STRicture of the oesophagus,

With the lodgment in it of a foreign body.

By

G. B. BALCH, M. D.,
Yonkers, N. Y.

[Reprinted from the New York Medical Journal, March, 1875.]
The Popular Science Monthly was started to promote the diffusion of valuable scientific knowledge, in a readable and attractive form, among all classes of the community, and has thus far met a want supplied by no other periodical in the United States.

The great feature of the magazine is, that its contents are not what science was ten or more years since, but what it is to-day, fresh from the study, the laboratory, and the experiment: clothed in the language of the authors, inventors, and scientists themselves, which comprise the leading minds of England, France, Germany, and the United States. Among popular articles, covering the whole range of Natural Science, we have the latest thoughts and words of Herbert Spencer, and Professors Huxley, Tyndall, and R. A. Proctor. Since the start, it has proved a gratifying success to every friend of scientific progress and universal education; and those who believed that science could not be made anything but dry study are disappointed.

The press all over the land is warmly commending it. We subjoin a few encomiums from those recently given:

"That there is a place for The Popular Science Monthly, no one can doubt who has watched the steady increase of interest in scientific investigation manifested in this country, not only by a select class, but by the entire community."—New York Times.

"A Journal which promises to be of eminent value to the cause of popular education in this country."—New York Tribune.

"It is, beyond comparison, the best attempt at journalism of the kind ever made in this country."—Home Journal.

"The initial number is admirably constituted."—Evening Mail.

"We think it is not too much to say that this is the best first number of any magazine ever published in America."—New York World.

"It is just what is wanted by the curious and progressive mind of this country, and ought to be widely circulated."—New York Evening Post.

"It is the first successful attempt in this country to popularize science in the pages of a monthly."—N. Y. School Journal.

"Not the less entertaining because it is instructive."—Philadelphia Age.

"The Monthly has more than fulfilled all the promises which the publishers made in the prospectus of publication."—Niagara Falls Gazette.

"It places before American readers what the ablest men of science throughout the world write about their meditations, speculations, and discoveries."—Providence Journal.

"This is a highly-novel beginning of a useful and much-needed enterprise in the way of publication, for which the public owe a special debt of obligation to Messrs. D. Appleton & Co."—Boston Gazete.

"This new enterprise appeals to all who are interested in the laudable effort of diffusing that information which is best calculated to expand the mind and improve the conditions and enhance the worth of life."—Golden Age.

"Just the publication needed at the present day."—Montreal Gazette.

"This new magazine, in our estimation, has more merit than the whole brood which have preceded it."—Oswego Press.

"In our opinion, the right idea has been happily hit in the plan of this new monthly."—Buffalo Courier.

"This is one of the very best periodicals of its kind published in the world. Its corps of contributors comprise many of the ablest minds known to science and literature. It is doing a great and noble work in popularizing science, promoting the growth of reason, and leveling the battlements of old superstitions reared in the childhood of our race before it was capable of reasoning."—The American Medical Journal, St. Louis, Mo.

"This magazine is worth its weight in gold, for its service in educating the people."—The American Journal of Education, St. Louis, Mo.

"This monthly enables us to utilize at least several years more of life than it would be possible were we obliged to wait its publication in book-form at the hands of some compiler."—The Writing Teacher and Business Advertiser, New York.

The Popular Science Monthly is published in a large octavo, handsomely printed on clear type, and, when the subjects admit, fully illustrated. Each number contains 128 pages.

Terms: $5 per Annum, or Fifty Cents per Number.

Postage free to all Subscribers in the United States, from January 1, 1875.

A new volume of the Popular Science begins with the numbers for May and November each year. Subscriptions may commence from any date. Back numbers supplied.

Now Ready, Vols. I., II., III., IV., and V. of The Popular Science Monthly, embracing the Numbers from 1 to 99 (May, 1872, to October, 1874), 5 vols., 8vo. cloth, $8.50 per vol. Half Morocco, $6.50 per vol.

For Sale, Binding Cases for Vols. I., II., III., IV., and V. of The Popular Science Monthly. These covers are prepared expressly for binding the volumes of The Popular Science Monthly as they appear, and will be sent to Subscribers on receipt of price. Any binder can attach the covers at a trifling expense. Price, 50 cents each.

D. APPLETON & CO., Publishers,
549 & 551 Broadway, New York.
STRICTURE OF THE ŒSOPHAGUS,

WITH THE LODGMENT IN IT OF A FOREIGN BODY.

BY

G. B. BALCH, M. D.,
YONKERS, N. Y.

[REPRINTED FROM THE NEW YORK MEDICAL JOURNAL, MARCH, 1875.]

NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,
549 & 551 BROADWAY.
1875.
STRICTURE OF THE OESOPHAGUS, WITH THE LODGMENT IN IT OF A FOREIGN BODY.

Mr. F., aged twenty-seven years; strictly temperate; healthy and well nourished; weight 184 pounds.

About one o'clock, p. m., January 8, 1875, the patient applied to me for professional advice, stating that while eating supper, about seven o'clock the previous evening, a piece of roast-beef had lodged in his throat, that it still remained there, and that he had not been able to swallow any thing since; not even a drop of water would pass the obstruction.

His respiration and pulse were normal; felt no particular inconvenience, except from the inability to swallow his saliva. Fluids would enter the oesophagus as far as the stricture, and then return to the mouth.

On attempting to pass the bougie, a slight stricture was encountered in the upper third of the oesophagus, which was readily passed. At the commencement of the lower third the bougie met an obstruction that it could not move or pass without the use of more force than was thought prudent to use.

History.—When about two and a half years of age he accidentally swallowed some sulphuric acid. The effect upon his mouth and throat was terrible, and the destruction of his life would probably have resulted had he not had a full stomach at the time. The stomach was immediately emptied by vomiting. For a year following it was almost a constant
struggle for life, the difficulty of taking nourishment being so great. For about six years he could take nothing but liquids and semi-solid food.

Since he has commenced the use of solid food, has had repeated attacks of obstruction of the oesophagus. The period of time the obstruction has remained has varied from a few minutes to fifty hours.

About twelve years ago he had a severe choke from a piece of boiled corned-beef. Unsuccessful efforts were made both to push it down and pull it up; finally a prescription was given him containing muriatic acid for the purpose of digesting or dissolving the meat, and after several hours' rest he attempted to swallow some water and it went down. The obstruction remained at this time thirty-six hours.

For the past year or two he has considered himself entirely relieved, and has eaten every thing he wished without trouble. At this time he was dining a little later than usual, and, being in some haste to keep an engagement, probably was not as careful to masticate his food as usual.

Treatment.—After repeated trials to dislodge the obstruction by mechanical means, and failing, the following prescription was given: B. Acid. hydrochlor. dil. f3 ij, pepsin. 3 j, aqua pura q. s. ad. f3 ij. Directions were given him to swallow a teaspoonful repeatedly, so as to keep the beef moistened by it, the object being to digest the meat.

10 P. M.—No change; the throat feels a little sore from the irritation caused by the attempts to pass the bougie, and efforts to swallow the medicine. Directed him to go to bed, and at one or two o'clock in the morning to attempt to swallow some water; if he then failed, to wait until daylight and repeat the trial.

January 9th, 8 A. M.—Has just succeeded in swallowing, the obstruction having remained thirty-seven hours. During the night he made several unsuccessful efforts to swallow; he then let it rest as directed for several hours, and then attempted to swallow some milk: two attempts were unsuccessful; a third with water succeeded. The throat remained sore for a few days, diet consisting of liquids and semi-solids, and then he resumed ordinary diet.
Remarks.—In the American Journal of Medical Sciences, for April, 1871, Samuel Ashhurst, M. D., reports a case of stricture in a child, aged four and a half years, that resulted fatally. A piece of ham lodging in the oesophagus near its entrance into the stomach, unsuccessful efforts were made to pass bougies. The stricture was caused by “swallowing lye” two years previous. The obstruction continued for seven days, when the child vomited some offensive, green matter, and, as the child expressed herself, “the lump had gone down.” The child continued to sink, and died nine hours after. The autopsy revealed some superficial ulcerations and a “strong, fibrous stricture about one inch and three-fourths from the lower end of the oesophagus.”

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, in the “London Hospital Reports,” relates a case of cicatricial stricture with obstruction of the oesophagus very similar to Dr. Ashhurst’s, except that his case recovered after the dislodgment of the foreign body. Gastrostomy was thought of in both these cases, but not performed.

Out of eighteen cases where gastrostomy has been performed for stricture of the oesophagus, only two have been for cicatricial stricture. J. Cooper Foster’s case survived about four days; Dr. Maury’s case twelve hours.

Cicatricial strictures of the oesophagus are not of very unfrequent occurrence, and the most successful treatment thus far used has been dilatation. Dr. Morell Mackenzie has been very successful in the treatment of non-malignant or traumatic strictures by dilatation; his instrument is made similar to Holt’s dilator for urethral stricture. Mr. Durham and Dr. Richardson advocate the same treatment. Dr. Richardson has invented a dilator which secures lateral dilatation by the use of air or water.

1 Fifteen cases are reported and referred to by A. Jacobi, M. D., in a very able paper on “Gastrostomy in Stricture of the Oesophagus,” New York Medical Journal, vol. xx., 1874. Three cases are recorded in the London Lancet, June 22, 1872, page 862.
2 Guy’s Hospital Reports,” Third Series, vol. v., 1859.
3 American Journal of Medical Sciences, April, 1870.
4 Medical Times and Gazette, July 16, 1870.
The excessive use of mechanical means to dislodge an article of food lodged in the oesophagus, and which does not interfere with respiration, appears to me to be uncalled for until efforts have been made to digest or dissolve it. I have been unable to find any record of cases in which a digestive or dissolving treatment has been used. The idea suggested itself to me, and the patient said it had been employed by Dr. Parker, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in a previous attack, and with the same fortunate result.
MEDICAL WORKS
PUBLISHED BY D. APPLETON & CO.

Anstie on Neuralgia. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $2.50.
Bartolov's Treatise on Therapeutics. (In press.)
Barber on Pelvic Diseases. 1 vol. Cloth, $5.00.
Barber on Sea-Sickness. 1 vol., 16mo. Cloth, 75 cents.
Barrows's Obstetric Operations. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $4.50.
Bellevue and Charity Hospital Reports. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $4.00.
Bennet's Winter and Spring on the Mediterranean. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $3.50.
Bennet on the Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $1.50.
Billroth's General Surgical Pathology and Therapeutics. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $5.00.

Sheep, $6.00.

Bastion on the Common Forms of Paralysis from Brain Disease. (In press.)
Buckley's (L. D.) Acne; its Pathology, etc.
Come on the Management of Infancy. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.50.
Carpenter's Medical Physiology. $3.00.

Davis's (Henry G.) Conservative Surgery. Cloth, $3.00.
Dickson on Medicine in Relation to the Mind. Cloth, $3.50.
Elliott's Obstetric Clinic. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $4.50.
Ecker's Convolutions of the Brain. Price, $1.25.
Flint's Physiology. 5 vols. 8vo. Cloth, per vol., $4.50; Sheep, $6.
Flint's Manual on Urine. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.00.
Flint's Relations of Urea to Exercise. 1 vol. 8vo. Cloth, $2.00.
Frey's History and Histology of Man. Cloth, $2.50.
Hammond's Diseases of the Nervous System. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $5.00.
Hammond's and Platt's Principles of Physiology and Spiritualism. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.
Holland's (Sir Henry) Recollections of Post Life. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $2.00.
Howe on Emergencies. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $3.00.
Huxley on the Breath, and the Diseases which give it a Fetid Odor. Cloth, price $1.
Huxley on the Anatomy of Vertebrated Animals. 1 vol. Cloth, $3.50.
Huxley and Youmans's Physiology and Hygiene. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.75.
Hammond's Innsanity in its Relations to Crime. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $1.00.
Hamilton's Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $9.50.
Hamilton's (A. Mcl.) Electro-Therapeutics. 1 vol., 8vo, cloth, $2.50.

Lesserman's Recollections of the Army of the Potomac. 1 vol., 8vo, Cloth, $1.
Leeves's Physiology of Common Life. 2 vols., 12mo. Cloth, $3.00.
Marrack on Diseases of the Bones. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $4.50.
Maudsley on the Mind. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $3.50.
Maudsley's Body and Mind. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.00.
Maudsley on Responsibility in Mental Disease.
Meyer's Electricity. 1 vol. 8vo. Cloth, $1.50.
Niemeyer's Practical Medicine. 2 vols., 8vo. Cloth, $9.00; Sheep, $11.00.
Niemeyer's General-Therapeutics. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.50.
Nightingale's Notes on Nursing. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, 75 cents.
Neumann on Skin Diseases. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $4.00.
New York Medical Journal. $4.00 per annum. Specimen copies, 25 cents.
Practise on Ovarian Tumors. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $5.00.
Pereira's Materia Medica and Therapeutics. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $7; Sheep, $3.
Sayre's Club-foot. 1 vol., 12mo. Cloth, $1.00.
Schroeder on Obstetrics. 1 vol. 8vo. Cloth, $3.50.
Steiner's Compendium of Children's Diseases. Cloth, Price, $2.75.
Stroud's Physical Cause of the Death of Christ. 1 vol., 12mo. $2.00.
Srett on Diseases of the Chest. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $3.50.
Tilt's Ulterine Therapeutics. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $3.50.
Van Buren on Diseases of the Extremes. 1 vol., 12mo. $1.50.
Van Buren and Keyes's Genito-Urinary Diseases, with Syphilis. Cloth, $5; sheep, $6.00.
Van Buren's Diseases of Children. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $4.50; Sheep, $5.50.
Wells on Diseases of the Ovaries. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, $2.00.

Wagener's Chemical Technology. 1 vol., 8vo. $5.00.
Walton's Mineral Springs of the United States and Canada. With Analyses and Notes on the prominent Spas of Europe. Cloth, price, $2.00.

If any of these works will be mailed, post-free, to any part of the United States, on receipt of the price. Descriptive Catalogues forwarded on application.

A large and carefully-selected stock of Medical Works, American and Foreign, constantly on hand.

Special Terms given on large orders.

Physicians are invited to send their names and addresses.

D. APPLETON & CO., Publishers,
549 & 551 Broadway, New York.
APPLETONS' JOURNAL,

FOR 1875.

APPLETONS' JOURNAL will sustain, during the ensuing year, its reputation for general excellence. The publishers will endeavor, more strenuously than ever, to furnish a periodical of a high class, one which shall embrace a wide scope of topics, and afford the reader, in addition to an abundance of entertaining popular literature, a thorough survey of the progress of thought, the advance of the arts, and the doings in all branches of intellectual effort. As the design is to make a superior literary journal, engravings will be employed only when they serve to illustrate the text, and never merely as pictures.

Without adhering too rigidly to any set plan, the contents will be grouped approximately as follows:

I. LITERATURE OF ROMANCE, consisting of popular serial novels, from both American and English writers, and the best short stories obtainable, whether from native or foreign writers.

II. TRAVEL, ADVENTURE, AND DISCOVERY, embracing papers descriptive of places, tales of adventure and discovery, with notes of all that is doing in the way of exploration, or that is brought to light of new and unfamiliar countries.

III. NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY, under which will be given entertaining papers on the characteristics of the earth’s surface, the habits of animals, and all that pertains to the physical world around us.

IV. SOCIAL THEMES, including papers expressing the ideas of capable observers on social progress, the arts and felicities of the household, and such matters as pertain to our daily lives.

V. THE ARTS, embracing criticisms of new paintings, new architecture, etc.; observations on decorative and household art, and a general survey of the progress of the arts in all their branches.

VI. MISCELLANY will cover selections from new books, brief translations from Continental journals, and extracts giving the core of the more noteworthy papers in the English magazines.

VII. SCIENCE AND INVENTION will consist of popular papers on subjects covered by these terms, and will record the progress made therein.

VIII. NEW BOOKS will be carefully and impartially reviewed, in the sole interest of the reader; and notes will be subjoined, affording intelligence in regard to literary matters here and abroad.

IX. CURRENT TOPICS will consist of the editor’s glances at themes occupying the public mind; at various utterances by leading spirits in literature, philosophy, and criticism; and at the gayeties and amusements of society. It is designed to make this department notable for its entertaining vivacity.

The broad purpose of the editors will be to make a magazine of weekly issue, that shall rival in interest and variety the regular monthly publications; and for this purpose the space at their command enables them to give much more material for the same yearly subscription than that contained in the largest of the monthly magazines.

Published Weekly. Price 10 Cents per Number; or $4 per Annum, in advance.

By the recent Post-Office Law, the postage on all periodicals, after January 1, 1875, must be prepaid by the publishers. Subscribers, therefore, will hereafter receive their numbers without charges for postage.

Any person procuring Five Yearly Subscriptions, for weekly numbers, and remitting $20.00, will be entitled to a copy for one year gratis.

In remitting by mail, a post-office order or draft, payable to the order of D. APPLETON & Co., is preferable to bank-notes, as, if lost, the order or draft can be recovered without loss to the sender.

Volumes begin with January and July of each year.

APPLETONS' JOURNAL and other Harper's Weekly, Harper's Bazar, Harper's Magazine, Lippincott's Magazine, the Atlantic Monthly, Scribner's Monthly, or the Galaxy, for one year, on receipt of $7.50, which includes prepaid postage; Appletons' Journal and Little's Living Age, for $10.50, including postage; the Journal and Popular Science Monthly, for $8, including postage prepaid by the publishers.

For those who prefer it, the Journal is put up in Monthly Parts, and in this form its scope and variety, as compared with other magazines, become conspicuously apparent. Subscription price, $4.50 per annum, including postage prepaid by the publishers.