

not to despair of producing the desired effect, however tedious the improvement may be, for even where cures cannot be effected, very satisfactory relief may be given.

As regards the other case, that of W. F., I have to give an equally good account. He has continued to progress most favourably, having passed the summer in an exceedingly improved state of health, and has been able to take excursions to Richmond, Hampton Court, &c.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours respectfully,

9, Langham Place, London,
Nov. 12, 1845.

S. HARE.

CASES IN THE HOSPITAL PRACTICE OF T. M. GREENHOW, ESQ., SENIOR SURGEON TO THE NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE INFIRMARY.

(Reported by Mr. C. J. GIBB, House Pupil.)

THE EFFICACY OF THE TREATMENT OF ULCERS BY LOTIONS.

CASE I.

William Snowdon, aged 44, carpenter, a stout healthy man, admitted April 24th, 1845, with a large callous ulcer covering the stump, that followed the natural amputation of all the toes with the metatarsal bones of the right foot; the injury that caused nature to throw them off by sloughing was the fall of a heavy piece of timber on his foot fifteen months ago; the ulcer has never been healed, its edge is hard and greatly elevated, and its surface is indolent and unhealthy; has no constitutional complaint.

To have a purge; to keep as much as possible in bed; and the ulcer to be dressed every morning with lint, dipped in a lotion containing half a drachm of sulphate of copper to six ounces of water, with oil-silk and bandage over it.

May 6th. Surface of ulcer covered by healthy granulations, and its horny edge greatly softened and removed; complains of flatulence.

To continue and have some infusion of gentian, carbonate of soda, and rhubarb twice a day.

17th. Ulcer much smaller and surrounded by a thin, blue, healthy margin; flatulence relieved.

June 1st. Cicatrization going on favourably.

12th. Lotion has been applied too freely to the ulcer, its granulations are corroded and covered by a cupreous deposit.

To discontinue lotion; ulcer to be dressed twice a day with lint dipped in cold water, and to have a purge.

30th. Ulcer healthy again, about one fourth of its former size, and promises to heal favourably.

July 20th. Continues to do well.

August 15th. Ulcer healthy and extremely small; health good.

22nd. Ulcer almost well; complains much of palpitation, with vertigo; pulse 100 and jerking.

To be bled to sixteen ounces, and have a calomel purge, with low diet.

24th. Easier; bowels freely moved.

To take five grains each of blue pill and rhubarb every night, and to be bled again.

28th. Sent out quite well.

Here, as in other cases, where nature throws off a part of an extremity the remaining ulcer is especially difficult to heal when it occurs in the lower limb, this man having been under surgeons and in a hospital with very little benefit. When he was admitted many doubts were entertained whether a cure could be effected, and the favourable issue adds another to the many examples of the great superiority of this mode over the ordinary lardaceous plan of dressing sores the bleeding and purging quickly relieved the embarrassment of the heart and congestion of the head, for they most probably arose from repletion of the vessels consequent upon the cicatrization of the ulcer.

CASE II.

Andrew Allcorn, aged 20, a rather robust-looking countryman, admitted August 14th, 1845, with an extensive phagedenic ulcer of the penis, which covered the greatly swollen glands and prepuce, and commenced six weeks ago; sleeps ill and endures much pain; no other ailment. Had a chancre six months ago which soon healed, and since that has had sore-throat; has been pytalized three or four times.

To have ten grains each of Dover's powder and rhubarb every night, with castor oil to-morrow morning, and a poultice to ulcer to-night.

15th. To keep a lotion containing a drachm each of liquor plumbi and laudanum to a pint of camphor mixture constantly to penis.

20th. Easier and sleeps better; ulcer continues to spread.

To go on with the powders and take a pint of the decoction of sarsaparilla with fifteen grains of iodide of potassium, in the day; also to use with lint and oil-silk to the penis a lotion of two ounces of the solution of chloride of lime to six of water, and omit the other.

September 1st. Ulcer healthy and considerably smaller; sleeps well and is stronger.

To persist diligently.

15th. Ulcer continues to heal rapidly.

27th. Doing exceedingly well; ulcer about the size of sixpence and very healthy.

To use the sulphate of copper lotion, and continue the medicines.

October 1st. Sore appears stationary; health quite recovered. To resume the chloride of lime lotion.

12th. Sent out cured.

The appearance and extent of this ulcer were very unpropitious; the previous baffled attempts at cure very evidently indicated that the mercurial course was not the mode of treatment to be pursued, and the iodide of potassium, being almost invariably found to suit most admirably this formidable species of syphilitic ulceration, was prescribed, with the local application of the chloride of lime lotion. The surprising rapid change must be mainly attributed to the lotion, for it seemed to be peculiarly fitted to the case, as the others that were used did not check the advancing strides of the disease, or accelerate the cure when once commenced.

CASE III.

Jane Riddell, aged 15, a tall, thin, and cadaverous-looking girl, admitted September 11th, 1845, with a very large foul ulcer, covering the front of the left ankle and dorsum of the foot, and exposing, in a carious

condition, some of the bones of the tarsus; the ankle joint is almost immovable, and partially dislocated; the heel being held three or four inches off the ground by the contraction of the tendo achillis, which is much shortened and tense; has lost flesh lately, and sweats very profusely at night, but has no cough; pulse quick. Fell upon her foot and caused the present ulcer seven years ago, since which no treatment has healed it.

To have a poultice on the foot to-night, and take a powder, with two grains of quinine, three of rhubarb, and five each of carbonate of soda and cinnamon powder, thrice a day.

12th. To use the lead lotion with laudanum twice a day to the foot, having over it a piece of oil-silk.

16th. Ulcer healthy now, and general health improving; the tendo achillis was divided this morning by the subcutaneous incision, when she was ordered to have a board at the foot of her bed to flex her foot against frequently.

20th. Ankle is partially ankylosed in its displaced situation, and allows only a small degree of motion; ulcer cicatrizing, and granulations beginning to cover the exposed bones.

To continue.

October 5th. Ulcer healing very favourably.

20th. Bones covered by granulations; they can still, however, be felt bare by the probe; sweats none, and is stronger.

November 1st. Ulcer almost healed, and health nearly regenerated.

To persist.

12th. Sent out cured.

It is singular that such a large and unhealthy ulcer, after having existed for so long a time, with the most palpable disease of two or three of the tarsal bones, should have healed so quickly, and with so little trouble as this did; it was undoubtedly of a scrofulous nature, and the tonic remedies appeared to have been of the greatest use in rearing up the proper tone of the system, and inducing, in conjunction with the local application, a vigorous and healthy action, both in the soft and bony structures.

CASE IV.

Mary Grant, aged 15, a stout well-developed girl, admitted July 23rd, 1845, having a few minutes before been severely burnt about the arms, thighs, and abdomen, by her clothes catching fire. Dressed with turpentine ointment, and ordered an opiate.

27th. Extensive sloughs on thighs, abdomen, and left arm; has been dressed daily with the ointment.

To use chalk ointment instead of the turpentine.

August 6th. Sloughs all separated; constitutional disturbance mostly subsided; has had frequent purges and effervescing drinks.

To be dressed daily with the saturnine lotion, containing laudanum, with oil-silk over it.

20th. Ulcers healthy, and cicatrizing favourably.

To continue.

September 5th. Doing exceedingly well; ulcers healing fast; health good.

20th. Ulcers on abdomen healed, and those on arms and thighs becoming small.

30th. To be made an out-patient, ulcers being nearly healed.

October 20th. Cured.

The extensive and deep ulcers that followed the falling off of the sloughs in this case were treated without the use of the too often employed caustic, or any other means to keep down the so much complained of exuberance of the granulations, and yet they were healed more quickly by the simple lotion, than they generally are by the usual method of plastering them up with ointments and irritating their edges with destructive escharotics; the ready means in some cases to produce those distressing contractions which so often cripple a patient for life. Here, although the sores were in those parts that are frequently found puckered and contracted, the cicatrices were level, smooth, and soft.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1846.

Questions connected with the management of medical charities would seem to be fraught with difficulties of no slight description. The services of the honorary medical officers are, if efficiently performed, of value beyond all estimate to the welfare and prosperity of these institutions, and we can scarcely imagine a case connected with the general management of an Infirmary or Dispensary, in which the assistance of one or more of the medical officers may not be important and even essential to the interests of the institution; yet it would seem, to judge from a regulation in one of our provincial Hospitals to which we shall presently allude, that the value of such assistance is, under certain circumstances, more than counterbalanced by other considerations.

The primary object of all such institutions, it should be remembered, is the affording of the best assistance in the treatment of cases of disease and accident, and while each individual subscriber contributes his guinea, or more, as the case may be, and receives in return certain privileges by which he is empowered to recommend recipients for those advantages which the institution affords, the services of the medical officer, in carrying out the benevolent intentions of the subscriber, must, manifestly, outweigh, even in marketable value, in each individual case, the subscriptions of many contributors to the fund. A governor of an Infirmary or Hospital pays his guinea, and recommends his one or two patients to the institution. The physician or surgeon, if he does his duty, investigates the case fully, pays numerous visits, according to the severity and duration of the disease, prescribes, sees his treatment carried out, consults with his colleagues, performs capital operations, and in short does everything which his skill can suggest, or the nature of the case require.