

NOTES ON A CASE OF PRIMARY SQUAMOUS-CELLED EPITHELIOMA OF THE BODY OF THE UTERUS.*

By F. C. BATCHELOR, M.D., Dunedin, New Zealand.

THE specimen which I forward with these notes I take to be a primary squamous-celled epithelial growth of the body of the uterus. Cullen, in his work on cancer of the uterus (p. 579), writes:—"This is a very rare occurrence, only a few cases being recorded, the majority of which I have collected; of these quite a number are doubtful." . . . "It has not been our good fortune to see a case of this variety." After discussing reported cases he concludes: "From the foregoing it is seen that there are on record at least three, those of Gebhard, Kaufmann and Fleischlen."

I submit this specimen therefore to the notice of the profession, and would ask that expert pathological opinion be obtained as to its nature. The microscopic section of the growth was kindly prepared for me by Dr. E. Williams, of this town.

The history is as follows:—J. J., aged 64, married 44 years, widow for the past 12 years; six children, the youngest aged 27; climacteric 14 years ago. A stout, strongly-built, well-preserved woman, has always lived an active life hotel keeping on the West Coast of New Zealand; is temperate in her habits, cannot remember a day's illness, never requiring a doctor, even in her confinements. She complains of a stinking vaginal discharge which is occasionally blood-stained, sacral pains and uncomfortable dragging sensations in the pelvis and in the front and inside of the thighs. Her general health is fairly good, but has deteriorated during the past six months. The pain started about eighteen months ago; she first observed the discharge, occasionally blood-stained, six or eight months ago; there was a free loss of blood eight weeks ago during the night. She states that she first noticed the odour about six or eight weeks since, but her friends have observed it much longer. She has lost much flesh during the past year.

Vaginal Examination. There is an extremely foul discharge from the vagina, the vulval orifice is sore, excoriated and contracted. The cervix uteri is small and atrophied, but smooth and healthy.

Bimanual Palpation. The fundus is enlarged, but movable; the

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cervical portion is not so free in consequence of the contraction of the vaginal attachment. There is no definite thickening or deposit to be made out around the uterus. The sound passes beyond the notch, the interior of the uterus is rough, and blood comes away when the instrument is withdrawn.

Diagnosis. (a) Cancer of the body of the uterus; (b) senile endometritis with pyometra.

Operation, December 12, 1902. Ether administered, cervical canal dilated, about two ounces of stinking muco-purulent discharge escaped from the uterus. To the finger the whole of the interior of the body of the uterus felt rough, irregular, dense and hard. Hysterectomy was at once performed; the abdominal route was selected in consequence of the sclerotic changes making any vaginal manipulation very difficult. The operation was not easy, the abdominal walls being thick and the uterus low in the pelvis and held down by contracted vaginal attachments. The patient made an excellent recovery, leaving the hospital about a month after operation.

So far (Feb. 13th, 1903), she is keeping perfectly well, and her general health has improved.*

Dr. Cuthbert Lockyer examined the sections, and made a few more, reporting:—"The uterus from Dunedin shows origin of squamous epithelium in the gland tubules of the endometrium of the corpus uteri." Mr. Targett is of the same opinion. Another section through the endometrium and subjacent tissues at a spot where the morbid deposit was distinct to the naked eye, was made at the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, under the direction of Mr. Shattock. It shows well-developed squamous cells invading the deeper tissues, and there are a few distinct "nests." The cervix was atrophied and free from disease.

*The following paragraph was prepared by the Editor from pathological reports made in England at the Author's request.



Squamous-celled Epithelioma limited to the body of the uterus.

