

This extract has become a favorite anti-bilious purgative with many of our practitioners, who, some of them at least, have used it with success with children, who can take it readily, as well as for adults, where an anti-bilious purgative is desirable, seldom producing pain or nausea, and not liable to produce constipation.—*New York Jour. of Pharmacy.*

CASE OF MECHANICAL OBSTRUCTION OF THE BOWELS.

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THE novelty of the following case I hope will be sufficient apology for insertion in your periodical, and at the same time it may institute a more minute search after mechanical causes in constipation than is generally supposed to exist.

October 7th.—I was requested to visit a negro man, aged about 25 years, who had been for five days laboring under the ordinary symptoms of epidemic dysentery. Tormina and tenesmus, with scanty discharges of a mucous character, sometimes tinged with blood, frequent inclination to stool, thirst, loss of appetite, and other symptoms indicating a febrile state of the system. There was no vomiting or nausea throughout the whole course of the disease.

These symptoms persisted with little or no abatement until the tenth day of his illness, with entire constipation up to this time, in despite of all our endeavors to produce a discharge from the intestinal canal. Strangury was a symptom in his case which we witnessed in almost all the bad cases of the epidemic of this summer and fall. It was promptly relieved by the warm bath and an anodyne administered about fifteen minutes before entering the bath.

We commenced our treatment by the administration of a purgative we are in the habit of using in dysentery—a combination of castor oil, solution of carbonate of potash, tinct. opium and the essence of peppermint—for several days. This seemed to have no effect on the peristaltic action of the bowels, and more active purgatives were substituted, placing our chief reliance on the specification of mercury, in the dose of three grains of calomel united with one grain of opium every three hours. This treatment we concluded to persevere in, whatever other medication might be thought advisable, until ptyalism was induced. Injections of the solution of nitrate of silver were freely used to allay irritability of the lower bowel, and prevent disorganization of the mucous membrane, as the frequent discharges indicated a highly irritated state of that organ, being fluid, of a dark appearance and very offensive odor.

Cathartic enemata, warm bath, frictions over the abdomen and cathartic medicines by the mouth had no other perceptible effect than to allay the tormina and tenesmus for a while, and produce loud roarings and flatulence. Obstruction of the bowels from some mechanical cause evidently gave rise to the great distress and sufferings of our patient, for which we sought in vain, until it was deemed necessary to distend them with warm water. This was accordingly attempted on the fifth day of our attendance, but the obstacle which prevented the passage

of the feces downwards, and of the rectum tube upwards, lay about two inches from the verge of the anus. The rectum with its pouches was enormously distended with about a pint of water-melon seeds. It gave rise to such excruciating pain on endeavoring to dislodge them by the gentlest means, that we abandoned all hope of giving our patient relief without the anæsthetic agency of chloroform.

12th. Assisted by my father, Dr. T. J. Garden, who now saw him for the first time, I proceeded to administer chloroform, and in about five minutes profound anæsthesia was induced. The quantity used was near ʒ iij. The rectum was then readily evacuated of its burden with entire relief to the patient, and free vent given to the hardened scybala which had been so long impacted in the colon. The inflammation which followed was readily overcome by appropriate treatment, and the case was dismissed in a few days as convalescent.—*The Stethoscope and Virginia Medical Gazette.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, APRIL 28, 1852.

Medical Society of New York Transactions.—In the Empire State, the general Medical Society sends forth an annual report of its transactions, of a voluminous character, which, contrary to the usage in other places, is published by the State. It is a regular communication, addressed to the Speaker of the Assembly, and of course it is published as a State document. This course relieves the members of the Medical Society from taxing their own pockets; and though it costs the people a round sum, no one feels it, and consequently it is an excellent arrangement. A variety of instructive matter is interspersed through the 160 octavo pages of the present number, which is creditable to the sources from which it emanates. Dr. Armsby's address before the Albany County Society is published at length, embracing a succinct history of French and English hospitals. It would seem that the Society does with less money than corporate bodies ordinarily spend. It must be that the members pay for their own dinners at the annual meeting. It appears from a table of figures, that the income of the Society was only \$83,00 in 1851, out of which a moiety has been expended, leaving in the treasurer's hands, \$74,27. A voluntary subscription prize fund was raised, honorable to the enterprise of the County Societies. The following resolution was passed—

“Whereas, there is reason to believe that typhus or typhoid fever of a contagious and fatal character has in many cases been diffused over various parts of the State by the emigrants, and by their foul clothing, therefore:

“Resolved, that the Hon. the Legislature be requested to take effectual measures for the prevention of this evil, especially for the thorough purification of the clothing of the sick, and of others arriving from emigrant vessels.”

Veterinary Medicine.—Some progress is making in Boston, in this important branch of business. Gentlemen of education do not think it