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From the Medical and Surgical Journal.

**NEW TREATMENT OF BLENNORRAGIA IN FEMALES.** By Ph. Ricord, Surgeon of the Venereal Hospital.—The means employed by this gentleman to relieve this frequently troublesome complaint, is nitrate of silver, as a local application. Injections, composed of ten grains of this substance to the ounce of water, have been employed by him in the vagina, without producing any pain. This application was sometimes assisted by introducing a plug of lint, soaked in the same liquid, which was left in the vagina, with directions to be taken away when any pain should be felt. Some would retain it only two or three hours, when a little warmth would be felt; others would keep it 24 hours. In all the patients thus treated with injections and the tampon, when examined with the speculum on the following day, there was found a slight cauterization of the vaginal mucous membrane, which was covered with a blackish or brown pellicle. This pellicle, being detached in shreds the following day, left the membrane beneath, pale, and without any appearance of inflammation or ulceration. One application in this way was frequently found to be sufficient; but sometimes the discharge would recur in a short time, when it would be necessary to renew it, after an interval of five or six days. Some cases would derive no benefit from it.

Encouraged by his success in vaginal blennorrhagia, the writer tried the same in uterine injections. The application was made by a double syringe, invented by the author, and produced a little heat in the hypogastric region, some nervous movements, and were followed in three cases with complete success. With the first, a single injection brought on a menstrual flux eight days sooner than ordinary, which lasted fifteen days; and with it, the uterine purulent catarrh disappeared. Two other cases were cured, though rather more slowly.

Some uncertainty as to the mode of medication, the fear of some accident happening to the uterus, rendered him circumspect, and he sought another process. The plan now used is the following: The patient, situated for the application of the speculum, and this instrument being introduced so as to expose the neck of the uterus, a pencil of nitrate of silver, fastened upon a long handle, is introduced, and the mucous membrane whitened with it. The speculum being gradually withdrawn, the exposed part of the vagina is superficially cauterized in all its extent. This being done, the discharge which escapes must be wiped dry; otherwise, being mixed with nitrate, it would run upon the vulva, and produce much pain. The next day, frequent applications should be made of a lotion of acetate of lead, one ounce to two pounds of water; and these injections should be continued four or five days. If, on examination, pellicles are still found, resulting from the cauterization, the parts only which do not present them. Two, three, four, five, cauterizations are often necessary, at four, or five, or six days' interval. This medication has been used in the chronic state of vaginal blennorrhagia, with and without alteration of tissue; and in the acute stage, either at the commencement, or after some duration. It has been observed, that the nitrate has never augmented the inflammatory symptoms. This application, made to the uterine cavity, has often been observed to be an excellent emmenagogue, and might advantageously be employed as such.

**OF MASTURBATION AND ITS SERIOUS RESULTS.**—A most remarkable case of this horrible affection is reported as having occurred in the Hospital des Enfants. It was a boy, named Alphonse Vidrou, 14 years old, admitted for the third time. His forehead and cheeks were deeply wrinkled, his eyes sunken and surrounded with a livid circle, his head entirely bald, and had the air and appearance of a septuagenarian. After having been in the house two months and a half, he was in the following condition: The wrists were paralyzed, fingers in a state of semiflexion, incapable of extension; he was incapable of holding any

thing in his hand. The lower limbs in a state of permanent rigidity. Progression impossible, the patient immovable in his bed, and unable to nourish himself. Stercoraceous and urinary excretions involuntary. Pains in the region of vertebral column. Besides these symptoms, which were permanent, he was affected at intervals more or less frequent, with various others, especially pain and rigidity in various muscles, especially of the arms, neck and abdomen. The skin preserved its normal temperature, and the pulse was not too frequent. The intellectual and sensorial functions were sound. The digestive organs presented no appreciable disorder, and the appetite was good. This condition was considerably ameliorated by the treatment pursued. Venesection, and cupping along the spine, at first, produced no relief. Recourse was had to the tartar emetic ointment on the back, and the application of four cauteries in the same region. Valerian and oxide of zinc, in the dose of ten grains at first, were given, and the quantity of these substances was gradually increased to half a drachm. Frictions upon the limbs, with a calming liniment, and a substantial alimentation, were added. Progression became possible. This boy had, originally, a strong constitution; he began masturbating at 11 years, and persisted in it two years without experiencing any other disorder than a gradual diminution of strength and a repugnance to work. At 13, he had intercourse every night, for a month, with a girl of 16. From this time, he began to have spasmodic movements in his limbs, which occurred at irregular intervals. His strength and *enbonpoint* left him, and walking became difficult; when he was admitted to the Hospital, and cured in three months. He returned in six months, in consequence of new excesses; but he obtained this time only a little ease. This third time was worse still. The case needs no commentary.—*ib.*

**Of uterine phlebitis.**—Inflammation of the veins of the uterus seems to constitute the greater part of those cases of *metritis*, which supervene after labor, it was observed at almost the same time by Chaussier, Schwilgue, Ribes, Husson, Clark, and Wilson, but has been studied particularly, and described by Dance.

**Causes.**—Uterine phlebitis is never observed except after labor; sometimes it supervenes without any known cause, but it most generally follows cases of difficult labor, premature exercise, the prolonged continuance of clots, of the remains of the placenta, or of the membranes of the ovum, in the cavity of the uterus. It is easy to imagine how all these causes act. After confinement, several large veins of the uterus remain in some measure open on its inner surface, and if it be necessary to introduce the hand into this organ, either to remove clots, or to deliver the placenta, if the orifices of these veins have remained in contact with the blood, or with the putrid remains of the placenta, if pressure be made on the uterus, still painful from the effect of premature exercise, we can imagine that inflammation may attack these vessels, as sometimes happens when the arm is exercised too soon after bleeding, and often, also, after incisions made with instruments impregnated with putrid matter.

**Symptoms, progress, and termination.**—It is generally difficult to distinguish uterine phlebitis from ordinary metritis, at the commencement of the disease; in most cases this plegmasia cannot be recognized, until the symptoms caused by the absorption of pus appear; in fact, before this period, as the parenchyma of the uterus generally participates in inflammation of the veins, it is almost impossible to account for it. The following, however, according to Dance, are the local phenomena to be referred rather to uterine phlebitis: the globe which the uterus forms naturally after labor, instead of diminishing in volume each day, as it ought to, remains large, and sometimes seems to become larger and larger; in some cases it extends several inches above the upper edge of the pubis; by pressing on the hypogastric region, we cause a pain which is much more severe than that commonly observed in the uterus, during the days subsequent to parturition; a purulent, thick, blueish or sanious matter, which is generally fetid, often escapes from the vulva; the neck of the uterus is hot, tumefied, open, and tender; finally, as in ordinary metritis, the urine scalds, and is excreted with difficulty. But no one of these symptoms is constant; thus, when only a small number of veins are inflamed, the uterus often returns to its natural size; not unfrequently, the pain on pressure is little or none; the nature of the lochia is frequently unchanged, and they are only diminished in quantity, or suppressed, &c. When suppuration commences within the inflamed veins, and the pus is carried into the circulation, the general symptoms mentioned, when treating of phlebitis, supervene. We will repeat, that the principal of these symptoms are transient chills, a great alteration in the countenance, prostration, delirium, a frequent and very com-

pressible pulse, and sometimes considerable and sudden difficulty of respiration, sometimes jaundice, &c.

Uterine phlebitis is generally a severe disease; and more serious than ordinary metritis. Probably, however, if it is perceived at an early period, it may be arrested by energetic treatment. Its severity depends, however, upon its extent. When confined to the uterus, it is of course more tractable than when it extends to the veins of the ovaries.

**Anatomical characters.**—Enlargement of the uterus, thickening and softening of its parietes, which are of a brownish or blackish color; the veins which ramify in the organ, are filled with a more or less consistent pus, in case the pus is absorbed, there are purulent engorgements in the lungs, with inflammation of the pleurae, sometimes abscesses in the spleen, liver, or brain; inflammation and softening of the mucous membrane of the digestive passages; suppurations around and on the inside of the articulations.

**Treatment.**—The treatment of uterine phlebitis is similar to that of acute metritis; it consists in general bleedings, leeches to the hypogastric and vulva, cataplasms, enemata and emollient fomentations, diluted drinks, some narcotics, and diet. General bleeding is preferable to leeching. This treatment should be employed strictly, and with energy, at the commencement of the disease, for it is important to arrest it promptly, to prevent suppuration in the parietes of the veins, and the absorption of the pus. When this cannot be prevented, and the purulent infection commences, great advantage may be derived from general bleeding, as experiments on animals have demonstrated that this was the best mode of terminating the symptoms produced by introducing putrid matters into the circulation. Prostration and weakness of the pulse ought not to prevent it; the effects caused by the presence of pus in the blood, and from the contact of the disordered blood with the principal organs, the brain and the heart, are diminished in animals which have been subjected to experiment, and analogy leads us to think that the same will be true of man. Finally, the good effect of bleeding will be aided by the use of antiseptics internally, if the state of the digestive passages will admit of it.

Uterine phlebitis is so severe an affection, that we should always attempt to prevent it. Hence, when the uterus, after parturition, continues large, and its sensibility appears to increase, we must immediately cover the hypogastric with emollient cataplasms, and confine the patient to a strict diet. If clots, or portions of the placenta remain in the cavity of the uterus, it might be useful to introduce emollient injections into this organ. Finally, when these foreign bodies putrefy in the womb, some drops of the chloride of soda may be added, with advantage, to the injections, provided the sensibility of the organ is not increased.—*ib.*

**Echymosis of the Labia Pudendi.**—Feb. 13th, 1835. Mrs. C., aged 32, eniente with her first child; professional services called for about 9 o'clock, A. M. Labor pains sluggish; ordered enema Ol ricini 2 oz. sol saponii 8 oz. At 3 o'clock, P. M. affairs had remained in statu quo. The enema had produced the desired effect; gave acet. Morphia, and hoped some rest for the patient. I was not again summoned to her assistance until the afternoon of the succeeding day, when labor had assumed a more positive character. The dilation of the os tincæ, about one inch in diameter, but the edges rigid, and descending quite low in the vagina; pains regular at the intervals of 10 or 12 minutes. In about half an hour hastily summoned to her bed-side; she reported "something to have suddenly given way." On examination, I discovered a tumor enveloping the whole left labia, and partly the right, nearly the size of a child's head. The patient exhibited symptoms of prostration, and labor pains subsided. Could this be hernia? A peculiar crepitus, lobulated feel, its increasing magnitude, and subsequent discoloration, assured me that it contained blood. I now found the head low, and the os tincæ sufficiently dilated for delivery; at the same time the tumor so much encroaching upon the vulva, as almost to occlude the os externum. Averse to the use of a knife in such a case, as an unpleasant cicatrix would be the consequence, I desired the tumor to disgorge its own contents. To answer this indication, I administered a dose of ergot, and introduced one finger into the rectum, in order to keep the head well up, allowing it to rest upon it as an inclined plane. I then pressed firmly with a napkin directly against the tumor; with the first expulsive effort the tumor burst, and discharged about 16 oz. or 18 oz. of dark venous blood, and one or two more pains terminated the labor in a most happy manner. The rupture took place at several distinct points within the verge of the labia, which gave it a reticulated appearance. I applied a tampon wet with warm brandy, to the parts, and no unpleasant occurrence or inconvenience succeeded. I believe ecchymosis of the labia, in labor, is a rare occurrence, and not sufficiently noticed by obstetricians. It is truly formidable and perplexing to young practitioners; I believe it is mostly owing to a continual pressure upon the vaginal veins, more particularly, perhaps, upon the internal pudic; the patient having, as I afterwards learned, continued upon her left side for several hours; and further, to a neglect in the timely use of the lancet. I witnessed a case since, in which the vaginal veins were much distended by a protracted labor, and appeared like morbid tubercles. These at first produced some confusion, supposing them to be a local disease, filling up the vagina. A copious bleeding, however, soon dissipated them, and brought about a timely accouchement.—*ib.*

**Civil War in Portugal.**—The Boston papers state, on information direct from Captain, Gilden, of the ship Constitution, at that port, that civil war was raging in Portugal when his vessel left St. Ubes, and skirmishing daily took place between different portions of the military, which had resulted in bloodshed and loss of life. A great portion of the populace, and the military, were dissatisfied with the constitution and administration of the government, and were determined to bring about an alteration for the better by force. To this end, General Saldenba (one of the oldest Generals in the Portuguese service) was marched with a large force upon Lisbon—not however to depose the Queen, as all parties were in her favor. In consequence of this state of affairs, Martial Law had been proclaimed throughout the country. The Queen was near her accouchement.

Life is short; and how many trivial circumstances occur daily to remind us of its truth! The pilgrim who has wandered far from his native village, on returning to its little burial place, finds many a stone and many an inscription to chain him in wonder and silence. So short a period, and yet how many lights of friendship have gone out! He wanders among the shadows of the ancient elms which shade his home, but he is a stranger. That silver-headed old man, who was the 'uncle' of the village, has laid aside his staff, and has gone to sleep for ever. Every one knew him, and his lips were eloquent with many a tale. A playmate that was his, had married and died—one here and another there. We trace them to the grave, and nought breaks the silence of that holy spot, saving the tinkling of the brook or the sighing of some passing zephyr. The grave! That home of the great, and final couch for earth's kings! What a glorious company the living have in view, when they are called away from their idols above! The patriarchs of old, Jacob and Joseph, and the Pharaohs of Egypt—Solomon, whose golden temple mocked the glory of the morning sun—the Thebans—Emperors of Rome and Greece, with thousands of the illustrious of more modern days. The grave is indeed rich with departed greatness. Where is Scott, the immortal Scott? He sleeps with his brother in fame, Shakespeare. Where is our own Washington? He sleeps with Cincinnatus and Alfred, three names as legible as the stars in heaven. The grave has them all, and never will such dust dissolve again in its hallowed precincts.

**GOVERNMENT.**—Which is the most perfect popular Government?—"That," said Blass, "where the laws have no superior." "That," said Thales, "where the inhabitants are neither too rich nor too poor." "That," said Anacharis, the Scythian, "where virtue is honored and vice detested." "That," said Pittacus, "whose dignities are always conferred upon the virtuous, and never upon the base." "That," said Cleobolus, "where the citizens fear blame more than punishment." "That," said Chilo, "where the laws are more regarded than the orators." "But that," said Solon, "where an injury done to the meanest subject is an insult upon the whole constitution."—*Apologues of the Ancients.*

**DISHONEST DEALING.**  
When mankind universally governed by just principles, the remark of the poet,  
"Surely the pleasure is a great  
In being cheated as to cheat,"  
would be literally true; for then an individual would much rather be defrauded himself, than be guilty of defrauding his neighbor. But unfortunately this is not the case. There are some individuals in almost every community who rarely forego an opportunity for taking any advantage which the ignorance or credulity of those who may have dealing with them affords. They would shrink from the thought of downright theft, and yet we must believe, that He who searcheth the hearts of men, regards with the same abhorrence the attempts to overreach a neighbor in the daily transactions of public life, as the deeds of the midnight plunderer. Nay, the consequences in the former case are far more to be deprecated—especially when the dupe

**THE CINCINNATI PAPERS** announce the arrival there, on their way to Washington, of a deputation of *Sac and Fox* Indians, about twenty in number.—The celebrated *Black Hawk*, with his son, is among them.

**THE** would-be regicide Meunier, according to the *New Orleans Bee*, has gone to St. Louis, Missouri. He told the editor of the *Bee* that he owed Louis Philippe a grudge because the Bourbons had executed one of his relatives, and that there was a society in France who had vowed to take the King's life. Meunier is now in a part of the world where he can be lynched or bowled in no time if he desires, and if he doesn't look out sharp, "the poison'd chalice" may come back to his own lips.  
*N. Y. Star.*

**Western Enterprise.**—A new steamboat called the "Illinois" was launched at Detroit on the 23d instant of 755 tons burthen. She is said to be the largest and most splendid boat ever built upon the western waters.

**Virginia Gold.**—The Fredericksburg Arena mentions having seen, last week, twelve bars of gold, weighing 1800 dwts, and of the value of about \$1900—the product of the last month's operations, with a very moderate force, at Cripple mine. The hard money era being at hand, the Arena expresses great joy to find that Virginia continues to supply considerable quantities of bullion.

**A** village is like that subterranean cave, called the ear of Dionysius; nothing passes in it or near it but it is instantly known.

**Strange.**—A few days ago a stranger accosted a negro man in the woods, about seven miles from this town, and inquired the distance from St. Augustine. The negro replied that he knew no place of that name, but that Baton Rouge was at a short distance. He was then asked the distance to the nearest physician and farmer. The negro pointed out the road to Mr. James Nelson's where the stranger subsequently arrived. His denuded appearance and gentlemanly manners attracted the notice of Mr. Nelson, who with kindness and humanity bestowed on him every attention that his situation required. From his conversation it was ascertained that he is an officer in the U. S. Army, named Lieut. C. B. Chalmers, of the first regiment artillery, lately stationed at St. Augustine, Florida. He states that the last recollection he has is of taking a ride, which he was in the habit of doing every morning, in the neighborhood of St. Augustine. It is surmised that he was thrown from his horse, which caused a concussion of the brain, producing insanity, and that in this state he crossed the peninsula of Florida, and wandered thus far.

He states that when he found himself in the woods and met the negro, it appeared to him that he was waking from a disagreeable dream. He has some faint recollection of being on a rail-road [this is supposed to be the Pontchartrain rail-road;] but cannot account for finding himself here. It is really wonderful how he should have escaped the tribes of hostile Indians in Florida, and sustained the privations of every kind which he must have encountered during his erratic wanderings until he reached this place. It will be gratifying to his friends and relatives to know that the officers at this post the moment they learned the circumstance, had him removed to the garrison, where medical attendance and every possible care has been extended towards him.—*Baton Rouge Gaz.*

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**The amount of the gold coinage at the mint from January 1 to September 1, was \$853,825.**  
The amount of specie imported from Oct. 1, 1836, to September 19, 1837, was \$10,288,976. Exports \$6,166,882.

**P. D. Warner,** of New York, has recovered \$500 and costs, in the United States Circuit Court held at Hartford, Conn. against James Goodwin, Jr. of Hartford, as compensation for injuries sustained in being overturned, last winter, in a stage coach belonging to the defendant.

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