

there was less thirst, no pain or sickness, and she took a little solid food with apparent relish. Evening temperature 98.4°.

October 26th.—The wound was dressed in the same way as at first, and this was done daily for the first fortnight, the surgeon expressing himself as much pleased with its appearance; the temperature never rose above normal, nor did it ever do so during the rest of my attendance on the case. On questioning Miss B. rather more closely, it appeared that she had noticed a swelling in the groin about three years previously, but had suffered no inconvenience from it whatever, and had never associated it with the attacks of pain and sickness before described. She had not consulted a doctor. These attacks had of late been very frequent, and appeared to be brought on by any unusual exertion or a more hearty meal than was her custom. The surgeon was of opinion that this is one of the cases of latent hernia not uncommon, and I may be allowed to add that during the past six months, the patient has had no sickness and has been able to take a hearty meal without any fear of untoward consequences.

October 27th.—A sharp attack of diarrhoea occurred, the motions being very loose and of a bright yellow colour; they occurred every three or four hours, night and day.

October 28th.—The doctor ordered a dose of chalk mixture every four hours and a half grain opium pill every night.

October 29th.—Medicine continued as yesterday. The diarrhoea much less; patient's appetite was good, and she slept well. Wound healing well.

October 30th.—All medicine stopped, diarrhoea having ceased.

November 14th.—Patient's general condition much improved. Wound perfectly healed, but the bandage and padding continued to be renewed daily until the 28th, when an abdominal belt with large firm pad was put on, and Miss B. sat up by the fire for an hour. A few days later she was able to walk downstairs without any inconvenience.

In spite of the severity of the weather, Miss B. seemed to be making most satisfactory progress until December 28th, when, returning from her usual short walk in the forenoon, she had a slight attack of dyspnoea, followed by great feebleness. By the doctor's orders she was kept in bed for the next two days, but complained of palpitation of the heart, which came on after meals and then subsided. On January 1st she sat up for half an hour, but the exertion brought on dyspnoea, and the doctor ordered complete rest in bed. There were no apparent signs of bronchitis or lung mischief.

January 5th.—Miss B. complained during the night of pain in the left knee and thigh, and there was some redness and swelling in those parts. She had no appetite next day, the urine was scanty and high-coloured, temperature normal. During the next few days the leg became much swollen, there were signs of obstruction to the large femoral vein; the pain was much less, but the most considerable swelling was close up to the groin. The limb appeared white, and there was some "pitting" on pressure. There appeared to be occasionally a little palpitation after food, which was relieved by the patient's lying on the right side.

January 11th.—The doctor ordered two iron jelloids (each containing 5 grains of Blaud's pill), to be given daily.

January 15th.—The patient's appetite is better, she sleeps well, and the leg is much less swollen. The doctor thinks the condition of the leg followed some weakening of the heart's action, but he declined to state whether this was due to septic or mechanical causes.

January 22nd.—Miss B. still confined to bed. The leg is very much improved. The iron jelloids have been stopped once or twice on account of the patient complaining of headache, and then resumed. No other medicine has been given; but a little claret ordered to be taken at dinner-time.

The patient enjoys a light and nutritious diet, such as the following:—Breakfast 8.30, rasher of bacon, tea and bread-and-butter; 11 a.m., cup of beef-tea; at 1 p.m. dinner, mutton chop and vegetables, tapioca pudding; 4 p.m., cup of Van Houten's cocoa, and hot buttered toast; 7.30 p.m., breakfast-cup of gruel with half ounce of brandy. During the night, stewed fruit or grapes with sponge rusks.

February 8th.—The leg was quite restored to its usual appearance, and a bandage having been applied, the patient was allowed to get about once more. On March 1st, she was able to undertake a long railway journey without any bad effects on her health resulting from the effort. When the great age of the patient is considered, and also the long interval of time which elapsed between the hernia becoming strangulated at 9 a.m., October 19th, and the operation, which took place at 3 p.m. on October 24th, I think that the absence of all signs of collapse, either before or after the operation, will be considered as rather unusual.

Matrons in Council.



A MEETING took place in connection with the above, on Monday, April 29th, at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at 4 p.m., when several of the members assembled to join in the Parliamentary Drill, or School of Method, so kindly undertaken by

Mrs. Eva McLaren.

It is most important that all women who decide to take part in public work should be thoroughly instructed in the mode of procedure at public meetings: however good one's purpose, however earnest one's resolution to do one's duty, without the "sinews of war"—the knowledge of how to meet emergencies and how to be "in order" while protesting against unwise or partisan legislation—one's eloquence and energies alike are wasted.

Lady Henry Somerset originated these classes in the methods of conducting public business in connection with the British Women's Temperance Association, and Mrs. McLaren very kindly came forward as Instructress. The initial meeting of the Matrons' Council School of Method was delightful, and all the members present, among whom were Miss Ridley, Miss Cartwright, Sister Lawrence, Mrs. Andrews, Miss Wainwright and Miss Annesley Kenealy, expressed themselves most enthusiastically on the subject. Apart from Mrs. McLaren's ability and her knowledge of Parliamentary tactics, her personality

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