

THE  
*Australian Medical Journal*

NOVEMBER 15, 1879.

Original Articles.

ON PESSARIES.

By W. V. JAKINS, L.R.C.P., L.M. Edin., Fell. Obst. Soc. Lond.  
(Continued.)

I now propose detailing, in brief, my experience on some of the commoner forms of pessary. Varieties of the commoner kind have been kept by chemists for the last twenty years. The oldest style that I remember is the *Globe Pessary*, made of boxwood, and suggested probably by the pomegranate thus used by Hippocrates, yet inferior to his in not possessing a central opening for the passage of discharges, wanting also the astringent and tonic effects produced by his, which was previously steeped in red wine, and frequently renewed.

The *Globe Pessary* I have found to have cured many cases of prolapsus, even when external, especially in young women. After middle age its action is frequently hurtful, the contractile power of the vagina being then commonly diminished, it acts as a foreign body, and is very apt to dilate the vagina, and would fall out were it not kept up by a pad or napkin worn between the thighs; in warm weather these are very liable to cause chafing, and excoriation of the os, and of the vagina in addition. Sometimes vaginal tonicity is so persistent, that the pessary becomes encysted, sabulous deposits surround it, softening of tissue occurs, and it eats its way into the rectum or bladder. This has been attempted to have been obviated, but without success, by changing the material of its construction; a resin-like composition has been employed, and also a hollow globe of silver, gilded externally. Others have used ivory, and with equal ill effects. A hollow india-rubber ball has been the least objectionable that I have met with. Some men have used the above-mentioned materials of an egg shape, resulting in the *Egg pessary*, in which the evils of the *Globe* are a little diminished. Others have employed them in the form of a flat *circular disc pessary*, with a central hole for



discharges, an improvement on the two preceding varieties, yet liable to slip out of position; the same applies to the flat *oval disc pessary*. M. Gariel's *Hysterophore* was a move forwards. He brought out an *india-rubber globe inflating pessary*; another flattened on top, of the same material, a *pear-shaped inflating pessary*; also a *flat circular disc inflating pessary*, and an *oval disc inflating pessary*, the latter three with a central hole for discharges. If a patient be not chafed or otherwise inconvenienced by the long india-rubber tube of the instrument which passes upwards and is fastened to the abdomen, then these pessaries afford much comfort and occasionally cure. Still, my own experience is that very few can bear the annoyance the tube occasions.

Ballarat, November, 1879.

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#### CASES OF HYDATID DISEASE OF THE LUNGS.

By J. DAVIES THOMAS, M.D. LOND., F.R.C.S. ENG., ADELAIDE.

The following cases of hydatids of the lung have recently come under my care, and as they present some points of interest, their publication may perhaps prove useful.

CASE 1.—*Hydatid of the Right Lung. Spontaneous rupture into a bronchial tube, with complete elimination of the cyst. Recovery rapid.*

On February 1st, 1877, I was hastily summoned to visit Miss C., aged 19, who was said to have "ruptured a blood-vessel."

History.—*Until about two months ago she felt perfectly well, although she had suffered occasionally from "colds and coughs."* For the last two months, however, she has been troubled with a severe *paroxysmal cough, unaccompanied by an expectoration*, and she had *never seen a trace of blood*. For the same length of time she has complained of *shortness of breath* even when she was not in any way exciting herself. There was also some pain, but not of a severe character, referred to the right shoulder-blade and the upper part of the right infra-clavicular region.

She has lately been getting rather thinner in the face, but there has not been any material loss of flesh.

Suddenly—whilst quietly seated in an arm chair, and, as she expressed it, "not even thinking"—she felt something give way at the top of her right lung (she pointed to the upper part of the right infra-clavicular region), and a large quantity of blood and