touching the ears after soiling his fingers with the virus, by the application of a cloth soiled with the virus, etc. It may be even the case, that the meatus of a child, passing through the gonorrhœal vagina, in the act of parturition, may become infected. In this case, generally speaking, the ear only will be affected. In many instances, the transplanting of the gonorrhœal virus from the vagina or urethra cannot be traced at all, so that the origin of the malady cannot be accurately ascertained. It seems, after all, that for the development of the aural gonorrhœa, a certain disposition towards inflammatory disease of the ear is required."

As far as the prognosis is concerned, it may be called good, when the blenorrhœal inflammation is circumscribed to the meatus auditorius, when it does not arise from metastasis, but by inoculation of the gonorrhœal virus, and when complicated with other diseases: for the skin of the meatus auditorius does not possess enough of the nature of a mucous membrane, for a blenorrhœa in its most vehement form to develop itself. Much more disastrous for the organ of hearing is this disease, when it attacks the middle portion, as in this case, even in the most favourable contingency, no perfect cure nor restitution of the hearing faculty is to be anticipated.

2, Soho Square, January 1852.

ON THE RELATIONS OF UTERINE TO CONSTITUTIONAL DISORDER.

By F. W. MACKENZIE, M.D., Physician to the Paddington Free Dispensary for the Diseases of Women and Children, Fellow of University College, etc.

(Continued from p. 1103 of Volume for 1851.)

THE following cases are brought forward in illustration of the observations which I have made, on the subject of the relations which subsist between uterine and constitutional disorder. In those observations I have endeavoured to show how extensive and important is the influence which is exercised, by various morbid states of the constitution, upon the uterine organs; how these operate, not only in originating, but in maintaining a state of uterine irritation and disorder, which is immediately productive of various uterine symptoms; and how necessary it is to investigate and appreciate fully this influence in the treatment of such diseases.

The subjoined cases will, it is believed, affirm fully the correctness of these views, whether regarded with reference to their history, or the results of treatment. They are submitted to the profession in the hope that, whether they are considered to support the opinions which have been expressed, or to militate against them, they may be useful in elucidating the pathology and clinical history of uterine diseases, and directing attention to the necessity and importance of constitutional treatment, in their general management.

**FIRST GROUP:—CASES OF UTERINE DISEASE MORE ESPECIALLY
ATTENDED BY LEUCORRHOEAL DISCHARGES.**

CASE. Mrs. M—s, aged 27, consulted me on the 7th April, 1848, suffering from severe uterine symptoms, and profuse leucorrhœa. The history of her case was the following. She had been out of health for many years, indeed ever since her marriage, which took place seven years ago. She had throughout this period suffered much from uneasiness in the uterus, pain in the lower part of the back, and in the hips, thighs, and pelvis generally. She had often severe bearing down pains, and a constant and sometimes profuse leucorrhœal discharge. Menstruation had been very irregular during the whole of this period. Before she had experienced any uterine symptoms, her tongue had been habitually yellow and clammy on awaking in the morning; her appetite uncertain and capricious, and she felt a constant craving for food, but was unable to eat any regular meals. The bowels were for the most part confined, and she suffered much from flatulency. From the commencement of these symptoms she had been weak, nervous, and irritable, always awoke unrefreshed of a morning, and was restless and faint at night. She was incapable of doing much, was easily fatigued, and the heart's action and respiration were hurried by the least exertion. Her feet and hands were generally cold and clammy. Prior to the commencement of these symptoms, she had suffered much from mental anxiety and trouble, and these appeared to have been their immediate cause. About eleven months after her marriage she gave birth to a healthy child; eighteen months subsequently to this she had another, but she has not had a living child since. She had, however, been twice prematurely delivered of a still-born child,—the one at seven, the other at eight months of utero-gestation. Subsequently to these, and about six months ago, she had a miscarriage. Her symptoms on consulting me were the following. She was suffering from severe uterine uneasiness almost persistently; she had profuse and constant leucorrhœa and irregular menstruation, which was more scanty than is natural; she complained of severe pelvic pains, extending to the back, hips, and thighs, with a dragging sensation or forcing down of the uterus. Her digestive organs were much disordered, the tongue was coated, and I learnt that it was habitually unpleasant on awaking in the morning. The appetite was bad, the alvine discharges scanty and unhealthy, and the abdomen generally flatulent. She remarked that whatever increased the disorder of her digestive organs always aggravated the uterine symptoms. She was evidently anæmiated, and there was a loud continuous bruit in the neck. The spine was not apparently tender, at least on pressure being made over the dress. The following treatment was recommended. She was directed to take an alterative every second night at bed-time, and the following morning a mild aperient. The citrate of iron was given in full doses thrice daily after each principal meal, the tepid hip-bath to be used every night, and astringent injections. She continued this treatment from the 7th April to the 2nd May, and then reported that she considered herself to be perfectly cured. She had then no uterine pain or leucorrhœa, or any pelvic uneasiness; her general health had been entirely restored; the appetite was good, and the digestive organs healthy. I am enabled to add, that the cure in this case has

been permanent, and that she is now (December 1851) in the possession of the best health, and has entire freedom from all uterine derangement. I may also add, that since the treatment was discontinued, she has given birth to a healthy living child, and that menstruation has subsequently been regular.

CASE. Mrs. C. G—m was seen by me May 10th, 1850, and was then suffering from retention of urine, which had been immediately brought on by a long walk, during which she was unable to relieve her bladder. From the history of the case, it was clear that this was remotely a consequence of long-continued uterine irritation, for which she had consulted many medical men, and submitted to various modes of treatment, but without any benefit. The principal circumstances of her case will be found in the following narrative. She was 27 years of age, and had been married rather more than three years. At the period of her marriage, as well as antecedently, she had not been in good health. She had felt very weak, had been incapable of much exertion, and suffered much from breathlessness and palpitation of the heart. She then, and previously, menstruated irregularly, with much pain and bearing down. Menstruation recurred about every three weeks, and the secretion was scanty and pale. Prior to these symptoms, however, her appetite had been bad, her tongue unpleasant on awaking in the morning, and her digestive organs were generally disordered. Five months after her marriage, she began to suffer from increased irregularity, and for about a period of five months she had an almost constant sanguineous discharge from the uterus. The tongue was throughout unpleasant and clammy, and the stomach and digestive organs much deranged; there was also great debility, and much nervous prostration. Under these circumstances she consulted a neighbouring practitioner, by whom she was attended for a period of five months; but in the end she was in no respect better. His treatment appeared to have consisted mainly in the employment of styptic medicines, and other measures, for the purpose of checking the uterine hæmorrhage. Nothing was done for the constitutional disorder, and the treatment was altogether unsuccessful. Subsequently to this she placed herself under the care of a physician, who, after making a vaginal examination, told her that she had ulcerative disease of the womb, and on his recommendation she submitted to a course of cauterisation of the cervix uteri, with other treatment. From this, also, she received no benefit, and the metrorrhagia continued as profusely as ever. Soon after the cauterisation was commenced, she was seized with sharp cutting pains in the region of the bladder, and retention of urine came on, which from time to time had recurred ever since. On one occasion it continued for several days, and the use of the catheter was daily required. From such a history, it was impossible to doubt that the symptom for which I was consulted was mainly spasmodic; and I therefore declined to use the catheter, although requested by her to do so. I advised her to have recourse to a warm hip-bath, and to take ten drops of the muriated tincture of iron every half hour, until she was enabled to relieve her bladder, which she accomplished in about two hours. I was subsequently consulted on the subject of her uterine complaint, which may be thus described. She was suffering from various uneasy uterine sensations, leucorrhœa, and irregular

menstruation. She had a furred tongue, and her digestive organs were very much disordered. She was weak and very much anæmiated; and these forms of constitutional disorder had preceded and attended the uterine derangement throughout its whole course. There was then evidently with the uterine affection a disordered state of the stomach and digestive organs, and an impoverished condition of the blood; and the history showed that these were not simply the consequences or the concomitants of the uterine malady, but its antecedents, if not its positive causes. It was, moreover, hopeless to expect healthy action in an organ having such extensive sympathies as the uterus, whilst these forms of constitutional disorder continued. Acting upon these considerations, the treatment recommended was almost entirely constitutional. An alterative was given at bed-time every second night, until the disordered state of the tongue and digestive organs was corrected. The bowels were regulated by mild aperients, the diet was carefully attended to, and a full dose of the citrate of iron was ordered thrice daily. She was advised to take regular exercise, and to use the tepid hip-bath every night at bed-time. Upon this simple treatment her health rapidly improved; and the uterine symptoms concurrently disappeared, without any specific or local treatment whatever. The menorrhagia ceased as well as the leucorrhœa. She has had no return of retention of urine, or of any uterine uneasiness or disorder during a period of eighteen months, and has gained flesh, strength, and blood. She has moreover enjoyed better health than she has had for many years past.

CASE. Mrs. Sarah W—s, aged 45, applied at the Paddington Free Dispensary, July 2, 1850. She was suffering from severe pain in the uterus and back, had frequent bearing-down pains, and general uneasiness in the pelvis, together with a profuse leucorrhœal discharge. The uterus was examined, but neither the cervix nor the os uteri appeared to be diseased. Her general health, however, was bad. She was weak, nervous, and anæmiated; her tongue was habitually unpleasant in the morning, her bowels confined, and her appetite impaired. It appeared that she had been suffering from uterine symptoms for many years, during which time she had had a great deal of anxiety, and her general health had been throughout much disturbed. She was married at seventeen, and shortly afterwards had a very severe labour, since which she had never been free from some kind of uterine uneasiness. She had consulted a variety of medical men, but without receiving much benefit. About five years ago she placed herself under the care of a physician, who told her that she had "ulcers on the neck of the womb"; and that her ill health, as well as uterine symptoms, depended upon these. On his recommendation, she submitted to a course of cauterisation; and, for about three months, she had the nitrate of silver applied to the cervix nearly every week. At the end of this time, her health was not materially improved, and she remained under the care of the same physician for nearly two years longer. She was still, at the end of this period, by no means cured of her complaints, and she had ever since continued to suffer from uterine uneasiness and very indifferent health. The leucorrhœal discharge was not in the least lessened by the treatment adopted. She said that she had felt the effect of the cauterisation ever since, and that she had

rather declined than otherwise in health. Finding that her digestive organs were in a very disordered state, that the blood was very much impoverished, and that these circumstances evidently kept up a very irritable state of the nervous system generally, with which the uterine organs seemed especially to participate, I recommended treatment of a constitutional character alone, which had especial reference to the state of the digestive organs, the blood, and the nervous system generally. She was ordered to take an alterative every second night, with an occasional aperient in the morning, until the tongue became clean; and the ammonio-citrate of iron, in rather large doses, during the day, in combination with bismuth and the sesquicarbonate of ammonia. No local treatment was recommended, beyond the occasional use of a weak alum injection. Upon this plan her general health improved, and, concurrently with this, the uterine symptoms passed away. On the 16th October, I made the following entry respecting her case:—She states that she has no pain in the uterus to speak of, no leucorrhœal discharge, and only a slight occasional pain in the back; that her appetite is better than she ever remembers it to have been; and that she is as well as she can possibly expect to be, considering that she has a good deal of anxiety.

CASE. Mary S—e, aged 40, married, applied, October 1st, at the Paddington Free Dispensary, suffering from profuse leucorrhœa, pain in the lower part of the back, uneasiness in the groins and hips, much pain and tension of the left iliac region, and constipated bowels. These symptoms began about eighteen months ago, and she attributed them to catching cold. The first bad effects she suffered from this, were much disorder of the stomach and bowels, a bad tongue, and an unpleasant taste in the morning. These symptoms were followed by nervous irritability and disturbance; and, subsequently, the uterine symptoms declared themselves. Shortly after their accession, she placed herself under the care of a medical gentleman, and was attended by him for rather more than four months; but, at the end of this time, she was not materially better. The leucorrhœal discharge continued profusely, and she was given to understand by him, that this could not be altogether removed. He had carefully examined the state of the uterus, and had applied nitrate of silver twice a week to the cervix for about a month. She continued, however, to suffer more or less from uterine symptoms, as well as general ill health, up to the end of the following September, when she began to suffer, in addition, from severe pain and tension in the left iliac region. On the 1st October, she came under my care. She was then suffering generally from disorder of the stomach and alimentary canal, but the descending colon appeared to be especially at fault. There was extreme pain in the left iliac region, and a very tense and flatulent condition of this part of the intestine. There was also much pelvic uneasiness, whilst, from the constipated state of the bowels, it appeared to be almost certain that the colon was loaded with feculent matter. The patient was weak and anæmiated; there was marked spinal irritation about the lumbar region; and she was suffering from profuse leucorrhœal discharge, and bearing down of the uterus. On making a digital examination, the cervix appeared to be somewhat more voluminous, and the os uteri more open, than in health; and, on introducing the speculum,

the mucous membrane was found to be slightly congested and dark-coloured, around the os uteri. I touched this portion lightly with the nitrate of silver, and ordered her treatment which was calculated to remedy, conjointly, the state of the blood, the spinal irritation, and the disordered state of the digestive organs and the colon. She was directed to rub the lumbar portion of the spine, as well as the left flank, night and morning, with ten drops of croton oil, until pustulation should be produced; to take an alterative every second night, and a mixture containing the citrate of iron, with bismuth, rhubarb, and ammonia, three times a day. She continued this treatment from the 1st to the 27th October, rather more than three weeks; and during that period, the congested portion of the mucous membrane of the cervix was twice touched with the nitrate of silver, and she occasionally used a weak alum injection. She had on the 28th Oct. no leucorrhœa; no pain either in the uterus, side, or back; the tongue was clean; her appetite was good, and her bowels regular; she had no tenderness over the spine, and considered herself to be perfectly cured.

CASE. Sarah C—n, aged 25, applied, August 1st, at the Paddington Free Dispensary. She was suffering from profuse leucorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, and general weakness and ill health. These symptoms had come on about twelve months before: she attributed them to over-fatigue and want of rest,—the result of her having had to nurse an invalid lady, who required her services nearly all night for several nights together. The consequence of this, was, that her appetite failed, the tongue became very much furred, and the digestive organs, generally, very unhealthy. Subsequently, leucorrhœa came on, and afterwards, dysmenorrhœa. From that time she became nervous, hysterical, and weak. About five months ago she married, and since then had been getting much worse. The leucorrhœa had increased, as well as the dysmenorrhœa; there was marked tenderness over the lower part of the spine, and she was evidently weak, dyspeptic, and anæmic. She was ordered to rub the spine, night and morning, with the tartar emetic ointment, until pustulation took place; to take an alterative at bedtime, occasionally, when the tongue was unpleasant on awaking; and a tonic mixture during the day,—containing the sulphates of iron and quinine. Upon this plan she was perfectly cured; by the 30th she had lost the leucorrhœa, and had menstruated without pain. The treatment of the latter symptom will be hereafter noticed.

CASE. H. T—r, aged 25 (single), applied to me, April 20th, for advice, suffering from extreme weakness, loss of appetite, and general ill health. She had much leucorrhœa, pains in the womb, small of the back, hips, and thighs. She menstruated regularly, but with much pain; her tongue was habitually unpleasant in the morning; her bowels were confined, and the urine was scanty and thick; she was anæmiated, and had a loud venous murmur in the neck. She had been ill three years, and for the greater part of this time had been under medical treatment; but had not, she said, received any benefit from it. She was ordered to take an aloetic pill, occasionally, before dinner, and the citrate of iron after meals. A week after this, not being any better, the leucorrhœa continuing to be profuse, and the lower part of the spine very tender upon pressure, the citrate of iron was omitted, and the muriated tincture was given instead, together with

the dilute muriatic acid and the liq. hyd. bichlor. She was also directed to rub the tender part of the spine night and morning with the tartar emetic ointment. She continued this treatment for a fortnight; and at the end of this time was, in every respect, better; her tongue was clean, her appetite good, her bowels regular; and she had no leucorrhœa or uterine uneasiness. From this time she was directed to take only the citrate of iron, after meals. On the 26th May, rather more than a month from the date of her first consulting me, she reported herself perfectly well in every respect. Nearly three years have elapsed since this patient came under my care, and I am told that she has ever since enjoyed uninterrupted good health, and that the cure has been permanent.

CASE. Mary I—ll, aged 24, applied at the Paddington Free Dispensary, February 25, 1851, suffering from pain in the left breast, with much uneasiness in the uterus, and bearing down. At times, this uneasiness was very considerable; it was generally increased by walking or standing, and relieved, but not entirely removed, by lying down. She had also much pain and uneasiness in the lower part of the back, as well as in the pelvis generally. She had had one child prematurely; the presentation was transverse, and she suffered very much in the birth. Three years had elapsed, and ever since she had had some uterine pain, which was worse sometimes than at others. She had menstruated regularly, but suffered much from leucorrhœa. Her digestive organs were very much disordered; her tongue was furred; and the stomach was extremely irritable. She was also weak and anæmiated. She was directed to take an alterative every second night at bedtime, to regulate the bowels by the mildest aperients, and to take ten grains of the citrate of iron three times a-day, with ten of bismuth, and five minims of the medicinal hydrocyanic acid. On the 20th of March, having continued this treatment from the 25th of February, she reported that the uterine uneasiness had entirely left her, that the digestive organs were tranquil and healthy, and that she felt altogether very well.

CASE. Mary M—ss, aged 44, married, applied, in July 1850, at the Paddington Free Dispensary, suffering from much pain in the back and loins, extending down to the uterus, a bearing down of this organ, and considerable leucorrhœa. She was altogether out of health, anæmiated, and dyspeptic. Her tongue was habitually dry and unpleasant, her appetite bad, she felt pain at the epigastrium after eating, her bowels were flatulent and extremely costive, and she had well marked tenderness over the lower part of the spine. She had suffered from these symptoms many years; and three years previously had placed herself under a physician, by whom she was attended for a period of ten months. After making a vaginal examination, he informed her that she had an ulcer on the neck of the womb, about the size of the tip of his finger, and that upon this her ill-health, as well uterine symptoms, depended. On his recommendation, she submitted to a course of cauterisation. At first, caustic was applied twice a week; afterwards less frequently, and then only occasionally. She was ordered, at the same time, to use injections. This treatment was continued for about ten months, together with various internal remedies; but, at the end of this period, she was far from being well, and, up to the present time, her health has been very indifferent. Occa-

sionally, the uneasiness of the womb had been very severe; as well as the back-ache and leucorrhœa. Finding that her general health was very bad; that her stomach and digestive organs were more or less constantly disordered; that she was very weak, nervous, and anæmiated; and that she was suffering from spinal irritation, I directed such treatment as was calculated to correct these disorders, with, in addition, the occasional use of alum-water injections. She was ordered an alterative every second night; a tonic, containing the tincture of the muriate of iron, acidulated with the dilute muriatic acid; and to keep up for a time mild counter-irritation over the tender part of the spine. She continued this treatment rather more than two months; and, at the end of three, she reported that she was better in health than she had been for many years, and, in fact, convalescent. Her tongue was clean, and her bowels regular; she had no uterine uneasiness or back-ache, and very little leucorrhœa. She felt strong, and equal to any ordinary exertion.

CASE. *Abi H*—t, aged 38, applied at the Paddington Free Dispensary, September 24, suffering severely from leucorrhœa. She was married, and had five children; and, during the last three or four years, had suffered much from pain in the back, weakness, and bearing down of the uterus, with much leucorrhœa. Her general health was very bad; she was very much depressed, weak, nervous, and anæmiated. Her tongue was habitually dry and unpleasant in the morning, and she awoke without being refreshed. Her appetite was bad; and she was incapable of much fatigue. She was ordered alteratives and tonics. On the 28th of October she was perfectly well; the leucorrhœa was gone; the tongue was clean; and the appetite good; she had no back-ache; and felt stronger and better than for many years.

CASE. *Emma T*—d, aged 23, applied September the 15th, suffering much from leucorrhœa, with pain in the uterus and back. Menstruation was regular, but attended with much pain. She was generally weak, nervous, and dyspeptic. She was also very anæmic, and had a loud venous bruit in the neck. Her tongue was habitually dry and unpleasant of a morning. She was ordered the cold hip-bath every morning; an alterative at bedtime occasionally; and the muriated tincture of iron with dilute muriatic acid, with small doses of the liquor hydrargyri bichloridi three times daily. On the 24th of October, she was perfectly well; had no leucorrhœa or uterine uneasiness; her digestive organs were healthy; and she felt strong and well.

CASE. *Miss T*—g consulted me May 3rd, 1849. She had been ill for three years, and had been for a long time previously under medical treatment, without having been materially benefited by it. She complained of extreme languor and debility, and incapacity of undergoing any fatigue. She was pale, and very much anæmiated; the tongue was furred, and had been so for some time; her bowels were very irregular, being sometimes costive, and sometimes relaxed; she had no appetite, and suffered much from uneasiness at the epigastrium after eating. She had also had, for some time, a profuse leucorrhœal discharge, with pain and dragging at the back. The menstrual functions were irregularly performed, and generally with pain. There was a loud venous murmur in the neck, and the pulse was weak and small. The treatment entirely consisted in correcting the disordered state of

the digestive organs, and improving the condition of the blood. She took an alterative every second or third night, and as much of a warm rhubarb mixture every morning as would insure the regular action of the bowels. And, as the tongue got cleaner, she was ordered the citrate of iron, with salines. By the end of the month she was perfectly well, the appetite was good, the bowels were regular, and the leucorrhœa entirely absent. She has since enjoyed very good health, and has had no return of any of her former symptoms.

CASE. Elizabeth E—e, aged 27, applied for advice on Oct. 10th, suffering from leucorrhœa, uterine uneasiness, with pain and dragging from the back. Her general health was, and had been prior to the manifestation of these symptoms, very bad. She had been weak, nervous, and hysterical; her appetite was bad; her tongue and mouth were dry, furred, and unpleasant. She had generally menstruated regularly; but, at the time of her last period, menstruation did not take place. She was suffering profusely from leucorrhœa, and had much pain in the uterine region, which was increased by walking or standing, but relieved on lying down. For these symptoms, I ordered her an alterative every second night, and a mild aperient on the following morning. After four days, she was ordered the citrate of iron, with ammonia and salines, in rather large doses, after each principal meal. On the 17th, she reported herself to be better; and, on the 26th, to be quite well. Her tongue and digestive organs were healthy; and she had no leucorrhœa or uterine uneasiness.

CASE. Hannah B—e, aged 30, applied for advice in March 1850. She had been suffering more or less, for many years, from leucorrhœa, which had continued throughout the entire month, with pains in the lower part of the back and loins, in the pelvis generally, and more especially in the region of the uterus. Her menstruation had been regular, but always attended with much pain; her digestive organs were much disordered; the tongue furred in the morning; she awoke tired and unrefreshed; was throughout the day weary, languid, and weak; her appetite was bad; she suffered much from flatulency, pain in the bowels, and constipation. The left colon appeared to be the seat of much uneasiness. There was pain and tension in the left iliac region, and evidently much flatulence. She was at first ordered an alterative every night for three nights, and a pill, consisting of equal parts of the compound extract of colocynth and compound rhubarb mass, every day for three days before dinner. A week afterwards, she was better: the tongue was cleaner, and the bowels less flatulent and more regular. The leucorrhœa, however, still continued. She was now ordered to use a cold hip-bath every night, and the muriated tincture of iron during the day, combined with the dilute muriatic acid; and, concurrently with this, to take an alterative occasionally at bedtime, with such aperient medicines as would insure the regular action of the bowels. A month after this treatment had been commenced, she stated that she was considerably better; that she had scarcely any leucorrhœa; and that her digestive organs were comparatively quite healthy.

REMARKS. These cases need not, I think, be extended; for they appear to me to be sufficient to affirm the correctness of the views

for which they have been brought forward. We observe, for instance, that in each, constitutional disorder existed antecedently to the occurrence of the uterine affection, which followed upon, or, as it were, sprung out of it; that in all there was a considerable similarity in the character of the uterine symptoms, as well as in that of the constitutional derangement; whilst likewise in all, a great mitigation, if not a complete cessation, of the uterine malady was effected through the influence of constitutional, rather than of specific treatment.

The clinical history of these cases, coupled with the results of treatment, appears to me to give a peremptory refutation to some statements which have recently been put forward on the subject of uterine diseases, and which would not only identify these cases with the existence of inflammation and ulceration of the cervix uteri, but would assert the indispensable necessity of specific topical measures for their cure. Thus we are told, that the symptoms of inflammatory ulceration of the cervix uteri are "pains in the lumbo-dorsal, ovarian, and hypogastric regions, and down the thighs, with, in some instances, difficulty of walking, and a sensation of bearing down on standing or moving, vaginal discharge, modifications of menstruation, giving rise to dysmenorrhœa, menorrhagia, or amenorrhœa, constipation or diarrhœa, and irritability of the bladder. That the general symptoms are principally dyspeptic, neuralgic, and hysterical conditions, entailing secondarily defective general nutrition, and consequent debility and anæmia." Now, it will be observed, that these are precisely the symptoms which were met with in nearly all the cases which I have related, and yet, with scarcely an exception, they were found to disappear, without any recourse to those specific measures which, we are told, are necessary for the cure of inflammation and ulceration of the uterus. Thus, it must be obvious, either that the symptoms in question do not depend upon these lesions, or that they are curable without those specific measures of treatment, which have been represented as being necessary for their removal.

But, in truth, it may be affirmed, that the symptoms above quoted, do not by any means indicate either singly, or in the aggregate, the presence of inflammatory ulceration of the cervix uteri. They are met with as the consequence of uterine *irritation* alone, which, although sometimes associated with inflammation, congestion, ulceration, and other forms of structural disease of the uterus, may nevertheless occur independently of any of these lesions, and when of a severe character, may give rise to uterine symptoms of proportionate severity. If, again, we analyse them in detail, we shall find that these are referrible to two heads, the one being local or uterine; the other, constitutional; and that neither, either singly or combined, is necessarily pathognomonic of any particular pathological condition of the uterus. Thus, the constitutional symptoms point for the most part to those derangements of the nervous system, the blood, and the digestive organs, which I have shown to *precede* rather than to *follow* upon uterine disorder; whilst the local, comprehending, for the most part, pain and various uneasy sensations in the uterine, ovarian, and lumbar regions, with irregularity of the menstrual functions, and leucorrhœal discharges, are common to a variety of functional disorders of the uterus.

Leucorrhœal discharges, I need scarcely remark, are constantly

met with, independently of any inflammatory action whatever. They may arise from mere uterine or vaginal irritation, whether induced by causes acting directly or sympathetically upon the uterine organs. They have occurred as the result of epidemic and endemic influences, and of other general causes which tend to depress and lower the vital powers. They may occur as the consequence of impaired general health, however induced; of mental emotion and uneasiness; of diseased conditions of the blood, and certain constitutional diatheses; and of irritative disorder of the digestive and other organs, sympathetically reacting upon the uterus. Whilst, as a consequence of local influences, they are met with in connexion with every possible physical and vital lesion to which the uterine organs are subject; and hence, however severe or long-continued, they cannot, in any sense or variety, be considered as pathognomonic of the existence of inflammatory ulceration, or of any form of structural disease of the uterus.

Neither can pain or uneasiness, however severe, or functional disorder of the uterus, however intense, be regarded as pathognomonic of such lesions. These symptoms are also met with in their severest forms as the sole consequence of uterine irritation, which has been known to continue for years without leading to or being attended by any perceptible alteration of the uterine tissues. This is especially observable in the disease which has been so graphically described by Dr. Gooch, under the designation of the "irritable uterus"; and we have the following strong testimony to the truth of this remark in his paper on that disease. "I took it," he says, "for chronic inflammation which would end in disorganisation; but experience, whilst it taught me that it was a very intractable disease, taught me also that it was not a disorganising one. I became familiar with its obstinacy, and less apprehensive about its result, for I know *cases which have lasted upwards of ten years, in which the structure of the uterus is as unaltered now as it was at the beginning of the disease, as far at least as can be determined by examination during life.*" I have fully verified the correctness of Dr. Gooch's description of this disease; and in a paper on the *Irritable Uterus*, published in the LONDON JOURNAL OF MEDICINE for May 1851, I have reported cases in which all the symptoms existed which have been attributed to inflammation and ulceration of the uterus, and yet were unattended by any perceptible vascular or structural change of the organ, and where the symptoms entirely disappeared under the influence of treatment which must have considerably exasperated inflammation had it existed.

In the January number of this Journal, p. 45, a gentleman, who appears to have paid much attention to the subject of uterine complaints, has taken some exception to the views which I have expressed in that paper, and to some of the cases which I have related in support of them, because, as he observes, "when he came to study them, he found in almost every instance all the symptoms of chronic inflammation and ulceration of the os uteri; and from these *symptoms* he affirms that inflammation *must have existed* notwithstanding that I could discover no evidence of it on a digital examination, and that the patients entirely recovered under the influence of constitutional treatment alone. He has criticised more especially cases VI and VII; for case IX was only reported for the sake of its clinical history, and not with any view

to the results of treatment, inasmuch as this was not undertaken. He affirms that the following symptoms, which were met with in No. VI, are conclusive as to the presence of inflammation and ulceration of the os uteri in that case, viz., "great pain, bearing down, and back-ache, increased by walking and standing; leucorrhœa, painful and frequent menstruation, prolapsus, tenderness on examination, a premature confinement eighteen months before, tongue furred, appetite bad, constipation, disorder of stomach and digestive organs, anæmia." Now with reference to this affirmation, I would observe, with all deference, that if Mr. Falloon acts upon this assumption, and concludes that inflammation and ulceration of the cervix uteri necessarily exist wherever these symptoms are met with, he will sometimes be led into very grievous mistakes, and occasionally into a very unwarrantable mode of practice. That they did not exist in the cases which he has referred to, is a point upon which I can entertain no possible doubt, whether I look to their history, the general or local symptoms by which they were denoted, or the results of treatment; and as Mr. Falloon has intimated that the treatment adopted in these cases could only have been temporarily beneficial, and that patients who have been so treated "invariably lapse back to that condition whence they started on returning to their old régime", I have felt it due to myself and to the subject under discussion, to ascertain and to publish the *present* state of health of the two patients whose cases he has animadverted upon.

Having found their addresses by means of the Dispensary books, I requested a professional friend to visit each, and to report their present state of health; and the subjoined letter, which has been obligingly sent me by the gentleman who undertook the inquiry, will perhaps be interesting, if not instructive, to Mr. Falloon, in connexion with his remarks on those cases.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have visited and made careful inquiries of Charlotte Ward and Margaret Nadauld, whose cases stand Nos. 6 and 7 in your paper on the *Irritable Uterus*, as to the nature of the malady for which you were consulted, and the results of the treatment which was adopted. I took a copy of your paper with me; and after a full inquiry, can verify the correctness of the report of each case in every particular. I am also enabled to state, on the testimony of the patients themselves, that the treatment adopted was attended with the most *decided* and *permanent* success. Both have enjoyed good health ever since, and neither has had any return of their former uterine symptoms. About six weeks after treatment Charlotte Ward became pregnant, and at the full time was delivered of a healthy child, which with its mother is doing well. Margaret Nadauld tells me that she has never been so entirely free from uterine uneasiness for the last twenty years. I am, my dear sir, very truly yours,

THOMAS MOORE.

Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, January 3, 1852.

I am at a loss to know what stronger evidence could be adduced in support of the correctness of the views which I have ventured to express in my paper on the *Irritable Uterus*, or what can more conclusively refute the assertions of those who are disposed to attribute uterine derangement so exclusively to inflammation and ulceration of

the cervix uteri, than the statements contained in this letter, coming, as it does, from an unbiassed and competent medical observer. With regard to these cases, it should be observed, that it had been positively asserted by a gentleman evidently well acquainted with the subject of uterine complaints, that inflammation and ulceration of the cervix *must* have existed, and which by implication could only have been successfully treated by local cauterisation, etc.; and yet we learn that the uterine symptoms, not only entirely, but permanently, disappeared under the influence of constitutional treatment alone.

But I should be very greatly misunderstood, if it were inferred, from anything which I have written, that I deprecated the use of the speculum, as Mr. Falloon would suppose, or that I underrated the utility and importance of topical applications in the treatment of uterine disease. I believe that there are many cases in which we can only attain a correct knowledge of the uterine malady by an ocular examination of the organ, and that there are some in which, from long continued irritation or other causes, vascular and organic changes have taken place, which can only be effectually treated by topical measures. Nevertheless, I believe that these form but a small proportion, in comparison with those in which uterine symptoms depend upon *irritation* alone, and where this has arisen from, or is dependant upon constitutional derangement. Moreover, even in those cases in which vascular or structural changes may have taken place, I believe that even such lesions, within certain limits, are corrigible by the corrective powers of the constitution, when these are properly supported by judicious treatment. Every one employed in the practice of midwifery, must be aware of the severe injury which the uterine tissues sometimes undergo in the progress of difficult and laborious parturition, and as a consequence of manual and instrumental interference; and yet it must have been remarked by such observers, that these injuries are by no means unfrequently sustained and repaired by the curative powers of the constitution alone, without being followed by any particular, or long-continued uterine derangement. Some of the cases which I have related in this part of my paper are also affirmative of the same principle; for it is more than probable that, in many, vascular disease had supervened upon irritative disorder; for some had been of many years' duration, and, as a general rule, it is found that such disorder is sooner or later followed by morbid vascular changes in the affected part. Yet these, if present, were found to yield to the corrective powers of the constitution, assisted by appropriate treatment, equally with the irritative disorder upon which they depended.

Looking, again, to what occurs in the instance of disease of other organs of the body, and considering how successful the curative powers of the constitution often are in effecting its removal, I cannot but think that too little importance has been attached to this principle of cure, by those who have advocated the frequent and almost exclusive employment of topical measures in the treatment of uterine diseases. There is scarcely an organ or tissue of the body in which inflammatory and ulcerative disease is not susceptible of being remedied by the natural efforts, either through the agency of actions spontaneously occurring in the part affected, or through the compensating influence of some other.

In the mucous cellular and cutaneous tissues this remark especially holds good; and even in the case of the pulmonary organs, which of all others might be supposed to be the least susceptible of such actions, it has been surmised, upon very strong grounds, that not only is vascular disease thus removable, but that even extensive solutions of continuity and cavities have been healed by the efforts of the constitution, when these have been properly supported. Why then should it be assumed that the uterine organs are incapable of the same reparative actions? I do not, as I have observed, wish to disparage the utility of topical treatment *within certain limits*; but I affirm, that it is an error to suppose that uterine derangement, which has sprung, as it were, out of a disordered state of the general health, or which is perpetuated by it, can be successfully treated by local measures, whilst its constitutional origin or cause is overlooked. Some, indeed, of the cases which I have reported prove the truth of this remark; for in several, local cauterisation, etc., had been assiduously employed for a lengthened period, by very competent practitioners,—and yet with but little success. Of this, at least, I am assured, that in proportion as the correct pathology of uterine disease is better understood,—in proportion as its relations to constitutional causes are more fully appreciated, and the earlier indications of uterine disorder more carefully investigated, will our treatment of them be more successful; and thus also will the necessity for those specific measures be done away with, which it must be equally painful for the practitioner to employ, as for the patient to submit to.

Chester Place, Hyde Park Gardens, January 1852.

(*To be continued.*)

CASE OF SWALLOWING OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH AND METALLIC PLATE, TERMINATING FAVOURABLY;

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON SIMILAR ACCIDENTS.

By S. SCOTT ALISON, M.D., Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

EXTRAORDINARY or rare cases are always interesting, and have ever been deemed worthy of record. They are often, however, more curious than useful. But the case which I propose now to relate, is not only remarkable, but is capable of being made the subject of useful practical considerations. It affords striking evidence of the tolerance of hard and heavy and sharp bodies in the alimentary canal, and of the powers which that tube, delicately organised though it be, possesses to free itself from such dangerous contents.

CASE. On the 12th of March 1850, Mrs. B., of Hampstead, called upon me, to take my advice respecting an accident which had occurred to her. She was tall, and, though thin, of large make, forty years of age, and of good general health. She informed me that she had been