

**THE NEW YORK MEDICAL  
ECLECTIC, DEVOTED TO  
REFORMED MEDICINE, GENERAL  
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**VARIOUS**

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# THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC,

DEVOTED TO

## Reformed Medicine,

GENERAL SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D.,  
ROBERT S. NEWTON, JR., M.D. } *Editors.*

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No. 6.

### ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

#### OBSERVATIONS ON MEDICAL SUBJECTS, WITH TREATMENT.

BY O. E. NEWTON, M.D., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

##### FLOODING AFTER DELIVERY.

THIS is a condition which is very alarming, and requires prompt and intelligent action. The cause is a want of the contraction of the womb closing the uterine vessels exposed by emptying the womb of its contents. Therefore, there are two present indications to be fulfilled: first, to arrest the hemorrhage, second, to produce contraction of the womb. The first can be done by placing a plugging in the vagina, forming coagula, the second by medicines and local applications.

Lay the patient straight, with the head low, to overcome the gravity of the blood. Apply the hand over the womb in a circular manner; also by seizing

and grasping the walls of the bowels. I use,

℞. Ess. cinnamon. . . . . ʒ iii.  
F. E. ergot. . . . . ʒ iv.  
Syr. simplex. . . . . ʒ i.—M.

Dose one teaspoonful every ten minutes in water. Cloths dipped in a cold solution of alum. Warm applications to the feet, etc.

If the patient is sinking rapidly I give additional treatment of stimulants.

℞. Tr. xanthox. frax. bac. ʒ ii.  
Carbon. ammonia. . . . . ʒ ss.  
Pure pale brandy. . . . . ʒ i.  
Syr. simplex. . . . . ʒ iv.—M.

Sig.—Two teaspoonfuls every fifteen minutes until reaction has been established.

If very threatening while waiting for the medicines to act, I cause ligatures to be placed around the upper and lower limbs to retain as much blood as possible.

Camphor and ammonia to the nose, if much sinking; quietness, firmness, and encouragement. No evidence on your part to frighten the patient must be allowed. In such cases I sometimes find there will be a clot accumulated in the womb preventing its contraction. This must be broken up and discharged from the womb prior to an effort for its contraction, as its presence will prevent the closing of the mouth of the vessels by preventing approximation of the walls. This is very important, and must be known. The oil erigeron is a very important styptic with some, and may be relied upon in some cases, in connection with fld. ext. lycopus virginica, in a slight excessive discharge.

The lowering of the head, taking a solution of alum—one teaspoonful dissolved in a cupful of water, is quite sufficient, the patient being tightly banded. If I find, after using the tamping or plugging, there follows an increased abdominal swelling, it is evident that the hemorrhage is continuing.

#### PYROSIS.

In nearly all cases I find it is produced from excessive acid secretion of the stomach, to relieve which I neutralize the morbid condition, giving bicarb. of soda in some aromatic tea, say crushed cinnamon bark ( $\frac{1}{2}$  ℥), one-half ounce to a pint of boiling water, steep, pour off, and add bicarb. of soda (3 ii.), two drachms. This to be drawn at pleasure, using this quantity in twenty-four hours.

In some cases lime-water and milk

Two tablespoonfuls of lime-water to a tumblerful of milk, to be drank every twelve (12) hours, is also good. Aromat. syr. rhei:—Two teaspoonfuls every two or three hours, is a good stomach corrector to be taken at the same time. If the bowels are costive I open them with a mild cathartic oil, or some mild physic. If the *water-brash* be connected with a chronic case of dyspepsia, in addition to neutralizing the acidity of the stomach, I treat the case as one of dyspepsia, combining all the treatment the cause and the condition indicates. Thus pyrosis is often connected with dyspepsia. The same principle is involved as in the treatment of dyspepsia, as regards diet, exercise, and habits of life generally. These are essential in curing this disease. The shortest, and therefore the most proper course, if the patient be very bilious, will often be to give first a thorough emetic.

#### HYSTERIA.

While these unfortunate cases usually receive but little sympathy from the outside world, who know but little, and care less about them, they should receive *your* most kind attention and treatment, as their suffering usually is very great.

It is purely a nervous spasm, which is the result of accumulated nervous derangement. The nerves can be the seat of diseased action as well and as readily as can the bone or muscular part of the human frame, and a nervous disease should therefore not be neglected, though many suppose who never experienced any derangement of their nervous system, that such cases are present by consent of the patient, and could be avoided if the patient desired it.

When I find a patient in spasms I first relieve it, and when relieved I try to remove the cause that may prevent other spasms following. Douching the patient with cold water is good; placing the feet in hot water is also good; placing diffusive stimulants, as aqua ammonia, or camphor, is likely to arouse them. Mustard applied to the spine is good. Internally, I use

R. Tr. valerian off. . . . .	ʒ i.
Sulph. ether. . . . .	ʒ ii.
Tr. assafetida. . . . .	ʒ vi.
Syr. simplex. . . . .	ʒ iss.

#### M.

Dose, one teaspoonful every fifteen minutes, in water, is good.

With these remedies you will always cause the patient to come out of the attack very soon. Then I look for the cause—if from uterine difficulty I try to cure it; if from opium or morphine eating, I stop it; if from impaired health, I try to build up her health again; if from trouble, I am kind to her, and have her friends administer to her brain; if from purely a loss of nervous power, I try to restore the capacity of the nervous system.

#### DELAY OF THE FIRST MENSES

Means a period that the parents will, perhaps, call your attention to; the fact that their daughter is now old enough, but does not menstruate, will be said to give them some apprehension.

What I try to find out is, if there be any manifest diseased condition to which I can ascribe a want of the expected secretion. If the patient complains of continued fulness of the head, pain more or less in the back, and an abdominal fulness of feeling, periodical nose-bleeding, severe pains in the loins

and back, I find it proper to interfere; but if, on the contrary, I find that the patient eats well and sleeps well, is regular in all her functions, growing strong, I conclude it is my duty not to interfere, and I tell the parents on what I base my opinion. I say to them that the law regulating the coming and ending of the menstrual flow is not uniform, but liable to very great variation, even in the same family.

I know a lady, well, at the age of twenty years, who had always been remarkably healthy in every way, who never menstruated. The vaginal examination of that case proved no development of the size of the womb, beyond that belonging to a child, though the vagina was fully developed. She was a woman who claimed to be without any knowledge of sexual passions, though a very healthy, well developed woman otherwise. This case is a rare exception.

#### VARIOLOID.

This is a disease which may follow exposure to small-pox, though the patient be satisfactorily vaccinated. It may be only a few pimples or pustules, or it may be a great many. It is a slight difficulty, but will run through the same stages that small-pox does.

A cooling, quiet treatment is all that is necessary; keep the patient in a quiet, dark room. Persons who have not been vaccinated are liable to take regular small-pox when exposed to varioloid, but varioloid is *not* likely to be produced, though it is sometimes from varioloid.

I use the same precaution by vaccinating others, if exposed to varioloid, that I would if exposed to small-pox. There is great responsibility resting upon physicians in such cases, and I do not neg-

lect to teach my patients, if necessary, what to do, and what they may expect by negligence. It is the custom of physicians generally in small cities to do their vaccinating upon all children, whose mothers they have been with in their confinement during the past year, in the month of November, or in cool weather, whether the disease is prevalent or not. This should be your duty whether you are called upon or not.

Mothers are taught this rule by me. I continue to vaccinate them until I know it is successful. There is some preference given by some to animal virus instead of human, but I think it safer to give the preference to human virus. Yet I find persons very apprehensive of vaccination by human virus, for fear of transplanting some constitutional disease, especially syphilis.

As a class the Germans are opposed to vaccination, assigning as a reason the danger of transplanting this disease, and others, as far as their influence extends, prevent their families from

being vaccinated; from this false theory comes the great danger of the spread of the disease.

I will make a special reference to the influence of vaccination as a preventive of small-pox: Some time ago I was called into the "Wesleyan Female Institute" in this city, an institute full of young misses, when both the female cooks were breaking out with small-pox. To visit the kitchen department and to see these two colored cooks was the same as a daily visit to almost the whole number of pupils; and notwithstanding nearly all these girls, including the teachers, principal and wife, had often visited them during the febrile state, not a single case of either small-pox or varioloid occurred after vaccinating the entire school.

On that day I vaccinated the whole household, and on the fifth day every one again who did not show an effect from the first. I have always thought this reference was conclusive proof of the usefulness of vaccination.

### MEDICAL COLLEGES, MEDICAL PROGRESS, AND AMERICAN PRE-EMINENCE.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE OF PROF. J. R. BUCHANAN, DELIVERED AT THE E. M. COLLEGE, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 1878.

THE public Introductory Lecture of a Medical College is designed to give to the students in attendance some idea of the coming session—and to the public some idea of the character, policy, and general worth of an Institution to which they look for accomplished physicians, upon whom they can rely in the hour of danger.

To the public at large I would say this college does not differ essentially in its general plan and framework from all other respectable medical schools. They all have professorships for instruction in Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, Surgery, Obstetrics, and Materia Medica, and in the Diseases of Women and Children.



This is the framework or skeleton of a medical college common to all schools. But there is a vast difference in the mode in which this skeleton is clothed with the flesh and blood, warmth and nerve power of life.

If the college presents merely the skeleton—if it deals only in the facts of science, without showing clearly and certainly how these anatomical facts enable us to restore glowing health to the pallid cheek—if it is not inspired by any firm purpose and hopeful benevolence to attempt the conquest of formidable diseases, but prefers to display only the learning of its faculty and students, and the dignified *regularity* of its proceedings—if it introduces nothing essentially new, and claims only to be a faithful retailer of what is laid down by authority—if it prefers learning to practical science—if it sneers at the man who successfully cures diseases and conquers epidemics by new methods, and reserves all its honor and support for the man who is distinguished by great learning and small success in the sick chamber—in short, if it has no sympathy with rapid progress, but deals in learning which is 25 or 30 years behind the times—in doctrines which clinical experience has exploded, and which have been buried in the Gehenna of dead delusions by all liberal minds—it is not a fountain of learning or a source of light to society, but a mausoleum of dead theories which were once regarded as living science, but are now only its decaying cadaver.

Such was the University of Padua when its faculty discarded Galileo and honored Aristotle—such were the Doctors of the French Academy when they laughed at Harvey, and called his followers in derision circulators—such were Oxford and

Cambridge, when they discarded Newton. They were all grand mausoleums—magnificent in architecture, wealth, and learning—pedantic, dogmatic, authoritative, and *Regular*, while Galileo, Harvey, and Newton were *Irregular*, which is the most condemnatory term that an allopathic medical journal could apply; and Harvey, with all the moral force of a perfectly demonstrated science (yet not so facile of demonstration as that which I am exhibiting daily), was saved only by the patronage of King Charles from being entirely crushed like Eliotson by the medical profession.

That which colleges, and especially medical colleges, have been in the past, they are substantially to-day. They are the same corporations, or their offshoots, occupied and managed by the same human nature—by men trained in the same way. If Prof. Hoffman refused to accept Harvey's perfect demonstration before his own eyes, Prof. Carpenter repeats the same offence to-day in the most dictatorial and pragmatic manner.

Carlyle said with his sarcastic humor that England had a population of "28,000,000—mostly fools," and there may have been as much of truth as of jest intended, but it may be said in extenuation that England never had a college where men were taught to reason—for the professors themselves have not known what reasoning is, as I have shown in my essay on Logic. That which they substitute for reason—their system of Logic (the dry bones of Aristotle) never was and never will be used by any reasoner. It never organized a philosophy, expanded thought, or produced a discovery, and never advanced human progress an inch; and yet, although thoroughly exposed and ridiculed by Locke, it still

holds its place in colleges, a venerable, tiresome humbug, which no more resembles reason than the waddle of a duck resembles the flight of the eagle.

Pedantry, Dogmatism, and Regularity, are still the characteristics of the majority of the colleges and universities of Europe, and the new truths which they ignore are as important as the old science which they preserve; yet light is breaking in upon them—Oxford and Cambridge, as President White says, are really beginning to give attention to modern sciences, and the medical schools abroad are moderating their bigotry. The University of London, imitating the American example, now admits women to degrees, and in this very month the joint instruction of male and female students begins in University College, London.

Yet as we know that force is never destroyed, whether physical force or moral force, and that all qualities are surely transmitted by inheritance, we may be sure that American colleges, which are not indigenous, which did not spring from the native impulse of the American mind, but which came by regular procreation from their European prototypes, are forwarded by regular inheritance of all the faults of their ancestry, though slightly modified by the moral atmosphere of this free country, as certainly as the high-blooded horse of this country represents the qualities and constitution which were originally developed on the Sands of Arabia.

When I speak of this institution as a college, I must protest that it is not what colleges have been heretofore. It is not like the college in which I first studied medicine, which maintained an absurd and fatal theory for more than twenty years—it is not a lineal descendant of any-

thing across the ocean, but is exclusively an American Institution, springing from the soil, like the great trees of California, that rear their giant limbs aloft, and teach the spectator that the grandest evolution of matter and mind must be looked for, not across the ocean, but on this continent, which is the oldest of all the continents and destined as it is to the most glorious career it has already made.

The bones of our Washington lie at Mt. Vernon, but his Immortal example and his Immortal spirit still illuminate mankind, and inspire all the patriotic movements of humanity.

That which America has done in politics by the heroic use of the sword, she has yet to do in science by the use of a weapon which, in the long lapse of ages, is "mightier than the sword." The military heroism of America has finished its task, and the thunder of the cannon of 1776 will reverberate, until in every land the toiling millions assert their rights. But there are a thousand heroes in the fierce inspiring strife of war to one of the calm, patient, unambitious, unselfish, but unconquerable heroes of peace. Men are willing to live on bread and water, and sleep beneath the sky on the cold ground, to win a triumph when they are surrounded and carried on by the enthusiasm of 100,000 comrades, but few are willing to work alone without sympathy under similar hardships and dangers which belong to the life of the reformer. The heroism of pioneer thought is rare, and American intellect is still far from having performed its part to emancipate the world from the thralldom of ancient superstitions and scientific falsities, which are embodied in old literature, and our old collegiate institutions.

I mean precisely what I say, and do not shrink from the responsibility for these bold words. I mean that the enslavement and debasement of human intellect by the false teaching of collegiate institutions is as great an evil as the enslavement of society by military despotisms, from which we have been freed. I know this is not politic language, but having always preferred truth to policy, I maintain this as the truth, because it is the usage of almost all colleges to stamp upon their pupils fixed immovable opinions, which crystallize into a solid body all the errors of existing ignorance. The new truth which might come in is thus frozen out, and the great river of progress becomes a solid body of ice on which they erect institutions and in which they have rich sinecures, until the great thaw shall come in the springtime of growing humanity.

But I do not propose to discuss colleges in general, and point out their faults, which would require many hours, for we are speaking merely of *medical colleges*, but they are a very important part of that great educational system on which society depends, and about which society should have just conceptions.

What I assert is that we are resting under the deep shadow of the past, until we shall have replaced the antiquated college by a modern institution. What that should be I am prepared to show as soon as I can use the press.

It is our aim in this institution to replace the ideas of antiquity by modern ideas, to substitute for the European system of thought the American system, and make an essentially new departure in medical collegiate institutions, in which the mind of man shall no longer be enslaved by authority—by any au-

thority but God and duty—the science of which is real freedom.

The duty of which I speak—which should control the life of every physician—is the duty to his patient, *not the medical clique*, the duty for the performance of which he spends from three to five years in laborious study, a duty which arises from the Divine law imprinted on every honest human soul—that when my brother trusts his life or his property in my hands, I must be faithful to the trust. If I embezzle his estate trusted with me, I am a felon. If I trifle with his life or health when he depends upon me for its preservation, I am a still greater criminal, and I do trifle with his life and health if I fail to study diligently and thoroughly the healing art which he believes me to understand. If I do not seek all the remedies which science is daily bringing forth for his relief, if I do not read the medical journals in which these discoveries are recorded, I am treacherous to my trust, and unworthy of full confidence. The physician who reads no medical journals, and does not use any new remedies, will have to bow in humiliation before the tribunal of his own conscience in the day of the final reckoning, to which all men must come in the presence of Divine authority, for he must realize that he has had no fine sense of honor—he has not done his duty to his patient—he was trusted, and he betrayed the trust, and failed to relieve suffering which he might have relieved by gathering all the healing resources within his reach.

Still more frequent will be his remorse, still deeper his humiliation, if he recollects that he failed in his duty, not by too great indolence to study his profes-