

interior matter of blood-cells contribute to the elaborating function of the cell, and to the sum of the product which the cell may ultimately deliver up, whether new cells, a fibrillating matter, or a fluid secretion; but that coagulated fibrine, or any of the molecules, particles, or nuclei, inclosed among the fibres, are capable of again becoming elaborating cells, multiplying cellular forms, and giving rise to suppuration "in the widest sense of the word," is a question much too important to be concluded by inferences opposed to general laws. To be adopted it ought to be proved demonstratively. But, let it be granted, or let us assume, that cells of sundry kinds, muscular fibres, and epithelium, do spring from "an unlimited cytogenesis" in coagulable or coagulated fibrin or lymph, and the application of the law and doctrines of morphology to the phenomena of inflammation and scrofulous diseases is not thereby affected; for, if, as occurs in inflammation, the normal elements of an osseous, cartilaginous, or fibrous texture, be permeated by an increased number of blood-currents, and fettered or hindered in their function by an unwonted accumulation of abnormal cells and protoplasm, the metamorphosis is irregular; and if, in the manner granted, these textures become transformed, as they do in scrofulous diseases, into red and vascular textures, copiously excreting the cellular forms, denominated pus, the metamorphosis is retrograde.

The following case will, I think, put the matter in a clear and intelligible point of view, and furnish rational grounds of distinction between inflammation and scrofulous disease.

(To be continued.)

CASE OF TRAUMATIC TETANUS: INHALATION OF ÆTHER.

By DAVID CHALMERS, Esq., Surgeon to the North Dispensary, Liverpool.

On Friday, the 23rd of April, I met Mr. Owen in consultation on a case of tetanus. The patient was a strong, muscular, young man, named — Nolan, aged 20, a brickmaker.

Mr. Owen first saw the case on Saturday, the 17th, and found the patient then-complaining of stiffness of neck and difficulty of swallowing. A few ounces of blood were taken from his arm at his mother's urgent request, and five grains of calomel, to be followed by a black draught in the morning, prescribed.

On Monday, the 19th, he was reported by his mother as nearly well; but on Wednesday, the 21st, Mr. Owen was again sent for at 11 o'clock at night, and found him labouring under all the well-marked symptoms of tetanus. Pulse 110; abdomen very hard. Sixty drops of laudanum were prescribed, and ~~sixty drops more to be given during the night.~~ On Thursday, 8, a.m., Mr. Owen found him better, he had slept well during the night; the spasms were not so severe;

perspiration profuse; limbs rigid; pulse 98. He was ordered forty drops of laudanum. At six, p.m., he was still easier; the perspiration and countenance natural; bowels open; motions dark, and offensive. Fifty drops of laudanum were directed.

Friday 23rd, 11 o'clock, a.m., (the first time I saw him.) Complains of having had a very bad night; severe trismus; difficulty of swallowing; violent spasms of the muscles of the neck, chest, abdomen, and limbs, with constipation and profuse perspirations; head much drawn back; great toes strongly drawn towards the soles of the feet; body very rigid, and spasms occurring about every half minute; pulse 105. He states that about six weeks since, as nearly as he can recollect, in raising some bars of iron, he injured the last phalanx of the middle finger of the right hand. The wound is now all but healed. Nail loose, so that in handling it: it came away in my hand.

R. Calomel., Pil. Opii, utr., gr. j. Fiat pilula omni hora sumenda.

3, p.m. Expresses himself as easier; has had some sleep. We administered the sulphuric æther for three or four minutes at a time, repeating it at short intervals. Under its influence the patient became quiet and tranquil; breathing natural, with diminution both in frequency and strength of spasms, and with a disposition to sleep. Continue the pills.

6, p.m. Has slept ever since, and the spasms nearly as frequent, still they do not entirely rouse him. Perspirations still profuse; æther repeated with the same effect. Continue the pills.

9, p.m. The same. We repeated the æther with the effect of reducing the tension of the muscles generally, those of the chest and abdomen especially. Marked diminution of strength and frequency of spasms; perspiration not so profuse; pulse 104, reduced by the æther to 98, this was probably owing altogether to the relief from the spasms; bowels constipated.

R. Ol. Ricini, et Ol. Terebenth, utr., oz. j., in forma enematis. Pills every second hour.

24th, 9 a.m. A tolerable night; spasms still frequent but not severe; muscles of chest less affected than those of the abdomen or limbs. Repeat the æther. Bowels not moved.

R. Ol. Ricini, oz. j.; Ol. Tiglii, gtt. j. M. Sumat statim.

12.m. Repeated the æther.

3 p.m. Æther repeated, bowels still constipated. R. Extr. Colocynth, Co., gr. iv.; Ol. Tiglii, gtt. j. M. in forma pilulæ; sumat j. quaque secunda hora.

9 p.m. Bowels freely opened after taking three pills; has had during the day much greater hardness and spasm of the abdomen, but is now altogether much relieved. Repeated the æther, and ordered cocoa and milk; hot gin and water freely. Continue the pills every second hour.

25th, 9 a.m. Spasms in abdomen and lower limbs very severe, forcing flatulence from the bowels with great noise; upper half of the body as before. Has eaten a bit of mutton chop. Repeated the æther.

9 p.m. Spasm has been more severe to-day in the abdomen, but not so frequent. Repeated the æther.

26th. Going on favourably, and from this date till the 4th of May, had the æther three times daily, and once daily till the 17th. Pills given every fourth hour. On the 26th æther discontinued. On the 8th of May began to walk, and on the 9th got down stairs. He is now able for work.

Owing to carelessness on the part of the patient's friends, he did not get so many pills as ordered; he had, however, about thirty, and his teeth were not affected.

The foregoing case differs from all other cases that I have met with, in having so many days threatened before it made its real attack. The severity of the spasms, by being less marked on the chest than on the other parts of the body, afforded a better opportunity for the administration of the æther, at the same time that the great congestion of the lungs and head consequent on violent spasms of the chest was in great measure prevented. The marked influence of the æther on the spasms in their worst state, and the still more marked influence on the great rigidity of the muscles in the chronic state, prove it to be an agent of great power in spasmodic action of the muscles. Even three weeks after the invasion of the disease, the legs and thighs were so rigid as to require the exertion of all my power, added to the patient's own exertion, to flex them on the abdomen, but after having had the æther he flexed and extended them himself with facility.

In using the æther at first I was careful not to give it him in its strongest state, owing to its great effect on the already excited muscles of the throat, but afterwards he had it as strong as we could give it him, using hot water to increase the evaporation, and exhausting from one and a half to two ounces of the strongest æther at each administration. The spasms were always allayed by it, increasing during the interval, making him long for our re-visiting him; his only cry was that we did not give him enough of it.

This case, and one reported formerly from the North Dispensary, seem to me to be as convincing proofs of the efficacy of æther as any that have appeared.

The case I allude to was the reduction of a dislocation of the femur into the ischiatic notch, of five weeks' duration, less two days, and the patient, a powerful navigator, forty years of age. Two sets of pullies were applied to him with different fastenings to the thigh; the strain was kept up by one set, but the other set was also kept up so nearly to the same strain, that on the slightest slip of the principal pullies, the second set took their place. The strain was kept for one hour and a half, and during the whole of the time he was under the influence of the æther. It was about six weeks afterwards before he could walk freely.

June 10, Everton, Liverpool.

THREE CASES OF NON-MALIGNANT TUMOUR OF THE UTERUS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE USUAL SYMPTOMS OF CANCER OF THE UTERUS.

By E. J. SHEARMAN, M.D., Rotherham, Member of
the Royal College of Physicians.

(Read before the Sheffield Medical Society, March 4, 1847.)

In the *Dublin Medical Journal* for 1842, Dr. Montgomery says, "the disease of *cancer uteri* is too universally recognized as one of the most frightful scourges of humanity, to render it necessary for me to attempt any description of its horrors, or to impress on even the most junior of my hearers the importance of closely studying the phenomena of an affection, hitherto found so utterly intractable by every known means; and which, when once fully established, entails upon the unhappy sufferer, one unbroken train of miseries, from which it has been truly said, 'temporary relief can be found only in opium, and permanent rest only in the grave.' But I am perfectly convinced, from many years' observation, that something may be done, to stem, at its source, the torrent of agonies that will otherwise overwhelm the patient; nay, I firmly believe it may, in many instances, be altogether turned aside, and the victim be rescued from the sad fate impending over her."

Agreeing perfectly in this opinion, and having during the last twenty years of my practice met with many anomalous cases simulating cancer uteri, which, (until the late improvements in the diagnosis of such cases,) were allowed to run their uninterrupted course, I am induced to lay before the members of this Society the following cases, which have occurred in the last two years, and which I hope are not altogether uninteresting, as they have long been submitted to the tests of *sight, touch, and manual manipulation*,—methods, which until very lately, have not been fully made use of by medical practitioners for ascertaining such diseases.

CASE I.

A single lady, aged 48, consulted me in June, 1845, in order to obtain relief from the pains produced by what her medical attendant called "*cancer of the womb*." She gave me the following history of her disease:—Two years ago she was, and had been all her life, perfectly regular; she was menstruating at the time she received a very sudden and heart-rending shock by the sudden death of a valued friend; the catamenial discharge suddenly stopped, and never re-appeared in a healthy form. From that time to the present she has suffered from occasional sharp pains in the back and loins, traversing along the crest of the ilia and groins, often shooting down the front of the thighs; and this pain was attended with frequent discharges of sanious fluid, mixed with clotted blood, in various quantities. Latterly these pains have taken on a *periodical type* and increased in violence, commencing about seven