

culi here and there exhibited the characteristic signs of a high degree of contraction, and a closer approximation of the transverse striæ than usual.

Usually, no traces of congestion can be observed upon the mucous membrane lining the contracted parts, although such congestion must have existed during life. The membrane is of a duller color than natural, and somewhat thickened, and there is more or less adhesion to the tissues beneath. These remarks of course apply to the cases of pure muscular contraction of the neck of the bladder, without any marked complications.

In the only case of pure, uncomplicated contraction, where we had an opportunity of examining the microscopic appearances, the mucous membrane presented the appearances just described, while the muscular fibres, even on the closest examination, did not offer an aspect materially different from the most healthy.

In fine, from the very nature of the affection in question, we must necessarily fail to detect, even on the closest examination, in the great majority of cases, any structural change in the canal whatever.

*Prognosis.*—Contraction of the neck of the bladder is in itself a malady of no very great importance, but the complications to which it may give rise render it often of very serious moment. It is often rebellious to treatment when it is due to any peculiar diathesis, or to some local organic affection. In forming our prognosis, therefore, we must take into consideration the history, duration of the disease, and especially the cause, and the age of the patient. If the disease is still recent, and has not as yet given rise to any serious lesion of the urinary apparatus, and if the patient is otherwise healthy, contraction, by a proper course of treatment, is not difficult to overcome. As a general rule, however, the practitioner cannot be too guarded in his prognosis; neither should he promise a too speedy cure.

[To be continued.]

## Medical Reports from the Mass. General Hospital.

PREPARED BY ROBERT WARE, M.D.

**BRIGHT'S DISEASE; SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS OF MITRAL DISEASE, WITHOUT CARDIAC LESION.** (Dr. MINOT.) Patrick H., 7 years, Irish, resident of Boston, entered July 3d, 1860. Patient cannot give a very clear account of his sickness, but states that, on June 30, after some exposure, he was attacked with pain in both feet, of which he was soon relieved; but yesterday he was attacked with pain in the right arm and in the chest, with dyspnœa and palpitation. He does not know whether or not he has previously had rheumatism. Soon after his entrance he had an attack of great distress from dyspnœa and excessive action of the heart; pulse 150, respirations 80; action of heart very forcible; coun-

tenance anxious ; some cough ; complains of no pain, except in the chest. He was ordered, at 3, P.M., four drops of the tincture of *veratrum viride* ; in half an hour after taking it he was free from pain ; pulse 125, respirations 60. At 7, P.M., as there was some return of dyspnoea, he took the drops again, with similar relief. July 4th—Continue *veratrum*, four drops every three hours. Pulse 128, respirations 60 ; beef-tea. July 5th—Free from pain ; slept well ; skin dry ; pulse 120, respirations 68 ; occasional cough ; milk was substituted for the beef-tea, and cream of tartar water given as a drink. July 6th—In consequence of an attack of prostration, and drowsiness, with weakness of the pulse yesterday P.M., the *veratrum* was omitted at 6 o'clock ; it was resumed at 9, P.M., and has been continued since. Patient reports himself better ; pulse 120, respirations 60 ; frequent short cough ; dulness on percussion at the lower parts of both backs, and especially of the right ; respiratory murmur very loud over all parts of the chest ; first sound of the heart slightly prolonged and roughened at the apex ; both sounds distinct and clear at the base. He takes bread and milk with relish. July 11th—Patient has been gaining, on the whole ; the pulse and respirations have, with occasional intervals of agitation, fallen pretty steadily, being respectively 92 and 42 at 8 last evening ; the bowels have moved regularly ; his appetite has improved, and he was allowed potato on the 10th ; two leeches were applied just below the left nipple, on the 8th, and he has taken a cough mixture of paregoric and syrup of squills. Now his aspect is tranquil and much improved ; skin very cool ; pulse 108, respirations 36 ; tongue nearly clean ; an undulatory motion is plainly visible in the 4th and 5th intercostal spaces, one inch to the left of the sternum ; dulness on percussion extends from the 3d to the 6th rib, and from the left edge of the sternum to the nipple ; some roughness and prolongation of the first sound of the heart between the 5th and 6th ribs, at about half an inch inside the nipple, and most marked between the 6th and 7th ribs, on a line with the nipple ; between the 4th and 5th ribs it seems to be preceded by a slight supplementary sound, which closely follows the second sound ; bellows murmur faintly audible behind, at the junction of the dorsal and lumbar regions ; second sound of heart perfectly distinct and loud over the cartilage of the 3d left rib. July 13th—At 1, A.M., pulse 88, respirations 40. At visit (10, A.M.), pulse 96, respirations 30 ; omit *veratrum*. July 14th—At 12, last night, pulse 78, respirations 36 ; at visit, pulse 108, respirations 48 ; appetite good ; a few large papules, with suppurating points, on the nose, chin and neck ; fremitus felt on application of the finger an inch and a half below the left nipple, and at the same spot there is a loud bellows murmur, preceded by a shorter murmur. He was allowed mutton on the 16th, and appeared to be gaining in appetite and strength ; the *veratrum* (three drops every three hours) was resumed on the 20th, as the pulse had been 120 for three days ; the bellows murmur had then almost disappeared, though it was faintly audible in the back. Urine was acid ; specific gravity 1015, and with no trace of albumen. July 26th—Was up and dressed yesterday morning, and soon after had an attack of delirium, lasting about an hour. Now complains of severe pain in the præcordial region ; apply there six leeches. The leeches bled freely, and on the following morning he was sitting up in bed, free from pain ; pulse 116. August 13th—Was well enough to sit up and be dressed ; appetite fair ; is

disinclined to motion; pulse 128; complexion pale. Omit veratrum. R. Ferri et manganes. sacch. carbonat., gr. v. three times a day.

For some days after this date he appeared prostrated, rather stupid, was restless at night, and the pulse ranged from 120 to 130. On the 17th, it was thought that there was some want of power over the muscles of the arms, and perhaps a diminution in the sensibility of the left arm. He was ordered beef-steak; on the 23d, the syrup of the iodide of iron was substituted for the powder, and he took two ounces of ale every day; he was able to be dressed, and to go out of doors by September 1st.

Sept. 12th—Patient has been steadily improving, and is able to do light work about the ward; pulse 120; tongue clean; appetite good; the respiratory murmur is clear throughout the left side; at the right side, both back and front, are heard abundant, coarse, sonorous and sibilant rales, with a crumpling sound, or "*bruit de cuir neuf*"; percussion is a little flat behind throughout; considerable prominence of the cardiac region, the left nipple being more than half an inch higher than the other; fremitus perceptible to the hand two inches above the nipple; cardiac dulness extends from three inches below the clavicle to a point three inches below the left nipple, and from the right edge of the sternum to a point one inch to the left of the nipple.

He left the Hospital Oct. 2d, and re-entered on the 12th. He had been at home, where he was exposed to wet, and was allowed unwholesome food. He had œdema of the feet and legs, a prominent abdomen, with extended dulness over the right hypochondrium, where there was a feeling of resistance; there was some dulness at the base of the right back, and the murmur was faint at that side; no rales; the mitral souffle was heard as at last report; urine contained a slight trace of albumen; mind clear. R. Vin. ferri, gtt. xxv.; syr. sarsæ. c., ℥ij. three times a day. By the 20th, the œdema had much increased, and was visible in the face; sonorous and creaking rales were heard over the whole chest in front, and were audible even at some distance from the chest; he slept pretty well, had not much cough; slight fluctuation of the abdomen was noted. He was ordered to be wrapped in a wet blanket three times a day. He took beef-steak and potato with relish. Oct. 23d—The entire surface of the body is covered with small livid spots, some beneath the cuticle, others on it; rales have almost wholly disappeared; in twelve hours, passed nine ounces of very turbid urine, free from albumen. He sank gradually, with increase of the œdema, the fluid distending the penis and scrotum, which became of a dark-red color, and died Nov. 3d.

Autopsy, by Dr. ELLIS.—Old adhesions of the pleura of the right side; heart universally hypertrophied, weighing  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ounces; water poured into the aorta escaped slowly through the aortic orifice; the valves were slightly contracted and thickened; no apparent lesion of the mitral valve; a pint of serum in the peritoneal cavity, and the lungs, liver, spleen and kidneys were firmer than usual.

DISEASE OF THE MITRAL VALVE AND BRIGHT'S DISEASE. (Dr. MINOT.)  
—Ellen G., 14 years, a native and resident of Boston, entered July 11th, 1860. Patient's mother died of phthisis; she has usually had good health till about one year since, when she suffered from a severe cough, from which, however, she had nearly recovered, when she was attacked, during the past winter, by a disease characterized by pain

in all parts of the body, and called rheumatism at the Dispensary ; she was not confined to the bed, or even to the house. Since that time, her cough has become more troublesome, and she has emaciated. The catamenia appeared, for the first and only time, about a year ago ; has never had hæmoptysis, though her sputa are at times streaked with blood ; cough is not very severe during the day, but comes on when she lies down at night ; has no pain ; sweats much at night ; some, but not marked, flatness on percussion, throughout the left back ; no abnormal respiratory sounds ; a loud systolic murmur at the apex of the heart, audible at the base of the left chest behind ; the appetite is good ; the tongue clean, and the bowels regular. She was put upon "house diet ;" three grains of the tartrate of iron and potash were given three times a day, and a mixture of the syrup of squills and syrup of wild-cherry bark was taken when the cough was severe. July 15th—Fine, crepitant râle accompanying inspiration at inner extremities of both clavicles ; inspiration jerking, especially at right side ; some prolongation of expiration at the upper part of the right back. Omit iron. R. Ol. morrhue, ℥i., three times a day ; omit cough mixture. R. Tinct. opii camph., ℥ss. ; naphthæ, ℥i. ; syr. tolut., ℥iss. M. One drachm every three hours.

The cough was relieved after this, but she was much distressed by pain in the left shoulder, and by copious sweating at night ; the latter symptom seemed to be relieved by the oxide of zinc, six grains of which were taken at bed time. July 26th—She was vomited and purged after eating apple-pie surreptitiously obtained, and appeared considerably prostrated with increase of the pain, which was referred sometimes to one shoulder, sometimes to the other, and at times to the right side. No change was noted in the physical signs till Aug. 11th, when an inspiratory crepitus was found at the lower two thirds of both backs, with some dulness on percussion over the same space ; the cardiac sounds remained the same. On the 14th, the zinc was omitted ; on the 16th she was found suffering from vomiting and extreme prostration, the apparent consequence of a "small piece" of apple which she had obtained the day before. This prostration lasted upwards of forty-eight hours, the pulse being imperceptible a part of the time, though wine was administered. Aug. 18th—No vomiting ; pulse 108 ; pupils dilated ; considerable œdema of face ; much disturbed by palpitation and by sweating at night. R. Zinc. oxid., grs. iij. at night. Omit cod-liver oil and cough mixture ; sherry wine, half an ounce twice a day. Aug. 23d—Her prostration has increased ; the œdema has very much increased and become more general ; for two or three days she has complained of dyspnœa, and had quite a severe paroxysm last night ; there has been some tendency to diarrhœa. R. Mist. cretæ, ℥ss. ; tinct. opii, gtt. iv., after each discharge. Aug. 25th—The urine contains albumen in great abundance, with some pus corpuscles and small waxy casts of the tubuli ; she slept rather better ; the diarrhœa continues ; crackling is heard throughout both backs. The paroxysms of dyspnœa became more severe after this date ; vomiting set in with some urgency, but the diarrhœa was relieved ; œdema increased ; dulness of percussion and feebleness of the respiratory murmur over the left back were noted Sept. 4th, when the pulse was growing imperceptible, and the extremities cold. Some chocolate-colored expectoration was seen on the 7th, on which day she died, at 4½ o'clock, P.M.

*Autopsy*, by Dr. ELLIS. Brain rather soft, but not decidedly morbid; in the longitudinal sinus, adherent to the surface, was a small, purulent-looking coagulum. The left pleural cavity contained thirty-six ounces of bloody serum, and the surface of the lung was covered with a recent false membrane; half a pint of serum in the right cavity. Firm, dark-red portions in the upper and lower lobes of the right lung, showed where blood had been effused; the same appearance, but more extensive, was seen in the anterior and posterior parts of the left lung; at one spot a yellow, purulent-looking line surrounded the red mass, and indicated an older effusion than the others. The heart weighed  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ounces. In the right ventricle were many old, yellowish coagula of small size, the largest being about half an inch in diameter; this latter contained a cavity filled with a puriform fluid, which was composed of minute granules and globules like those found in softened fibrine. An irregular, but smooth and firm cretaceous mass, half an inch in diameter, was attached to the edge of the mitral valve; much fibrine deposited upon the valve and the surface of the auricle; aortic valves a little thickened. The spleen weighed  $11\frac{1}{2}$  ounces; at each end was an irregular, yellowish-white mass, from one to two inches in diameter; smaller, but similar formations elsewhere. The cortical substance of the kidneys was lighter colored than usual, and just beneath the surface were masses like those in the spleen, the largest measuring an inch superficially, and a quarter of an inch in thickness.

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## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON: THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1861.

**MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—In our remarks upon the revised edition of the By-Laws of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in the last number of the *JOURNAL*, we omitted to call the attention of the Fellows to the “Digest of the Laws of the Commonwealth relating to the Society.” This was prepared by the Corresponding Secretary with great care, by comparing the several acts of the Legislature relating to the Society, and retaining only those provisions which are now in force. Any Fellow who had occasion to refer to the various Acts published in the edition of 1850, must have found it difficult to decide upon some points with certainty, on account of one Act modifying or repealing another. This Digest presents an accurate and concise statement of all the rights and privileges to which the Society is entitled, arranged in a systematic form.

**CITY REGISTRAR'S REPORT FOR 1859.**—The Annual Report of the City Registrar has been received. It appears that the number of births for 1859 was 5,895, being an increase of 298 over the number born during the previous year—a result attributable to the return of the material prosperity after the financial depression of 1857–58. The ratio was about 1 in 30.53, while in Philadelphia, for the same year, it was only 1 in 38.43. The largest number of births was in December, which seems everywhere to be one of the most prolific months. The marriages were 2,481 in number, being an increase of 326 over the num-