he had not evacuated since he was with me in the morning, and the shivering fit was so violent, that he was obliged to lay hold of the bed-post to prevent his falling. He had made many fruitless attempts to discharge his water. I requested to pass a bougie, as I did not doubt it would soon relieve him. In passing it, a little before coming to the stricture, it met a slight obstruction; but pressing it on, it quickly surmounted the difficulty, and went directly into



the bladder : a mass of coagulated blood, which had completely stopped the passage, issued, with urine, on withdrawing the instrument. This evacuation relieved him from the agonies he had felt. I ordered him a bark draught, and forty drops of the opium, to be taken at bed time. As I was leaving him, he said he felt an inclination to make water. I desired him to attempt it, and staid to observe if the hemorrhage returned ; he voided a considerable quantity of water, without a drop of blood following. On visiting him the next morning, I learned that he had passed a good night, having no necessity to rise to make water from going to bed till his getting up. He felt quite refreshed by this undisturbed night's rest, which he had not enjoyed for four years. Being much debilitated, and his general health greatly impaired, I prescribed him a bark mixture and sulphuric acid, a wine-glass full, four times a day ; and after taking this during a week, his strength, appetite, and spirits were materially improved. He could pass a metallic bougie (No. 12,) readily into the bladder, and had attained a facility in introducing it, that made him a master of this necessary instrument. Having been three weeks under my care, he was obliged to return to his duty on board his ship, when he wrote from Portsmouth, informing me that he had recently discontinued



the tonics, as his health and strength were quite restored, and his water flowed in as large a stream as he ever remembered.—I have not heard from or seen this gentleman since his cure.

#### CASE V.

O. B. Esq. came from Ireland to London, on purpose to place himself under my care. He had been afflicted with strictures in the Urethra, for upwards of nine or ten years. The lunar caustic had been repeatedly applied to them by surgeons of great respectability, but without the desired success. On examination, I found he had two fistulous openings on the pubes, and a considerable one a little beyond the root of the penis; with the scrotum puckered up and adhering to the Urethra. Through this latter opening, most of the urine flowed. He had another in the perineum; and he had also one just anterior to where the vessels, bringing the semen and the milky fluid from the prostate gland, perforate, in common, the Urethra, through which the semen frequently oozed. The urine might be said to pass through these openings as through a cullender. No urine had been voided through the natural canal for five or six years. The penis lay upon the scrotum in an



œdematous state; the discharge from all these openings was so great, and so offensive, that he was obliged to carry napkins in his pocket, to apply to the parts for the absorption of the urine and the discharge; these, from their offensive smell, he was obliged to remove almost hourly. This extraordinary case had so many difficulties to surmount, that I entertained some doubts of ultimate success; but as he had come from such a distance, I was desirous he should not return, without making some attempts to relieve him. Besides, I had experienced such surprising effects from my system, that I did not altogether despair of affording him a very considerable relief, if not a perfect cure. I immediately applied my remedy to the first stricture, which I repeated every second day; and it took ten applications to remove it. I passed, at this time, a metallic bougie of the size No. 8, and in two days was able to pass one of the same kind, No. 10.

I had now penetrated to the second stricture, which I overcame by five applications; but as the parts were more irritable than at the first stricture, I was obliged to prescribe the warm bath, opium, and a dose of castor oil; which soon relieved him from pain and inflammation. In this manner I proceeded, until I had removed each stricture; a moderate sized bougie



then passed fairly into the bladder: on withdrawing it, the urine flowed from the external orifice of the penis, which it had not done for the last five years. I then passed a bougie a size larger with tolerable ease, suffering it to remain in for half an hour. Next day, I passed a gum elastic catheter, with a small silver plug at the end, which he could readily remove for a natural occasion; through this instrument his urine passed for a week or ten days, when I introduced a similar catheter, of nearly the natural diameter of his Urethra. In less than a month, the discharge from the fistulous openings considerably diminished; the two openings on the pubes where healed; the scrotum, which was hard and greatly swelled, became softer, and much lessened in size. He continued his evacuations through the gum elastic catheter; little or none then passing through the fistulous openings. The œdematous swelling of the prepuce, and glans penis, was nearly gone, and the penis began to recover its natural appearance and warmth. This plan was persisted in for a month, when all the fistulous openings were healed, except the largest, through which a few drops of urine still escaped; but the discharge was so trifling, that a small pledget of lint, kept on by a piece of sticking plaister, was sufficient to absorb all the urine and discharge



of twenty-four hours. The gum elastic catheter was now laid aside, as he passed his urine very well through the natural channel. For the last month, he had been taking large doses of steel and cinchona, by which his general health was much improved: so much, indeed, that he declared he had not enjoyed such health and spirits for many years; and that, as no further operations were necessary, he should return to Ireland. From the moment of his placing himself under my care to his taking his leave of me, was four months and a few days.

I furnished him with several gum elastic bougies of the proper size, directing him to introduce them every day, for two months, letting them remain half an hour or longer, if no pain or irritation was excited; but if the contrary, to withdraw the bougie immediately: and if they were considerable, to have recourse to the warm bath, opium, and castor-oil; and to wait until all such symptoms were subsided, before he recommenced the use of the bougie.

Three years afterwards, he wrote to me from Waterford, expressing his pleasure and happiness, informing me, that he continued to pass his water with perfect freedom; that the last fistulous opening had been a long time healed; and that he generally passed a bougie once a



week or fortnight, to retain the facility of introducing it, and to satisfy his mind that there was no return of his complaint.

#### CASE VI.

A proprietor of one of the Hackney and Homerton stage-coaches, aged about forty-seven, had suffered by a stricture fifteen years, and he had been under the care of several surgeons at Hackney; a respectable hospital surgeon in London had attempted, unsuccessfully, to cure him by the lunar caustic. During the last four years he had had a continual gleet, with pain in the pubes and bladder; his urine constantly dribbled from him involuntarily, by night as well as by day, so that his bed rotted under him; and was so offensive, as to oblige him to have a fresh one every six months. On examination, I found a stricture about four inches down from the external orifice, through which the smallest sized bougie could not be passed. I therefore determined to proceed in my usual way; he felt very little pain from the application. He was desired to call again two days after; this was on a Friday, but I heard nothing of him till Monday morning early; when a messenger came to inform me that



Mr. H. had kept his bed, ever since Saturday noon: he said he was in great pain, with constant inclination and inability to pass his urine; that after he left me on Friday he had imprudently driven a stage-coach to and from Homerton, till late that evening. It was the severest cold day remembered for many years: the consequence of his thus exposing himself the whole day was the suppression of urine. I desired him to be brought, wrapped in blankets, to town. In two hours I had my patient in lodgings opposite me, where he underwent great pain; his pulse was full and upwards of one hundred, a considerable tumour was also formed in the perineum. I immediately ordered eighteen ounces of blood to be drawn from the arm. He was put into a warm bath, 95 degrees of heat, wherein he remained twenty minutes, during which he felt less pain and inclination to make water. Castor-oil was administered every hour till it operated. Fomentations, and a large linseed meal poultice was applied night and day, to the tumour. At night the warm bath was repeated, and a full dose of opium on going to bed was ordered. The next morning I found him still feverish, and the pain and inclination to pass his water but little abated. I ordered twelve ounces more blood to be taken from the arm; and as the castor-oil had not operated sufficiently,



I ordered a clyster of castor-oil and cathartic salts. At noon I visited him again; the clyster had operated very well; and he had had four or five copious motions. The fever had evidently abated, and the pain and inclination to make water were less frequent. The fomentations and poultice were continued. At night the opiate was repeated. About seven, next morning, I was called up by his nurse, to inform me that the tumour had just broken. On examining the parts I found a little *pus* oozing from a small opening, which I enlarged, and about half a pint of matter tinged with blood, issued. While I was gently pressing the abscess to force the discharge of the whole matter, the urine began to dribble through the opening, and in a few minutes it came out in a fine thread-like stream; and he evacuated about three pints. This immediately removed all pain and inclination to pass his water. The abscess was dressed with common ointment, with a large poultice over it. I passed a small bougie down to the first stricture, slightly pressing the point against it; in a minute it went through; and the point was seen in the opening of the abscess. He made his water partly through the opening in the perineum, and partly through the external orifice. He now constantly improved, and in ten days was sufficiently well to return to Homerton.



I ordered him a bark mixture to recruit his strength, and to let me see him in a fortnight to finish his cure. At the expiration of that time he came, the abscess in the perineum was healed, and he had passed a metallic bougie, (No. 8) through the first to the second stricture. There were no indications that seemed to forbid the use of my remedy. It was, therefore, applied to the second stricture. The pain was trifling; but it required four applications before I was able to pass a bougie through it. I had hoped to get into the bladder, but was stopped by a third stricture, about an inch further. It took two applications to remove this stricture, when a metallic bougie, (size No. 10) passed into the bladder. In a week, I succeeded in passing one, (size No. 11.) He now passed his water in as full a stream as he ever remembered. He continued to attend me for a fortnight, to have the bougie introduced, and to be instructed in the use of the metallic bougie, which I wished him to pass regularly every day, or every other day, for a month; so that the strictured parts should not heal upon less than the natural diameter of the urethra. It is now more than four years since he was cured. I saw him a short time since: he said he continued to pass his water as well as he ever did in his life, which now was rendered quite comfortable to him, whereas it had been



misery to him, until he placed himself under my care. He begged I would publicly make use of his name to that effect.

This patient, during the greater part of the fifteen years he had suffered under strictures, was obliged to attach a horn to the end of his penis to receive the urine, which constantly dribbled from him, day and night. The misery he experienced for so many years was indescribable, he being obliged to drive his stage through all weathers, and compelled to descend, during his journey, several times to empty his horn. He hardly recollected a single hour, which he could say he passed without, more or less pain, during the last seven years, previous to his applying to me.

#### CASE VII.

T. R. Esq. a respectable merchant, had been afflicted with strictures for fifteen years before I saw him. He said he had been under the care of Mr. Home, about six years ago; that he continued under his management for nearly eighteen months; and that during that period, the lunar caustic was, he verily believed, applied nearly sixty times. He had suffered great pain and torture, in the various applica-



tions deemed necessary to remove the strictures; but at no time was Mr. H. able to pass a bougie into his bladder, except once—a very small one; and although innumerable attempts had afterwards been made, in the hope of again succeeding, yet neither Mr. Home, nor any of the many gentlemen whom he had consulted, were able to pass one, even of the smallest kind, into the bladder. He was now, and had been for many years, unable to pass his water, but in the smallest stream; he was frequently suffering under partial, and sometimes total suppression of urine, and on these distressing recurrences, he felt the greatest apprehensions for his life. His constant inclination to pass his water was so great, that he could not walk a hundred yards, without making the attempt; and in the course of the night, was obliged to get up twenty or thirty times for that purpose. The pain and constant uneasiness in the bladder, urethra, pubes, and, indeed, the whole organs of generation, had so enfeebled and broken down his constitution, as to render him incapable of business; and his nervous system was in such a state of irritability, that any sudden noise, such as opening the door unexpectedly, threatened him with a fit. His nates were covered all over with scabaceous eruptions; such afflicting circumstances rendered



his life quite miserable. I requested him to permit me to pass a bougie, to ascertain the state of the urethra, and enable me to form a more correct opinion of his very interesting case. He did not object; but just as I was about to introduce the bougie, he was seized with violent trembling, and was so much agitated, that I forbore to make the examination. He apologized, by assuring me, that he was so nervous that he wanted courage to allow the attempt to be made; but that to-morrow, or the day following, he would call, when he hoped for greater fortitude. He called three days after, saying he had a sufficient stock of courage and confidence; and that I might make any examination as soon as I pleased. On passing a bougie, of the natural diameter of his urethra, about four inches and a half it stopped. I tried bougies of every kind, and of the smallest size; but I could not pass any one into, or through the stricture. I therefore determined to apply my remedy in my usual way. He experienced at the time little or no pain. But if any spasms, or irritation of the urethra or bladder came on in the course of the day, I directed him to go into a warm bath, take an opiate at night, and in the morning a dose of castor-oil. Two days afterwards, he called again: he had experienced a slight pain, with scalding, when his water dribbled from



him; but the warm bath, and other remedies had removed them. I passed a bougie down to the stricture, but there it stopped; no hemorrhage followed this attempt; the point only was a little tinged with blood. The warm bath and opium were ordered to be repeated. Next day I applied my remedy for the second time; and every second day the application was repeated. In this plan I persisted, until the strictures, three in number, were removed. During the whole of this cure, which occupied about two months, the patient experienced no untoward symptoms; little or no hemorrhage occurred, although the bougies were passed as soon as my remedy had acted on the strictured part. The pain was trifling, compared with what he had undergone by the application of the lunar caustic; the hemorrhage, too, was then at times very alarming; but now little or no blood was lost.

The first stricture required four applications before it was removed. The second seemed the most obstinate, as it required six; the last only three. When this last was also removed, a metallic bougie (size No. 12) passed freely into the bladder; and he was astonished, not believing it possible that an instrument of that size had entered his bladder. On withdrawing it, the urine flowed in a copious stream, and was propelled with such force, as to shoot across the



room, in which the operation was performed. I now instructed him in the use of the bougie, of which he soon became master, and could introduce it himself with great dexterity. I now prescribed for him large doses of steel, combined with other tonics, and with aromatics, the use of which he was to continue for two months; at the same time, however, he was requested to call once a week, to acquaint me with the progress of his cure. At the expiration of the two months, the scabaceous eruptions were entirely gone; his general health was wonderfully improved, and his strength and vigour restored.

It is about nine or ten years since this gentleman was cured. I met him four months ago in the city, and he was perfectly well, and able to ride his horse every day from his country house to town, whereas he had long previously been unable to bear the motion of his carriage. I advised horse exercise with caution.

#### CASE VIII.

A gentleman, aged forty, applied to me in a case of suppression of urine. He had been afflicted with strictures for above fifteen years;



which subjected him to frequent suppressions. They had lately returned so often and so alarmingly, and the pain and distress he suffered were so extreme, as to excite strong apprehensions in his mind, that some of these recurrences would prove fatal. I attempted to draw off the urine by means of the finest sized bougie, but it could not be passed. I did not continue my efforts, lest I should increase the irritation and inflammation of the urethra and bladder. I ordered a copious bleeding, a warm bath, and a clyster of salts and castor-oil. After the operation of the enema, he took an anodyne draught. Having found considerable ease from these remedies, and the irritation and inflammation being much abated, I judged this a favourable opportunity to renew my endeavours to pass the bougie, which I did, and with some difficulty it entered the bladder, and remained in about ten minutes, when his inclination to discharge his urine was so pressing that he withdrew it. The urine came out in a small stream, and relieved the bladder from tension and pain. The warm bath and anodyne draught were repeated, and next morning, the enema, which emptied his bowels, and his ability to void his urine was considerably improved. He persisted in cooling and sedative remedies, until all the irritation and inflammation of the urethra and bladder



had entirely subsided. I then proposed my peculiar plan of treatment, to which he readily consented. On minutely examining the urethra, by passing one of the smallest of the silver balls recommended by Mr. Bell, I distinctly felt the instrument to bound over three strictures. To the first stricture I applied my remedy five times, before a bougie, of the natural diameter of the urethra could be passed. The second required four applications. The third and last were removed by two applications only; when the metallic bougie (No. 10,) of the natural diameter of the urethra, which was rather small, passed readily into the bladder. There occurred nothing remarkable during these applications; little pain, and no hemorrhage followed. The urine now flowed in a good stream, but was very turbid, and of a most disagreeable odour. I attributed this to the long standing of the strictures, and the frequent suppressions, which impeding the passage of the urine, occasion the bladder to act with augmented force, to overcome the resistance. In such circumstances, strictures are kept in a continual state of irritation and inflammation; which, extending to the bladder, cause the frequent desire to make water greatly to increase; and thus the urine, very often becomes turbid and offensive.



In this case, the inflammation of the bladder had been so considerable, that *pus* was formed, which was discharged with the urine.

He was now perfectly free from pain; and instead of being obliged to get up ten or twelve times a night to void his urine, he seldom needed to rise more than once; but, as his urine still continued in the unpleasant state mentioned, I ordered him a dose of *uva ursæ* three times a day; and in three weeks the urine was perfectly clear, and of its natural odour.

The constitution of this patient had suffered much from the long duration of the strictures, and the many suppressions of urine which had afflicted him, during the last ten years. I therefore desired him to pursue a course of tonic medicines for two months, to go into the country, so that, with good air and moderate exercise, his health and strength might be re-established. I saw this gentleman about three months back, when he informed me that he continued quite well, and had never enjoyed better health in his life. Since the removal of his strictures, he has been well without interruption; and he was pleased to say he owed all the enjoyments of life to the skill and attention with which his cure was performed.



## CASE IX.

A gentleman who held an official situation under government, had been afflicted with strictures for several years ; he had been under the care of various professional gentlemen, who from time to time, relieved him by the use of the common bougie. He had used Daran's bougies for eighteen months, without experiencing any particular benefit, more than from the common bougie. He had also been under Mr. Whately ; but his strictures continued to contract the urethra, notwithstanding all his attempts to dilate them. For the last twelve months his life had been a burden. He made water seventeen or eighteen times a day, with great pain and violent straining ; so much so, that during the time he was passing his water, his forehead was covered with large globules of perspiration, by the excruciating torments he underwent. He had also a considerable discharge from the urethra ; he felt great pain in the perineum, and down both his thighs, and his whole frame was extremely debilitated. On introducing a very small bougie into the urethra, I found it entered the first stricture a little way ; it then stopped ; in half a minute I pressed it forwards ; it seemed to jump, as it were, over a ridge,



and then it stopped again, and could be pressed no further. The time taken in passing this very fine bougie, rendered it impossible it should preserve firmness sufficient to overcome the obstruction opposed to it by the other strictures, and by the warmth of the parts soon softening a bougie so very fine. I therefore took one of the smallest silver balls, fixed on a long wire of the same metal, recommended by Mr. Bell; and having dipped it in oil, I passed it, with some difficulty, through the whole strictured part, which extended full three inches. On withdrawing it, I felt, distinctly, no less than nine or ten ridges, over which the little ball seemed to bound. A trifling issue of blood followed, but without any other symptom. The next day I got one of these balls, which had a small hole bored on its posterior part, near its conjunction with the wire. I filled up the cavity with my remedy to the brim. I then dipped it in oil, and passed it beyond the strictured part: when it had passed all the ridges, I drew it back; and again introduced it and withdrew it; on every return, each ridge was struck by the part of the ball where it was deposited. After the operation with the ball ceased, he observed that he felt a slight burning sensation, but not acute pain. He made water



shortly after with much less straining and pain, but more like scalding. I ordered a warm bath, an anodyne draught at night, and a dose of castor-oil in the morning. I requested him to call again in two days. When he came, he said he had felt much easier after taking the bath, and had not passed two nights more comfortably for many months. The ball was then armed with the means of cure as before, and was introduced and returned three times, and then withdrawn; no particular symptoms following, worth notice. After two days, it was again applied as before. The next day he called to say he had passed his water better than he had done for months. I examined his urethra, and passed a metallic bougie (No. 9) with tolerable ease through all the strictured part; but it would not enter the bladder. On withdrawing it, about half an ounce of blood followed. He felt a trifling pain, which ceased before he left me. The bath, anodyne, and castor-oil were repeated. He called the next day; he had experienced another tolerably good night; and his water issued with very little straining or pain; but not in so large a stream as it had done before. This was easy to account for, as there was another stricture to be removed, before he could be able to evacuate in a full and natural



stream. I now passed a metallic bougie (No. 10) up to the stricture which I had not yet touched with my remedy. I suffered it to remain in for half an hour. Next day I passed one of the size No. 11 with ease up to the remaining stricture. As the parts seemed perfectly free from irritability or spasm, I passed the gum elastic canula; and the armed bougie was introduced through it to the stricture, where it was kept, with a slight pressure, for a minute, and then withdrawn. He called two days after this, when I introduced a metallic bougie (No. 9) up to the stricture, and with the slightest pressure it slipped through the stricture into the bladder. He came the following day, and informed me that, early in the evening, he had been attacked with a most violent shivering fit, which obliged him to go to bed, and that, when in bed, he took a glass of warm brandy and water. On the morning he called, he had passed his water in a larger stream than for some years past, without straining or pain, except a slight scalding. In a week I could introduce the metallic bougie, (No. 11,) which was about the natural diameter of his urethra. I instructed him in the use of the bougie, which he soon acquired; and he was finally cured, after being under my care about a month. He was directed to use the



bougies, and to persevere in the tonic remedies for a month; at the expiration of which time I requested to see him again. When he came, he said he was happy to inform me that the gleet was entirely gone; that his water never flowed better, or more fully; and that his general health was surprisingly improved. He intended, however, to continue the use of the bougie as directed. I have not seen this gentleman since his cure.

#### CASE X.

A gentleman applied to me in a case of debility, who informed me that he had been, for fourteen years, troubled with strictures. During the last four years he had experienced great difficulty in voiding his urine; it passed out in a thread-like stream; and after an excess of drinking, a total suppression of urine generally took place for about twenty-four hours, attended with great pain, and constant inclination, without the ability to expel a single drop. This suppression was relieved by bleeding, the warm bath, castor-oil, and opiates. His principal inducement in applying to me, he stated to be the great



debility he suffered in the organs of generation; and, being married, he was particularly anxious to be restored to the sound and healthful state of his bodily functions. I begged him to feel perfectly easy on that subject; as, with the removal of his strictures, his debility and other complaints would, most likely, vanish. On examination, I found a stricture about five inches and a half down the Urethra. I immediately commenced my mode of treatment, from which he felt little or no pain; the sensation, he said, was rather agreeable than otherwise, and no hemorrhage followed. It took three applications to remove this stricture. On passing a metallic bougie (No. 12) through this stricture, it was stopped about an inch lower down by another. I continued my system with little pain, and no hemorrhage. On the second application the pain was rather acute, and about a spoonful of blood followed the instrument. I prescribed a warm bath, an opiate at night, and a dose of castor-oil in the morning. On his next visit, he said he had slept well; had been disturbed only twice during the night to void his urine; before which, he was constantly obliged to get up eight or ten times every night for that purpose. He was desired to remain for two days perfectly quiet, and then to call again. He was punctual. The metallic bougie (No. 12) was introduced



through both strictures into the bladder; and as it sat perfectly easy, was allowed to remain in an hour. On withdrawing it, the urine flowed in a full stream, and he emptied his bladder in a few seconds, which agreeably surprised and astonished him, as he could not, for the last three years, empty that organ without long straining, and occupying at least from ten to twenty minutes. The bougie was introduced every day, and allowed to remain as long as he felt easy. On its producing uneasy or painful sensations, it was withdrawn. He now passed the bougie only on alternate days, for one month. His urine was voided in a full stream, without difficulty or pain; all symptoms of irritability of the Urethra and bladder were entirely removed; but the organs did not so quickly recover their former tone and vigour; he was, therefore, ordered to commence a course of the tonic remedies, which he continued for six weeks; and at the expiration of that time, was perfectly cured, both of his strictures and his debility. He assured me he did not recollect possessing, at any period of his life, his natural functions in a sounder state. I saw this gentleman four years afterwards, and he continued perfectly well, in all respects.



## CASE XI.

A respectable gentleman, aged fifty, residing in Essex, had been afflicted with strictures nearly twenty years, during which time he had experienced considerable difficulty and pain, in voiding his urine, and very frequently a pain in the perineum, and in the loins. He had obtained occasional relief by the use of the common bougie, under the direction of a neighbouring surgeon; but the strictures always returned with increased violence. At length, a partial suppression of urine came on, with a tumour in the perineum; and as his surgeon could not pass any bougie, he came to London, and placed himself under the care of a surgeon in Arundel-street, Strand, who ordered him to rub mercurial ointment on the tumour, and to take two blue pills every night.

These remedies seemed to increase the inflammation, and a total suppression of urine followed. Fortunately, however, the abscess broke, and the urine was discharged through the opening. He continued under this gentleman's care six months, but getting worse, he applied to me. On examining the Urethra, I discovered two sinuses, running on each side the fistulous opening in the perineum. No urine escaped through the natural external orifice. The urine



used to dribble into these sinuses, occasioning, for a few minutes, most excruciating pain. The scrotum was much swollen, and had become as hard as a stone. I began his cure by applying my remedy to the first stricture, in order to the re-opening of the natural passage. After four applications, a metallic bougie (No. 11,) passed through the stricture, and about an inch beyond the opening in the perineum, met with an impediment from a second stricture; to which also I directed my attention, and after three applications, the same metallic bougie passed through it, into the bladder. In a week I introduced a bougie, (size No. 12,) which passed with perfect ease. I followed up this operation with a gum elastic catheter, through which he passed his water, instead of the stillet; a small silver plug was screwed in at the end of the catheter, which could be easily unscrewed, when the patient wanted to evacuate his urine, and replaced afterwards. The abscess was dressed with common ointment of wax and oil; but the sinuses not healing, I therefore laid them open, and dressed them as before; and in three weeks they were healed, and the catheter withdrawn. The urine after this passed through the external orifice, and the use of the catheter was finally discontinued. The size of the scrotum had greatly lessened: and it had nearly returned to



its natural softness. His general health had been considerably impaired; but by administering tonic medicines it improved greatly, and he considered himself in a more comfortable state than he had been for a series of years. This gentleman was under my care about six weeks; but he continued the tonics for two months after he left me. He visits London generally twice a year, and enjoys an excellent state of health.

## CASE XII.

Mr. N. a respectable auctioneer, was afflicted with strictures for ten or twelve years before I saw him. He made water four or five times generally, but occasionally ten or fifteen times in the night; and, during the day time seldom fewer than twenty times. He was subject to frequent irritations, and even to suppressions of urine. Sometimes he made water five times in an hour, and with great straining and excruciating agony; at other times he could not evacuate any for half an hour after he commenced the effort. Occasionally his urine came away involuntarily, by night as well as by day. The urinary stream was generally as fine as a thread.



He had most tormenting pains in the region of the pubes and perineum. There was observable in his urine a glairy gelatinous fluid, when the irritations, and frequent desire to make water affected him. From long protracted disease, he was much debilitated, and his general health greatly injured. I found a stricture about four inches from the external orifice, which stopped the progress of the finest bougie. The Urethra, and particularly the strictured part, was so irritable, that the bare introduction of the bougie produced very painful sensations. I, therefore, delayed the application of my remedy for a day or two; and ordered the warm bath, an opiate, and mild aperients. Three days after, when he called again, the irritability of the parts seemed to be diminished, and I began my plan of treatment, attended with little or no pain; but towards the evening a suppression of urine came on, and he was put into a warm bath, and took a full dose of opium. After being in the bath fifteen minutes, the urine began to flow; the pain ceased; and he had a quiet night.

Three days afterwards the remedy was again applied; he experienced no particular inconvenience. After four applications, the metallic bougie (No. 9,) passed through the stricture. In three days more, a bougie (No. 11,) was with tolerable ease, passed to the second stric-



ture, which it required five applications to remove. On passing the same sized metallic bougie, it was impeded by a third stricture, about an inch further on. This last was also removed by two applications only, and a metallic bougie (No. 9,) passed readily into the bladder. The urine now flowed in a full stream; the pains in the pubes and perineum were hardly felt; he emptied his bladder as quickly and as conveniently as he ever remembered; and he was seldom disturbed in the night to make water. The use of the bougies was continued. At the expiration of a month, a bougie, (No. 12,) about the natural diameter of his Urethra, passed freely into the bladder. I instructed him in the use of the bougie, directing him to pass one, every other day for a month; and to take steel and other tonic remedies for the recovery of his general health. He called in about five weeks, and informed me, that he passed his water as well as he ever had; and that his general health and strength were so much improved, that he had discontinued his tonics for some time. I saw him five or six years after his cure, when he said he continued perfectly well, in all respects.



## CASE XIII.

A respectable farmer, near Petworth, had been afflicted with a swelled testicle for eighteen months; he had consulted the medical gentlemen in his neighbourhood, and all the usual means had been exhausted without the swelling being reduced. It was supposed to have been originated by a gonorrhœa, which he had caught about two years before. He consulted me, at first by letter, but finding the remedies I prescribed equally unsuccessful with those he had tried before, I desired him to come to town, which he did, and on my examining the parts, I found the left testicle considerably enlarged and indurated. On passing the prepucæ over the glans I perceived a trifling discharge. I inquired if he had a gleet; he said he had not; but that there was a little discharge, so little, as seldom to stain his linen. Inquiring how he passed his water, he said he discharged in a narrower stream than formerly; and that his desire to evacuate it was more frequent than it was a year or two back. I told him it would be necessary to pass a bougie, as I suspected a stricture to be the cause of his complaint. On passing a common



bougie, I found a stricture six inches from the external orifice, to the cure of which I applied myself; and, two days after, the same bougie passed freely into the bladder. In a week, a metallic bougie (No. 12,) found its way readily into the bladder. Nothing was applied to the testicle; but it was suspended by a bag truss, wrapped up in a piece of flannel. As soon as the stricture was removed, the testicle began to diminish, and in a month, it was reduced to its original size. The gleet entirely ceased, and the cure was completed.—Three years afterwards he called upon me, to say he continued perfectly well.

#### CASE XIV.

An Excise-officer, thirty-five years of age, residing in the neighbourhood of Chelmsford, laboured under symptoms of bad stricture for several years before he came to town to consult me. For the last four years he had the greatest difficulty in making water, which frequently came away by drops only. He has been half an hour in his efforts to evacuate his urine, and always with much straining and pain. He had also a constant running from the urethra, which was often streaked with blood. His



long sufferings under this malady had so broken his constitution and weakened the organs of generation, that he was in a state of absolute impotence, and with little inclination for the sexual intercourse. He deemed his life so miserable, that, unless he could get relief, he cared not how soon it terminated. On introducing a bougie into the urethra, I found a stricture about six inches from the external orifice resisting the passage of the finest bougie. I applied my remedy to it. As a case of single stricture, it was the most obstinate I ever had to contend with; it took fifteen applications before I could succeed in passing a metallic bougie (No. 7,) through it into the bladder. After this operation, however, he passed his water in a good stream, and the weight of his sufferings was greatly alleviated. In three weeks from the destruction of the stricture, I was able to introduce a bougie, (No. 10,) and, in a month, one (size No. 12,) which was about the natural capacity of his urethra: I passed it with tolerable ease into the bladder. He continued the use of the metallic bougies for six months, and took during the same period, large doses of steel and other tonic remedies, to restore his lost powers and to reanimate the organs. At the expiration of twelve months, he called, and informed me that he was perfectly well. The



discharge had stopped; the urine flowed fully; and the organs of generation had recovered their previous strength and vigour. I met him by accident at Brentwood, about four years afterwards. He was there with his wife and two children, and said he continued quite well; but took care to introduce the bougie, about once a month, to prevent, if possible, the urethra from ever contracting again, as he dreaded the chance of his being brought to the same calamitous situation from which, under my treatment, he had so happily recovered.

#### CASE XV.

During my stay on the continent, I was consulted by an English gentleman, in a case of stricture, which he had laboured under for eighteen or twenty years. The greater part of this time, he had been under the care of surgeons of considerable eminence. They attempted a cure upon the principle of dilatation; but at no period could they pass a bougie, except of the smallest size. Mr. T. Blizzard attended this gentleman for years. He certainly succeeded in passing a larger bougie than any of the practitioners who had preceded him; but the pain of these attempts to the patient was so violent,



that his forehead was covered with globules of perspiration all the time the operation of introducing the instrument was performing, and during its continuance in the passage. This case serves to illustrate how greatly superior my treatment is over the process by dilatation. When I first examined my patient, the smallest sized bougie could not be passed, and he was suffering great difficulty and pain in voiding his urine, being obliged to rise ten or fifteen times in the night for that purpose; suffering also pains in the pubes, the small of the back, and down the thighs, and feeling his general health sadly impaired. To the first stricture, about four inches down the urethra, I applied my means of cure six times before it was removed: to the second, an equal number of applications was made before it was also removed; and to the third, four times before a metallic bougie, (size No. 10,) would pass; this bougie was of the natural diameter of this patient's urethra. During all these operations, the little pain he suffered was, he said, comparatively nothing to what he endured under the treatment by dilatation. No hemorrhage followed any of these applications. The pain and spasms which occurred during his cure, were relieved by the frequent use of the warm bath, anodyne, antispasmodic medicines, &c.; the



bowels were constantly kept open by mild saline cathartics. He found considerable benefit from the use of an anodyne draught, as follows:  
 ℞. pul. ipecac. compr. gr. xvi. syr. simplex 3iss.  
 aq. ammon. acetat 3iv. julep. camphora. 3ss. aq.  
 menth. virid. 3iss. haustus hor. somni sumend.

As he could now pass his water better than for these last twenty years, and as all the irritability and pain of the urethra and bladder were entirely removed, I advised him to commence a course of tonics, to recruit his lost strength and spirits. After having recovered his health, he removed to another part of the continent. On the 15th of July, 1821, I received the following letter from him; he has stated the case himself, and I shall give it in his own words.—

“ July 15, 1821.

“ I have, for these last eighteen or twenty years, been afflicted with inveterate strictures, and consulted, some years since, the late Mr. Cruickshanks; but for the last fourteen or sixteen years have been under the care of a surgical friend, equally eminent. It is true that, whilst strictly following his directions, if I did not actually get the better of it, I kept the complaint in subjection, until I came to the continent; when, as I was removed from his advice, my complaint got the mastery, to a most la-



mentable degree. I could not pass the smallest bougie; scarcely the catgut: a considerable discharge of thick glutinous matter took place, and at times I could not contain my urine. As at that time you were in attendance, professionally, in my family, I, in a happy hour, applied to you; for in less than a month the discharge subsided, the urine was contained, and in four months I could pass a tolerable size bougie. Ever since, I have pursued the treatment you directed, and am (thanks be to God and your skill!) in a state of perfect health.

“ Believe me to be,

“ my dear Doctor,

“ your truly obliged friend,

“ G. H.”

*A Case of Gleet mistaken for Stricture.*

A gentleman, aged forty, of a robust constitution, a *bon vivant*, extremely irregular in his habits of living, yet without having sustained any apparent injury to his constitution, contracted, in 1810, a gonorrhœa, and his cure had been attempted by the use of various kinds of injections. After continuing the use of them for a few months, his complaint terminated in a gleet. To this disease he paid very little or no



attention, until one evening, after a drinking bout, in which he had drank four bottles of port wine, he was attacked by a complete suppression of urine, which lasted several hours, at the expiration of which, he could only void it by drops, accompanied with severe pain. A medical gentleman in his neighbourhood was sent for, who proposed to introduce a bougie, but to this he would not consent. A considerable dose of Ol. Ricini was taken and as soon as it began to operate, he passed his water freely. The gleet remained as formerly, though rather of a thicker consistence. He took no other medicines. He was advised by a friend of his, who had been under my care, to consult me respecting the gleet. A week before he called on me he had felt pain in the perineum. On examination, I discovered a very small tumour which was exceedingly painful on being touched. His water was voided without pain, and in a full stream: he was subject, however, to sudden suppressions of urine, when the tumour was more than usually painful. I prescribed for him a bottle of drops, composed of R. ferri muriat. and T. lyttæ. The next day he called, and told me that he felt some slight pain in his penis. I ordered him to continue to take the drops; he took one or two doses more of them, when he sent for me, as he had been seized



with a perpetual inclination to make water, accompanied by a considerable degree of heat; but before I could get to my patient, most of these symptoms had subsided. He felt giddy, as if intoxicated, which is one of the effects of a full dose of the *T. lyttæ*. A mixture of julap. e camphora, and syrup of white poppies, removed these symptoms in a few hours. The tumour diminished, and his pain most materially abated; the discharge was greatly lessened. He was directed to continue the drops in smaller doses, and he was also ordered to use the cold bath. Two days after this, he called on me, the discharge having returned in a slight degree. The drops were still continued. On his next visit he complained that the discharge was greater than it had been for some days before. I desired him to repeat the drops in increased doses. He continued them accordingly for about six weeks, when happily the gleet was completely stopped. During the last week he had used a mild astringent injection. All morbid symptoms having now disappeared, I desired him to discontinue the drops and injection, and to persist in using the cold bath for another month.



This case had been mistaken for a case of stricture by many of the medical gentlemen whom he had consulted ; and since most surgeons believe that the gleet discharge is for the most part only a symptom of strictures, the mistake was very excusable ; particularly in this instance, where some of the characteristic symptoms of stricture, with complete suppression of urine, were present. This case shews the necessity of distinguishing between spasmodic and permanent stricture ; for the circumstances alone of the stoppage coming on suddenly, and with pain, and being as suddenly removed by the means which the gentleman had used, convinced me that this was not a case of permanent stricture ; but an occasional partial contraction arising in a very irritable state of the urethra, principally, perhaps, by the acrimony of the urine, removable by such remedies as could restore the tone of the urethra without distension by bougies, or the removal of impediments by caustics.

---

The following Case is selected from many of a similar description.

A gentleman, who holds a respectable situation in the customs, had been afflicted with



strictures for many years, and had consulted the most eminent of the faculty. They afforded relief in several suppressions of urine, by dilating the stricture; but, notwithstanding all their efforts, the contraction returned with increased violence. This induced him to apply to Mr. Lynch, who, on his first visit, assured him of the certainty of his complete cure. The confident manner in which this promise was made, silenced all doubts in the mind of the gentleman. Mr. L—— gave him a five-guinea packet of his remedies, which he used agreeably to the directions. At first, he thought himself relieved, and that he had a greater capacity to void his urine than before, and the pain and irritation seemed less. These favourable circumstances, Mr. L—— assured him, would end in a complete and lasting cure.

He continued the remedies until he had expended between fifty and sixty pounds; but the stricture remained, gradually becoming more and more contracted than it had been for several years. He now began to feel all the symptoms of an approaching suppression of urine. Alarmed at this circumstance, he waited on Mr. L—— for further advice, and requested to be informed, what parts of the urethra and bladder were suffering, or likely to suffer, if a total suppression of urine should take place?



The Negro Doctor told him, he knew nothing about the anatomy of the parts, or even their names. All that he knew was, that his remedies would cure him. "What," observed the suffering patient, "are you not acquainted with the names, the functions, and the use of the parts diseased, or likely to be affected by this complaint which you profess to cure?"

Upon further inquiry, he found Mr. L—— so grossly ignorant, as to be scarcely able either to read or write; and the gentleman, disappointed and mortified at finding his money fooled away, took his leave. He told me, that during the many months he was under the care of this empiric, he had nearly been nauseated to death with the quantity and quality of the loathsome oils which he had ordered him to use.

The suppression of urine he apprehended, came on, and he was relieved by one of his former surgeons; who smiled at his simplicity, in being so easily gulled out of so large a sum, by a person so totally unacquainted with every branch of physic or surgery. A friend of his, whom I had cured of a bad stricture, gave him my pamphlet to peruse, and, in consequence, he applied to me for assistance. On examination, I found a stricture about six inches from the external orifice; the smallest sized bougie could not be passed. He complained of great pain,



and the frequent calls he had to void his urine, so much so, that he could not walk a hundred yards without stopping to urinate, which was attended with great pain and straining. His general health was considerably impaired, and the debility of the organs was excessive.

I applied my remedy to the first stricture; it took three applications before it was removed, and a metallic bougie (No. 10,) could be passed. About an inch further the other stricture was felt. To this the remedy was applied four times before the metallic bougie (No. 10,) could be passed. In the course of ten days, a full sized bougie (No. 12,) was passed easily into the bladder. He now evacuated his urine in as large a stream as he ever remembered. The cure was effected in less than six weeks from his first application. He took some tonic medicines to restore his impaired health, and he is now free from all his former complaints.



ON

**STRICTURES OF THE RECTUM.**

---

THE functions of the rectum and anus are so important to the health and enjoyment of life, and such difficulty and disappointment are frequently felt by professional men in the treatment of their diseases, that I trust, it requires no excuse for laying before the public some of the most distressing and fatal of these complaints.

Similar complaints of the urethra give rise to disorders which were never supposed to have any reference to that canal, until the subject was particularly investigated, and now some very troublesome, and hitherto unmanageble diseases are relieved, and in most cases completely cured by the remedy recommended by me for the cure of strictures of the urethra.

The rectum, like the urethra, and many other parts of the body, is subject to inflammation, and its consequences. It is liable, however, to other kinds of disease, arising from its particular structure, its uses, its relation to the bladder



in the male, and the vagina in the female, and to other important parts, but especially from the action which it is every day compelled to perform in the expulsion of the fæces. It is on this account, that an attack of inflammation, which would not, perhaps, be an object of serious consideration in many other parts, here often requires the most minute attention and diligent care. But among the morbid affections of this intestine, those which are attended with a diminution of the capacity of its canal, whatever may have been the cause, are, perhaps, the most painful, and most frequently fatal.

Strictures of the rectum (by no means an uncommon disease) do not usually enter into the contemplation of the general practitioner, who is solely employed in considering the cause of obstinately constipated bowels, and violent cathartics are administered, which but aggravate the disorder. At length the patient is destroyed, and dissection proves that the sole cause of the complaint, and of death, was a partial or total obliteration of the canal of the rectum.

Most writers who have treated of this subject in former times, consider it as a disease totally beyond the power of medicine or surgery to relieve; and that we have it only in our power to alleviate the most painful symptoms, and to smooth, as it were, the road to inevitable death.



Such was the opinion of Bonetus, Morgagni, Ruysch, and Sherwin. Mons. Desault, as well as Dr. Mossman, considers it a disease seldom or never admitting of cure.

It has been supposed, and I believe it to be true, that women are more frequently affected than men. In the course of my practice, I calculate that I have had seven female to about five male patients. The first symptom of the disease is an habitual costiveness; but this is so frequent an occurrence, and produced in so many ways, that it is not likely the cause should be sought for in an organic affection of the rectum: mild purgatives are resorted to, and the symptoms being relieved, the cause is no longer investigated.

In a short time, as the part continues to decrease in diameter, the efforts to expel the fæces become more violent, and the consequent progress of the disease more rapid. The stools, which have been long evacuated with difficulty, become contracted in size, appearing like earthworms in their form, or small pellets. Towards the latter stage of the complaint, abscesses very frequently form in the neighbourhood of the anus, and sometimes break into the vagina of the female, and the discharge takes place through the fistulous orifice. In the male, an adhesion is formed with the bladder, and the abscess dis-



charges itself with the urine, and sometimes fæces and wind are voided by the urethra. The patient often continues a long time in this distressing situation, for none of the vital organs are affected, till at last, worn out with the pain, distress, and the discharge, or perhaps the total obliteration of the rectum, he yields to his fate.

This is usually the progress and issue of the disease, when it is not early discovered. But I am convinced that, when the cause of the complaint is ascertained in its early stage, the resources of the healing art are sufficient, very materially to relieve, and often to cure it altogether. As far as my own experience goes, I have never had a case that has not readily yielded to the powerful effects of the remedy I have so earnestly and confidently recommended for the removal and cure of strictures of the urethra. In this respect, I might cite many instances of successful practice; but the superiority and certainty of my mode of treatment will be sufficiently evinced by the following.



## CASE I.

A gentleman had occasion to consult me in a case of strictured rectum; he complained of pain, and great difficulty in voiding his fæces, and seldom passed them in larger proportions than the size of a quill. He also complained of a disagreeable foetid discharge from the anus, which was frequently attended with an involuntary flow of liquid fæces from the gut. On examination, I found, to add to his distress, that a communication had taken place between the rectum and bladder, through which part the fæces sometimes passed. He had a fistulous orifice on the nates, near the anus, which though it had been divided, did not heal. He had had the venereal disease about eight or ten years before; but, except his present complaint of the rectum, his health had been pretty good. When I examined the rectum with my finger, he complained of the pain I gave him. I found the stricture near the extremity of a hard cartilaginous feeling, which would hardly admit a very small bougie. I ordered him to take five grains of the blue pill, and a grain and a half of extract of cicuta and hyoscyamus every night, and then applied the remedy recommended for the cure of



strictures in the urethra, which he bore without much pain or hæmorrhage. Four days after the first application he called to inform me that the symptoms were much less painful, and he thought himself greatly relieved, but as I could not pass a larger bougie than at first, I again applied the remedy. This second operation gave but little or no pain, and no bleeding followed the application. After three applications he was so much relieved as to pass his stools better than he had done for the last two or three years. In a month from his first applying to me, a full-sized rectum bougie was readily passed. Nothing now passed through the aperture into the bladder, and the fistulous opening was nearly healed. During the three months he was under my care, he grew gradually better, and his evacuations were at length performed without pain. The discharge from the anus had ceased, the fistulous opening and aperture into the bladder had also healed, little or no remains of the stricture could be felt on passing the finger up the rectum, and the hard cartilaginous feeling was entirely obliterated. I saw this patient about 12 months afterwards, and he informed me that he continued perfectly well.



## CASE II.

I was applied to by a lady about the middle age, who had for the last four years been troubled with considerable difficulty in evacuating her fæces, attended with great pain, and very frequently with a discharge of blood and mucus. Her costiveness was so great as to compel her to have recourse to pugative medicines almost daily. She complained of great pain about the anus, with a constant inclination to void her fæces. Her appetite was bad, and her general health and strength greatly diminished. On examining the rectum, a considerable stricture was discovered an inch from the anus. There were also several fistulous openings in the perineum. I applied the remedy recommended for the cure of strictures of the urethra. After three applications a full-sized bougie passed with tolerable ease; the hardness of the strictured part was greatly lessened, and in a fortnight she voided her fæces without pain. Her bowels were kept open by occasional doses of castor oil. The fistulous openings, which communicated with each other, were laid open; in two months they healed: her general health was much improved, and her stools became regular, without pain and difficulty. She then went



into the country, perfectly well, and free from all her former complaints. The use of a metallic rectum bougie was continued for three months.

### CASE III.

A gentleman called to consult me who had been a considerable time suffering under intense pain in voiding his fæces. They were small and liquid, and as he was affected with a constant inclination to go to stool, he was obliged to take pugnatives of some kind almost daily. He had tried bougies, but could not get any one to pass the strictured part. These attempts occasioned great pain. On examination, I found a stricture about an inch from the anus. To this stricture I applied the remedy before recommended. It took four applications to remove the stricture, and diminish the hardness which the strictured part had acquired. The warm bath, with emollient clysters, were used. A middle-sized metallic bougie was now passed with little or no pain, and his stools were evacuated with much more freedom and copiousness than he had experienced for several months before.

The warm bath and emollient clysters were continued, and in five weeks from his first application to me, a full-sized metallic bougie was



passed with perfect ease. His stools became of the natural size and consistency, and were voided without pain or difficulty. He took some tonic medicines to improve his appetite, and to restore his general health, which had suffered considerably for some years from this horrid complaint. I saw this gentleman about two years afterwards, who assured me that he continued to enjoy perfect health, and was totally free from all his former complaints.

#### CASE IV.

A country gentleman, in an extreme state of mental and bodily distress, applied to me. He had considerable pain in voiding his stools, which were small, liquid, and frequently accompanied with a quantity of blood, and a most disagreeable smelling mucous discharge almost constantly flowing from the anus. His sufferings were so great, that he declared life was a burden to him. He had frequent calls to pass his urine, which he did with pain. The pain generally continued for an hour or more after the evacuation.

On examination of the rectum, a very considerable stricture was discovered, the edges of which was as hard as cartilage. I attempted to pass a bougie, but he suffered so intensely



that I desisted. I prescribed two grains of extract of hyoscyamus, the warm bath, and anodyne emollient clysters. These were persisted in until the irritability of the parts was somewhat abated. The introduction of the bougie was again attempted, and gave much less pain. The next day I determined to apply the remedy. The pain that he felt was slight, and went off in a minute or two, and no disagreeable symptoms of any kind occurred. The application was repeated five or six times before a full-sized rectum bougie could be passed. After being six weeks under my care, he could evacuate his fæces without pain or difficulty. They had nearly acquired their natural consistency and colour; the discharge was greatly diminished, and the smell very far from being as offensive as formerly. The constant inclination and painful sensation, in passing his urine, under which he had laboured, were entirely removed. He continued to pass a full-sized metallic rectum bougie for a month. At the expiration of that period, he was perfectly free from all his complaints, and left me to return to his residence in the country.



*Fatal Case of Stricture of the Rectum, from  
Ruysch.*

Quid grandia molimur tenues et miseri mortales! qui tot lethalibus morbis sumus obnoxii, ut nemo facile illos recensere posset. Nullibi tamen homines magis affligunt quam, circa vias excretioni inservientes; ubi si altiores egerint radices difficillimè possunt eradicari. Quotidie ad vitam sustentandam nobis edendum bibendum, et quod superfluum est, evacuandum.—Si vero viæ, hisce operibus destinatæ malè sint affectæ, mors vitæ sæpius anteponitur ab afflictis.—Amicus quidam flore ætatis, temperamento melancholico, ante triennium in Hyberniam ob negotia peragenda profectus, de mingendi difficultate conqueri cœpit, quæ brevi tantum sumpsit incrementum, ut assiduè ad urinam guttatim egerendam incitaretur, idque tanto cum cruciatu, et continuo conatu, ut preferre non potuerit. Quid fit? Brevi post, alterum non minoris momenti malum, caput quoque exerere capit; nimirum fæces alvinas liberaliter excernendi impotentia, dubio procul ab illis continuis conatibus urinam reddendi, unde intestinum rectum non solum fuit incrassatum, et schirrosum factum, verum etiam in totum ferè coaluit: vix enim, ac ne vix quidem stilum stra-



minis crassitie in universum admittebat unde miser nec urinam nec fæces alvinas excernere potuit, nisi guttatim et quidem continue ichorosa et purulentâ materiâ remixtas, cum assiduïs, tantisque cruciatibus, ut omnes homines ejus præsentiam refugerent. Denique in patriam redux contulit sese Amstelodamum et me aliosque consuluit ast incassum, morbis factis insanabilibus. Hisce malis perpetim incrementa sumentibus, tandem animam Deo reddidit æger, occasionum nobis relinquens malum penitus perscrutandi. Aperto igitur cadavere, in utraque renum pelvi calculum inveni horrendum, et præter hosce in renis dextri medio ad huc aliûm ingentem. Ureteres et vesica bena erant constituta Intestinum rectum in universum ita incrasatum deprehendi, ut pollicis crassitiem ferè superaret, et ita induratum, ut auceps hærerem an carnosum an verò cartilaginosum esset dicendum Cavity quoque dicti intestini, straminis latitudinem haud superabat, et quod notandum, tam firmiter erat connatum ossi sacro, ut cultelli cuspis ad separationem minime sufficeret, sed cuneo ferreo malleoque ligneo eandem peragere coactus fuero; imo, mirum dictu! cum summo labore ea disjunxi. Hæc omnia Balsamo nostro præparata a nobis reservantur in dicti ægri memoriam, et historiæ raritatem. Tom. 4. Obser. 95. 4to.



Of the many diseases which afflict us short lived mortals, perhaps none are cured with greater difficulty than those to which the excretory organs are subjected. As in order to support life, we must daily eat, drink, and perform the functions of evacuation, so any obstruction or mal-arrangement in these duties must render death itself an object of desire.

A friend of mine, a young man of melancholic temperament, three years previous to his departure for Ireland, whither some business called him, complained of difficulty in discharging his urine, which in a short time increased to such an alarming degree, that he was urged to incessant attempts, and with very great pain. To this succeeded a complaint of no less malignity. From the inability of discharging the fæces as freely as should have been done, and which originated, no doubt, from continually attempting to empty the bladder, the rectum not only thickened, and became scirrhus to a great degree, but united so far, that a probe of the diameter of a straw could scarcely be introduced. In the mean time, the patient passed his urine by drops, which were continually mixed with an ichorous and purulent matter, and accompanied with the most excruciating pain.

On his return to Amsterdam, he consulted



me along with several other of the faculty; but to very little purpose, as the disease had assumed an incurable form.

The appearances of this case, upon dissection, were a large calculus in each kidney, and also another in the centre of the right kidney. The ureters and bladder had a healthy appearance. The rectum had become an inch almost in thickness, and so hard that I was doubtful whether it was of a fleshy or cartilaginous consistence. The cavity of this intestine was not more extended than that of a straw, and what is principally to be remarked, it was so firmly attached to the sacrum, that the scapel was insufficient for their separation, and which was at length effected by means of an iron wedge and wooden mallet.



ON THE

**PROPER TREATMENT OF GLEET.**

---

ON this head I shall be brief, for though gleans are sometimes the consequence of gonorrhœa, they for the most part result from a relaxed or debilitated state of the constitution. In those cases where gleet proceeds from the latter cause, I have always recommended the balsams, turpentine, and cantharides. General strengtheners must also be used, such as the cold bath, the sea bath, the bark and steel, astringent gums, &c. &c.

When gleans proceed from the common cause, or from some disorder in the urethra, a bougie, of a size somewhat less than the common, must be applied, which will be impeded if there be a stricture in the urethra; but if it pass without obstruction, the disease may reasonably be concluded to lie in the prostate gland; to ascertain which, I always, in such cases, make it a point to examine. If the gleet from its symptoms,



appears to be the consequence of gonorrhœa, then I recommend astringents, bark, white vitriol, alum, and certain preparations of lead. The Aq. vitriolica cœrula, diluted with a proportional quantity of water, I have found successful as an injection.

I have hitherto principally considered gleet as a distinct affection, but it is of importance to consider it relatively to those affections with which it is found combined, or on which it may depend. There are certain inherent connexions, and mutual dependences on one another, which are maintained in all the organs and parts of the living body; when one part is disordered, another also evinces signs of disorder.

The laws of this connexion and dependence are still among the secrets of nature. But we find terms for what we do not understand, and this fact is expressed by the word sympathy. According to this inexplicable sympathy then, the organs of urine and generation participate readily in the affections of one another; and they extend their influence to other organs, particularly the stomach, which seems very much disposed to sympathize with them. The morbid secretion of the mucous membrane, seems, on many occasions, to extend all the way from the pelves of the kidneys to the termination of the urethra. There is a sense of weakness and often



pain, in the region of the kidneys, extending along the course of the ureters; gritty particles are discharged along with the urine, which often contains a great quantity of gelatinous substance. GLEET is combined with almost every morbid affection of these parts; with that state in which calculi are formed, with spasmodic or other atonic affections of the kidneys, bladder, and urethra, with thickening of the coats of these organs, and their canals, with enlargement and induration of the prostate gland; with induration, swelling, and even wasting of the testicles; not unfrequently with hydrocele, and the various herniæ, with strictures and obstructions of every kind of the urethra, or the other urinary passages, with paralysis, affecting partially, and sometimes totally, one or other of these organs.

But when the gleet is principally owing to atony of the urethra, I have found the most beneficial effects from a combination of steel and lyttæ, with the occasional use of mild injections.

I shall illustrate the success of this system of treatment, by the selection of a few cases from a great number, wherein it has perfected a cure, when almost every other method had failed.



## CASE I.

A person aged forty-eight, consulted me respecting an uncommonly severe gleet, yet entertaining no hopes of my being successful. He had taken the opinion of so many professional men of eminence, without gaining more than a trifling and temporary relief, that he totally despaired of a cure. On further inquiry, I found he had been afflicted with a discharge from the urethra for nearly twenty years, which as he apprehended, was occasioned by a pernicious habit contracted when a boy at school, and afterwards aggravated by repeated claps.—Such was the atony of the organs of generation, that besides the gleety discharge, emissions of semen succeeded the most trifling erections; a little straining at stool had a similar effect, and his strength and spirits were much depressed. Though married the sexual intercourse was beyond his power. To add to his misfortune, he suffered severe head-aches, and a deficiency of appetite,—a violent pain frequently assailed the small of his back, and a troublesome incontinence of urine afflicted him, both day and night; in short, general emaciation and debility threatened his speedy dissolution. All the ordinary



means had been resorted to in vain ; therefore, to repeat any of them appeared to me to useless. I prescribed a bottle of my Tonic Drops. A full dose of these drops was ordered to be taken twice a day, for two or three days. No sensible effect resulted from them. The drops were continued in larger doses than before, and repeated three times a day ; and he went on taking them for a week longer, yet they had no effect upon the urinary organs ; I then desired him to take the drops four times a day, and rather increase than diminish the dose.—He continued his medicines for ten days ; on the eleventh, inflammatory symptoms began to appear for the first time ; I therefore desired him to suspend the drops for one or two days. When the urinary organs were sensibly affected by the operation of the drops, the gleety discharge decreased in quantity, and was of a thicker consistence. He then complained of chordee, attended with surprising erections ; but these, he said, were not followed by those emissions, which used to debilitate him and depress his spirits ; nor did he suffer that sudden impotence which he had always experienced in such a state previous to his taking the drops. He continued the drops, according to the dose he commenced with, for six weeks, with the addition of a mild astringent injection, and at the expiration of this time his cure



was completed. He was a traveller to an eminent house in the city, and had to make a journey that would occupy him a month or six weeks. After this period had elapsed, he returned home to his wife and family, in a state of restored health, to the common happiness of them all.

Gleets have sometimes disappeared spontaneously, though, when neglected, they have generally baffled all the means employed to remove them.—In some instances they have been unexpectedly removed by the promotion of inflammatory action of the parts, also by the introduction of irritating substances into the urethra, a bruise, a fresh gonorrhœa, the appearance of a chancre on the glans penis, &c. &c. “I knew” says Mr. John Hunter, “a gentleman who threw into the urethra, for a gleet of two years standing, Goulard’s extract of lead, undiluted, which produced a most violent inflammation; but when this inflammation went off, the gleet was cured.” But this I consider a very dangerous experiment.

## CASE II.

A gentleman applied to me on account of a gleet of long standing, and of great inveteracy. His complaint only annoyed him by its filthiness,



—the medicines he had taken were ineffectual, and vastly more disagreeable than the disease itself. He contented himself by frequently washing the parts, in the hope that the disease would leave him in course of time.

I represented to him the great probability of my performing his cure, and he said he would give to my remedies a fair trial.—I ordered him a bottle of my Tonic Drops. He continued the use of the drops for ten or twelve days without any sensible amendment. He then took a larger dose of drops three times a day instead of twice. In three days afterwards he informed me that he was attacked in the night with pain, and a constant inclination to pass his urine; that in consequence, he had applied a bladder of warm water to the pubes, which had greatly relieved him. The drops were discontinued for three days, when all symptoms of inflammation having subsided, he resumed the use of them in a lesser dose; to which was added a mild astringent injection six or eight times a day. In the course of a month the gleety discharge entirely stopped. I saw him two years afterwards, when he said, he had been without any return of his complaint.



## CASE III.

A young man applied to me for the cure of a gleet, who complained of a great weakness in the back and loins, and considerable debility of the whole of the generative organs. I prescribed a bottle of Tonic Drops. After he had taken the first bottle of drops, the discharge gradually disappeared, and the pains in his back and loins were greatly alleviated. He continued the drops, with an astringent injection, and persisted in them for three weeks longer, when the discharge entirely ceased. Bathing finished the cure. The generative organs had been reinstated to their former tone and vigour.—I saw this gentleman a twelvemonth afterwards, and he continued perfectly well both of his gleet and debility.



## SEMINAL WEAKNESS.

THIS is another complaint somewhat similar in its effects with the last mentioned, and for removing which we have frequent applications; neglected, it may degenerate into a species of gleet, or what is called seminal weakness. Its symptoms are, repeated erections in the night, and very copious discharges of semen by the excitement of dreams, though the individual is not addicted to any blameable practices. To this form of disease, spare diet, cold bathing, frequent ablution of the parts in cold water, sleeping in a cool chamber, the bed not too soft, and occupations that will arrest the attention, &c. are to be recommended.

I apprehend that a pathological distinction might be made between seminal weakness, or, more properly, a morbid flow of semen, and gleet; though the former is almost always combined with the latter. It is certain, that what we now know to be mucus discharged from the



urethra, was anciently thought to be real semen, and some are inclined to believe that a flow of this last substance, very seldom, if ever, amounts to a disease.

Arguing by analogy, from other secretions, we would suppose that there might often be a morbidly abundant secretion of semen, or even a deterioration of the qualities of that liquor, and if we examine into facts, we find that many persons, unaccustomed to amorous indulgence, are frequently visited in their sleep by obscene meretricious allusions, which acting on the physical system, occasion these nocturnal emissions.



## GLEETS, FROM SELF-POLLUTION.

---

ONE of the most obstinate forms of gleet is that which has arisen from self-abuse; for the individual being conscious of moral turpitude, at the same time allured by the deceitful charms of this most detestable gratification, perseveres in his bad practices, and conceals long the malady which gradually exhausts his frame, and destroys the faculties of mind and body; till at length the interference of relations and friends, who are alarmed at the progress of emaciation and decay, and his own intolerable weakness and dread of death, induce him to apply for medical advice.

When we are consulted by a person who has been gradually becoming feeble and meagre, though his appetite is good, or even sometimes voracious; in short, without any evident cause: who tells us that the organs of generation are enfeebled; that the slightest titillation excites erection, soon succeeded by seminal



emissions and depression of spirits; that erections are frequent, and emissions very distressing during the night; that there is a continual discharge of thin, clear, slimy liquid from the urethra; that there is great weakness in the loins and joints; who denies ever having been affected with gonorrhœa, or any venereal disease; complains of no particular affections of the organs of generation, and whose stream of urine is undiminished; we need scarcely inquire further; we know the complaint, and its cause, the latter of which it is our duty to deprecate and prohibit, while we endeavour by all possible means to restore the health, and correct the habits of the deluded masturbator.

This is but a faint representation, compared to what is often observed in this complaint; we may add the feeble and intermittent pulse, easily accelerated by the least exercise, or even change of posture, feverishness, and all the symptoms of irregular hectic. Complete and incurable atrophy often closes the horrid scene. Not unfrequently, is this disease the combined effect of self-pollution and venereal affections.

Fortunate is he who possesses the resolution of saving these powers. In this he possesses not only the secret of giving to his own life more duration and energy, but also, when the proper



period arrives of communicating life to other beings, the satisfactions of completely enjoying wedded love, and of seeing his powers and health doubled in a happy offspring; while on the other hand, the enervated rake, besides shortening his own life, is exposed to the bitter affliction of beholding his indiscretions always reproduced in his weak, puny, and miserable children. Such is the abundant reward that awaits those who have resolution enough to abandon in time this pernicious practice. I am acquainted with few virtues that are rewarded, even here on earth, in so rich and so distinguished a manner. Besides, it has still this advantage, that while it prepares the way for a happy married state, it contributes, in a considerable degree, to support and prolong not only their own lives, but also that of a beautiful and healthy offspring.

I shall mention a motive which, with people of good hearts, must have a very powerful effect. Let a man think of his future spouse, and the duty to which she is entitled: if one is already acquainted with her, so much the better; but even without knowing her, the idea of that person to whom we intend some day to give our hand, from whom we expect fidelity, virtue, and the closest attachment, must be a strong induce-



ment to continence and purity. If we wish to be completely happy, we must, even if she be still ideal, have a respect for her by anticipation, be true and faithful to her, and render ourselves worthy of her. How can a man who has plunged into every dissipation, and thereby destroyed his constitution, ever expect a virtuous and respectable partner? How can he love with a pure and honest heart, if he has not from his earliest years accustomed himself to such refined and exalted sensations, but degraded them to a brutal enjoyment?

One rule of great importance I must not here omit: guard, with the utmost care, against the first transgression of this kind. No habit is attended with such certain consequences as this. He who has never proceeded to the indulgence in this solitary vice, has the great shield for his virtue, manliness, and strength. A certain internal sense of the impropriety, which forms the character of modesty, will make him start back with horror from so unmanly an act. But by one false step, all these are irrecoverably lost. Besides, the first enjoyment often excites an appetite for more, as every sense by culture is brought to perfection. In this respect, not only physical but moral chastity is something real, a sacred benefit which both



sexes ought carefully to preserve. But it is equally certain, that one deviation is sufficient to rob us of it physically as well as morally; and he who has once erred, will certainly err often—in short, return to this excellent position:

Multa tulit, fecitque puer, snavit et alsit,  
Abstinuit venere et vine.

From what has been just observed, it will not be wondered at that excessive seminal evacuations bring on every species of debility and disease to which the human frame is liable; among others, that species of decline, so frequent in young persons, which is called **TABES DORSALIS**. “This,” Hippocrates says, “is a disease of the spinal marrow, and is principally incidental to young persons of a salacious habit, and to those newly married.”—It is, however, the too frequent consequence of the indulgence in the secret solitary practice of self-abuse—and there is no class of sufferers more deserving of compassion than those who are, generally speaking, the victims of this habit; having mostly imbibed the poison in very early youth, whilst reason was too weak to combat against the allurements it unfortunately presents. Indeed, to



the ignorance attendant on early age, it is natural a carelessness of consequences should be attached, which leaves the practice at full liberty to establish its empire over the senses ; so that when the period does arrive in which reflection should operate, forbearance has become difficult, and the constitution can only be repaired by the most judicious treatment. I am aware it is the too general practice to treat those sufferers from their own folly, with neglect and contempt, as considering them unworthy of relief or commiseration. Whatever may be the sentiments of other practitioners on this subject, let it be my pleasing task to administer the balm of consolation to this deluded and wretched class of the community ; and flattering myself with the absolute certainty of having discovered a remedy for all complaints originating from this species of excess, I feel it my indispensable duty to offer it to their acceptance, together with my advice, that they will rigidly abstain from the repetition of their pernicious habits, with which, and a punctual compliance with the rules I prescribe, they may depend on receiving a perfect cure.— I again repeat, the first thing he must do, is to refrain from his private vices. In other respects, the medical practitioner's advice must, no doubt, be dictated by the state of his patient ;



but no disease has been more misunderstood, nor worse treated, in general, than this.

Medical men, influenced in their conduct by the notion that the venereal appetite arises from a vigorous, and, as it were, an inflammatory state of the system, and that whatever excites or promotes its activity aggravates these desires, enjoin abstinence from animal food, from ardent spirits, from every thing, in short, which they suppose can heat the body, or excite the circulating powers. This reasoning is very just, when applied to individuals in the flower of health and vigour of youth, but is very erroneous when applied to those bodies which are exhausted, enfeebled, and ill-nourished. It is here a disease of habit and depraved mind, not excited by repletion and superabundant vigour.

The almost exhausted powers are to be invigorated; debility to be obviated; the body to be nourished; the mind to be rendered cheerful. Are these objects to be accomplished by abstinence from every thing which contains the principles of activity, or of supply for the animal machine? It is impossible that such practice could ever be successful; therefore it is, that the triumph of empiricism over regular practice has never been so great as in this complaint: the empirical medicines contain active substances, which



patients find useful to them, when the other means have failed, or are even hurtful.

I venture to affirm, that the means which are most beneficial in such cases, are nourishing diet, moderate exercise (increased according to the return of the patient's strength,) opium, musk, assafoetida, camphor occasionally, to procure sleep, alleviate spasmodic symptoms, and calm the apprehensions of the mind, together with such means as shall be best suited to keep the bowels regular, and restore soundness and vigour to the organs of urine and generation. The habit of self-pollution induces such a state of the organs of generation, that the least exertion, titillation of the parts, or even the operations of the mind, cause a copious seminal discharge, and the same may be said of the excess of venery, however pure the connexion. The mucous discharge is constant, and independent of erection; the seminal discharge succeeds slight erections, during and after which the sensations resemble those of coition, and certainly does exist when there is as yet no gleet or morbidly abundant mucous discharge, though, in course of time, the gleety discharge is superadded. Indeed, there seems to be sufficient ground to say, that self-pollution and excessive venery, induce a morbid flow of semen before



the mucous gleet discharge ; but that in gleet, the consequence of gonorrhœa, or of similar inflammatory affections, the discharge of depraved mucous has the priority ; the former depending on the debilitated seminal vessels, the latter on the diseased mucous membrane of the urethra. But whether these affections are separate or combined, they must be treated by the same means, suited to the degree of debility ; and in all these cases I have, during a practice of upwards of thirty years, almost exclusively directed to diseases of the generative organs, found the Tonic drops, a mild, safe, and efficacious remedy. In most of the cases of gleet and debility, which I have treated by my tonic remedies, many practitioners of the first respectability and talents had previously failed.

This circumstance is mentioned with no view to depreciate their merits, but to shew how valuable an addition my remedies must be to the means with which we were previously acquainted, since they effect complete cures, where gentlemen of learning and science, and thoroughly instructed in general theory and practice, have completely failed.

These remedies excite a certain degree of activity in the previously debilitated system, and maintain that degree of action, during which



debilitated organs are enabled to perform their natural functions, to return to their sound state, and to restore the patient to that greatest of all human blessings, a strong, manly, and vigorous constitution.

FINIS.

---

## DOCTOR COURTENAY'S NEW WORK.

---

*THE Author of the present publication has this day published a Comprehensive, Historical, and Practical Treatise on SYPHILIS; illustrating the subject by a great variety of interesting Cases; with important Remarks on the evils resulting from attempts at SELF-CURE; the miseries occasioned by a secret VICE, so long and so unhappily pursued by the Youth of both sexes; and the general NATURE and TREATMENT of Local and Constitutional DEBILITY.*

*Principiis obsta: sero medicina paratur.*

---

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. AND J. ALLMAN;

AND MAY BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

---

Norman, Printer, 29, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.



debilitated organs are enabled to perform their  
 natural functions, to return to their sound state,  
 and to restore the patient to that greatest of all  
 human blessings, a strong, manly, and vigorous  
 constitution.

## DOCTOR COURTENAY'S NEW WORK.

THE Author of the present publication has this day published  
 a Comprehensive, Historical, and Practical Treatise on  
 Syphilis: illustrating the subject by a great variety of in-  
 teresting Cases; with numerous Remarks on the evils attending  
 their treatment in early years; the manner recommended by a  
 secret Virtue, as being that so happily pursued by the Youth of  
 Gallia; and the general Nature and Treatment of local  
 and Constitutional Diseases.

Price 1s. 6d. per volume: two medicinal preparations.

LONDON:  
 PRINTED FOR T. AND J. ALLMAN,  
 AND MAY BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

Newman, Printer, 29, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.