

MEMORANDA:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

A CASE OF ACUTE ENTERIC INTUSSUSCEPTION WITH APPARENT REDUCTION BY IRRIGATION: ABDOMINAL SECTION, AND FATAL RESULT.

THE following case is of some interest in relation to the question whether cases of acute intussusception should be operated upon as soon as a definite diagnosis is established, or whether irrigation or inflation of the bowel should first be tried.

In the ileo-caecal, ileo-colic, and colic varieties, irrigation is undoubtedly successful in reducing the intussusception in a large number of cases. In the enteric variety, however, which, according to Leichtenstern, forms 30 per cent. of all cases, it cannot possibly be of any use, and may, as in this case, cause delay in resorting to abdominal section.

The question arises, whether the passage of a quantity of faecal material, some time after the injection, in addition to the disappearance of the tumour, is not a definite sign of reduction of the intussusception, at least in cases where for some hours nothing but mucus and blood has been passed.

A boy of 3 years of age was seen one evening, complaining of acute paroxysmal pains in the abdomen, which had come on suddenly about six hours before. The attacks of pain, sharp and cutting in character, recurred at intervals of about fifteen minutes, and lasted for one or two minutes. The bowels had moved twice, a slight tinge of blood appearing the second time. The child had also vomited once since the onset of pain, the vomited matter consisting mainly of raw rhubarb, of which he had eaten freely some hours before. Temperature and pulse were normal, and the abdomen showed no swelling, hardness, nor tenderness.

Next morning the child was again seen, and now he appeared rather prostrated, dull, and apathetic. He lay on his back with knees drawn up, and complained of occasional sharp attacks of abdominal pain.

Tenesmus was now present, with the passage, in small quantities, of both mucus and blood; and, vomiting occurred immediately after every attempt to take food. The temperature was 100°, and pulse about 100 per minute. Examination of the abdomen now showed some slight general swelling and tympanites, with a quite definite elongated swelling, not at all sausage-shaped, about 2 in. long and 1 in. broad, lying obliquely downwards and inwards in the left iliac region, and dull on percussion. Rectal examination, contrary to what was expected, showed nothing abnormal.

The diagnosis of acute intussusception was then made, and treatment at once instituted, by means of an injection of warm water, without any anaesthetic. The child was placed on his right side, with hips raised high on a pillow, and, by means of a Higginson's syringe, over a pint of warm water was gradually injected into the bowel.

On examining the abdomen then no tumour could be detected, so the syringe was removed, and the water gradually escaped, accompanied by a small quantity of blood-stained mucus. Examination of the abdomen again, with the child on his back, did not reveal any tumour.

The patient was seen early next day, and was found still in a collapsed state. Tenesmus was still present, with the passage of blood-stained mucus, but no faecal material had been passed. Vomiting had taken place several times, and there was only a very occasional twinge of pain in the abdomen. Temperature was 99°, and pulse about 100. The abdomen was now found distended and tympanitic, and the tumour was again present in the left iliac region, as before; hard and dull on percussion, but not tender.

Dr. Murray, of Coatbridge, on being called in consultation, confirmed the diagnosis, and the child was thereupon chloroformed. Dr. Murray made a digital examination of the rectum, also without any result, and then a large enema of warm water was injected into the bowel. The tumour was then found to have disappeared completely, and after all the water had escaped, the child being still under chloroform, no tumour could be felt anywhere.

Three hours afterwards, however, the tumour was felt again, in the same place, and no faecal material had been passed.

The child was then removed to hospital, where Dr. Renn'e, of Coatbridge, prepared for abdominal section; but before opening the abdomen, and while the child was under chloroform, he injected an enema, and found that the tumour completely disappeared. However, in a few moments it was felt higher up, in the left side, and it gradually moved downwards, lying again in the left iliac region.

The abdomen was then opened, and distended coils of bowel at once protruded. Some coils of small bowel were found, however, in the cavity, quite collapsed, and these were rapidly traced upwards to the junction between them and the distended coils, where an invagination of the small bowel was found, about 2 in. or so in length. This was easily reduced, without much manipulation, and the bowel which had been invaginated was found fairly healthy; it was only slightly congested, and no trace of any adhesions between the peritoneal layers was seen. The distended bowel gave some trouble before it was finally replaced and the abdominal wound closed.

The patient recovered well from the operation, and passed a large distinctly faecal motion; but thirty-six hours after operation he became collapsed and died.

Glasgow.

WILLIAM TEMPLETON, M.B.

IODINE AND TYPHOID FEVER.

DR. PEREZ'S memorandum in the JOURNAL of July 20th reminds me of former experiences in the younger days of practice, when a case of typhoid fever came under my care. A North Country general practitioner of great shrewdness advised me to try iodine and carbolic acid. I did so in all cases that came under my care subsequently, and with invariable success. The directions were to put 1 minim of pure carbolic acid and 2 minims of tincture of iodine into a tumbler of water, and to let the patient drink as much as he wished during the day or night. I can testify that the results were uniformly good: the tongue cleaned, the temperature fell, diarrhoea ceased, and there was a rapid general improvement, with a gratifying absence of complications that I have witnessed under no other method of treatment, such as cold sponging, quinine, and other antipyretic measures or the ordinary expectant plan. The use of carbolic acid and iodine is not mentioned in the majority of textbooks. Osler in his *Practice of Medicine* (1901) says good results have been claimed for the iodine and carbolic acid treatment, but, personally, he cannot testify to its inefficiency. It would be of much interest to have the point investigated in a prolonged series of cases, say at one of the large metropolitan fever hospitals, or by a collective committee.

London, W.

DAVID WALSH.

REPORTS

ON

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN THE HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.

SARCOMA OF FEMUR WITH LARGE HAEMORRHAGIC EFFUSION.

(By G. L. WEBB, M.B., B.C. Cantab., House-Physician, late House-Surgeon.)

THE patient in this case was a man, aged 62, admitted into the hospital under Mr. L. A. Bidwell, with swelling of the right thigh and leg.

History.—He had suffered pain in this part for about three months previously, and had latterly been obliged to take to his bed on this account, but had noticed no increase in the size of the limb until fourteen days before admission. The right thigh then began to swell rapidly, with extension into the leg and foot, and the pain became more severe.

State on Examination.—The thigh, along its whole extent, was seen to be nearly twice its normal size, the skin tense and shiny, and fluctuation could be obtained all over the upper part; there was no pulsation of the swelling, it was slightly tender, and the skin over the trochanter was very inflamed. The leg and foot were swollen and oedematous. Movements at the hip-joint were not impaired, and an x-ray photograph showed

Churchman, he was for many years an office-bearer in Renfield United Free Church under the Rev. Dr. Marcus Dods and his successors. In all the work of the congregation he bore a prominent part for more than a generation, and as convener of the Mission Committee for many years he found a congenial sphere for his unwearied activity in the mission carried on in the district. He took a warm interest in everything connected with the Highland counties, and he was at different times President of the Kintyre Club, of the Ross and Cromarty Society, and of the Northern Highland Benevolent Society.

Dr. Pirie was in full sympathy with modern methods and achievements in general science as well as in medicine and surgery. He was an excellent classical scholar, and had a complete mastery of the Gaelic language. He had a fine literary taste, was a voracious reader, fond of poetry and history, broad and tolerant in his theological views. His memory was good, and to the very end of his life his interest was keen in all literary, political, and social questions. He was an enthusiastic yachtsman, spending a yearly holiday cruising about his beloved Western highlands and islands. Dr. Pirie was married to Jane Harvey, daughter of Dr. Robert Harvey, a well-known surgeon in Campbeltown, by whom he was predeceased. He is survived by four sons and a daughter. The remains were interred in Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbeltown.

We regret to record the death of Dr. MARK A. BRENNAN, which sad event took place on June 30th at his residence, Charlestown, co. Mayo. He qualified as L.R.C.P. and S.I. in 1881, took the F.R.C.S.I. in 1900, and practised for a few years in Kensington; returning then to Ireland, he was elected medical officer of the Lowpark district in Stornford Union, co. Mayo, which post he held till his death. As honorary secretary of the Mayo Branch of the Irish Medical Association he worked zealously to increase the membership and widen the influence of that Association in the western counties of Ireland. He also took a lively interest in the British Medical Association, and was remarkable for his almost regular attendance at its annual meetings. He was present at the meeting in Montreal in 1897, and it was a source of great regret to him that his state of health prevented his presence last year at the Toronto meeting. During the past few years his health has been failing from hepatic and pancreatic trouble, for which he underwent some serious operations, but nevertheless he stood to his post of duty till the last. Genial, kindly, and upright in all relations of life, and loyal to every professional interest, his death will be regretted by his professional brethren as well as by a wide circle of private friends.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The following are the results of the examination held at the end of the twenty-fourth session, May-July, 1907:

*Captain F. H. G. Hutchinson, I.M.S., M.B., C.M. Edin., 1892, D.P.H. Camb., 1907; *Captain W. S. Willmore, I.M.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1895; *Captain J. N. Walker, I.M.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1897; *A. W. Balch, Surgeon, U.S. Navy, Ph.G. Mass., 1894, M.D. Harvard, 1898; *C. A. Godson, I.M.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1904; *F. Grenier (Colonial Service), M.B., C.M. Edin., 1891; T. R. Beale Browne (Colonial Service), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1901; J. C. C. Ford (Colonial Service), L.R.C.P. and S., L.F.P. and S. Glasg., 1900; G. Wilkinson, M.B., B.C. Camb., L.S.A., 1892; E. Weatherhead (Colonial Service), M.B. Camb., 1903, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1903; F. C. Hepburn (Colonial Service), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 1904, B.A. Camb.; K. McMurtrie, M.B., Ch.B. Edin., 1906.

* With distinction.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

First Professional Examination.—The following candidates have passed in Physics:

W. J. Adie, F. C. K. Austin, Ahmed Aziz, W. R. Bayne, D. Bell, A. B. T. C. Britton, N. H. Bronnum, D. L. Brown, J. F. Chalmers, N. N. Chatterjee, A. E. Christie, F. A. E. Crew, Susanna H. Good, J. V. L. Grant, J. G. A. Groenewald, S. M. Hancock, J. F. C. Haslam, T. Hayhurst, J. G. Hill, D. Kerr, N. L. Lochrane, J. McCaig, I. Macfarlane, W. H. McGranahan, A. M. Mackay, Jessie A. MacLaren, F. De S. McMenamin, Hamed Mahmud, J. W. Mathews, A. B. Mitchell, A. E. Moore, H. Morris, B.A., J. T. Morrison, J. D. Paterson, F. Radcliffe, M. R. G. Richardson, J. Scott, E. Sharpe, A. W. S. Sichel, S. D. Stewart, S. W. H. Stuart, J. R. K. Sutton, M. Teitelmann, H. F. R. Tillstone, P. G. Tuohy, G. H. W. de Vos, H. W. Webb, H. W. Weir, J. B. Wilkie.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

SUMMER GRADUATION.

The Summer Graduation ceremony took place in the Mitchell Hall, on Thursday, July 25th. Most of the undergraduates being on holiday there were few students present, and the ceremony was not nearly so picturesque as usual. Principal Lang presided, and Professor Baillie presented the graduates in arts, Professor Trail those in science, and Professor Finlay those in medicine. Professor Lang then delivered the usual address to the graduates, reviewing the present situation in the University, and making particular reference to the operation of the Carnegie Trust. He also referred in fitting terms to the resignation of Professor Kennedy of the Law chair and to the appointment of Mr. J. M. Irvine as his successor.

The following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—W. C. Anderson, B.Sc., *R. Brown, *J. Clark, †F. W. Ellis, M. B. Johnson, †P. Macdonald, M.A., W. M. Smith.
Ch.M.—A. Mitchell, M.A.
M.B., Ch.B.—†W. Dilling, †D. Horn, B.A., †G. H. C. Lumsden, †J. M. McQueen, M.A., B.Sc., †A. M. K. Niven, E. E. Allaway, J. W. Archibald, T. Clapperton, J. Ferries, W. I. Gordon, M.A., A. Horn, J. E. Kesson, B. Knowles, J. Leask, Margaret C. Macdonald, D. B. McGrigor, W. I. Mackintosh, J. M. Mathieson, J. A. Milne, B. Mitchell, J. Mitchell, J. Murray, A. E. C. Myers, P. Nicol, A. Shepherd, †A. Stewart, W. L. Stewart, J. M. E. Wilson, M.A.

* Honours for Thesis. † Commendation for Thesis.

‡ Second Class Honours. § Passed Final Examination with Distinction.

The John Murray Medal and Scholarship for the most distinguished Graduate (M.B.) of 1907 was awarded to Mr. D. Horn, B.A., Queensland.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following candidates have completed the First Professional Examination for the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B.:

J. R. Ainslie, A. G. Baxter, C. C. Chance, *J. Davidson, J. Fettes, C. S. Glass, J. Hunter, G. Leggat, A. Macintosh, J. M. Mitchell, J. R. Murray, H. J. Roe, P. Reid, A. Smith.

The following have passed the first part of the First Professional Examination:

J. Chalmers, H. T. Finlayson, W. E. Glover, W. Henderson, W. P. Hogg, W. W. Ingram, A. F. Legge, S. W. Lund, G. M. McGilivray, L. J. Moir, E. A. Pearson, C. M. Stephen.

The following have passed the Second Professional Examination:

D. W. Bruce, D. Craig, W. J. Cruickshank, A. H. Duckett, N. Dunn, J. Elder, A. M. Geddes, G. C. Evant, H. Hargreaves, J. MacPherson, R. J. Merson, A. D. Reid, F. W. Stuart, J. E. Thompson.

The following candidates have passed the first part of the Second Professional Examination:

R. W. Eddie, A. Mitchell.

The following have passed the Third Professional Examination:

R. W. Chalmers, J. G. Christie, J. B. Cruickshank, W. Y. Davidson, D. S. Garder, J. B. Macallan, A. Maccone, J. G. Muterer, J. J. A. Neil, G. E. Shand, A. J. Shinnie, A. C. L. Smith, A. J. W. Stephen, *R. Tindall, **J. Watt, J. H. Will.

A. G. Troup, M.B., Ch.B., has passed the examination for the Diploma in Public Health.

* With distinction. ** With much distinction.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES

MEDICAL OFFICERS' FEES FOR LECTURES TO NURSES NOW DISCONTINUED.

VOLUNTEER writes: I was appointed medical officer of a workhouse a year ago, and was then asked if I would agree to give two lectures a week to probationary nurses. The Board has now done away with probationers, and has appointed assistant nurses. This means a loss to me of £13 a year, which was subject to a deduction for superannuation. Am I entitled to compensation if no further lectures are given? * We are not aware of any rule or regulation which would enable our correspondent to claim compensation for loss of fees for lectures. Nevertheless we consider he is entitled to a return of all his payments towards the superannuation fund which have been deducted from fees paid to him for this special duty.

The late Miss Elizabeth Wells, of Midhurst, Surrey, bequeathed £200 each to the South Staffordshire Hospital, Wolverhampton, and Guy's Hospital.

UNDER the will of the late Mrs. Martha Miller, of Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, Earlswood Asylum for Idiots receives a legacy of £1,000, a similar sum being left to Chichester Infirmary.