

On making pressure up and down the spine, the sixth and seventh dorsal vertebræ were found exquisitely tender. Recourse was then had to thorough cupping and scarifications in the neighborhood of the diseased part, followed with an extensive vesication directly over the spine. An immediate amendment was the result. The cupping, &c. with the consequent blister, were repeated once in eight days. In four weeks from the commencement, it was thought advisable to substitute setons for the cupping, &c. Accordingly, one was introduced near the diseased vertebræ; another at the origin of the third portion of the serratus magnus of the right side—and the man left to take care of himself.

The convalescence in this case has been steady and uniform, from the commencement of the above treatment to the present time. Then he was entirely confined to his room, and generally to his bed; now he is able to attend to his domestic affairs without inconvenience, except the slight soreness from the setons, which he chooses yet to retain.

In this case no medicines were used internally, save a slightly tonic preparation—reliance being placed almost entirely upon the external ‘back-bone’ treatment. A nourishing diet was enjoined, and practised during the whole course.

HORACE A. BARROWS, M.D.

*Leeds, Me., February 14, 1833.*

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#### HEMORRHAGE FROM THE UNIMPREGNATED UTERUS.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—I remarked, in a communication in your last, that the tampon was stated to be only applicable to certain cases of uterine hemorrhage, and among these was mentioned *hemorrhage from the unimpregnated uterus*. I have always supposed that hemorrhage never occurred under such circumstances, although I do not recollect to have seen the fact stated in any medical work. The question is certainly a very interesting one, and not wanting in importance. Indeed, the character, and therefore the happiness of many an innocent female is liable to be destroyed, if the idea I have always entertained on this subject be incorrect. It is to be hoped, therefore, that you, or some of your readers who are better acquainted with the subject than myself, will afford us some light on it, through the medium of your pages.

Respectfully yours,

*Boston, March 4, 1833.*

MEDICUS, JR.

[We shall be happy to publish any communications from the faculty on this important subject.—ED.]

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#### CASE OF PROTRACTED VOMITING.

*Extraordinary Case of Protracted Vomiting, in which Life was sustained for an unusual length of time without Food.* By DANIEL SEXTON, M.D., of New Harmony.

I WAS requested on the 17th of October, 1829, to visit Mrs. L. L., who had been for some time declining in health. For five weeks she had been confined to her bed, vomiting frequently, and unable to

retain any nourishment ; life having been preserved, in the mean time, by the occasional administration of a nutritive enema. She was much emaciated, although the countenance retained considerable vivacity. The pulse was weak, but without much disturbance ; the skin of a natural temperature.

To allay the vomiting, I advised the following combination : Aqua Ammoniacæ, Laudanum,  $\text{ãã}$  oz.j. ; Oil of Cinnamon, gtt. viii. Fifteen drops on a lump of loaf sugar to be taken into the mouth and swallowed gradually. For a short time after taking the first dose, she expressed great satisfaction at the relief it produced ; but on visiting her a few hours afterward, she informed me, that like everything else she took, it had been followed by distressing vomiting, and had produced great gastric distress.

Having ascertained from her husband that a few teaspoonfulls of brandy which she had taken some days before, had produced temporary relief, and remained longer upon the stomach than anything else she had taken, I recommended it to be tried in larger quantities ; and in conjunction with it, to rub the spine with laudanum, and apply an opium plaster to the stomach. This plan was adopted, and continued until the morning of the 19th, when it was ascertained that no reliance could be placed upon it.

She was now much worse, mouth dry, tongue covered with dark crust, and the skin warmer than natural, and her life was despaired of by all that saw her. I now proposed to her husband the use of crude mercury, and with his assent gave an ounce of it, apparently with an immediate good effect. A second dose was administered in the course of the day, the good effect of which was not so apparent. The quicksilver came away by stool in minute globules in the course of three or four days.

Several other remedies were tried in the course of this and the following day, everything failing to give more than a temporary relief to the vomiting, and her system still sinking. The Spts. of Turpentine, in doses of a drachm, mixed with mucilage, appeared for a time to relieve her, astonishingly, but soon failed to produce any influence. Supposing her to be dying, at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 21st, I gave her one and a half grains of opium, and left without the expectation of again seeing her alive. However, to my great surprise, on the morning of the next day, she was found to be much better. In the evening she took an enema which brought away dark fetid evacuations, and from this time she began to recover rapidly, and by the 23d considered herself out of danger.

She had now lived for six weeks without food, and her body formed the most complete skeleton that could be conceived consistently with the continuance of life, the limbs appearing to be held together by the ligaments and integuments alone. Her intellectual faculties, however, were unimpaired, and the love of life undiminished.

We now gave her porter, wine, and sago, in small quantities, with, occasionally, a little chicken soup thickened with barley. Upon this diet she continued to recover until the 3d of November. At this time it became necessary to remove her to the house of a neighbor, in con-

sequence of the indisposition of her husband rendering him unable to attend upon her. She was borne upon a litter, supported by four men, when the unusual motion brought on a return of the vomiting, which continued for three days at protracted intervals. At the expiration of this time, in consequence of some imprudence in diet, it returned with great violence, threatening to prostrate her immediately.

Other measures having been ineffectual in relieving her, I resorted to the use of belladonna; one grain divided into four pills, one of which to be taken every six hours. These were continued until five grains were taken, with the effect of keeping the stomach perfectly composed. At the expiration of this time the belladonna began to manifest its constitutional effects upon the system, and was discontinued for 36 hours, when upon some indications of a return of the vomiting, two additional doses were taken, which relieved it entirely.

From this time her recovery was slow and gradual, but uninterrupted. Some difficulty was experienced in restoring a regular condition of the bowels; but by the aid of injections and laxatives this was brought about, and a healthy state of all the secretions established.

About the first of December, after sitting up so long as to produce fatigue, she complained of a disagreeable sensation of pricking over the body, similar to that arising from pressure upon a nerve; and during the two or three days following, this sensation increased to such a degree of intensity in the hands and feet, as occasionally to produce a temporary delirium. It was very much mitigated by the use of cider and water, but for many days it returned about two hours after eating, accompanied with an unpleasant sense of burning. A local application of brandy to the hands and feet gave very great relief.

By spring, her health and strength were perfectly restored, except some inability of using the lower extremities, which gradually yielded to a system of regular exercise.—*West. Med. Journ.*

#### COLD AS A CAUSE OF DISEASE.

*Observations on the Powers and Effects of Cold, as a Cause of Disease, &c.* By Dr. J. CLENDINNING.

[From the London Medico-Chirurgical Review.]

In our valued and oldest contemporary, the Medical and Physical Journal, Dr. Clendinning has published a monograph on that popular and real cause of multiplied evils—COLD. Every medical practitioner is aware that nine-tenths of the diseases presented to his observation, are attributed by the sufferers to catching 'COLD'—and there must be some, nay, there must be much foundation in truth for so general a persuasion. From the cold wash of our first nurse, to the heats and chills of our juvenile sports, and unavoidable exertions of our riper years, the effects of cold, or rather of atmospherical transitions, thermometrical and hygrometrical, are daily conspicuous to the common as well as to the medical observer. It has been recorded by Dr. Bateman that, during the winter of 1814, which was very severe, the number of patients at the Cary Street Dispensary exceeded by 700 the ordinary average in other years! Dr.