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*Case of a Polypus Uteri, communicated by Dr. DENMAN.**

IN the beginning of July last, I was desired to visit a foreign lady, who was born, and had passed the greatest part of her life, in a hot climate. She was between thirty and forty years of age, had been early married, but never had a child. Her strength was much reduced, her aspect was wan, and her lips and gums pale, but her appetite and digestion were good. She informed me, that about three years ago, she had suffered much from a profuse uterine hæmorrhage, and from that, to the time of my conversing with her, had never passed a single day without a return of the hæmorrhage in a greater or less degree, and sometimes it had been very considerable. She had never suffered any uterine pain, or other local inconvenience, except a frequent inclination to void her urine, and some difficulty in voiding it. When she was free from the hæmorrhage, she had a watery or ichorous discharge of an unpleasant kind. She had been under the care of several medical gentlemen, who had not given a decided opinion on her case, but had generally made an alarming prognostic. She had received little or no benefit from a variety of medicines, which had been prescribed for her, and which she had taken with great perseverance.

She permitted me to take an examination, and I was very much surprized to find the whole *vagina* and *uterus*, as far as I could reach, (for the *os uteri* was completely dilated) filled with a fleshy substance of a pretty firm texture, which could not be suspected to be any thing but a *polypus*, though it was not possible to discover the stem or pedicle of it.

As the state of this patient was such as to excite great apprehension for her safety, from the continuance of the hæmo:r-

* We take the liberty of pointing out to our junior correspondents, Dr. DENMAN's manner of relating cases as worthy of imitation.—ED.

hage, and as there was no likelihood of this being stopped, without the extirpation of the *polypus*, the necessity of removing it was evident. Yet, from its magnitude, there must clearly be much difficulty in passing a ligature over it; and if this difficulty were surmounted, it would be doubtful on what part it might be fixed, as it was not certain that the *uterus* was not inverted. But from the failure to pass the ligature, though I might be disappointed, no harm could arise; and if it were passed, and happened to fix upon a part unable to bear its operation, I could desist immediately on the appearance of any untoward symptom; it was therefore thought right to make the attempt. I was foiled in the first trials I made; but on July the ninth, I succeeded in passing the ligature, and conducted it by the help of a long wooden probe, with a perforation at the end, far beyond the reach of my fingers; so as to include the whole circumference of the tumour. On the first day I only drew the ends of the ligature sufficiently tight, to keep it fixed upon the part to which it was conducted; but I drew it tighter on every succeeding day till the seventeenth, when the ligature came away. From the time of my fixing the ligature, there had been a profuse sanious discharge, plainly shewing that the tumour was decaying; yet, though it was detached, no attempts were made to extract it; but it was suffered to remain, with the expectation of its bulk being lessened by putrefaction. On the nineteenth, after some disturbance in the bowels, she complained of severe pains in the region of the *uterus*, returning at short intervals like the pains of labour, raising the same kind of effort as is made to expel a child. During the continuance of a pain, I found the *polypus* pressing firmly upon, and dilating the *os externum*, which was rigid and much contracted. In about four hours, with the little assistance I was able to give, the *polypus* was excluded without any hæmorrhage, either during the time of its expulsion or afterwards.

Dr. BAILLIE, who saw this patient with me, had the *polypus*, which, notwithstanding its diminution, (it was much decayed) weighed two pounds and three ounces; so that it does not seem unreasonable to suppose it must originally have weighed three pounds, being far the largest I ever removed.

The lady recovered without one unpleasant symptom, menstruated naturally at the end of five weeks, and has since remained in perfect health.

Old Burlington Street,
Nov. 27, 1799.

THOMAS DENMAN.

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