

combination exists, the potassa fusa is doubly useful, as its application at once destroys the polypi, and sets up a new and healthy action in the affected and morbid tissues of the cervix. I have described, elsewhere, its great value and mode of application in inflammatory induration of the cervix,¹ and the power we have of immediately arresting and limiting its action by the neutralizing effects of acetic acid. I need only add here, that I have now repeatedly found this caustic of the greatest possible use in obstinate and complicated cases of vesicular polypi of the cervix, such as I have above alluded to. In illustration of its effects, I shall cite only one instance, and that because it was a case which was peculiar in several respects.

"CASE. On the 1st October last, I was called to see a lady who had been losing large quantities of blood for three weeks previously, despite of all the means which had been tried for its suppression. The patient's strength had become greatly exhausted. She was between forty and fifty years of age; was the mother of a family, and for some years past had suffered under occasional menorrhagia. Three years ago, a uterine polypus had been detected at Brussels, and afterwards removed in London, apparently with some difficulty, as the first physician, who attempted it, failed. Her present attack of hæmorrhage was much more long-continued and severe, than those that had occurred previously. Before being able to make a tactile examination of the uterus, I had to remove several large clots of blood lying in the vagina. I found the anterior lip of the os uteri very much enlarged, indurated, and roughened on the surface. By the speculum we saw this lip greatly enlarged, and dotted over with small pediculated red-coloured polypi like red currants; and the use of the mop showed them to be the source of the flooding. About a dozen of these small red polypi were within the field of the speculum, but others could be felt on the internal aspect of the enlarged lip. As it seemed hopeless to attempt to detach them all one after another by the forceps, and as doing so would not remove the suspiciously indurated and enlarged anterior lip of the cervix, I at once had recourse to the application of potassa fusa to the diseased lip itself, and melted it down, with the polypi attached, by decomposing upon it a couple of sticks of potassa, of above an inch in length each, and followed this immediately by the free and abundant injection of vinegar to neutralize the alkali. Subsequently, under the use of astringent injections and medicated pessaries, the surface took on a healthy cicatrisation, and her health greatly improved under the kind and able care of Dr. Anderson (of Jedburgh). I saw the patient in Edinburgh two months afterwards, on her way home to London. There were no remains of the induration or polypi. The uterus felt natural in size, and the surface of the cervix was entirely cicatrised. There has been no recurrence of the menorrhagia. The menses have been present once, but not in unnatural quantity."

OBITUARY.

BURNS, Dr., F.R.S., the eminent and much respected Regius Professor of Surgery in the University of Glasgow, aged 74, drowned on board the steamer *Orion*, on 18th June, in her passage from Liverpool to Glasgow. This ill-fated vessel struck the rocks close to land, on a clear morning, and went down in a few minutes. The loss of life was very great; but probably all might have been saved, had there been a proper provision of boats or life preservers.

CROSSE, John Green, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., Senior-Surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Provincial Association, at Norwich, on 9th June. Dr. Crosse, acquired a well-earned reputation, not only in the provinces, but in London, by his numerous and valuable contributions to the advancement of science, published principally in the *Transactions* of the Provincial Association. His chief work was the "*Essay on Urinary Diseases*", for which he obtained, from the Royal College of Surgeons, their Jacksonian prize in 1833. Dr. Crosse was a member of several distinguished societies, both at home and abroad, and an M.D. of St. Andrews.

¹ Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science for 1847-8, p. 71.