

## Nursing Notes.

## ABDOMINAL SECTION; THREATENED PERITONITIS; MUSCULAR ABSCESS; RECOVERY.

**M**RS. C. W., aged 38, has had three children, and two miscarriages; for the last eighteen months she has had more or less pain, often very severe, in the left side. For the last six months, the pain has also been felt in the right side; and she has had swelling of the stomach, which has been steadily increasing, and latterly has inconvenienced her so greatly that she has not been able to take much exercise. Her general health has suffered a good deal; she has become much thinner, paler and weaker, her appetite is very poor, and her nights are very disturbed and sleepless. She was admitted into — Home Hospital, on October 15th, 1894. The abdomen was very distended and tense. The percussion note over the whole surface was quite dull, and a fluctuation wave was conveyed indistinctly through from one side of the abdomen to the other. The doctor's diagnosis was "Double Ovarian Cyst, the left being larger than the right." Soon after her admission the patient had a warm bath, and the surface of the abdomen was carefully washed with perchloride of mercury solution (1 in 1,000); she was given an ordinary meal at 7 o'clock, consisting of soup, fish, game, and a sweet, but she took very little of each. At 9 o'clock she had an ounce of whisky with a raw egg beaten up in half a pint of warm milk, and went to sleep at 10 o'clock, sleeping till 5—the best night's sleep she said that she had had for many weeks. She had a small cup of beef-tea when she woke, and slept again until 7.

*October 16th.*—Patient had breakfast at 8 o'clock, consisting of a small piece of bacon, half a poached egg, one piece of toast and a small cup of coffee and milk. At 10.30 o'clock she had a cup of beef-tea; at 1.30 a small piece of boiled fish, a piece of toast, and half a glass of milk. At 4 o'clock she had a small cup of tea and a piece of buttered toast. At 7 o'clock she had some dinner, and seemed to eat rather more and with more appetite than yesterday. At 9 o'clock she had a warm bath; the surface of the abdomen was very carefully scrubbed with the perchloride solution, and a pad of lint soaked in the solution (1 in 2,000) was placed and bandaged on the abdomen. A drachm and a-half of liquorice powder was administered, and at 10 o'clock she had the same night-cap as last night. She slept well through the night, and woke at 4 o'clock, when she had a cup of milk and went

to sleep again until nearly 6 o'clock, when she had a cup of beef-tea and a tablespoonful of brandy.

*October 17th.*—At 7.30 she had a soap and water enema which acted very freely, the razor was used, and then she had warm woollen operation stockings put on and a thick woollen vest. She was very cheerful, and said that she already felt much better for the good night's sleep she had had. Her temperature was normal, her pulse 76, and respirations 16. At 9 o'clock, she was placed under gas and ether and abdominal section was performed. Both ovaries were found to be converted into large cysts, and were removed by the ordinary operation, each being tapped and withdrawn, and their attachment being ligatured with silk. There were no adhesions except one on the left side, which was very broad, to a piece of intestine, and this was removed with some difficulty, being tied with fine silk in sections and then cut through. The abdomen was closed in the usual manner, and the operation lasted 35 minutes. The patient was put back to bed, the room was darkened, the top of the window being opened so as to remove the ether vapour. Her pulse was 90, and respirations 24. She was very sick several times, retching a good deal until 2 o'clock in the afternoon; at 6 o'clock, having dozed off and on for a couple of hours, she again was very sick and a mustard-leaf was applied to the epigastrium, thoroughly reddening the skin; she then dozed at intervals until 11 o'clock at night, when she again became very sick and complained of a good deal of pain in the abdomen. She now brought up a good deal of greenish bile and frothy mucus, and seemed very much exhausted; the retching became almost constant, and the doctor, who was sent for, ordered her to have half a tumblerful of warm water containing a drachm of bicarbonate of soda. This seemed to relieve her almost at once, and the sickness stopped. Her temperature at 9 p.m. was 99° F., and pulse 80. She had a fairly good night, sleeping altogether about four hours.

*October 18th.*—Temperature 99° F., pulse 84. Patient complains of some pain in abdomen and feeling of nausea; her face is rather anxious. She has had nothing by the mouth except the soda draught, and complains much of thirst. Wet lint round her throat and under the jaws greatly relieve this and assist the flow of saliva. During the day she became rather restless, complained of the bandages being tight; the epigastrium became rather distended, she had a little hiccough; the doctor therefore directed that nothing should be given by the mouth, but she had at 4 p.m. a rectal injection of beef-tea and brandy. The temperature at 2 p.m. was 99° F.,

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