Am J Med Sci 1862 V-44

Cases treated at the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital at Canton, China. By JOHN G. KERR, M. D. (Communicated by Prof. S. D. Gross, M. D.)

OF the surgical cases presented for treatment at the hospital in Canton, the most important are those requiring operations for the removal of stone in the bladder. There are no statistics to show how common this affection is; but that it is of frequent occurrence may be inferred from the fact that not less than fifty cases are seen annually at the two missionary hospitals in this city.

It is unnecessary to enter into a discussion of the causes which produce calculous diseases; but it may be remarked, as bearing on the subject, that, as tea is the universal beverage of the Chinese, they do not drink water until it has been boiled, and the lime which it contained is thereby precipitated to a greater or less extent. It is a very rare thing for a Chinaman, even of the poorest classes, to drink cold water. In this country, therefore, the disease cannot be attributed to the use of water impregnated with the salts of lime.

It is a remarkable fact that urinary calculus has not been met with in any other part of China than Canton Province. Dr. Lockhart, of Shanghai, and Dr. McCartee, of Ningpo, who have practised among the Chinese for about twenty years, have informed me that they have never met with a case. That the disease exists in other parts of this vast empire is not unlikely, but it remains for future observers to discover the localities.

The first operation for stone in the bladder was performed in July, 1844, by the Rev. P. Parker, M.D., who was the founder of the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital. Up to the end of 1851 Dr. Parker had operated on 30 cases, only two of which were fatal. He had, I think, half a dozen other operations which have not been published. In 1854–56 Dr. W. G. Dickson operated on nine cases at the Medical Missionary Society's hospital. One case was fatal. About 39 cases have been operated on at the Hospital of the London Missionary Society in this city, of which nine have died. The operators were three English surgeons and one Chinese surgeon educated in Edinburgh.

history-of-obgyn.com
obgynhistory.net
Digitized by Google

Tabular Statement of Cases of Stone in the Bladder.

No.	Age.	Residence.	Occupation.	Duration.	Date of Operation.	Chemistry.	Diameters.	Weight.			Result.	Remarks.
							inches.	oz.	d.	s.		
1	50	Sanshwui	Labourer		May 23, 1856	Uric acid	1 by ¾				Recovery	
2	28	Kauming	Farmer	11 mos.	Oct. 10, "	"			1	0	"	Lithotrity.
3	36	"	"	12 yrs.	Oct. 17, "	"	2¼ " 1¼	2	1	2	Death	11th day.
4	50	Canton	Shopkeeper	3 "	Nov. 29, 1859	"	2⅓ " 1½	1	4	0	Recovery	
5	7	Tungkwan		3 "	Dec. 2, "	Phos. lime	1¼ " ⅞		2	2	"	
6	17	Nanhai		4 "	April 10, 1860	Uric acid	2 " 1¼	1	1	0	"	
7	42	Canton	Shopkeeper	7 "	July 5, "	Oxalic	1⅛ " ½		1	0	"	Opium smoker.
8	41	Pwanyü	Carpenter	4 "	July 5, "	Uric acid	2 " 1½		5	2	"	
9	17	Szhwui		3 "	July 27, "	"	1½ " 1¼		3	2	"	
10	35	Shauhing	Labourer	3 "	Aug. 11, "	"	1⅜ " 1¼		6	0½	"	
11	51	Tungkwan	"	2 "	Sept. 18, "	"	1¾ " 1½	1	0	2½	"	
12	28	Sinhwui	Shopkeeper	1¼ yr.	Nov. 15, "	"	2½ " 1⅜	1	5	0	"	
13	37	Pwanyü	Tile-maker	3 yrs.	Dec. 4, "	"	1¾ " 1¼	1	0	0	"	
14	9	Szhwui		2 "	Dec. 11, "	"	1⅓ " 1⅛		4	2	"	
15	57	Sinhwui	Paper dealer	4 "	Dec. 11, "	"	2½ " 1⅞	3	2	1	Death	2d day.
16	33	Heungshan	Farmer	2 "	April 8, 1861	"	1¾ " 1¼		5	0	Recovery	
17	61	Fuhshan	Wire-maker	14 mos.	April 8, "	"			1	1½	"	Lithotrity.
18	29	Tungkwan	Boatman	13 "	May 17, "	"	2 " 1¼	1	0	1	"	
19	34	Pwanyü	Farmer	3 yrs.	Aug. 12, "	"	1⅓ " 1		3	1	"	
20	47	Tsingün	"	4 "	Sept. 9, "	Phos. lime	2½ " 1⅞	2	6	2	"	Opium smoker.
21	21	Pwanyü	Small trader	6 "	Sept. 9, "	"	1½ " 1⅜	1	2	1	"	Two stones.
22	30	Nanhai	Farmer	4 "	Sept. 30, "	Uric acid	2⅓ " 1¾	2	4	0	"	
23	43	Szhwui	Shopkeeper	1 yr.	Oct. 30, "	"	1 " ½		1	0	"	
24	24	Tungkwan	Carpenter	4 yrs.	Oct. 30, "	Triple phos.	2¼ " 1¾	2	4	1	"	Encysted.
25	24	Sanhing	Farmer	12 "	Nov. 4, "	"	3 " 2½	5	0	0	"	
26	17	Pwanyü	"	3 "	Nov. 13, "	Phos. lime	1½ " ⅞		3	0	"	
27	51	"	Small trader	5 "	Dec. 30, "	Uric acid	1¾ " 1⅜	2	1	0	"	Two stones.

history-of-obgyn.com obgynhistory.net Digitized by Google

The above tabular statement includes all the operations for stone performed by myself up to the end of 1861. It will be noticed that no cases occurred in 1857–58. This was owing to the fact that the operations of the hospital were interrupted during those years by the war between England and China.

A few remarks on some of the cases is all that it is necessary to add to the facts contained in the tabular statement. The majority of the patients reside at distances of less than fifty miles from Canton. A few lived farther away, and one or two resided at a distance of about one hundred miles from the capital of the province.

The lateral operation has been performed in all the cases, except two, in which lithotrity was employed. This operation would be resorted to more frequently in suitable cases, but that patients are not willing to stay the length of time necessary for its completion. The stone in Case No. 23 would have been crushed but for an error in measuring it, although this was carefully done before operating. The case was an excellent one for crushing, but the recovery of the patient after being cut was slow and unsatisfactory.

In Case No. 3, the stone was covered with a deposit of crystals, which made its surface very rough. The bladder was no doubt extensively diseased, as the foreign substance had been in the viscus for so many years. There was a large deposit of muco-purulent matter in the urine. Reaction did not take place after the operation, and the patient gradually sank from irritative fever of a typhoid character.

In Case No. 10, the operation was followed by an abscess in the left internal iliac region, the matter from which was discharged at the incision. He lingered for several weeks with but little prospect of recovery, and finally returned to his home, about ninety miles distant. About six months afterward he returned to the hospital, very much improved in health, the abscess having entirely healed, but he still had symptoms of stone. After several careful examinations, a small stone was found in the membranous portion of the urethra, which had formed, no doubt, during his long illness. He declined submitting to any attempt to remove it, and left the hospital. In the beginning of the present year he was met with again at the dispensary in Fuhshan, in the enjoyment of robust health. The small stone had been discharged some months before, and was followed by entire relief of all his sufferings. This man complained of inability to discharge semen, although erections took place as usual.

Cases No. 7 and No. 20 were opium smokers. The appearance of the latter was like that of a man in the decline of life at 60, although his age was only 47. When he first came to the hospital the operation was declined on account of his general debility, and the indications of extensive disease of the bladder. He returned to the country, and, after spending some months in a place more salubrious than his own residence, he came back to

history-of-obgyn.com
obgynhistory.net
Digitized by Google

the hospital, with a decided improvement in his general health. The operation was undertaken with reluctance, but finally his urgent requests were yielded to. The stone had three rough places on its surface which were the cause of much irritation of the mucous membrane. One of these rough places was so situated as to be in the form of a jagged hook, and in the extraction was the cause of much laceration of the tissues. Notwithstanding all these unfavourable circumstances, the patient recovered slowly and left the hospital about a month after the operation.

In Cases No. 24 and No. 25 the stones were unusually rough, and had caused chronic inflammation of the bladder, which made the cases very unfavourable. The stone in No. 24 was encysted, or so grasped by the thickened and contracted coats of the bladder that it was almost impossible to extract it, and, after nearly two hours' hard work, I was on the point of giving it up, when, at last perseverance was rewarded with success. The size and roughness of the stone, in Case No. 25, rendered its extraction very difficult, and about one hour and a half were consumed before its removal was effected. In both these cases, great violence was done to the tissues of the perineum, both by bruising and lacerating, and this, added to the chronic disease of the bladder, rendered the recovery of the patients exceedingly doubtful. They both, however, recovered gradually, but slowly, without any serious drawback. When they left the hospital, they were still suffering from chronic disease of the bladder, but there was every prospect that removal to the country would soon result in perfect restoration of health.

The last case, No. 27, was complicated with stone in the urethra, which had caused inflammation and swelling of the penis with ulceration of the glans. This stone was about one inch long, by three or four lines in diameter at one end, tapering to half that size at the other end. After its removal the penis was restored to a healthy state by fomentations, laxatives and other means, and then it was found there was urinary calculus. On performing the lateral operation, two stones, of the same shape and size, were removed, and the patient made a favourable recovery.

No case of calculus in the female has been met with.

With reference to the treatment after the operation, it may be stated that the patient is placed on boards with a thin straw mat—the common Chinese bed—and that these boards are separated three or four inches so as to allow the urine and feces to be received into a vessel below. No dressing was applied to the wound, but frequent bathing with tepid water was practised. Each patient had his own attendant, and but little control could be exercised over the diet. When able to buy it they often took medicine from native physicians.

In one case only was there dangerous hemorrhage, and this happened on the fourth or fifth day, in a patient 50 years old.

history-of-obgyn.com obgynhistory.net Digitized by Google