

slight ridge remained in the line of the rent, owing to the thinness of the integuments rendering it necessary to introduce the needle some distance from the edges of the wound. After the last suture was removed, the patient never felt any more uneasiness in the part.

York; 18th fifth Month, 1827.

Case of Puerperal Convulsions. By G. JONES, M.R.C.S.L.

Mrs. S—, æt. twenty-three, of a full plethoric habit, ruddy complexion, and frequently the subject of headache, was taken in labour with her first child on the morning of the 24th January. At four P.M., the os uteri not being dilated to more than the size of a half-crown piece, the membranes gave way, and the liquor amnii was evacuated. Severe labour-pains continued, with but little interruption, until seven o'clock, at which time the head was full in the pelvis, and resting upon the perineum, when she was seized with a convulsive paroxysm. The belly became rigidly extended; a frothy saliva, tinged with blood, (occasioned by biting her tongue,) issued from her mouth, accompanied with stertorous breathing. I immediately opened a vein in the arm, and allowed the blood to flow until a sensible impression was made upon the system. I then prepared to deliver my patient with the forceps, when the uterine action, which had been suspended for the space of half an hour, returned, and delivery was speedily effected by the natural efforts. The placenta came away in the usual manner, and without any particular discharge. After the lapse of a short time, she was attacked with a second fit, and I administered the following draught—

R. Tinct. Opii gtt. xxx.; Sp. Æther. Sulph. ʒj.; Mist. Camph. ʒjss.
M. fiat haustus.

She expressed herself relieved. The pulse was full, strong, and frequent, and her face much flushed. After directing the head and face to be kept constantly wetted with a cold cloth, I left her. Her husband called me up at two A.M. saying his wife had had seven fits since I saw her, and of greater violence. I tied up the arm, and bled her a second time, and dropped a full dose of croton-oil into her mouth. The convulsions increasing in violence and frequency after a short interval, I gave her the following powder—

R. Hydrarg. Subm. ʒss.; Acet. Morphicæ gr. ss. M. fiat pulvis.

This also was administered by dropping into the mouth, for between the paroxysms she lay in a comatose state, and quite unconscious of those about her, with a great disinclination to be roused. I now retired for the night, after having desired the cold applications to be continued to the head, and some Camphor mixture given as often as it could be taken; wishing to see the effect of the calomel and croton-oil upon the bowels, before any other active measures were resorted to.

25th.—This morning the nurse informs me that my patient has

passed a miserable night, having had seventeen fits; she is totally insensible to surrounding objects; the pupil is singularly contracted; the pulse 120; the countenance much flushed. The bowels not having acted, I directed an assafœtida glyster, which speedily relieved them.

Applic^r Empl. Canth. inter scapulas. Applic^r Lotio spirit. capiti raso. It became quite impossible to administer any medicine of a bulky form.

Two P.M.—The symptoms continue without intermission or remission. From the very contracted state of the pupil, and from witnessing the good effects of belladonna in a similar case, I prescribed a grain of the extract to be taken every four hours.

Eight P.M.—Has had no fit for an hour and a half. Bowels have acted freely. Coma still continues; pulse 120.

Contr Ext. Belladonnæ. Applic^r Sinapism pediluv.

26th.—Has passed a more tranquil night, and free from convulsions. The blister has risen, but the sinapisms have not acted. Pulse 120, much softer; she is roused with much difficulty; bowels much relaxed; lochia as usual. She has taken in the whole six grains of the Extract of Belladonna, and with manifest advantage.

Omitt^r Ext. Belladonnæ. Contr Lotio. Repet^r Sinapism.—R. Tinct. Hyosc. ʒss.; Mist. Camph. ʒj. M. fiat haustus quartâ quâque horâ sum.

Vesperi.—Much wildness of the eyes; coma quite gone; countenance much flushed. She takes more notice of those about her, but without speaking. Pulse 130, weak. The sinapisms have acted.

Contr medicamenta.

27th.—This morning, for the first time, she answers my questions rationally. Complains much of her head; pulse weak, and rather fluttering; bowels quite relaxed.

Applic^r Hirudines xij. capiti raso.—R. Conf. Aromat. ʒj.; Mist. Camp. ʒvj. M. coch. larg. iij. quartâ quâque horâ sumend.—Contr Lotio.

Vesperi.—Has been delirious during part of the day, and answers very incoherently. The same wildness of the eyes.

28th.—No sleep during the whole of the night. Much prostration of strength; pulse frequent and tremulous. She complains much of her head being light, and of soreness of her tongue, which is ulcerated at the edges, (the effects of the calomel.) Bowels still relaxed; much thirst, and dry tongue. The symptoms assuming rather a typhoid character.

R. Acid. Sulph. dil. ʒj.; Træ. Cinnamon. comp. ʒij.; Sp. Æther. Sulph. ʒvj.; Mist. Camph. ʒvij. M. capiat coch. larg. iij. quartâ quâque horâ.—Contr Lotio.

Vesperi.—R. Ext. Hyosciam., Pulv. Ipecac. comp. āā gr. v. M. fiant pil. ij, horâ somni sumendæ.

29th.—Has passed a quieter night, but complains of the lightness of her head, and the soreness of her tongue.

Contr medicamenta.

Until yesterday, her diet has been confined to tea and gruel; she has since taken some broth.

Vesperi.—Has been out of bed frequently during the day; quite incoherent in her speech; very restless; is not able to identify persons.

R. Acetat. Morphiæ gr. ss. stat. sumend.

The above having no sedative effect, after a lapse of two hours she took the following—

R. Ext. Hyosciam. ℞ss. in pil. iij. dividend. statim sumendas.

30th.—Has had some comfortable sleep since.

Two A.M.—Still complains of her head; the ulceration of her tongue very troublesome.

Applic^r Emp. Canth. capiti raso.—R. Mist. Camph. ℥jss. fiat haustus quartâ quâque horâ sumendus.—Repet^r pilulæ Hyosciam. vesperi.

31st.—Has slept comfortably, and is much better upon the whole, except her tongue, the soreness of which prevents her taking solid food.

R. Dec. Cinchonæ ℥jss. fiat haustus quartis horis sumendus.

From this time she continued to improve daily, and soon became convalescent.

Alcester; March 30th, 1827.

FEVER.

A comparative View of the various Alterations of Structure observed in the fatal Cases of continued Fever, which have occurred at ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, between July 1st, 1826, and July 1st, 1827. By CORNWALLIS HEWETT, M.D. one of the Physicians to that Hospital.

IN this interval numerous cases of irregular intermittent fevers were admitted, some of them complicated with internal inflammations requiring venesection; but these were all cured.

Of idiopathic fever (in the continued form) there were 190 cases, out of which 165 were cured, and 26 died. A very large proportion of the latter were not admitted until a very advanced period of fever, or until after irremediable organic injuries had been effected, as may be seen in the annexed Table, which is intended to convey a concise statement of the structural lesions observed on an examination *post mortem*.

With the view of not fatiguing the reader, I have purposely refrained from entering into any minute description of the structural lesions, or of the mode of treatment. They are, however, detailed at full in the report of the Hospital Case-books, which are always accessible to the medical students. At some future opportunity, I may very possibly request the insertion of the details of some of these cases; but at present it is my wish to be as brief as possible in my remarks.