ART. X.—Sequel of a Case of Myxœdema treated by Thyroid Juice.* By JAMES LITTLE, M.D., Edin. (et Dubl., honoris causâ); F.R.C.P.I.; Physician to the Adelaide Hospital; Ex-President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

I suppose we may now accept as an established fact that the juice of the thyroid gland of the sheep, when obtained with all due precaution, and injected under the skin with similar care, removes the symptoms of myxœdema. It is not, I fear, yet certain that the cure is permanent, and we are not as yet sure whether the administration of the thyroid juice by the mouth is as efficacious as its injection beneath the skin. The present communication to the Academy is intended as a contribution to our knowledge on these points. I had the honour of reading to the Medical Section in April last the details of a case of myxœdema which I had treated by the hypodermic injection of thyroid juice. In consequence of negligence in forwarding the manuscript to the Secretary the paper did not appear in the Transactions, and I will therefore briefly recapitulate the facts:

CASE.—On December 11th, 1890, Miss F., aged thirty-four, consulted me. In the autumn of 1886 she noticed that she had difficulty in kneeling; then her ankles became stiff, and when she walked they swelled.

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These discomforts continuing, she consulted a surgeon in July, 1887, and in the following October she went to Buxton, and, she thought, derived some benefit from her stay there.

When she came to me in December, 1890, she presented typically the symptoms and signs of myxœdema. Her family noticed her indisposition to exertion and her silence; she herself said she felt stupid. Her entire body was larger than it had been, her neck fuller, and her abdomen so prominent that I was asked to examine her in bed, as her mother could not believe that her daughter did not suffer from a tumour. She needed collars and gloves larger than she had formerly required. Her face seemed swollen and had a mixed pale and livid look. Her fingers had become clumsy; she felt the cold terribly, and she was occasionally hoarse. Her tongue was large and pale, her appetite was good, but she often felt distended after food, and her bowels were confined. Menstruation was excessive, and in the intervals she suffered from leucorrhœa. Her pulse was sixty-eight, and the cardiac sounds short and sharp. There was no hum in the veins of the neck or in the pulmonary area. The disease appeared to be in a stationary condition, as the patient and her family had noticed no change for better or worse for two years. I advised the lady to take Turkish baths, and gave her tincture of jaborandi in half drachm doses thrice daily.

Eighteen months afterwards, in July, 1892, I saw her again. She had taken the jaborandi for twelve months. She had gone to the Turkish baths twice a week for five months, and afterwards at longer intervals. On the whole, she seemed a little better. She was less stupid and her face less swollen, but there was no material change. I then proposed to treat her by the thyroid juice, but as I was just leaving home it was agreed to postpone the course until the winter.

In November she came back. She had continued the Turkish baths, in which she perspired freely; she thought herself a little better, but her sister believed that this impression was due to the fact that the sufferer had become accustomed to her discomfort. She said she had a lumbering feel, as if her joints were stiff. She said she felt brighter, but activity was impossible owing to the stiffness of her body. The face was smooth, the nose and cheeks bright, the lips full and pale; she had a double chin, her fingers were big and dry and stiff; a ring which formerly fitted easily would not go on her finger; she had been obliged to get larger boots. Her breath was often offensive.

On December 4th I gave the first injection of thyroid juice, and I continued the administration until January 9th. She had altogether twenty-six injections; at first I gave two each week, but afterwards three. The fluid was kindly prepared for me by Dr. J. Alfred Scott with elaborate precaution. The weather at the time was very cold, and I avoided using any of the juice which had been kept longer than forty-