THE

Medical and Phyſical Journal.

VOL. V.] MARCH, 1801. [NO. XXV.

Obſervations on the Effects of the Digitalis Purpurea, in the Cure of Phthiſis Pulmonalis.

To the EDITORS of the MEDICAL and PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,

THE public attention has been fixed with a conſiderable degree of anxiety for the laſt two years, on the various contradictory accounts, publiſhed at different times, reſpecting the effects of the Digitalis as a ſucceſsful remedy in the cure of pulmonary conſumption. Like every new and valuable diſcovery that has been made and applied to the removal of one or more of the afflicting catalogue of diſeaſes to which the human frame is ſubject, the Fox-glove has experienced the moſt unbounded praiſes, and the keeneſt cenſure. The advocates for the uſe of this medicine, as is uſual with all new diſcoveries, have extolled its virtues probably beyond the juſt bounds of truth, and what will not be found warranted by a more general and extenſive experience. On the other hand, its enemies have not only denied its poſſeſſing any antiphthiſical powers whatever, but have abſolutely condemned it as a dangerous and deleterious drug, which ought to be altogether excluded from medical practice, and ranked only in the claſs of the moſt deadly vegetable poiſons. The truth is moſt commonly found to lie between theſe extremes; and in no inſtance, perhaps, is this general rule more applicable than in the preſent.

Every profeſſional man, who ſets a juſt value on his own character, who feels intereſted in the fate of ſuffering humanity, and in the preſervation of thoſe more immediately committed to his care, muſt perceive the neceſſity of a cool and temperate inveſtigation of a ſubject, which involves in its conſequences the ſafety or deſtruction of thouſands of his fellow creatures. Few, I hope, will differ with me in this opinion; and yet, if

it were to be decided by a reference to the many publications which annually iſſue from the preſs, I am very apprehenſive the queſtion would be determined againſt me. If we enquire into the cauſes of theſe inconſiſtencies and contrarieties, they will be found in the various paſſions which but too commonly agitate the human breaſt; envy, jealouſy, claſhing of intereſts, in a ſpirit of oppoſition and rivalry.

If the publications before alluded to were the ſole rule to regulate our judgments by, it would appear from the aſperity of language employed, that in medical diſquiſitions, as in thoſe of politics and religion, the inveſtigation and diſcovery of truth do not form the baſis of diſcuſſion, or the great object contended for; but an anxious deſire on the part of the diſputants of convicting each other of mis-ſtatement and error, with an ardour and animoſity which always render the parties leſs reſpectable in the eyes of every diſpaſſionate and enlightened obſerver. It is true, that from the circumſcribed and limited nature of the human intellect, men even of the moſt enlarged ideas are frequently liable to error, and they would be ſtill more ſo, were they under no apprehenſions of having their opinions canvaſſed, their ſentiments controverted, and their works ſubjected to the laws of juſt criticiſm. When opinions are examined with calmneſs and impartiality, but with a bold and temperate freedom, the boundaries of ſcience are ſure to be extended and enlarged, and truth, as far as it is attainable by diſcuſſion, will become the certain reſult.

Two gentlemen, to whom the public and the profeſſion are certainly under obligations for the light they have thrown on the nature and properties of Digitalis, have, to the manifeſt injury of the cauſe they were defending, diſputed with intemperance, to ſay nothing elſe of it, on this intereſting ſubject: But I am happy, however, to ſee the contention likely to terminate by an effort of forbearance on the one part, which does the author honor; and it would undoubtedly be to the advantage of ſcience and urbanity, if the learned Editors of this Journal oppoſed as much as poſſible, diſputations carried on with animoſity, where paſſion uſurps the ſeat of reaſon, and prejudice that of truth.

It is the duty of every medical man, to exert his utmoſt abilities in endeavours to oppoſe barriers to the waſteful voids occaſioned ſo frequently in families and ſociety by the fatal effects of pulmonary conſumption; and he who devotes his leiſure and talents ſucceſsfully, in purſuit of means to check the career of this deſolating ſcourge, muſt deſerve well of his country and humanity.

During the time I had the charge and ſuperintendance of the Hoſpitals at Norman Croſs, I had occaſion to try the effects of

the

the Digitalis on consumptive patients; and from the fortunate termination of Stroed's case, related at large in No. XII. page 128 of this Journal, I was extremely desirous of employing it still more extensively;—opportunities were not long wanting. On the 22d of Dec. 1799, the French government, in violation of its former engagements, thought proper to decline victualling the prisoners any longer in England; in consequence of this dishonourable step, I had orders from the Commissioners of sick and wounded Seamen, to take charge of the French sick as heretofore. I found in the wards, recently under the management of the Republican surgeons, eight patients, who had been in the hospital from four to seven months and upwards, all deeply affected by Phthisis. Six were in its last and most confirmed stage, and two in the second, supposing three stages an accurate division of the disease: Four out of the six were in so deplorable a state, that under any system of treatment their cases appeared quite desperate and hopeless. Thus circumstanced, they began the use of the Fox-glove in the form of tincture, which was gradually exhibited, and continued for three weeks; at the end of this time they were so much amended, that I began to entertain the pleasing and consoling hope, my endeavours would ultimately be crowned with success. The expectoration diminished to nearly one half; the cough considerably abated; the nightly perspirations, except in one, wholly disappeared; the pulse, in all of them, had gradually fallen from 100 and 110, to between 50 and 65; and the harrassing pains about the thorax and its vicinity were very generally relieved: But alas! these encouraging appearances were of short duration, and continued only a few days longer. The weather, which had been mild, and extremely favourable for the season, suddenly changed to cold sleet and frost, with a north-east wind, which, from the exposed site of the prison, its proximity to a large lake of water, and a marshy country lying east of it, blows here uncommonly keen. The consequence of these alterations was, that fresh excitement took place; the cough, expectoration, and all the other symptoms became highly aggravated; and after a long and severe struggle, five out of the eight fell a sacrifice to the malignity of the disease; two permanently recovered, and one was very much relieved; but being sent to France, I have had no opportunity of learning the issue of the contest. Justice obliges me to acknowledge, that the two who completely recovered were less affected than the others, though their expectoration was evidently purulent. From the extraordinary amendment which occurred in the commencement of their treatment, I am strongly inclined to believe, that, had the weather preserved the same

degree of temperature one month longer, three at leaſt out of the five, if not the whole, would have been probably reſtored to health.

Shortly after this period I was removed to the Royal Hoſpital at Plymouth, a ſituation which affords to medical induſtry a wider range, and more extenſive field for obſervation, in the proſecution of a ſubject ſo intereſting to humanity; a ſituation in which the powers, properties, and general effects of the Fox-glove on the animal œconomy may be aſcertained to a degree of exactneſs and preciſion, nearly approaching to mathematical certainty, if practical experience in variety and number of caſes, in every ſtage of the diſeaſe, is to form the criterion on which we are to ground a deciſive opinion, taking at the ſame time into conſideration, various adventitious circumſtances, as climate, or temperature of the atmoſphere, former habits, and the peculiar idioſyncraſy of the different objects intended to be ſubjected to its powerful influence.

The number of patients ſent to the Naval Hoſpital in the laſt ten months, and the mortality cauſed by this diſeaſe among the ſeamen and marines of his Majeſty's fleets, are truly alarming; a great portion of the men admitted during the above period actually laboured under Phthiſis, either in its incipient or moſt confirmed ſtage, but principally of the latter deſcription.

Among the cauſes that have contributed to increaſe the number affected with this conſuming malady may be mentioned as a principal, the continual and ſevere duty in which the channel fleet has been employed for many months paſt, being ſeldom more than a few days in port, and that only when abſolute neceſſity compelled it, to victual and water.

Of the prodigious numbers received from the ſhips of war and marine barracks, labouring under Phthiſis Pulmonalis in its incipient or confirmed ſtage, I have here ſelected ſeventy-two patients who were ſubjected to the powerful influence of the Digitalis; but as the limits of the Medical and Phyſical Journal cannot poſſibly admit of a detailed ſtatement of ſuch a variety of unhappy caſes, I ſhall give only the hiſtory of three or four of the moſt marked and deciſive, in which the operation and good effects of the medicine were conſpicuous; the remaining number, as well as thoſe narrated more at large, I inſert in a Table, with the general reſults, as the moſt conciſe mode of exhibiting ſuch an unwieldy body of evidence.

William White, aged about 28, a ſeaman belonging to his Majeſty's ſhip Gibraltar, was admitted on the 12th of Auguſt, 1800, in the laſt and moſt confirmed ſtage of phthiſis pulmonalis. He had been ill for ſeveral months with cough continually increaſing in ſeverity, and which was now inceſſant; pain

pain in both sides of the thorax, especially in the left, running along the cartilaginous extremities of the ribs; expectoration profuse of greenish pus, extremely fœtid, now and then streaked with blood; heavy perspirations, with febrile exacerbations night and morning. He particularly complained of a throbbing pain seated between the seventh and eighth ribs; and the cutis covering this part, externally, was discoloured in a very curious manner, about the circumference of a crown piece: The respiration oppressed and laborious; he could only lie on his back; and the pulse beat 108 strokes in a minute.

Under this accumulated state of disease and wretchedness, no very sanguine hopes could be entertained of his recovery; in short, I considered him as one out of the great many unfortunate objects, sent to the Hospital to die in a few days. May I not ask here with propriety, why this man had been kept so long on board ship in such a deplorable state? He began the Digitalis, however, this day, in doses of seven drops every four hours, in a sperm. cæti mixture with tinct. opii camp. On the 13th, after a severe fit of coughing, he brought up half a pint of very offensive matter. Rept. Tinct. Digital. gt. L. 15th, Tinct. gt. LX. 16th, LXX. 17th and 18th, No alteration in his condition; the tincture increased by ten drops daily. 19th, Tinct. gt. C. slight nausea; expectoration copious; cough severe; allowed four or five glasses of wine daily; pulse 90. From the 20th to the 24th, the medicine regularly augmented in the proportion before mentioned. 25th, The expectoration not so abundant, with less fœtor; tinct. gt. CL. pulse 78. 26th, Tinct. gt. CLX. 27th, Tinct. gt. CLXX. 28th, Tinct. gt. CLXXX. 29th, Nausea, with vomiting, occurred yesterday; diminished the tinct. to gt. CXXX. pulse 48, and irregular. 30th, Nausea almost removed; pulse 48, more steady. 31st, Pain and oppression about the præcordia; App. empl. canthar. scrob. cord. Nausea and sickness entirely gone; expectoration visibly diminishing; pulse 52; tinct. gt. CXL. Sept. 1st, Tinct. gt. CL. The 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th, the tinct. regularly increased. 6th, Tinct. gt. CLXXX. Nausea, vertigo, with an intermittent pulse at 46. 7th. Nausea and dizziness continue, but the cough greatly abated; the expectoration reduced to half the original quantity; the greenish hue removed; the fœtor gone; scarcely any perspirations for the last three nights. 8th, Tinct. gt. CC. 9th, Nausea in the morning; pulse irregular, and intermitted for several days. 10th, Tinct. gt. CCXX. 11th, 12th, and 13, Nausea with slight vomitings, prevented an augmentation of the tincture during the last three days; pulse from 44 to 50, irregular; expectoration astonishingly diminished, and every other symptom much abated.

14th,

14th, Nauſea and vertigo gone; Tinct. gt. ccxxx. 16th, Scarcely any cough now remaining. 17th, Tinct. gt. ccxxx. ſlight nauſea; pulſe 48. 18th, Tinct. gt. ccxl. 19th, Tinct. ccl. expectoration reduced to a table ſpoonful. 22d, Hardly a veſtige of diſeaſe remained; every part of the thorax completely freed from pain; even his ſtrength was much amended. As the diſeaſe removed, he could bear larger doſes of the medicine, which was ſtill continued. 25th, With a pulſe at 56, he was as free from complaint as at any one period of his life, bodily ſtrength alone excepted: The Digitalis ſtill perſevered in and augmented. On the 29th of Sept. he was diſcharged the hoſpital, perfectly reſtored to health. A few days after his reception, he was invalided as a hectic patient, there being little hope at the time of his ever leaving the ward in a living ſtate. Of this, the man was himſelf ſo ſenſible, that he has ſince written a letter, acknowledging his obligations in the ſtrongeſt terms of gratitude.

James Smith, aged 26, a ſeaman belonging to his Majeſty's ſhip Ville de Paris, admitted on the 6th of October laſt. Has been ill a long time with phthiſis; he was affected with every ſymptom which is the uſual concomitant of the diſeaſe in its laſt and moſt aggravated ſtage; conſtant and deep ſeated pain in both ſides, but more particularly in the left; expectoration profuſe, and rankly purulent, emitting a moſt diſagreeable fœtor; regular attacks of febrile exacerbations every evening; profuſe colliquative ſweats; formerly ſubject to frequent hæmorrhages from the lungs, but nothing of that kind had occurred lately: He was reduced to the loweſt ſtate of debility, although twelve months before of Herculean powers, as one of his meſs-mates informed me. The moment I ſaw this man, I pronounced it a loſt caſe: Notwithſtanding theſe unfavourable appearances, he began the Tinct. Digital. in ſmall doſes, which were gradually increaſed, and ſyſtematically perſevered in till the 21ſt of Nov. on which day he was diſcharged, cured. The expectoration, originally a pint and a half, was reduced to about a table ſpoonful or leſs, and wholly free from purulence; the nightly perſpirations had ceaſed upwards of twelve days; the thorax was completely freed from pain; and the cough had for ſome days totally diſappeared, except for a few minutes after his firſt getting out of bed in the morning. I wiſhed much to put him on a courſe of chalybeate tonics before his diſcharge; but having been previouſly invalided, he became extremely anxious to ſee his friends in Ireland, and ſtill more ſo, fearing that an alteration in the weather might give him freſh cold in travelling, ſhould the froſt ſet in before his departure. He was confined to his bed near three weeks whilſt under the influence

influence of the medicine, in such an extreme state of insensibility all the time, that at first he could only get out to the night-chair with the assistance of a nurse. The pulse gradually fell from 110 to 60, but never lower; and for a long time the tincture could not be pushed beyond 100 drops in the day; I was twice under the necessity of reducing the daily quantity to 50 drops: But as the cure advanced and his strength increased, he could bear larger doses; for ten days previous to his dismissal, he took to the amount of 160 drops a day; beyond that, the medicine disordered the head and stomach.

Mr. William Campbell, of his Majesty's ship Barfleur, 23 years of age, was admitted on the 27th July, 1800, labouring under Phthisis. He was greatly emaciated, expectorated confirmed pus, a fixed pain of the side, a deep hollow cough, febrile exacerbations, profuse nightly perspirations, a pearly whiteness of the eyes, great thirst, oppressed and difficult respiration, head-ach, and a pulse above 100 in a minute. On this day he began the use of the Digitalis, which was by degrees increased till the daily quantity amounted to 160 drops; this was the utmost extent to which the tincture could be pushed, without disordering the head and stomach. The pulse gradually sunk, the cough and expectoration at length wholly disappeared, every other hectic symptom by degrees vanished, and on the 7th of September he was discharged, completely restored to health.

James Herritage, seaman, 29 years of age, was admitted for the second time into the hospital on the 14th August, 1800. He had long been subject to severe pain of the breast, incessant cough, purulent expectoration, sometimes mixed with blood, much emaciation, loss of appetite, febrile rigors attended with colliquative and profuse sweats at night, with a pulse at 108. The Digitalis was, as usual, exhibited in small doses, which were systematically increased by ten drops a day, until towards the termination of his cure he could bear the astonishing dose of 100 drops three times a day. I repeatedly and personally exhibited the medicine myself. He was surveyed, and would have been invalided; but at my request was permitted to remain, as I then judged him fast advancing towards a perfect cure, in which I happily succeeded. The pulse gradually sunk to 60 pulsations in a minute, but never fell lower, notwithstanding the enormous doses which he took of the medicine. He was discharged to duty on the 29th September, forty-three days after his reception.

James Wallace, a seaman, was received into the hospital on the 14th September last. He had at this time been two years and upwards subject to cough; he now complained of a deep seated

ſeated pain in the right ſide, and about the ſcrob. cord. expectorated a thin ſanious and purulent matter, emitting a moſt intolerable ſtench; the fœtor of his breath was ſo extremely offenſive, that I was conſtantly obliged to turn my head aſide when examining into the ſtate of his pulſe, and the nurſes were often affected by naufea and ſickneſs when in the act of aſſiſting him with drink, &c. a laborious and oppreſſed reſpiration; but he had neither rigors nor night ſweats, except in a very trifling degree. The pulſe fell by regular gradation from 104 to 46, and continued in this extraordinary ſtate of depreſſion for five weeks, never aſcending higher than 54 all the time: he could never go beyond 100 drops of the tincture in 24 hours, and yet this quantity was ſufficient to bring down and keep the pulſe at the extreme reduction above-mentioned.

He was diſcharged cured on the 28th of November, 1800. As I had not the moſt diſtant hope of this man's recovery, conſidering him in a cadaverous or ſemi-putreſcent ſtate at the commencement, he was ſubmitted to ſurvey, and accordingly invalided.

In theſe great variety of caſes, the medicine was frequently given under my own immediate inſpection, or that of my aſſiſtants, eſpecially when the doſes amounted to what is deemed very large, in order to be certain that we were not deceived by the patients. Many were in the habit of taking from 150 to 300 drops in the day, firſt commencing with 20, 30, 40, or 50 drops, regulating the quantity according to the apparent ſtrength and vigour of the patient; and increaſing the number daily by ten drops, till the ſtomach began to ſhow ſlight ſymptoms of anorexia, or the patient complained of dizzineſs and imperfect viſion, accompanied with a conſiderable reduction of the pulſe: Whenever one or more of theſe ſymptoms occur, the doſes are immediately reduced, either one half or the quantity originally commenced with; but if the head and ſtomach ſhould ſtill be unable to bear theſe reduced doſes from the irritation previouſly induced, a circumſtance, however, to be ſedulouſly guarded againſt, the medicine is then wholly omitted for one, two, or three days, after which it is again exhibited as at the firſt onſet.

The vehicle in which I uſually adminiſter this medicine is, a mixture of Sper. Ceti. Tinct. Op. Cam. et Ox. Scil. from two to three table ſpoons full, to be taken every four or ſix hours; ſo that the quantity with which the patient generally commences, is from ſeven to ten drops at a doſe. It is ſometimes exhibited in Decoct. Cinch. c. Elix. Vit. et Tinct. Cinch. and the formula varied according to the particular urgency of ſymptoms. The patient is uſually permitted to take a few glaſſes of wine daily,

daily, and ſometimes to the quantity of a pint, when coll quative ſweats and great debility render it neceſſary.

By theſe means, and by theſe precautions, I have been able to exhibit it to the great extent already ſpecified.

In comparing theſe quantities with the doſes adminiſtered by ſeveral of your correſpondents in private practice, I have been much ſtruck with the great and material difference between us, as thoſe gentlemen were ſeldom able to go beyond 90 or 110 drops; and that in few inſtances. To what can we impute the cauſe of theſe contrarieties of reſults? Either it muſt ariſe from the inferior powers of the plant of which the tincture is here made; from the imagination of a certain deſcription of patients; from the few opportunities occurring in private practice of trying the Digitalis on a variety of conſtitutions; or from a combination of ſome or all theſe circumſtances. With reſpect to the firſt, Mr. Hammick, the diſpenſer of the hoſpital, informs me, that the Fox-glove of which the tincture is made, is commonly procured from the Hall, and the proportions are 1 oz. groſs powder, to 4 oz. of proof ſpirit. 2dly, Private patients being in ſome meaſure acquainted with the active properties of the medicine, and ſeeing it dropt with great caution, expect from it certain effects, with which the imagination is fully impreſſed. And laſtly, many conſtitutions will hardly bear the ſmalleſt doſes, without exciting very general tumult in the ſyſtem. I have now ſeveral under my care that cannot go beyond 70 drops a day, and two who are not able to bear 40 drops, or ſix at a doſe.

Mr. Fuge, firſt ſurgeon to the hoſpital, having directed his attention to this ſubject, and in order to enſure greater accuracy, was at the trouble of collecting the plant himſelf, and of making the tincture, in the proportion of four ounces of freſh gathered leaves to five of proof ſpirit: Of this tincture he had the politeneſs to ſend me eight ounces; and I found on trial, that ten drops of it were equal to nearly fifteen of what I was then in the habit of preſcribing. This circumſtance demonſtrates fully the abſolute neceſſity of a ſtandard and fixed formula from authority, to regulate general practice by; and likewiſe the neceſſity of great caution in the exhibition of this valuable medicine, before the ſtrength of the tincture is accurately aſcertained.

The effects of the Digitalis on different conſtitutions, is ſtrongly exemplified in two patients now under my care: In one, the medicine cannot be puſhed to forty drops a day, without inducing nauſea, vertigo, and very general derangement of the ſyſtem; the other, Robert Skinner, has taken one hundred drops three times a day, without producing the ſmalleſt uneaſi-

neſs whatever, not even intermiſſion or irregularity of the pulſe, an effect that very generally follows the uſe of this medicine when given in full doſes. A conſiderable reduction of the pulſe, however, took place, which the following morning was ſteady and regular at 60 pulſations in a minute; the medicine being wholly omitted the following day, the pulſe roſe to seventy-ſix. I have met with ſeveral inſtances in which the Digitalis, given freely and largely, effected not the ſmalleſt reduction in the pulſe; and in theſe, the patients uniformly derived no advantage whatever from its uſe. I ſhall briefly ſubjoin two caſes to illuſtrate this point; one occurred at Norman Croſs, the other at the Royal Hoſpital.

Henry Velcamp, a Dutch priſoner of war, but a Frenchman by birth, was admitted into the hoſpital repeatedly during the laſt ten months, generally for the cure of pleuritic affections.—Some time before the 25th of October, 1799, he complained of pain in the left ſide, as he had indeed often done before, ſevere cough, copious expectoration though not purulent, difficult reſpiration with a ſomewhat hard pulſe and a conſtipated ſtate of the bowels. He was immediately preſcribed a ſaline cathartic, a large bliſter to the part affected, and a mixture of Sperm. ceti. aq. am. acet. et ſal. nitr. This plan was perſevered in till the 30th, with little or no amendment. On this day ordered Tinct. Digit. gt. xv. bis die, in two ounces of the above mixture.—Nov. 1, Tinct. gt. xv. ter die.—2d, Tinct. gt. xx. ter die. The tincture was regularly increaſed by five drops a doſe, till he took 165 drops daily. On the 9th I was quite aſtoniſhed that no alteration followed with reſpect to the head, ſtomach, and in the number of pulſations, being never fewer from the commencement than 100 to 110. Anxious to examine the condition of the blood, I directed three ounces to be taken away; but notwithſtanding the rapidity of the circulation, and the apparent wireneſs of the pulſe, the blood ſhewed no ſigns of inflammation. The tincture was continued till the 12th, on which day he took 210 drops, that is, 70 drops three times a day; but finding no alteration in the pulſe, or general ſtate of the patient for the better, on the contrary he was daily getting worſe, the Digitalis was diſcontinued altogether; he lived only ſix days longer, notwithſtanding the application of other remedies, and fell a victim to the diſorder on the 18th of November. From the unuſual ſymptoms attending this caſe throughout, and the failure of the Digitalis in abating the force of the vaſcular ſyſtem, I was very deſirous of examining into the ſtate of the viſcera. The body was accordingly opened by my head aſſiſtant, Mr. Woodham. The liver was found much enlarged, with the appearance of an incipient

incipient gangrene along its extreme edge; the gall bladder was nearly empty, containing only a small quantity of a dark viscid bile; the lungs were full of tubercles, though few in a state of suppuration; no adhesions to the pleura had taken place, and all the other viscera were perfectly sound.

Benjamin Eve, a seaman, belonging to his Majesty's ship Superb, a young man about 22 years of age, was admitted on the 26th September last, labouring under Phthisis, his countenance strongly indicating the nature of his disease. He was subject to nightly sweats, attended with hectic rigors morning and evening, copious expectoration of bloody pus, and constant cough. He had been subject to frequent hæmorrhagies from the lungs for some months previous to his admission, and although not so frequent now, yet they sometimes did occur. He began the Digitalis on the 27th, which was regularly continued and gradually increased till the daily quantity amounted to 230 drops; this was on the 42d day from its commencement. During all the time, it neither abated the force or reduced the frequency of the pulse, which was never under 100, but most commonly at 110 to 120; nor did the disease receive the smallest apparent check in its career. He was about this time invalided and discharged at his own request, soon probably to fall a victim to this horrible malady. Here is a case in which the Digitalis entirely failed, where it had a fair trial. I might adduce others, to prove that the effects of this medicine will be various and diversified on different constitutions.

I have never perceived in any one instance the smallest tendency in the medicine to act on the kidneys, even when given in the largest doses; and this is the more extraordinary, as it was first introduced to the public notice under the character of a powerful remedy in the cure of dropsy. The Digitalis not only failed on all occasions of having any diuretic effect; but what is still more to be wondered at is, that it actually produced, and has been the cause of the very disease in question; an effect which might naturally be supposed to arise from it in reasoning theoretically on the properties of this plant, from its sedative operation on the force and vigour of the vascular system. This is a consequence which I say might naturally be deduced from theory, and which will now be seen confirmed by the following facts. It is therefore necessary to point out to the inexperienced practitioner, the possibility of such an occurrence, that in his endeavours to remove one disease, he may not substitute another equally fatal.

Two instances have lately occurred in the course of my practice at the Royal Hospital, which confirm the justness of the above observations; and that I may not swell this article

beyond all moderate bounds, I subjoin one case only. David Johnston, a young lad, about 17 years of age, the son of one of the nurses, had long complained of severe cough, oppressed and difficult respiration; his expectoration was now purulent, his eyes of a pearly whiteness, which is often a sure indication of confirmed phthisis; he was much emaciated in consequence of nightly sweats, attended with regular febrile exacerbations, and a pulse above 100 in a minute. In short, this lad was so ill that I expressed my opinion to Mr. Peters, physical assistant, that it was probably a lost case. The tincture was however exhibited in reduced doses, which were gradually increased and regularly continued till the end of September, having commenced about the close of the previous month; and to my very great surprise all the hectic symptoms were by this time entirely removed; a very extraordinary and rapid cure in a case of phthisis so strongly marked. The medicine was still continued, but in a few days his lower extremities began to swell, which rapidly extended to the trunk, and presently after he was universally anasarcous with evident fluctuation in the cavity of the abdomen. The Digitalis was now wholly omitted, and the patient ordered the chalybeate diuretic mixture, the good effects of which I had already so happily experienced in the cure of dropsy; and it proved equally successful in the case at present under consideration. In fourteen days the lad was completely restored to health, which still continues up to this moment.

This is a case, which, when considered with attention, and duly reflected on, must throw great light on the nature, properties, and modus operandi of the Fox-glove; it gradually and silently sunk the vigour, and abated the force of the whole system, but most conspicuously so that of the vascular; the pulse fell in a few days from 100 in a minute to under 50, and was retained in this state of depression, till every symptom of phthisis had wholly disappeared; this being a disease having principally for basis, irritation, and a preternaturally increased velocity of the circulation, ultimately inducing particular local affection, which, by constant attrition, exhausts the sensorial power and wears down the constitution. The morbid catenation of associated symptoms once destroyed, or in other words, the over-plus of preternatural action in the minute and secretory vessels of the lungs once reduced to the healthy standard, the system still continuing under the powerful influence and sedative effects of the medicine, a disease of diminished excitement, the reverse of the former, is super-induced; that is, dropsy became the consequence, which in its turn yielded to the stimulus and invigorating powers of steel combined with diuretics.

In

In maturely weighing all the facts and circumstances here adduced, I am inclined to impute the salutary influence exerted by the Digitalis over Phthisis, to its widely diffusing property of diminishing morbid excitement throughout the animal œconomy; and not to any peculiar specific power it possesses of promoting absorption either general or local, which is supposed to be its modus operandi in the cure of dropsy and phthisis.—For it appears contrary to analogical reasoning drawn from the known laws of the animal œconomy, that a medicine which so forcibly retards the motion of the heart and arteries, should at the same time increase that of the absorbent system; a consequence that must necessarily arise, in order to remove fluids deposited in the different cells and cavities of the body.

It is not then the rapid absorption of secreted and aerated pus from the surface of diseased parts, on which the cure of phthisis depends, but on the diminution and total extinction of morbid increased action in the extremities of the pulmonic vessels; thereby cutting off the sole source and cause of secretion; which, when once effected, the disease ceases to exist. This opinion is still farther corroborated, when it is recollected, that in all those cases wherein the tincture failed of effecting a reduction of the pulse, no amendment followed its use.

To administer the Digitalis under every favourable circumstance, and to render its success the more certain, it is of the utmost importance to attend carefully to the state of the atmosphere; frequent changes and sudden transitions of temperature are sedulously to be guarded against: The practitioner who loses sight of this consideration, or thinks lightly of it, will be generally foiled in his efforts to cure Phthisis Pulmonalis, even when assisted by the powerful effects of the Fox-glove. A state of weather which commands a range of the thermometer, lying between 55 and 65 degrees, is the best adapted to the successful treatment of hectic patients. Winter is therefore the most unfavourable season for those labouring under phthisis; and I am fully convinced, that many fall victims to the disease at this period of the year, that would most probably have recovered in summer. Beside the cases in point already adduced to support the truth of this assertion, I had two remarkable instances at the Royal Hospital. John Wilson, now no more, after using the Digitalis for five weeks, was considerably better; but on the approach of winter, the weather alternating frequently with heat and cold, fresh excitement took place, and proved fatal to him. The other, Jameson, still living; but who, without the immediate interposition of Omniscience, must likewise die, was at one time so far recovered, that I considered his cure certain. He was admitted in the last stage of Phthisis, and from a pint

of

of pure matter, the expectoration diminished to about two table spoons full, and that not purulent. Change of temperature induced a relapse, and he is now on the verge of eternity. The Tinct. Digit. had in these two cases a complete trial, but failed.

I have chosen the annexed tabular form, as conveying at one luminous view the whole of the information which I have collected on this important question, from the opportunities afforded by my station at the Royal Hospital. By this, with what has been already published by other gentlemen, the public and the profession will be enabled to appreciate the real value, or at least make a much nearer approach in appreciating the real value of this extraordinary medicine. They will perceive, that although it will cure Phthisis in its most advanced and aggravated stage; yet, that it will fail in many instances of a similar nature, and that, even when the disease is still in its incipient state. To promise and to expect more from this or any other medicine, in the treatment of general diseases, will, I fear, be holding out false lights to deceive inexperience, to wound truth, to injure and retard science.

It is of great consequence that the properties of this medicine should be accurately defined, as the cautious and timid practitioner, and those whose sphere of practice is limited to few opportunities of trying the effects of new and doubtful remedies, must wait the decision of this question with an impatience and solicitude proportioned to the weight and importance of the subject.

Upon the whole, it will be found a valuable addition to our stock of knowledge in Therapeutics, already under so many obligations to this age of improvement; but too often, of unhappy innovation.

I cannot quit this subject, without first acknowledging many obligations to Doctor Drake, for having attracted my attention to the valuable properties of the Digitalis, in his accurate narrative of its effects on Maris and Grimes, published in Doctor Beddoe's volume of Contributions.

I remain, &c.

Royal Hospital, 20 *Jan.* 1801. J. MAGENNIS, M. D.

P. S. In a paper of mine on Epilepsy, page 419 of No. xxi. of your Journal, an error has crept in; instead of irritability, it should run, general *inirritability*.

NAMES

NAMES.	STAGE.	RESULT.
Matthew Hall, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Gregory M'Donnald, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Thomas Davis, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
James Craig, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Henry Downing, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
William Hill, M.	Purulent.	Recovered.
John Caruthers, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Joſeph Cork, M.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Mr. W. Campbell.	Purulent.	Recovered.
William Hammond, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Thomas Swift, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
William White, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
James Herritage, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
William Thorn, M.	Purulent.	Recovered.
William Grin, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Robert Searle, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
James Smith, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
James Wallace, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
William Brown, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
David Johnſon.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Robert Skinner, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
—— Kennedy, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
—— Wallace, S.	Purulent.	Recovered.
James Karns, M.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Patrick Byrne, M.	Purulent.	Recovered.
Paul Laurence, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
James Hardy, S.	Incipient.	Recovered.
John Cleverly, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
John Wilkins, S.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Michael Raferty, S.	Incipient.	Recovered.
James Ruſſel, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Roger Roony, S.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Michael Anderſon, S.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Mr. J. Weſt, ſurgeon's mate.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Cornelius Dogherty, S.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Samuel Beſt, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
John Smith, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
John French, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
Hugh M'Guire, M.	Incipient.	Recovered.
John Daly, captain's clerk	Incipient.	Recovered.

Anthony

NAMES.	STAGE.	RESULTS.
Anthony Francis, S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed the Digit. 21 days.
Luke Bunter, S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed ditto 14 days.
Matthew Shires, S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed ditto 15 days.
Daniel Ruſe, S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed ditto 17 days.
Benjamin Chapman S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed ditto 10 days.
James Bridon, S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed ditto 19 days.
John Wilſon, S.	Purulent.	Died. Uſed ditto ſix weeks.
—— Jameſon, S.	Purulent.	At one time much better; now dying.
Patrick M'Elwain, S.	Purulent.	Diſcharged much better. Since died in Ireland.
Andrew M'Tegart, S.	Purulent.	Diſcharged much relieved; but Incipient.
James Bradley, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, much relieved, ditto
James Williams, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
Charles M'Carty, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
Mr. Todd	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
William Thompſon, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
Stephen Cornwall, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
Robert Edwardſon, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
John Miniman, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
James Johnſon, S.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
James Stone.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
James Madden.	Purulent.	Ditto, ditto, ditto.
Benjamin Eve, S.	Purulent.	The Digit. completely failed, altho' he took it ſix weeks.
George M'Nally.	Purulent.	Much relieved.
Robert Squire, S.	Incipient.	Much relieved.
David Rollins, S.	Incipient.	Diſcharged, much relieved.
Daniel Gallagan, S.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.
William Caſey, S.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.
Robert Kelly, S.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.
Robert Taylor, S.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.
Edward Hoſkins, M.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.
James Hutton.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.
James Candy, M.	Incipient.	Ditto, ditto.

*** Names marked S. are Seamen. Thoſe marked M. are Marines.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

ON peruſing a paper of Mr. Ballard, ſurgeon in the Royal Navy, inſerted in No. xxi. of your valuable Journal, on a particular ſpecies of Ulcer; my having been for ſome years an aſſiſtant ſurgeon to the Royal Naval Hoſpital at Haſlar, enables me to give the moſt ſucceſsful mode I could find of treating that ſpecies of ulcer at the above Hoſpital. When thoſe kind of patients were firſt received, they were well waſhed with warm water and ſoap, and if the general debility was not very great, had a doſe of ſome laxative medicine; after its operation, an opiate, the ulcer dreſſed with a large emollient cataplaſm, compoſed of linſeed meal and fine pollard, and before each dreſſing fomented with a ſtrong decoction of Peruvian bark and poppy heads for the ſpace of half an hour, the dreſſing renewed in general twice a day; but if the ulcer was very foul, with great diſcharge and extenſive ſloughs, it was dreſſed oftener, till it put on a healthy granulating appearance. During the above time, the patient took daily a pint or ſometimes more of a decoction of Peruvian bark, after its having gone through the vinous fermentation; the common drink was lemonade; and whilſt in great pain, one grain of opium was given twice or thrice a day, with a double doſe at night; the ſymptomatic fever which generally attended, was commonly abated by the above means in a few days; wine and porter were alſo given occaſionally to ſuch caſes as required: The ulcer being by the above means brought to a clean healthy appearance, ſlight ſtimulating applications, as cuprum vitriolatum, argentum nitratum, &c. were applied round its edges, in order to accelerate its cicatrization, and a pledget of ſperm. ceti cerate very thinly ſpread upon lint put over the whole ulcer, with a ſoft linen compreſs over that, and a moderately tight bandage over all; the dreſſing renewed once or twice in the twenty-four hours, according to the quantity of diſcharge. After being brought to a ſmall ſize, it often proved very obſtinate to heal over compleat; to accelerate which, Mr. Baynton's very excellent mode of treating ulcerated legs, &c. by adheſive plaſters, proved very ſucceſsful, when ſuch happened to be in any of the extremities, and the inferior extremities are the chief ſubject of ſuch ulcers.—During the cure, the patients lived chiefly on animal food and vegetables, with good ſoup, which, no doubt, contributed in a great degree to mend the general health, as the patients' countenances on their firſt admiſſion always appeared wan and dejected, which was a

proof that digeſtion and chylification went on but imperfectly; therefore, I have every reaſon to believe, if the nitrous fumigation is perſiſted in daily on ſhip board, particularly in the Sick Bay, with frequently bathing the men in the cold or tepid ſalt water bath, would tend very much to invigorate their ſyſtems, better enable the organs of digeſtion to perform their office, and prevent the contagion of thoſe ulcers, as it is evident their contagion and obſtinacy proceed from the vitiated ſtate of the body; for if any eſcharotic is applied to them before the general habit is mended, it corrodes the muſcular ſubſtance, whereas, if the habit of body is good, it will produce fine florid granulations.

During the whole of laſt winter, I was attending the ſick and wounded Ruſſian troops, that were received into the temporary general Hoſpital at N. Yarmouth, after being wounded in Holland. From the number we had there, they were obliged to be ſtowed very cloſe together in low ceiled houſes, and ſome of thoſe houſes ſituated in very cloſe ſwampy ſituations, where they could get but little light, and leſs good air; the fœtor of their wounds, as may be ſuppoſed, muſt be great, and the men being naturally filthy in their perſons, muſt make it ſtill worſe; however, by the ſtrict attention paid to the nitrous fumigation, and frequent uſe of the ſalt water bath, by order of Dr. Scot, Aſſiſtant Inſpector of Hoſpitals, who ſuperintended the medical department there, every appearance of contagion was prevented. In ſome of the convaleſcent quarters, a few caſes of ſynochus broke out; but by ſeparating them, and perſevering in the fumigation, it went no farther. I applied the nitrous gas to foul ſloughing ulcers, by means of a tube from the top of a patent fumigating lamp, and it had the effect of clearing them; but the foulneſs and ſloughing returned in few dreſſings after the gas was omitted; thoſe ulcers were afterwards brought to a clean healthy ſtate by the application of the common cataplaſm, made with ſea in lieu of common water, and applied cold, without any intervening ſubſtance, except in ſome caſes, where, from the irritability of the ulcer it could not be borne; in thoſe caſes dry lint anſwered the intention better than greaſy applications; in ſome of them I was obliged to continue the poultice till the ulcer compleatly healed, for when it was left off the ulcer relapſed, but renewing the poultice ſoon counteracted its regeneration. In ſome of thoſe vitiated ulcers, the common poultice, with the cortical part of a freſh carrot ſcraped fine, and applied over it, had alſo a very good effect; I gave no medicine internally to them, except an opiate at night, whilſt the appetite kept good, and a good nouriſhing diet of animal food boiled down

down into ſoup, with plenty of vegetables and Scotch barley or oatmeal to thicken it.

I alſo applied the nitrous fumigation in caſes of ſynochus, by placing two fumigating lamps, one on each ſide of the patient's bed: The effects were in a ſhort time viſible, he expreſſed that a glow was coming over him; the pulſe raiſed fifteen ſtrokes in the minute in the ſpace of two hours, and a free perſpiration followed, and then he fell into a ſound ſleep for ſome time. When he awoke, he aſked for drink; and by perſevering in the fumigation and the uſe of bark and opium, he recovered. If you think the above ſketches worth inſerting in your Journal, you will oblige a conſtant reader by ſo doing. I am, &c.

W. EDWARDS,

Member of the College of Surgeons in London, &c.

Taunton Barracks, Jan 8th, 1801.

Mr. BRADLEY'S *Cases in Surgery, &c.* Communicated by Mr. JOHN PEARSON, Surgeon, Golden Square.

A Case of Abscess in the Groin.

ELIZABETH MARSDEN, an unmarried woman, aged 33 years at the time of her death, was, in the early part of November, 1786, ſeized with pain and heat in the region of the ſtomach, attended with a ſmall and quick pulſe, thirſt, alternate rigors and heats, with other indications of internal inflammation. In conſequence of a diſpoſition to vomit, fifteen grains of the pulv. ipecac. with two drachms of the antimonial wine, were given in a ſmall draught, which puked her three times; after this, ſeventy grains of *Fordyce's prophylactic powder* were given, which procured her three or four motions. The ſaline mixture was alſo ordered, and a bliſter applied to the ſtomach; theſe remedies relieved her for that time; but having occaſion to remove to a diſtant part of the country, ſhe ſoon after grew worſe, and, in conſequence, applied to other practitioners.

After an abſence of fourteen months, ſhe returned with a large circumſcribed ſulneſs, or tumour, occupying the part previouſly affected, attended with pain and uneaſineſs, eſpecially on preſſure, but without diſcolouration, or any evident ſigns of containing matter: A ſlight hectic was preſent, which

seemed to have considerably affected her health. Five months after this she was seized with *cholera morbus*, which, after continuing violent four or five days, ceased, but ever afterwards returned, though generally in a less immoderate degree, three or four times, or oftener, in a year, till the time of her death. This first attack produced a very considerable effect in reducing the tumour, and the remaining fulness was entirely removed by the subsequent evacuations; these generally weakened her much, but soon afterwards she regained a tolerable portion of health.

In the latter part of the year 1788, she had symptoms of a crural hernia, for which a steel truss was applied, and worn for some time, (but how long I could never learn) till, imagining herself well, it was, as is too often the case, discontinued.

In the beginning of May, 1794, and some time subsequent to the use of her truss, she had again symptoms of her hernia, which, in a month or six weeks, had protruded as formerly. On the 6th of July following, she was seized with a considerable vomiting, and at the same time had a profuse stool; these evacuations were succeeded by pain in the hernia and lower part of the abdomen, which continued distressing till the 8th, when I found her feverish, having a small and quick pulse, considerable thirst, frequent rigors, alternated with heats and pain, and difficulty in making water, and which was voided in small quantities: She had not had a stool since the 6th, nor vomited for the last twenty hours. The tumour in the groin was more painful and diffused than those generally arising simply from hernia; and on making a gentle pressure upon it, its contents returned into the abdomen, leaving an unusual fulness of the integuments.

An ounce of the common cathartic salts was dissolved in six ounces of boiling water, and a table spoonful of this solution was ordered to be taken every hour, till the body should be well opened: A cooling diet, such as tea, coffee, with dry toast, and now and then a little thin chicken broth, was recommended; balm tea and barley water were ordered to be drank plentifully, and a supine posture was also strictly enjoined. The aq. veget. miner. was applied to the swelling; but it not only occasioned most excruciating pain in the bowels, but even sometimes vomiting.

9th. The medicine had operated three times, and was ordered, along with the lotion, to be discontinued; the hernia was apparently down, and was reduced as before, but the operation gave great pain; the integuments were slightly discoloured, and an evident fluctuation of matter was perceived.

By

By reason of these circumstances, a bread and milk poultice was applied warm to the tumour every six hours, and warm water and sweet oil were frequently injected into the rectum; the inflammatory symptoms continued increasing, although she perspired to day for some time very freely, but without affording any mitigation of her pain; now become very acute in the bowels and lower part of the abdomen.

10th. She was extremely restless in the night, and had no sleep, though she took fifteen drops of tinct. opii every hour for three times; at noon this day her fever run very high, and the pain in the forementioned places was very acute and distressing; she was seized with a most violent rigor, succeeded by great heat and perspiration; discolouration and tension now extended over the whole right hypogastric region, and the tumour was daily increasing in magnitude: the poultice was continued, but the glyster omitted, as it seemed to afford no relief.

11th. She took no opiate last night, and rested very indifferently, by reason of pain; the fever this morning ran very high, and the abscess had increased considerably, and on the top of which appeared a slight livid tinge. Ordered the glyster to be again repeated, with the addition of a little Castor oil, as she had not had a stool since the morning of the 9th; this, however, was objected to, but the treatment, in all other respects, was continued.

12th. Took twenty drops of tinct. opii at three separate times last night, which procured two hours of disturbed rest, during which she perspired very freely. A vesicle now appeared on the apex of the tumour, with lividness to the extent of a shilling; her pulse was quick, but smaller and more enfeebled, yet her thirst considerable: the rigors and heats were more frequent, and less violent, and were succeeded by more partial perspirations. Her pain was less immoderate, but yet considerable, and the distress in making water not much alleviated. Had yet had no stool, and still objected to the administration of a glyster.

Ordered two table spoons full of the *decoct. cort. Peruv.* every three hours, taking at the same time fifteen grains of the kali ppt. dissolved in two ounces of water, and as much of the *acid vitriol. dilut.* as was sufficient for saturating the same.

13th. Slept about two hours in the night without the aid of an opiate; but was attacked with a cold and hot fit this morning, similar to the paroxysm of a quartan ague; the shivering lasted upwards of an hour, and the succeeding heat and perspiration were proportionally large: the pulse was weak and very quick, being about 134 in a minute, and her strength was considerably reduced, yet her spirits were tolerably good; the

the gangrene increased, though the pain was still considerable. A suppository of treacle, with the addition of a little butter and salt, was administered, which brought away a small quantity of hardened fæces.

14th. Slept four hours last night without an anodyne, and the suppository was again administered, with nearly the same effects as yesterday: The febrile paroxysm came on, observing nearly the same time and degree of violence as before; had partial and clammy sweats during the intervals, notwithstanding a considerable degree of arterial action still existed. An ounce of compound tincture of bark was added to her decoction, and which was ordered to be taken as before. Four or five small wine glasses of red Port were also ordered to be taken in the course of twenty-four hours, and a more nutritious diet was recommended, such as good broths, or even animal food, if the stomach could take it. Lint dipped in equal parts of ol. terebinth. and *bals. capaivi* was applied to the gangrenous part, previous to the application of the poultice; now changed to one composed of oatmeal and brisk ale, with the addition of a little sweet oil.

15th. Slept two or three hours last night, and in other respects appeared the same as yesterday: the paroxysm came on three hours earlier than the last, and was, in violence and duration, similar to the preceding. Had a natural stool in the afternoon, and the gangrene appeared now stationary, and somewhat offensive.

16th. The paroxysm last night returned three quarters of an hour earlier, but in other respects similar to the last: her pulse were now stronger, and somewhat slower, and the intermediate and partial sweatings more inconsiderable; had yet some pain, though far less immoderate than formerly; slept very little last night, but to day dosed a good deal: the gangrene was separating, and the treatment continued as before.

17th. The accession of the fit last night was an hour and a half earlier than, but in other respects nearly alike to, that immediately preceding it: the intermediate fever this day ran higher than usual; the usual suppository was administered, but without effect. On removing the poultice this evening, some of the gangrenous part sloughed off, which was followed by a quantity of putrid sanies; after this, rushed out about seven or eight ounces of well concocted matter. The same treatment was, however, continued.

18th. Slept tolerably last night; and the feverish paroxysm came on two hours and a half later than the last, and was less severe than any of the preceding. On removing the poultice this morning, a quantity of fæces was discovered; the same

circumstance

circumstance was again observed in the evening, together with a considerable discharge of matter.

19th. Slept three hours comfortably last night, and to day had some short intervals of repose: the paroxysm was earlier by a quarter of an hour than the last; ate some currant pudding and broth to dinner: In the evening, at dressing, had a large discharge of fæces and matter from the opening, and the whole of the mortified part this day sloughed off, leaving an ulcer four inches and a half in length, and nearly three inches in breadth, and which extended from below the *os pubis* upwards toward the spine of the *os ilium*. Dressed this evening with dry lint, and a plegdet of *ung. de sperm. ceti*; and the bark, along with a milk diet, was alone prescribed.

She henceforth gradually grew better, both with regard to the ulcer, and her health in general, till the 8th of August, when she again vomited a large quantity of chocolate coloured fluid, attended with pain in the bowels, and an exacerbation of her hectic symptoms, all which were relieved by an increased discharge from the ulcer. This evacuation in a day or two weakened her considerably; but by discontinuing the use of the bark, and taking the chalk mixture, it was checked.

Hence, to the time of her death, she was variously affected; sometimes ate well, was cheerful, and tolerably free from pain; and her hectic symptoms almost disappeared for four or five days, sometimes a week or ten days, or even longer, when she was suddenly seized with pain, and frequently swelling of the abdomen, increase of fever, and sometimes vomiting, though not so often as formerly; these were terminated by a large discharge of mostly a thin, acrid, and brownish fluid from the ulcer.

The severe paroxysms which took place during the time that matter was pent up in the abscess, and which assumed the intermittent type, particularly when a change was effected in the tumour, and the system at large, are circumstances worth remarking, though doubtful whether affording any hint towards elucidating the nature of intermittents in general.

The discharge from the ulcer varied, not only in quantity but in colour and consistence; when the most profuse, it was thin, and chocolate coloured; and when less immoderate, assumed a more pus-like appearance. At all times, however, but more especially when copious, it was so acrid as to produce much excoriation on the contiguous parts: Cleanliness, and the application of saturnine preparations, with the forementioned dressings, were frequently and occasionally made use of. The fæces evacuated from the ulcer generally when unmixed with any other discharge, were whiter, and of a less consolidated consistence

consistence than those voided the natural way; and for some time subsequent to the rupture of the abscess, animal food was voided by the ulcer, apparently in a half digested state. The pain and swelling of the belly, accompanied with a spasmodic state of the abdominal muscles, were frequently distressing, and generally preceded a liquid and increased discharge from the ulcer; to obviate which, opiates occasionally were had recourse to.

Her pulse, from the 8th of July to the time of her death, was generally from 100 to 125; and as Nature sunk, it became small and contracted; insomuch, that six weeks previous to her death, it was scarcely distinguishable; notwithstanding, all this time she was perfectly rational, and strongly influenced for the last week with the idea of dying immediately, provided she were raised up from a supine to an erect posture. At her own pressing solicitation the experiment was made, and she died almost instantly.

Her tongue, at the beginning of the disorder, reckoning from the formation of the abscess, was generally furred, and somewhat yellowish, especially in the middle and back part of it; but in the latter stage, was clean, and of a raw appearance.

The urine, during the whole time, was mostly high coloured, and deposited a strong purulent sediment, with a lateritious tinge; sometimes, however, and especially towards the last, it was paler, with, and even without, a dark coloured nubicula.

About the middle of her sickness she had a troublesome cough, with some expectoration of *mucus*, and attended with some pains in the chest.

From the fourth day subsequent to the breaking of the abscess, she had evacuations *per anum*, sometimes every day, but oftener every second or third day. These, for the first month, or five weeks, were in a very trifling degree; but, either from the effects of oil and water gruel, daily thrown up into the *rectum*, or more probably from the efforts of Nature, an increased quantity of fæces was gradually obtained; always, however, bearing marks of having passed some strictured part of the intestine.

She often complained during her illness of pain in the inside of the thigh, knee, and leg of the side affected, all of which were considerably emaciated.

She menstruated in a small degree on the 18th of September, being the only time subsequent to the formation of the abscess in the groin; but previously she was regular.

For some time before her death, all the different excretions of the body were considerably diminished, and the fæces discharged

charged from the ulcer were in a liquid ſtate; but thoſe evacuated by the *anus* were generally of a hardened conſiſtence. The ulcer, from the firſt, healed very expeditiouſly; and long before her death was reduced to two ſmall openings, about half an inch aſunder, and little more than capable of admitting a moderate ſized garden pea.

On opening the body after death, which happened on the 28th of November, 1794, the meſenteric glands were the parts that chiefly exhibited marks of diſeaſe, eſpecially ſome that were ſituated behind the *duodenum*, and contiguous to the back; theſe were indurated, and contained a cheeſe-like ſubſtance, and a few of them were as large as a ſmall cheſnut. The reſt of the meſentery ſeemed diſeaſed; and that part connecting the inteſtines together was thickened, and ſo much ſhrivelled up, as to give the latter a very dilated appearance. In the meſentery of the loins, two or three inches below the right kidney, was found an abſceſs, containing about two ounces of thin purulent matter. The ſtomach and bowels exhibited no preternatural appearance, except the blood veſſels of the ſmaller inteſtines in particular were conſiderably enlarged. The liver and gall bladder were free from any marks of diſeaſe; but the membranous covering of the former was much thickened, and adhered firmly to the diaphragm: The ſpleen and pancreas alſo appeared ſound.

On examining the aperture in the groin, it was found that a portion of the inteſtine *ileum* adhered firmly to Poupart's ligament, and was puckered, thickened, and occupied about the ſpace of a large halfpenny. From this part iſſued two openings externally, the one above and the other below this ligament; the larger of theſe was little more than ſufficient to admit the introduction of a female catheter. The paſſage which led forwards to the under part of the inteſtinal canal was ſo narrow, that it was with ſome difficulty I paſt the firſt joint of my little finger through it: The peritonæum contiguous to this adheſion, for ſome diſtance, was extremely thickened, and even that portion of it in contact with the bladder, as well as the fundus of that viſcus, partook of this enlargement. The parts of generation were ſound, and the pſoas muſcle free from diſeaſe.

One inference to be drawn from this caſe, and which alone can recommend it for publication is, to warn us againſt ſuffering ſimilar abſceſſes to break of themſelves, as the conſequences are not only extreme pain and diſtreſs from the matter being pent up beneath a ſtrong aponeurotic and membranous covering, but a very conſiderable loſs of ſubſtance, with an increaſe of hectic, and a large aperture for the admiſſion of air

into the cavity of the abdomen already diſeaſed. Theſe evils might, in ſome meaſure, be obviated by a timely opening; for although no permanent advantage would accrue from it, yet the alleviation of pain and diſtreſs, and the probable procraſtination of death, objects which probably would be the reſult, and which with the humane and rational ſurgeon are always *deſiderata* of moment.

In this kind of abſceſs, which is complicated with hernia, an apprehenſion may prevail againſt the uſe of the knife, which, if employed, muſt inevitably wound the hernial contents, (for there was little doubt here of the matter being confined within the inteſtine;) but could even an imprudent uſe of this inſtrument be productive of worſe conſequences than thoſe reſulting from ſpontaneous rupturing? As to the manner of opening theſe tumours, a large orifice ſeems inadmiſſible from the greater expoſure of the cavity of the abdomen to the external air; perhaps the moſt eligible method will be to thruſt an abſceſs lancet gently forwards, or if any doubt be entertained of the matter being confined within the inteſtine, diſſecting carefully through the external covering, till matter be found, may be the moſt adviſable. It may probably be found, that the moſt proper time for performing this operation is when the firſt ſymptoms of lividneſs appear; for I have generally obſerved, that a conſiderable degree of excitement, in the formation of abſceſſes, tends not only to expedite the cure, after their contents are evacuated, but has very ſalutary effects on the ſyſtem at large.

A Caſe of Tertian Intermittent, &c.

SARAH PRIEST, a young girl of fourteen years of age, and of an athletic conſtitution, and who had never menſtruated, was ſeized with the paroxyſm of a tertian ague, Jan. 14, 1795. The cold ſtage continued upwards of an hour, and was ſucceeded as uſual by a hot fit, which laſted rather more than two hours, and then ſubſided without any evacuation by the ſkin.

Jan. 16. The paroxyſm returned to day about the ſame time, but was ſomewhat longer in duration.

17th. To day being the firſt time of ſeeing her, I found her labouring under conſiderable fever, pulſe quick, tongue white and ſomewhat parched, ſome pain in the head and loins, and a diſpoſition to nauſea and coſtiveneſs; to remove which, fifteen grains of the pulv. ipecac. with one grain of the tartar emetic were given, which puked her ſeveral times. After this one drachm of *Fordyce's prophylactic powder* was ordered, which procured four ſtools. Eight grains of *nitre* with the ſame

quantity

quantity of *white ſugar*, were next preſcribed to be taken every three hours, along with three table ſpoons full of the *ſaline mixture*, eight ounces of which contained four ſcruples of the *kali*, with as much lemon juice as was ſufficient to ſaturate the ſame.

18th. The fit came on four hours earlier than uſual, and was ſimilar to the laſt in point of violence and duration, but yet terminated by no perſpiration. In other reſpects ſhe was the ſame as before.

19th. Little alteration ſince yeſterday, the intermediate fever however appeared ſomewhat leſſened.

20th. The paroxyſm came on half an hour ſooner than the laſt, and was of equal ſeverity and duration, and yet unſucceeded by any diſcharge from the ſkin. As the intermediate and febrile ſymptoms were now conſiderably abated, the following was ordered:

R. Pulv. cort. Peruv. ʒiij. Kali pp. ʒſs. Aq. nuc. moſch. ʒſs. Aq. font. ʒvij. M.

Two table ſpoons full of this mixture were taken every three hours.

21ſt. Was better to day than ſhe hitherto had been during the intervals of the fits, being now pretty cool without thirſt or pain, and her appetite was conſiderably better.

22d. This day ſhe had no return of paroxyſm, and in all other reſpects ſeemed very well. Had diſcontinued her mixture laſt night, after having only taken eight ounces of it, and ſhe could not be perſuaded to take it afterwards.

24th. At or about the time of the laſt fit, which was in the night, the patient, according to her own account, was ſeized with pain in the head, uneaſineſs and oppreſſion at the ſtomach, conſiderable thirſt and heat, but without rigors; theſe, on abating, were ſucceeded by ſleep, and a hæmorrhage, as was ſuppoſed, from the mouth. Six hours afterwards petechiæ were diſcovered on the arms, ſhoulders, and upper part of the trunk, and even on the legs, but the ſpots on the laſt were ſmall and innumerable. On looking into the mouth, a number of petechiæ of a gangrenous aſpect appeared within the lips, on the inſide of the cheeks and fauces. Her pulſe was quick, but not weak, and ſhe had ſome thirſt, with liſtneſſneſs and proſtration of ſtrength. Had no ſickneſs or nauſea, and was regular as to ſtools, which exhibited no unnatural appearance. Bled none this day ſince ſhe awoke in the morning, but her ſaliva was now and then ſlightly tinged.

Ordered three large table ſpoons full of a ſtrong decoction of bark, ſix drachms of which were boiled down in twelve ounces of water to ſeven, and an ounce of the compound tincture

added to it, and along with which were taken twelve drops of the elix. *vitriol. acid.* Half a pint of red port wine made into *negus*, and acidulated with lemon-juice, was ordered to be taken in the courſe of the day; and a nouriſhing diet, ſuch as broths, jellies, &c. was alſo recommended.

25th. Bled in the night as before, but without being ſenſible of any previous indiſpoſition. As the hæmorrhage happened in her ſleep, neither its acceſſion, duration, or violence, could be aſcertained. In other reſpects ſhe was as the day before.

26th. Had bled largely as uſual from the mouth, in the night during ſleep. Her legs were now ſwelled, and livid, and the petechiæ were much increaſed, eſpecially on the face, ſhoulders, and breaſt. The ſpots within the mouth had alſo a more gangrenous aſpect, but the reſt of the mouth had an uncommonly pallid appearance. Her pulſe was about one hundred, and weak, and her thirſt was yet conſiderable, though her tongue was moiſt and clean. She was liſtleſs, low ſpirited, and free from pain, and was alſo regular as to ſtools, which were of a natural conſiſtence, but ſomewhat more than uſually offenſive, and dark coloured.

The ſtrength of her mixture was increaſed from ſix drachms of the bark to one ounce, the ſame quantity of the decoction to be taken as before, along with fifteen drops of the elixir, inſtead of twelve. Her wine was alſo ordered to be increaſed to a pint a day.

27th. Much the ſame as yeſterday, and had bled as uſual in the night, whilſt aſleep Inſtead of the compound tincture of bark, an ounce of the tincture of *catechu* was added. Milk and rice were now taken along with her former diet.

28th. Bled as uſual laſt night, and complained of great ſtiffneſs in her hams and knees, and her legs were much ſwelled, and more livid and œdematous. The petechiæ were more univerſal, and her breath offenſive. She complained of ſome ſickneſs, and was greatly dejected. She was delirious the fore part of the night, but afterwards ſlept tolerably. Inſtead of the vitriolic, twelve drops of the muriatic acid were preſcribed to be taken in the ſame manner as the former; and in the intervals of taking her medicine, lemon-juice in different vehicles was plentifully drunk.

29th. This day ſhe went a few yards out of doors, and on her return was ſeized with rigors, and conſiderable pain in the back and lower extremities, eſpecially the right leg, which now, in addition to lividneſs, put on ſymptoms of inflammation, and was greatly ſwelled. Two or three large *vibices* appeared in different parts of the body, one of which ſurrounded the

right

right eye, and occupied the ſpace of the *orbicularis* muſcle. Her pulſe was increaſed to one hundred and ſix, yet her thirſt much the ſame; her petechiæ however bore rather a more favourable aſpect, and ſhe bled only about half the uſual quantity in the night.

30th. Better in all reſpects, as the pain in the loins and legs had vaniſhed; and the appearances of the latter, with regard to the colour and ſwelling, much more favourable. The petechiæ alſo were changing from a livid to a chocolate colour, and her pulſe came down to ninety, and her urine was turbid and ſimilar to new beer mixed with yeaſt. Had no hæmorrhage laſt night, and has been without ſtool for the two laſt days; but on ordering the *tinct. catechu* to be omitted, ſhe had a motion the ſame evening. Her appetite now increaſed, and the ſame plan was ordered to be purſued.

31ſt. She continued in all reſpects to recover. The petechiæ were either daily diſperſing or becoming freſher, and the ſwelling of her legs was conſiderably reduced, and the lividneſs had nearly diſappeared, notwithſtanding which ſhe bled a few drops in the night. Her pulſe was now at eighty-ſeven, and as ſhe complained of being tired of her medicines, the doſes were not only leſſened to two table ſpoons full of the mixture, and eight drops of the acid, but ordered to be taken only three or four times a day. Theſe ſhe could only be perſuaded to take two or three days further, but her pint of wine ſhe daily continued taking a week longer.

On the 5th of February, ſcarcely a veſtige of petechiæ was diſcernible, and ſhe had been free from any further attacks of hæmorrhage, and in all other reſpects appeared well. She henceforth rapidly regained her former health, which ſhe has continued to enjoy to the preſent time.

This girl, previous to this complaint, had always enjoyed an uninterrupted ſtate of health from her infancy, and had been accuſtomed to a good deal of bodily exerciſe, eſpecially within doors. Her diet had uſually conſiſted of milk, and ſometimes malt liquor as a ſubſtitute, farinaceous, and occaſionally animal food, partly freſh and partly ſalted. Though apparently of a ſound conſtitution, and without any external mark of ſcrophula, yet her parents were deeply tainted with that diſorder.

After the firſt and ſecond attack of hæmorrhage, ſome proper attendants were appointed to obſerve the time of acceſſion, and every other circumſtance, with regard to any ſubſequent bleeding that might enſue. The reſult of theſe obſervations were, that the third attack came on at two o'clock in the morning, after the patient had been unremittingly aſleep for four hours,

hours, and although, previouſly, ſhe had been ſomewhat reſtleſs, with apparently increaſed heat and flushing of the face, yet when the bleeding came on ſhe appeared comfortable, ſtill, and laid on her ſide. After bleeding about five and thirty minutes, *per ſtillicidium*,* ſhe awoke, and then it ceaſed. The fourth attack came on half an hour later than the preceding, and was uſhered in by leſs reſtleſſneſs and apparent heat. After bleeding nearly forty minutes it ceaſed, and ſhe continued ſleeping forwards for an hour, and then awoke and fell aſleep a ſecond time, but without having any further return of the hæmorrhage. On the fifth night, ſhe was awoke at two o'clock, and kept from falling aſleep again till half paſt three; and then yielding to the power of ſleep, ten minutes afterwards the hæmorrhage returned, without any previous indications, and was more profuſe than before, but of ſhorter duration, as it only continued about twenty-eight minutes, though the ſaliva for ſeveral hours afterwards was ſlightly tinged. With reſpect to the ſixth attack of hæmorrhage, from the careleſſneſs of the attendants no proper account can be given.

From a number of collated circumſtances, attendant both on the two firſt and ſubſequent hæmorrhages, I am of opinion that they returned at nearly regular periods; for notwithſtanding on the fifth morning, the bleeding was later in its return, yet probably its procraſtination was lengthened by keeping her awake beyond the former periods of attack, for, about an hour previous to its acceſſion, it was with ſome difficulty ſhe was kept from ſleeping. This circumſtance joined to the conſideration of the hæmorrhage always commencing during ſleep, may in ſome meaſure account for its procraſtination on the fifth morning.

The urine throughout her diſorder was changeable, both in quantity and appearance. During the firſt and intermittent ſtage, it was in large quantity and of a natural colour, eſpecially after the paroxyſm, and depoſited a ſmall ſediment, partly flocculent and partly purulent; but during the intervals, was ſomewhat higher coloured, and generally without ſediment. In the latter ſtage it was generally paler than natural, and the ſettlement largely and ſolely flocculent. On the 30th, the day after catching cold, the urine however put on a conſiderable change, ſuch as is deſcribed in the narrative of that day.

She

* The quantity of blood loſt could not be aſcertained. I ſuppoſed about an ounce and a half at a time, therefore the bleeding muſt have been very ſlow.

She never appeared to have any rigors from the cure of the intermittent fever to the 29th, being the day of catching cold, nor any increased heats in that interval, except those already described as ushering in the hæmorrhage; and as to perspiration, not the least was perceptible during her illness, but on the contrary the skin always felt hot and dry.

The weather, for several months prior to the first accession of this complaint, had been exceedingly changeable. In the autumn there was much rain, which continued into December; to this succeeded alternate frosts and thaws, with almost daily changes of the wind. A severe storm of frost and snow, at length set in the beginning of January, and with the exception of one or two intermissions of slight thaws, continued to the commencement of her disorder.

Newsolme, the place of her residence, is a small village situated rather in a mountainous part of the country, on the middle of a declivity of considerable extent. It is exposed much to the north and north-west winds, and I have thought its inhabitants unusually subject to feverish complaints; and besides, I once met with another case of tertian in this place, which was a girl of about the same age and temperament, and who had never menstruated. The disorder was idiopathic, and unattended with any anomalous symptoms. The paroxysms returned at equal intervals, and were terminated by copious perspiration, and easily gave way to the bark.

During a practice of almost twenty years in this town and neighbourhood, I never saw an intermittent as a primary affection, a native of the place, excepting these two cases; yet, notwithstanding this, many people formerly, who were in the yearly habit of repairing to the eastern part of this county as reapers, imported this disorder on their return, and which generally continued with them throughout the winter, but either left them spontaneously on the return of warm weather, or easily yielded to the bark. Latterly, however, this complaint is far less frequently imported than formerly, a circumstance arising either from the harvests being somewhat earlier, or what is more probable, the country being more cleared and better drained.

A great proportion of those intermittents were tertian, and the unhappy sufferers labouring under them generally were taking divers remedies or nostrums throughout the winter, and at the same time imprudently exposing themselves to the cold. For instance, the bark they would take for three or four days, till imagining themselves well, they then would generally discontinue its use, and consequently incur a relapse, against which this remedy, or some other, was again had recourse to, with

with usually no better success than before. Thus were those unhappy people harassed throughout the winter; and even on the return of warm weather, were with more difficulty cured than those whose complaint had continued uninterruptedly throughout the winter, and for which no remedies had been taken; and besides, I have thought that affections of the liver, dropsies, &c. were more apt to succeed to the former class of patients than the latter.

[To be continued.]

A Case of Synocha, communicated by Mr. James Moore, *Surgeon.*

SYNOCHA, or pure inflammatory fever, is a disease so rare in this country, that many experienced practitioners have doubted its existence. I think the following Case, which I lately attended, is unquestionably an example of it.

J. H. is thirty-one years of age, he is a tall stout man, of a florid complexion, and of a full sanguine habit. From a particular cause, he has for above a year laboured under a depression of spirits, and unfortunately he was lately terrified to a great degree. As his mind continued in a state of alarm, there is reason to believe that this was the remote cause of the fever which ensued.

The industrious Hoffman, in enumerating the causes of fevers, mentions, first, "vehementes animi commotiones, terror imprimis et ira."

This young man, though harassed by these terrible passions, endeavoured to suppress all appearance of them; and as he was in the country, and did not complain when he first felt himself indisposed, I cannot with certainty fix the first day of the fever. Indeed, this in many cases is impossible, the beginning of diseases being often imperceptible.

However, according to the best conjecture I can make, the fever commenced October 29th, when he perceived a chilliness all over his body: But for several days before he was unwell, and had fallen off in his appetite.

The second day of the fever, sickness occurred, though not in such a degree as to excite vomiting, and in the night he broke out into a profuse perspiration.

The third day, the perspiration continuing, he kept his bed, and complained of head-ach. An opening medicine was given him.

The

The fourth morning he was better, and sat up in the day; but grew worse towards the evening. He started from bed during the night, and was kept in a continual state of terror, from believing he saw frightful apparitions.

The fifth day, he dressed himself, got upon horse-back, and rode to town, which was a distance of twelve miles. He complained very little, but was thought to be in a strange state.

The sixth day I was consulted. I found him up, and when I inquired how he was, he told me he had only a pain in his forehead. His face was redder than usual, and his eyes were slightly inflamed. The expression of his countenance denoted surprise; and the answers to the questions I put to him, marked a confusion of intellect.

His pulse was strong, hard, and beat 88 strokes in a minute. The skin was hot, the tongue was moist and whitish, the urine red, with a dark sediment; the bowels regular.

He was put to bed, and as the delirium augmented, it was found necessary to guard him carefully.

The disease increased, though with occasional remissions, for four days: His pulse was always strong and regular, and once was perceived as high as 96; his skin felt hot, and rather moist; he was disposed to constipation, was thirsty, and shewed no nausea or want of appetite, but swallowed readily whatever was given him.

On the tenth day he was quite furious, and could hardly be kept in bed, though strapped down, and restrained by two strong men. That night a profuse sweat broke out, and he became tranquil.

The eleventh day I found him perspiring freely. His pulse was softened, and diminished in frequency, and his answers were rational.

This proved the crisis of the fever; for, on the twelfth morning, his pulse had sunk to 80, and his only complaint was weakness.

The treatment employed during the five days he was under my charge, consisted simply of two purgatives, and a draught containing one-fourth of a grain of tartar emetic, and two drams of the aqua ammoniæ acetatæ, which was exhibited regularly every six hours.

This, I imagine, contributed to excite the critical perspiration.

I did not venture on bleeding, because it was the sixth day of the fever before I saw him.

His diet consisted of liquids, slightly nutritious.

The definition of Synocha given by Dr. Cullen is "Calor plurimum auctus, pulsus frequens, validus et durus; urina rubra sensorii functiones parum turbatæ."

This case differed in the last characteristic; but as Dr. Cullen acknowledged that he never saw the disease, he may have erred in the description.

It is also probable, that the mental derangement in this instance was much greater than usual.

This case was so strongly marked, that there could be little danger, without gross inattention, of mistaking it for a fever of the typhoid kind.

The loss of strength was so slight, that the patient rode twelve miles on the fifth day, without appearing fatigued, or going to bed afterwards: And when the disease left him altogether, the debility was much less than what occurs after fevers in general.

The natural functions were little disturbed: His thirst was not excessive; and he took whatever was allowed him without disgust.

The pulse was strong and hard, the skin hot and soft; every one of which particulars is the reverse of what occurs in Typhus.

And the tongue, instead of having a dry, red, brown, or black appearance, was always moist, and rather white.

As most of the functions of the body were so little disordered, delirium was unexpected.

It commenced so early as the fourth night, and continued till the crisis with augmenting violence. Perhaps the moral causes, which it is believed, operated in exciting the disease, contributed to this effect.

The indications in this fever are very opposite from those of Typhus, it is therefore of the utmost importance that they should be discriminated.

Synocha certainly very much resembles the symptomatic fever attendant upon phlegmon; and therefore, it has not unnaturally been termed the inflammatory fever.

The common ephemera is undoubtedly of the same species, which, notwithstanding its name, often continues three days:

And the Synocha seems to me precisely the same malady, in a more violent degree, and running on for a longer period.

As many cases similar to the above have been narrated by authors, it appears strange that the reality of this disease should be now questioned.

But the attempt to simplify diseases, and particularly fevers, has, I think, been carried to an erroneous length.

The

The species that are common in any country, are perhaps not numerous; but it is clear, from the various accounts we receive, that fevers have different symptoms, and require a different treatment in every part of the globe.

This island seems most fortunate in this particular; for in no country, however our climate is decried, are fevers so mild and so little dangerous. Among the poor, who are lodged in confined apartments, and who are too frequently neglected, it is true that fatal cases are common.

But among those who are comfortably lodged, and who have the means of obtaining early and proper assistance, except where the constitution is naturally bad, or is worn out with old age, fevers are rarely mortal.

Grosvenor Street,
Jan. 3, 1801.

JAMES MOORE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you think the following case worthy inserting in your most valuable Journal, it is at your service. I am, &c.

Perth, Jan. 19, 1801. G. M'LAREN, Surgeon.

In June last I was asked to visit Mary Aitken, æt. 50, who lived about three miles from this town, and who, I was told, had been ill for upwards of two years, and had for the last six months been confined to her bed. I found her affected with violent hysteria; she was of the sanguine habit and robust constitution: She had taken a number of medicines commonly used in that disease, but had experienced no relief. I ordered her three doses of musk, one of six, another of seven, and a third of nine grains, to be taken the three following mornings, beginning with the smallest. Every morning, about half an hour after she had taken the powder, a violent paroxysm of the disease came on, throwing the body into various convulsive motions, and which having continued for near three quarters of an hour, she became quiet, and a copious perspiration was produced over the whole body. I saw her again the day after she had used the three powders, when she found herself greatly relieved, but complained of being very weak; however, by

the administration of a few tonics, she found herself so well in twelve days from the time I first saw her, that she walked into town, and has had no return of her complaint.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN the application of any new remedy is recommended to the Public, it may be considered as a duty incumbent on every member of the Faculty, to make known any facts he is acquainted with, whether for or against it. Having seen the application of the spt. terebinth. in cases of Burns and Scalds recommended by some of your ingenious correspondents in different Numbers of this Work, I have, for the above reason, taken this method of submitting to your opinion, the effects which I have observed ensue from its use in a variety of cases of the above kind. The practice is, I believe, by some, considered new; but it is certainly by no means entirely so, for it has been known and used many years in the neighbourhood of some of our manufacturing towns, where the nature of the trade is such, as to render the workmen particularly liable to injuries by fire. At least, I am authorised to say, this is the case with respect to Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley, from residing nearly seven years in the vicinity of those towns, where the common people are so well acquainted with the good consequences following its early application, that it is commonly, and almost constantly, kept in their work-shops. During the above period, which was from 1791 to 1798, I had opportunities of seeing above 120 cases of injuries by the excessive application of heat, different in degrees of severity; in above 100 of which, the spt. terebinth. was always applied, whenever surgical assistance was called in during the period that it could be deemed useful. The hint of its utility was first derived from the lower class of mechanics, who, as I have before observed, had been long in the habit of using it. I am extremely sorry it is out of my power to lay any of these cases before the public; from having left that part of the country in the year last mentioned, and having been since for the most part employed out of the kingdom, I am entirely unfurnished with the names and exact dates;—this will, I hope, be considered as a sufficient excuse, as no practical conclusions can be deduced from the recital of cases, unless their authenticity and

and accuracy can be depended upon in every particular. The following, however, are the general effects which I have commonly obſerved from its uſe:

That, if applied immediately, or ſoon after the injury is ſuſtained, the excruciating pain is always alleviated, and often removed; the period in which this happens, is generally in proportion to its early or late application.

That its beneficial effects are moſt evident in thoſe caſes where the injury penetrates no deeper than the cutis; and it is generally obſerved, the moſt violent degrees of pain and irritation happen in ſuch inſtances. Conſequently, it will be found commonly leſs uſeful in burns than in ſcalds.

That it will, notwithſtanding, be found of the greateſt ſervice in burns, even of the ſevereſt kind, in which the chief pain is always found at the junction of the injured and ſound parts; where, by allaying the irritation, it often prevents violent degrees of inflammation in the adjacent parts, and thus forwards the ſeparation of the eſchar.

That its utility in ſuperficial injuries appears to be by preventing effuſion and conſequent ulceration; and in ſuch caſes, its beneficial application may be limited to within twenty-four hours after the injury is received; but in ſeverer caſes it may be uſefully applied, until ſuch time as ſloughing commences, and ſuppuration is eſtabliſhed.

The mode of its application is the next conſideration.—It may be applied alone by means of a feather, or large camel-hair bruſh; or cloths thoroughly wetted with it, may be applied over the affected parts: But though, in this way, it acts quickly in removing pain after the irritation immediately ſubſequent to its application is over, I am inclined to think its ſalutary effects are not ſo permanent as when mixed with an equal quantity of fine olive oil. Fine rags dipt in this liniment, and applied doubly, form a ſoft and eaſy dreſſing, which may, for the moſt part, be removed without pain, and appear to retain their influence ſeveral hours; whereas, when uſed by itſelf, it ſoon evaporates, and the rags become ſtiff, dry, and a cauſe of irritation; or when mixed with linſeed oil, as is the practice with ſome, after lying on a ſhort time, they adhere ſo faſt as in their removal frequently to tear away the ſkin, and thus effectually fruſtrate the chief curative intention. The repetition may be every ſix hours, or as often as the parts affected become very painful. That opiates are uſefully ſubjoined, I need not mention.

In every topical affection it will be allowed, the prevention or removal of pain is a principal ſtep towards cure; this is of particular moment in extenſive burns or ſcalds ſituate on the regions

regions of the ſtomach or abdomen, where exceſſive irritation is likely to extend the inflammation to ſome of the neighbouring viſcera, and thus deſtroy life; and in far the greateſt number of accidents of the above nature, which happened to children from upſetting tea-pots, or their cloaths catching fire, theſe parts and the throat have ſuffered moſt; at leaſt, this has happened in moſt of thoſe I have happened to be engaged in; but it was, probably, accidental, and may not in general be the caſe.

In the year 1797, I had an opportunity of ſeeing three caſes of ſcalds treated by the application of cold, though not perſonally concerned in their treatment; they all happened from boiling wort, and the ſubjects were healthy unmarried women, all under 25 years of age. Two happened at the ſame time, and were treated by the immediate application of cold cataplaſms of ſcraped potatoes, renewed as often as they became temperate; one was above the right ancle, and the other on the left inſtep: Though the injuries were by no means ſevere, and the applications immediate, extenſive ulceration ſucceeded in both caſes. The third was on the metatarſus, extending from the toes to the inſtep. Immediately on being ſcalded, ſhe plunged her foot into a pail of cold water, where ſhe kept it nearly half an hour; the ſimple liniment (ex. ol. oliv. et aq. calcis) was afterwards applied; but notwithſtanding the attentive care of an eminent ſurgeon, extenſive ſloughing and ulceration enſued; nor was ſhe perfectly cured till near three months afterwards, during which time the bark, tonics, and opiates were found neceſſary. I cannot poſitively aſſert that the application of the ſpt. terebinth. would have prevented the diſagreeable conſequences in theſe three caſes; but were I to draw concluſions from ſimilar caſes, I ſhould be induced to think it would.

I hope it will not be conſidered, that the above ſketch is by any means meant as a deciſion in favour of the new practice; I have merely narrated the effects I have obſerved, with the opinion deduced from ſuch obſervations; and as I truſt, by means of your valuable Journal, the affair will ſhortly be decided by ſome of your eminent correſpondents, whoſe extenſive practice affords them numerous opportunities of making experiments, and from whoſe abilities and integrity we have every reaſon to hope for the moſt juſt and candid concluſions; when this happens, if I find that I have been too haſty in forming my opinion on the ſpt. terebinth. it will give me pleaſure to adopt that which may be more conducive to the promotion of the healing art and the good of mankind. I am, &c.

Spithead, Jan. 25, 1801. NAVALIS, jun.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

ON the 25th of November I was desired to visit the child of Mrs. Browne, late in the evening, of which child I had delivered her on the 31st of the preceding month. Upon examining the child, who by its violent shrieks and writhing of the body seemed to be in excruciating pain, the appearances were as follow: A violent inflammation appeared, extending longitudinally from the upper surface of the right breast to the umbilicus; and laterally from the inferior angle of the scapula over the ribs to the inferior portion of the left breast. To trace its circumference, we will commence from the inferior angle of the right scapula passing nearly to the axilla, enveloping almost the whole of the right breast, descending to the orbic. cordis, then ascending as high as the nipple of the left breast, then suddenly descending in a strait line to a parallel with the umbilicus, passed close upon its upper surface, declining a little on the right side, then gradually diminishing in its ascent to the inferior angle of the scapula.

Upon making inquiry about her previous health, the mother stated to me, that the infant when she retired to rest the preceding evening was in apparent good health; which it had enjoyed from the birth. In the night she was waked by its crying, and immediately applied it to the breast, which it eagerly embraced, and as speedily relinquished; it continued crying till morning, when she undressed it, to examine whether any external injury was the cause, having previously supposed it to be an affection of the bowels. On removing the cloaths she observed both breasts turgid, milk oozing from the nipples, and the right breast much inflamed; these appearances induced her to apply a common poultice, which not affording the desired relief, she sent to me. On my arrival, I found the appearances as I have just stated.

I desired linen cloths to be dipped in Aq. lytharg. acet. comp. applied to the inflamed parts, and kept constantly wet; evacuated the intestines with a little rhubarb and calomel, and gave two drops of tinct. opii every hour during the night. The following day the saturnine lotion was continued with one drop of Tinct. opii every two hours. The inflammation did not materially abate, but became circumscribed to the limits before mentioned.

On the 27th the abdomen became much distended and very tense. I directed the intestines to be again evacuated by infusum sennæ, giving a tea spoonful every quarter of an hour until

til it ſhould operate freely, and the abdomen to be fomented frequently afterwards, anointing it with ung. ſaturninum.—Theſe remedies afforded the child relief for about two hours, the fomentation and ointment uniformly producing the ſame effect when repeated.

The 28th, obſerving a fluctuation under the inflamed integuments, I directed a ſoft poultice to be applied, and gave the infant ʒſs decoct. cinch. with two drops of Tinct. opii three times a day, which it ſwallowed with ſome difficulty. The following day, Nov. 29, the abſceſs broke immediately over the ſcrobic. cordis, when not leſs than four ounces of pus were evacuated. The infant continued the medicines during this day, but on the following (Nov. 30.) declined even the breaſts, which it returned to a little the day after, but refuſed wine and every other ſupport.

The wound now put on a formidable appearance, and I fully expected the infant would have ſunk with exhauſtion. A carrot poultice was applied and repeated frequently for the three following days, when a large portion of the integuments ſloughed off, and left part of the ribs and ſternum expoſed, excepting their muſcular covering. From this time the child had more frequent recourſe to the breaſt, ſwallowed a little red wine, and took the bark as before, and has continued to improve in health ever ſince; the bark however affecting the bowels, was obliged to be omitted. I dreſſed the inner ſurface with yellow digeſtive, covering the whole with a pledget of cerat. epulot. I ſhould mention, that an abſceſs had alſo formed under the inferior angle of the ſcapula, and evacuated itſelf by the aperture over the ſternum. By turning the child with the face downwards, the integuments have adhered to the muſcles beneath, from that part to the right breaſt, the abſceſs being firſt completely evacuated.

The wound is at this time, Jan. 4, nearly cicatrized, and the child perfectly well.

I have juſt ſtated the foregoing caſe, to ſhow how much injury a child a month old is able to ſuſtain. The inflammation was undoubtedly the cauſe of the following miſchief; but to what exciting cauſe is this inflammation, ſo extenſive in its limits and ſo rapid in its progreſs, to be referred?

Is it to be attributed to the abundant ſecretion of milk in the breaſts producing diſtention?

I am, &c.

M. F. WAGSTAFFE.

T.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Received the following caſe from my friend Mr. Humphrey, of Shrewſbury; if inſerted in the Medical Journal, it will afford much ſatisfaction to Your moſt humble ſervant,

No. 51, *Strand, Dec.* 17, 1800. THOS. JONES.

Caſe of Mr. William Windſor, of Bettesfield, in the pariſh of Harweir, and county of Flint, a farmer's ſon, ten years of age.

ABOUT four years ago the cornea of the left eye appeared flat, and of a green colour, with the entire loſs of ſight; but continued free from pain until laſt Chriſtmas, when the colour became black, and the eye preſerved its former ſhape, but became very painful. About Whitſuntide there appeared a ſmall opening in the cornea, through which was diſcharged a tea ſpoonful of bloody matter; and in the courſe of a fortnight after, a fungus began to appear through the aperture, which grew very ſlowly for ſome time, being kept down by the eye-lids; in the beginning of Auguſt it had grown beyond the eye-lids, and was increaſing very faſt; at the latter end of which month he came to Shrewſbury, where I firſt ſaw him with my partner Mr. Sandford, and we agreed to remove it; but were obliged to poſtpone the operation until Sept. 19, at which time it was increaſed to double the ſize it was when I firſt ſaw him, and began to be ſloughy in the middle, attended with bleeding every time it was dreſſed. From the increaſed ſize of it he was in conſtant pain except when lying upon his back, as it covered the whole of the cheek. I paſſed the knife between the noſe and the tumor, as it extended too far over the cheek to allow me to get at the root without wounding the eye-lids on the other ſide; the hæmorrhage from it was not ſo great as we expected, and was ſtopped by preſſure alone. He became eaſy in a ſhort time after the operation, and has continued ſo ſince, without any unpleaſant ſymptom. He was always greatly diſpoſed to drowſineſs, and has a large head. Upon examining the tumor, the excreſcence appeared to grow from the retina, which was become a pulpy maſs, filling the whole cavity of the eye. The tumor weighed ℥vſs. and was ſo reflected over the eye as to preſs upon the orbit, and completely envelope the eye, which was forced out of its ſocket, and the muſcles put upon the ſtretch ſo much as to

increase their thickness, although their action continued. The optic nerve (which was divided) was perfectly sound, the tunica albuginea preserved its healthy state, although the cornea was diseased to its edge. The part was entirely healed by the 11th of October, when he left Shrewsbury perfectly well, and has continued so ever since.

I regret not having procured a drawing of it, and I never saw any case similar, except in Heister's Surgery; and I had no idea of publishing it for some time after the operation.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

AMONG the various diseases which afflict our species, I think there is one which has not sufficiently occupied the attention of medical practitioners; I mean that of swelled legs. It is presumed that this disease may subsist where the viscera are sound. It is not an unfrequent complaint with men advancing in years, and it is also a disorder which sometimes affects young men of libidinous habits, evidently proceeding from mere relaxation. It is therefore submitted for the consideration of our surgeons, if it might not be useful in obstinate cases, to render more general the practice of bandages, or of issues, or some other more effectual kind of drain, for the discharge of the water, and for the prevention of a future accumulation. The writer, although not a practitioner, yet having been designed and educated for the profession, he is fully aware of the usual objections in such cases. He does not think that issues, or any similar plan for discharging the water, would produce mortification. In an incipient state of the disease, there is commonly sufficient vigour remaining in the constitution to resist that tendency; and that vigour would be in a great degree preserved, by preventing the tone of the part from being injured by distention. It should also be considered, that where the viscera are sound, the water is not always in a very abundant quantity; but in a quantity sufficient to shorten the lives of many; and not only to shorten, but by producing an oppression upon the stomach, and other unpleasant feelings, to render their lives very uncomfortable: Whereas, could this accumulation of fluid by any means be obviated, such persons might enjoy many years of happiness and ease.

London, Dec. 17, 1800. F. KYNION.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IT muſt prove ſatisfactory to the friends of humanity, to hear of the extenſion of the Vaccine inoculation to this diſtant quarter: But I am ſorry to add, that it is not likely ſoon to be generally adopted, and that fears are entertained of its falling into diſuſe the moment I depart.

Although at the head of thoſe I have inoculated, ſtands the ſon and heir of his Majeſty's Ambaſſador Extraordinary; although he and four others, on whom the inoculation has ſucceeded, have gone through the different ſtages of the diſeaſe in the mildeſt manner poſſible; and although the natural ſmall-pox is at preſent committing mighty ravages in a neighbouring village, ſtill no impreſſion can be made on the ſtupid and torpid race of men who conſtitute the motley population of this capital. Abandoned to indolence, their whole life is little better than a vegetable exiſtence; and they are neither to be rouſed from their lethargy by the force of reaſon, nor the fear of danger.

But perhaps I am ill adapted for a medical miſſionary; I can neither court, nor fawn, nor flatter; nor can I bring myſelf to reliſh the greater number of Greek, or even Frank ſocieties, where the converſation is, for the moſt part, as inſipid as the prevailing manners are mean and loathſome.

To make amends for the uncourtly reception the *vaccinia* has experienced in this place, I have lately tranſmitted, by an overland conveyance, a piece of rag, impregnated therewith, to one of my friends at Bombay; and a ſimilar one to Mr. Werry, Engliſh Conſul at Smyrna, who propoſes immediately inoculating one of his own children.

The firſt matter with which I attempted to inoculate Lord Bruce, was contained on a thread which I applied to a ſmall ſcratch made with the point of a lancet; but no inflammation of any kind enſued. After an interval of eight days, the operation was repeated on both arms; but ſtill the attempt failed. At laſt, we received matter in conſiderable quantity, on a rag, with which charging a lancet, I was enabled to perform ſucceſsful inoculation. The failure of the two firſt attempts was leſs owing, I apprehend, to the nature of the virus contained on the thread, which was no older than that which afterwards ſucceeded, and was collected and forwarded from Vienna by the ſame reſpectable gentleman, Dr. Del Carro, than to the

difficulty of applying and retaining a ſmall and fine bit of thread over a very ſlight ſcratch.

Reflecting on what had happened, I propoſed that the third experiment ſhould be made by previouſly applying a veſicatory of the ſize of a ſmall pea, and on dividing the raiſed cuticle, applying to the naked fibre a ſmall morſel of impregnated rag; "for it is poſſible," ſaid I, "that by the matter adhering too firmly, or too ſlenderly, to the point of the lancet, it may be either detained behind, at the lip of the orifice, or the requiſite ſeparation not enſue." But parental fondneſs over-ruled my reaſoning, and I was obliged to perform the operation in the uſual way. I endeavoured, however, by introducing the lancet obliquely, retaining it a few ſeconds in the wound, and preſſing on the part with my thumb as I withdrew it, to inſure ſucceſs. Succeſs followed, but I did not conceive myſelf warranted to diſmiſs my fears; and accordingly, in the inoculation of two other children, I employed on one arm the mode by inciſion, and on the other, that by veſication. In both ways the diſeaſe was communicated; but with this difference, that the local inflammation took place in the veſicated arm on the fourth day, while the inciſed one ſuffered no change till the ninth. As was predicted, from a knowledge of the general law of the diſeaſe, there was only one conſtitutional affection, and in both caſes it accompanied the inflammation of the veſicated arm. Of five other children whom I inoculated at nearly the ſame time, by inciſion, only one received the diſeaſe. One of the remaining four I have ſince ſucceſsfully inoculated by veſication; but to a ſecond attempt, in either way, the parents of the others will not at preſent ſubmit.

My practice in this diſeaſe has at no time been extenſive; but my obſervation has not been, on that account, leſs accurate, and I feel no heſitation in recommending inoculation by a veſicatory, in preference to that by inciſion; the one being often liable to fail, while the other is in its nature almoſt infallible. In the former manner, I have been ſince informed, the Greeks ſometimes inoculate for the ſmall-pox. The principal objection that can be made againſt it, is the fear of its being attended with greater pain to the patient; but if an infant's pain is to be meaſured by its cries, that proceeding from inciſion is much the greateſt, while the generated diſeaſe does not riſe higher in the one caſe than in the other. So much for Cow-pox.

In a communication, which ſome weeks ago I did myſelf the honour to ſend you, I hinted my deſign of inveſtigating plague. I am at preſent, for this purpoſe, ſoliciting admiſ-

ſion,

ſion into the Peſt Hoſpital, ſupported by the contributions of the Franks at Smyrna; but its manager, a reverend friar, named Luigi, for reaſons inſcrutable to every one, perſiſts in what ſeems to me a narrow-minded, cruel, and unchriſtian denial. Should I find no ſop for this Cerberus, I will go from him to his conſtituents. I cannot believe they will be equally illiberal; but if in this reſpect I am likewiſe diſappointed, I ſhall endeavour to hold them up to that univerſal reprobation they will in ſuch caſe ſo eminently deſerve. In the mean time, I continue to believe that the plague is in no inſtance either a contagious or incurable diſeaſe. If I ſucceed in eſtabliſhing thoſe propoſitions, the world will, I truſt, rejoice in my ſucceſs. If I fail, the matter will be no worſe than at preſent. An enquiry, conducted in the manner I propoſe, will in all probability elicit ſome truths, which, for want of obſervers only, remain hitherto concealed.

To conclude, I pledge myſelf to two things; firſt, to make a near and perſonal obſervation of plague, in defiance of every obſtacle that may occur; and in the ſecond, if I ſurvive the enquiry, to make an accurate and faithful report of every obſerved ſymptom, and of the effect of every preſcribed remedy. However much attached to my preſent opinions, I ſhall haſten to recant them, the moment I diſcover them erroneous. All I aſk of the public, is to hear me with patience, and to judge of me with candour.

Entertaining ſentiments of reſpect for your valuable Publication, I have the honour to be, &c.

Pera of Conſtantinople, Dec. 7, 1800. D. WHYTE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

A GIRL, fourteen years old, was ſuddenly ſeized with ſuch violent ſpaſms about the larynx, the ſides of the cheſt, and the diaphragm, that it was feared ſhe would ſoon expire. So quick was the recurrence of thoſe ſpaſms, that ſhe could neither eat nor drink. She complained of a ball aſcending from the ſtomach into the throat, and there exciting the ſpaſms.

Her breathing was difficult, ſhort, and attended with a hiſſing.

Her countenance was flushed.

Her

Her eyes were ſwollen; and the tunica conjunctiva was ſomewhat inflamed.

Her languor and diſinclination to move were extreme. She had an averſion to food of all ſorts, and even to drink.

Her body was rather coſtive.

She ſpat a mucus of a bluiſh green colour, which taſted, ſhe ſaid, very diſagreeably: But ſhe could not be made to compare the taſte to any other. The ſpitting was ſomewhat profuſe.

She never ſlept for many days and nights; and there was alſo a ſlight cough.

I ordered an enema, gave her Kali ſaturated with lemon juice, and the camphor mixture, with T. Fœtida, and applied a large bliſter to the pit of the ſtomach.

Theſe medicines procured no relief. I then gave pills, with camphor and opium, and applied a plaſter of opiate confection to the larynx. All ſeemed in vain, the girl grew weaker and weaker, and death ſeemed to approach by rapid ſtrides.

I then requeſted the opinion of Dr. Vaughan on ſo ſingular a caſe, whoſe attention to the poor girl merits my warmeſt thanks.

As there was once an inclination to vomit, it was encouraged; but without any good effect. To obviate coſtiveneſs, induced by the opium, the powder of ſcammony, with calomel, was given; and forty drops of tincture of opium after its operation. Every enquiry as to the riſe of the diſeaſe, was made of the girl and her friends; but for a long time nothing to direct us could be detected in their anſwers.

At length, conſidering particularly the mucus diſcharged ſo conſtantly, the girl was aſked, if ſhe could recollect having ſwallowed any thing uncommon?—To which ſhe anſwered; that ſix months ago, as nearly as ſhe could gueſs, ſhe ſwallowed two pins: But ſhe did not think them the cauſe of her complaint, as ſhe had never felt any pain or inconvenience from them.—She added further, that ſhe was certain they had paſſed from her by ſtool, as ſhe had felt them pricking the anus.

It was concluded, that the green mucus owed its green colour to the pins, and that they, or one of them, had not been voided.

A vomit was by conſequence given again; and, ſtrange to tell, the two pins were diſcharged by the mouth: Corroded indeed, but in the proper form, and only bent to almoſt a right angle.

Should the above relation of ſo ſingular a circumſtance merit a place in the Medical and Phyſical Journal, the inſertion will oblige

Your's, &c.

Rocheſter, Dec. 17, 1802. WILLIAM ADAMS.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following Obſervations on the Tongue and its Diſeaſes are thought worthy a place in your truly valuable Publication, by inſerting them you will oblige your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Aberdeen, Jan. 14, 1801. ANDREW FERGUSON.

The tongue is one of thoſe organs of the human body which is but very ſeldom affected with diſeaſes; and when they do occur, they ſeem to ariſe from ſomething of an infectious nature.

In my practice I have met with three different kinds of ulcerations upon the tongue, called aphtha, ſibbenic, and mercurial ulcers; theſe, I conſider as its moſt frequent morbid affections. Aphtha is a diſeaſe moſt commonly ſeizing children when they are very young; it is conſidered as one of the genus of the order exanthemata, accompanied with ſynochus fever, and little whitiſh ulcers, which are ſometimes diſtinct, at other times running together, ſpreading over the tongue and ſurface of the mouth, attended with pain, and ſlight ſwelling of the tongue; when the ſloughs are removed they ſoon grow again: the time of its going off is variable.

This is the definition of aphtha, and ſerves very well for diſtinguiſhing it; about its cauſes, however, there are various opinions entertained. Although ſeveral of the order of exanthemata are contagious, yet this diſeaſe is not mentioned as ſuch; it is, however, ſaid to be attended with ſynochus; and as moſt of the fevers of this ſpecies are contagious, if we reaſon from analogy, we muſt ſuſpect aphtha of being ſo too. I ſuppoſe that aphtha is rather at firſt a local affection, which has ſomething of a poiſonous ſtimulating nature attached to it, proceeding from a certain morbid condition of the glands of the mammæ: This ſtimulating ichor, iſſuing from the morbid glands, and mixing with the milk, I conſider as the cauſe of this ulceration of the child's tongue. Aphtha does not occur to every child, neither do I ſuppoſe ſuch a morbid ſtate common to the glands of every woman: In the firſt milk of every nurſe, there is ſomething of a ſtimulating nature, which acts upon the child as a cathartic. May not this ſtimulating quality be increaſed ſometimes, ſo as to occaſion this diſeaſe? I have obſerved before, that aphtha is at firſt of a local nature,

but

but when it happens to be violent, it is attended with fever, and univerſal affection: It deſcends by the primæ viæ, occaſioning violent gripes, diarrhœa, and very often convulſions. This diſeaſe always infects the woman's nipples, producing ſores very painful and difficult to heal, and which never will heal as long as the aphtha continues in the child's mouth. Are thoſe who have been affected with aphtha, exempted from, or leſs liable to be affected with, the ſmall-pox? I aſk this queſtion, becauſe, having inoculated a daughter of Mr. Davidſon, butcher, in this place, who was violently affected with aphtha when very young, ſhe did not take the infection. Some time after, when I was inoculating four children of Mr. Alexander Sangſter, a relation of Mr. D. Mrs. Davidſon deſired that I ſhould, a ſecond time, attempt to inoculate her daughter. The firſt time, her arm became inflamed a little, and a ſmall puſtule appeared; the ſecond, as a larger wound was made, and a greater quantity of variolous matter introduced, the puſtule was large, and attended with inflammation around; yet no eruption appeared upon the reſt of her body: the other children who were inoculated with the ſame matter, had a good many very fine and diſtinct ſmall-pox. Sibbenic ulcers proceed from a poiſon ſimilar to ſyphilis, and are only a modification of it; the ſame agents which cure the one, cure the other. I have noticed this difference, however, that mercury has a more powerful effect in curing ſibbens than ſyphilis; this I ſuppoſe to be owing to the difference of the ſtages of the complaint. I have obſerved, that in the firſt ſtage of ſyphilis, mercury in general has but very little effect until the poiſon begins to exert its influence upon the lymphatic ſyſtem, and has ſuffered ſome change in the body. The ſibbenic ulcers have a very different appearance from aphtha; they have a broader ſurface, appear principally upon the ſides of the tongue; their ſurface is whitiſh, but their edges are ſwelled, and they look very much like cancerous ſores: Nothing has ſo great an effect in removing theſe ſores, as the topical application of muriated mercury, along with the agency of the mercurial pill. Mercurial ulcers are occaſioned by mercury, applied either inwardly or outwardly; they want the cancerous appearance of the ſibbenic ulcers; have a darker coloured ſurface in the mouth, and are attended with a diſagreeable fœtid breath, and a taſte reſembling that of copper; unleſs when they are combined with the ſyphilitic poiſon, they require very little medicine, except the frequent application of emollient gargles, to which may be added, a ſmall quantity of the ſulphuret of potaſh.

The tongue is leſs liable to be affected with inflammation than any of the other organs of the human body, and yet it is more

more exposed than any of them to the action of stimuli, both of the solid and fluid kind; this must be owing to the structure of its external covering, which seems to be peculiar to itself. The internal substance of the tongue is composed of several muscles, called genio-glossus, cerato-glossus, stylo-glossus, and lingualis; the fibres of which are disposed in a longitudinal transverse, and vertical manner; they enable the tongue to move in all directions, which is important in the operation of suction, mastication, deglutition, and the articulation of the voice: A defect of the muscles of the tongue produces paraphonia, and several of the species of psellismus. One of the principal uses of the tongue is, to afford the sense of taste; for this purpose it is covered with numerous papillæ, which, from their appearance, have been distinguished by the names of capitatæ, semi-lenticulares, and villosæ; these have a communication with the nerves of the tongue: The capitatæ appear principally upon the basis of the tongue. I have known more than half a dozen of these in several person's tongues to be enlarged to the size of small peas, without their being even sensible of it; the great variety of tastes is occasioned by the action of the stimulus of our food, &c. on the papillæ. Some animals, owing to the particular structure of these, have the sense of taste more acutely than the human species. When the papillæ are diseased, or hurt by the repeated action of violent stimuli and narcotics, (such as opium and tobacco) their sensibility is much diminished, and the taste impaired. In peripneumony and catarrh, I have observed that the sense of taste is very much impaired; and when this is the case, I have found it to be a very good sign.

In every universal disease, I make it a common rule to cause the patient to show me his tongue, and inquire concerning his sense of taste; this I consider to be very material, when prescribing, as sometimes his acuteness of taste might prevent him from taking certain very efficacious remedies, which often prove more disagreeable to the tongue than to the stomach. Inability to thrust out the tongue, and loss of taste, have been considered as prognostic signs, indicating great debility and danger: These most readily occur in the latter stages of typhus. In the beginning of fever, when the debility of the functions is not so extreme as in the after stages, we often perceive a tremor of the tongue, when it is thrust out: We can form very little idea of the state of the stomach from the appearance of the tongue. What we term a *fur* upon the tongue, is not a certain sign that the stomach is foul. I agree with Dr. Domier in this particular.* We often find the tongue foul when the digestion is good, and *vice versa*. Some persons

have this *fur* upon their tongues at all times, even from the apex to the base; others have very clean tongues, who are much troubled with dyspepsia. I am acquainted with a person whose tongue is full of hacks and deep furrows, which intersect it in all directions, and a very deep one in the course of the linea linguæ mediana: His tongue is seldom white or foul, but appears of a bright red colour, and he has no other complaint excepting a few rotten teeth.

In no universal disease is the tongue so much affected as in fevers, especially when they are long protracted, or attended with putrid symptoms. In typhus and its varieties, from the very beginning the tongue is *furred*. As the fever advances, it turns to an ash-coloured crust, which afterwards changes to a brown. The same appearance of the tongue accompanies several other diseases, such as cynanche maligna, tonsillaris, parotidœa, and scarlatina anginosa. In all diseases where there is great debility, attended with putrescency, the tongue is most affected with *fur*. The cause of this appearance must be debility, and a relaxed state of the surface of the tongue and throat, from a deficiency of excitement; for I have frequently observed, that those who are of a florid colour, and healthy appearance, have generally the surface of their tongue of a redder colour, and cleaner than those who are weakly and pale. The tongue is always of a more beautiful colour at its extremity than its base; and when crust, or *fur*, of any kind appears, the greatest quantity is always at the root of the tongue, where there is generally the least motion. In the morning, after the tongue has been at rest all night, it always looks foulest: Nothing serves the purpose of cleaning it so well as its action in mastication, and frequent speaking, which promotes the circulation of the saliva, and removes every collection of foulness that gathers in the mouth. If this should be found ineffectual, recourse may be had to tonic gargles, as the best means of removing *fur*, and preserving a vigorous state of the papillæ. The tongue, at its anterior and under part, has a ligamentous band, called frænum, formed of a reduplication of the membrane that lines the inside of the mouth; this seems for fixing and preventing it from making too much motion. When the frænum happens to be too near the extremity of the tongue, so that it becomes fixed to that degree that the child cannot put it out, or use it, then the disease, known by the name of *tongue-tied*, takes place. There may be several degrees of this; that which requires manual assistance does not so often occur as is generally imagined, and many times the operation is performed by midwifes when there is no real necessity for it.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

TWO years have elapſed ſince I publiſhed a ſhort account of a caſe of Cancer then under treatment, in which the ſolution of white arſenic appeared to have acted as an *anodyne*. That caſe, as might be expected, proved fatal, but the remedy did not diſappoint my prediction. I have now a ſecond patient under a courſe of the ſame remedy, where my expectations reſpecting it have been fully realized. The ſubject is a woman, in the fifty-third year of her age, whoſe left breaſt, adherent to the pectoral muſcle, and in a cancerous ſtate, together with a large cluſter of indurated glands in the axilla, I extirpated in March laſt. The integuments covering a part of the breaſt had become diſeaſed, ſo that union by the firſt intention could not be accompliſhed. Nevertheleſs, the parts healed completely, and for ſeveral weeks ſhe continued apparently well. The return of the diſeaſe was then manifeſted by a ſmall veſication, which terminated in a painful ulcer, about the ſize of her finger nail, in the middle of the cicatrix formed by the operation, and by painful indurations ſurrounding it, and in the courſe of the abſorbents leading to the axilla on the ſame ſide. With the diſeaſe ſlowly advancing, ſhe ſuffered for ſeveral weeks longer before ſhe applied again for help, when ſhe complained of pain all over the ulcerated ſurface, and particularly in the knots, eſpecially when preſſed.

She had been forewarned of the probable recurrence of the diſeaſe, owing to the too long delay of the operation, which was performed with proper regard to every circumſtance of candour and caution.

On the 14th of July, when I firſt put her upon the uſe of the mineral ſolution, the ulceration was extending itſelf rapidly, and the pain all over the ſurface of the ulcer was conſtant and very ſevere, as well as in the indurated parts. She had not taken it more than nine days, in doſes of twelve drops, three times a day, before ſhe thought the pain ſenſibly decreaſed. To the ulcer itſelf, the ung. cerae cum opio was directed; but as, after a ſufficient trial, ſhe thought the pain aggravated by it, the infus. cicutæ was ſubſtituted, as in the former caſe.

It is now upwards of ſix months ſince ſhe began the uſe of the arſenical ſolution, which has been taken in the above doſes with great regularity till within a few days. This ſuſpenſion of it has been recommended on account of a pain in the head, and of an uneaſineſs in her ſtomach, both of which ſhe aſcribes

to a monthly constitutional change now not outwardly marked; and as they had nearly subsided this morning, I am inclined to favour her opinion of the cause. Notwithstanding the ulcerated parts had so long ceased to be painful, the cicatrization was not much advanced till she came into the Infirmary, where she was a second time admitted an in-patient, under the cancer-plan, on the 12th of January, 1801.

There is now very little ulceration, and the skinning is still progressively advancing; the pain too, which is not constant, is confined to the knots, some of which are inflamed, and going to exfoliate. In Graham's case it will be recollected, that this was the source of pain, after she had for some time taken the arsenical solution.

I have purposely compressed the recital of this case, and confined myself to the leading points of it; but it must be again observed, that the ulceration was considerable, and very painful.

The drops were at first taken in a little water, but, on account of their seeming to disagree with her stomach, it was changed for pepper-mint-water, which at that time had the desired effect. Latterly, she has been allowed four ounces of red wine daily; in other respects, she has taken only the common diet of the house.

No opium has been administered, though, when the functions of the stomach were disturbed, I thought it indicated, lest its exhibition should throw any ambiguity over the result; however, I am disposed to think that it may become necessary, to enable her to bear the mineral solution in proper doses. Henceforward, I shall not scruple to employ it, should the symptoms require its use, in conjunction with the drops. And should chronic general inflammation, which has been said to attend the long continued exhibition of arsenic, be excited, but which I have not seen, the digitalis offers a resource admirably calculated to repress it.

These are the several means by which, in the present instance, I propose to combat this formidable disease.

Partial success has already attended my endeavours, and I expect not to accomplish a cure. Among the multiplicity of nostrums for cancer, vaunted by empirics, arsenic is probably the active ingredient; it was formerly much employed, but had, I believe, been discarded from regular practice. My own experience proves it to be safe, when cautiously administered; for I have given it, in another disease, to a child of fifteen months old, and with success.

Your judicious readers will form their own conclusions from my *two* cases: My own are;—

1. That

1. That arsenic does diminish pain, and promote the healing of an ulcerated cancer;

2. That it may be safely administered, in proper doses, for a great length of time, without endangering life, or even exciting any of those alarming symptoms which have been said to attend its continued exhibition.

This brief notice you will oblige me by laying before the public, from whom, consistently with my own feelings for the sufferings of those who may be afflicted with Cancer, I could not any longer withhold it.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Manchester, 7th Feb. 1801. W. SIMMONS.

A Case, which proves the Advantage of bringing on premature Labour in a distorted Patient.

THE publication of Mr. Barlow's cases on "a mode of practice which has been successfully adopted, in cases of distortion of the pelvis in pregnant women," has met with that attention from the public, which, from its importance to the interests of mankind, might have been expected. At the time of publishing, his own practice would have furnished him with more cases in point; but, I believe, he thought those sufficient to prove the propriety of employing the means which he has recommended. There can be no objection, however, to have it confirmed by the experience of others; and this is done most satisfactorily by the following case, that was transmitted to me this morning by Mr. Hardman, a respectable surgeon at Bolton, where Mr. Barlow resides.

To Mr. SIMMONS, Surgeon, at Manchester.

Dear Sir,

During the absence of our friend, Mr. Barlow, I at different times attended several of his patients for him, whose cases he has published; and was by those convinced of the utility of bringing on premature labour in distorted patients. The case I am about to describe, is the first that has occurred on my own account; with the result of which, I flatter myself, you would wish to be informed, as it clearly proves, to me, that this mode of exciting delivery supersedes all cruel operations.

Three

Three weeks ago, the wife of James Biddy, then in the seventh month of her pregnancy, requested my assistance: She had lain-in at Ormskirk five years before, when she was delivered of a dead child, after being in labour for seven days and nights. The gentleman who attended her, admonished her to have something done before the full time, should she again prove with child; this, I suppose, alluded to the bringing on of premature labour, because he further declared, that a full grown fœtus could not be born alive, and that she would run great risk of her own life.

I called the morning after she applied to me, and ruptured the membranes, and left her something to take, agreeably to the custom of Mr. Barlow. The pains did not come on till the night but one following, when, after being in strong labour about three hours, the child was born footling. The pelvis was very narrow; yet, I verily believe the child would have been saved, but for the powerful contraction of the uterus round its head; the mother recovered very well. I am, &c.

Bolton la Moor, Feb. 6, 1801. E. HARDMAN.

P. S. Since I wrote to Mr. Simmons, Mr. White, surgeon, of Manchester, informed Mr. Barlow he received a letter from a medical gentleman in Yorkshire, wherein he informs him that he attended a lady who never could have a child born alive; but, perusing Mr. Barlow's cases, he brought on premature labour in the seventh month, and the child is living and heir to a considerable estate.

Reply to Mr. Syer.

In your last Number, (No. xxiv. vol. v. p. 170) a gentleman of the name of Syer has done me the honour to publish some Remarks on a paper of mine, which was inserted in a former Number of your Journal, and contained an account of a case of Monstrosity that had recently occurred to me. Whether my reasoning be just or not, or my opinions well or ill founded, your readers must determine; but as Mr. S. appears to have been actuated by laudable motives, I shall, in this instance, say a few words in reply. And,

1. I must request Mr. S. to re-peruse the paper upon which he has bestowed his comments, and he will discover, that in describing the appearances, he has misstated my words, no doubt unintentionally; but the mistake would have been avoided by transcribing the passage.

2. He objects to my first position drawn from that case, namely,

namely, "that nervous influence is not at all neceſſary to the growth of the fœtus in utero;" which, he ſays, "is anſwered by the *universal* exiſtence of a brain and nerves in the fœtus;" and yet he admits, at the concluſion of the ſame ſentence, that that caſe furniſhes "a ſolitary exception."

3. He likewiſe objects to my other poſition, which is, "that the fœtus in utero does not poſſeſs ſenſation;" and ſtates, that this "is not leſs liable to animadverſion" than the former. I had certainly to learn, that a concluſion upon a point of phyſiology, drawn with every appearance of ſincerity, even if erroneous, could be deſerving of cenſure. I confeſs it has ever appeared to me, both more ſafe and more philoſophical to deduce directly from appearances, though the interference may not accord with a pre-conceived theory, than to object on hypothetical grounds, becauſe "Nature appears to have intended."

There was no veſtige of optic nerve. The recurrents were not traced.

I ſhall be very glad to ſhow the preparation to Mr. Syer, ſhould he come this way.

W. S.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the following caſe of Fracture of the Cranium are ſome unuſual circumſtances; and I think ſome uſeful practical concluſions may be drawn therefrom. But it appears to me to militate againſt our ſuppoſed theories of injuries of the head, and to prove how inadequate they are to explain the phyſiology and pathology of the brain. I am, &c.

His Majeſty's Ship Spencer, at Sea, Jan. 3, 1800. G. BELLAMY, Surgeon.

William Kirk, a ſeaman, aged about 40, on the 14th October, 1797, received by a fall from his hammock (his head ſtriking againſt the winch of the pump) a fracture of the external table, (it muſt be remembered I ſpeak ſo far as the injury was diſcovered at the time) and through the diploe of the left parietal bone.—Symptoms of debility, but none of compreſſion.—I made a free inciſion down to the pericranium on each ſide of the wound,

wound, (which was lacerated and much bruiſed) to dilate it, and remove the tenſion and inflammation ſo uſually attendant on partial diviſion of the ſcalp, particularly when inflicted by a blunt weapon; whereby I was alſo better able to trace the extent of the fracture. Though the accident happened on the 14th, at night, he did not complain till the 15th.—Simple dreſſings were applied, and in the evening I gave him opii gr. ij. vin. lbſs. and lemonade, ad libit.—16th, Gave him vin. lbſs. ter de die; at night, oil antim. c. opio.—17th, No ſymptoms of compreſſion but of debility. Rep. ut antea.—18th, Vin. lbij. de die, and renewed the dreſſings. The appearance of the wound very tolerable; no detached puffineſs of the ſcalp or pericranum; but a ſecond ſmall wound near the other has alſo the bone bare.—19th, Repet.—20th, Ut antea; is doing well; is dreſſed every other day.—21ſt, Wine, &c.—22, Wine and opium; takes mutton broth and other food, having had no fever, and complaining of nothing but weakneſs.—23d, Ut antea.—24th, Continues his ſoup, wine and opium, occaſionally; and his bowels have been pretty regular; have been once aſſiſted by a cathartic, (in the form of pills) as he threw off a ſaline purge.—25th and 26th, R. Ū. A.—27th, The wound is healing faſt, and particularly healthy; he has not had one ſerious ſymptom ſince the injury; therefore hope no affection of the brain, eſpecially as the ſmaller wound is entirely healed; has had no vomitings, delirium or fever, alteration of the countenance or eye, nor pulſe otherwiſe than natural; complains only of a ſhooting pain through the head, particularly at the forehead, with a ſenſe of tremor paſſing through the head, and towards the neck, and ſome pain in the back, (likely from the blow when he fell); but all theſe ſymptoms have leſſened daily, and he has recovered ſpirits and appetite.—28th, U. A. Was informed late this night of his having expreſſed many incoherencies; a more than uſual deſire of drink, and other marks of delirium. I immediately drew my opinion of what had taken place, and far without having expected it; dreading, though my hopes were ſanguine, that inſidious approach of ſecondary inflammation of the brain, which often takes place weeks after the patient has every appearance of doing well. When I ſaw him in the morning I found his pulſe accelerated, and full; delirium; rather muttering than otherwiſe; complained of a ſenſe of corded tightneſs round his head; his countenance and eyes rather turgid; in ſhort, I concluded, without doubt, that all my hopes of primary recovery were vaniſhed, and that now the brain was oppreſſed; be it either from extravaſation, (at the time of the accident, now beginning to irritate by corroſion the dura matter) or blood poured out ſince, and acting as compreſſion; or as inflammation communicated from

from the ſcalp, and through the other coverings by the connection of parts to the membranes of the brain; but not from the leaſt poſſible idea of what was really the caſe, (which will be related); however, decidedly, the operation of the trepan was pointed out for the relief of the oppreſſed organ. For which purpoſe, on the 29th, in the morning, I took him on ſhore to Almada Hoſpital, near Liſbon. I would have wiſhed to perform the operation on board, but the numerous inconveniencies to which a patient with a dangerous wound is there expoſed need not be told; and after all (ſuffering from noiſe, and the want of many comforts) I muſt finally have removed him, when it could have been done with ſafety; but before which time he would have been endangered by various cauſes, which his immediate removal was intended to prevent. The fracture was about two inches long, lengthways of the bone, and towards the angle formed by the ſagittal and lambdoid ſutures. Mr. Grey, ſurgeon of the hoſpital, and myſelf, decided on what ſhould be done. Firſt, to make a free inciſion of the ſcalp, to examine the bone; (indeed, I could not convince him by the accurate obſervations I made at the time of the accident, that there was no evident depreſſion) that done, and examining the fracture, which admitted the head of the probe, and in one direction, paſſing it between the two tables poſteriorly, and rather obliquely inwards; opened a ſuſpicion of the internal table being depreſſed, (though this free paſſage of the probe might be from the caries of the bone, and from the expected exfoliation with which I had hopes all would have finiſhed well); but no ſymptom was excited by this probing of the wound; no ſenſe of vomiting or pain, however rudely preſſed:—However, there were ſuch ſymptoms, the only chance of relieving which was the uſe of the trephine; the immediate application of which I recommended to temporizing with, or to alleviating ſymptoms of inflammation by bleeding; particularly obſerving the time ſince the accident had happened, and debility gradually induced by laying in bed, a ſpare diet, &c. and as now, indeed, he was much more compoſed, and with every mark of oppreſſion; ſo that there were but two things to be done; either by ſuppoſing the delirium that had taken place to be accidental, in part the effect of the opium, and the impreſſion made on his mind laſt night by violent thunder and lightning, of which he was even whilſt in delirium mindful; and there are none of us but muſt know the ſympathy from the leaſt injury approaching the brain to external cauſes ſuch as thoſe; I ſay, by ſuppoſing theſe ſymptoms to be occaſional, and now diſappearing, either to go on with the treatment hitherto obſerved, and inſtead of evacuants to ſupport him by cordials under the debility with which he was oppreſſed; or elſe to trepan immediate-

ly, to remove whatever exciting cauſe might be found. The latter was determined on, knowing the frequency of ſuch deceitful caſes by which we are often unexpectedly deprived of a patient; and that the ſymptoms were but too clearly marked of that ſecondary affection of the brain, which ſhows itſelf in the ſlow approach of diſeaſe. Mr. Grey did not think depreſſion unlikely. I rather thought extravaſation, or formation of matter;—indeed, I cannot conceive how a piece of bone ſhall for a fortnight lay preſſing on the brain, without cauſing any one ſerious ſymptom, and then act (I ſuppoſe) merely as an irritant ſubſtance bringing on inflammation, &c.; for it could not be by depreſſion only; elſe, why did not ſymptoms of compreſſion appear before? It would ſhew us, that compreſſion of itſelf was nothing, but only as it induced diſorganization of the brain by inflammation as a foreign body, which it may do ſooner or later according to the violence of the blow, the particular bearing of the oppreſſive body, and predispoſing cauſes. That ſuch is the caſe, the following inſtance will ſhow; and the trueſt concluſion I can make therefrom, is, that without waiting for ſymptoms, compreſſion of whatever kind muſt be removed whenever the ſeat thereof is pointed out.

A crucial inciſion was made, the pericranium removed, and a perforation made on the outer ſide of the fracture, juſt ſo as to take in the circle of the ſame. On removal the dura matter was found turgid, with blood veſſels oppreſſed; a grumous dark appearance like to a ſlight extravaſation, but the whole of the circle deſcribed by the trephine did not come away entire; that part of the upper table neareſt the fracture remaining in a ſplinter-like manner, rather looſe and depreſſed. Now was ſeen the nature of the injury, which was a depreſſion of the inner table, (independent of the outer) with a conſiderable extent of ſplintered detachment, more or leſs, (but not quite removed from the external table, and only by force of the bone nippers ſeparated one from the other) for the ſpace of one inch in the direction of the fracture. This piece could not be removed without a ſecond perforation, which was accordingly made on the outer ſide of the fracture (the apparent direction of the ſplintered piece). The circle being removed, and the two perforations being now as one, the whole detached piece was with *difficulty* removed, becauſe it had its ſtricteſt connection under thoſe ſides of the perforations which preſented the angles; that is, in the direction of the fracture, particularly anteriorly; whence a large ſcale was with force withdrawn, as indeed was the whole, not only by the permanent ſituation it ſeemed to have procured, (being very tight on the dura matter) but alſo from a particular inſtance of, no doubt, increaſed compreſſion, by an addition of offeous

osseous matter, which had been generated from the diploe of the depressed piece, and grown up against the outer table; by which resistance was added, and at the same time the deceit of feeling with the probe, which went seemingly no lower than the usual depth of the deploe;—depression still existing. Great caution was necessary in removing the pieces, fearing to hurt the membranes. The bone had either carried down with it some blood, (or it had there accumulated) a membranous-like attachment, which we feared, when forced by pulling away the bone, to be the dura matter. Had the second perforation been made in the direction of the fracture, the depressed pieces would have been more easily removed; and this should always be done, unless where otherwise pointed out. Being satisfied so far as prudence could determine of having removed all oppression, the flaps were laid down, and superficially dressed only; not being decided on what might still be necessary. An enema was administered, the laxative ordered last night not having operated. I consider this to be a singular and interesting case. Nothing particular happened after the operation, and the man was soon perfectly cured.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

"Segnius irritant animos demissa per aures
Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus." HOR.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER the many learned disquisitions and numerous instances already advanced by eminent professors in favour of the Digitalis Purpurea, the observations I am about to adduce may appear trifling and insignificant; but I conceive it behoves every practitioner to contribute his information, however small, to the general fund of knowledge, especially if it may tend to the decision of a question so important as the efficacy or inefficacy of a remedy, in a disease by whose ravages thousands of our natives are annually sacrificed. A disease which, in our variable climate, destroys the blossoms of our youth, precipitates into an untimely grave the darling hopes of many worthy families, and perpetually adds to the number of the widows and fatherless.—I have at present an opportunity of stating a single instance only of its effects in phthisis pulmonalis, which I hope will not be rejected on account of its being solitary, as I do not communi-

cate it with a view of prejudicing the public in favour of a new remedy; but, unactuated by a love of novelty, I would recommend it to serious examination and attention, that every practitioner may, on the evidence of his own experience, reject or approve the use of the Fox-glove in a disease demanding such earnest consideration as that of pulmonary consumption.

I shall proceed to a statement of my case, which I shall endeavour to transcribe with impartiality, and as much accuracy as I am capable of; being pre-determined, on my first exhibition of the Digitalis, to make known its effects, whether its administration was attended with success or otherwise.

In November last I was required to attend on Thomas Lane, a cloth-worker, residing in this town, aged 27 years; he was pre-disposed to phthisis both from *forma corporis* and temperament. I found him in the purulent stage of that disorder. He had hectic fever with marked exacerbations; expectoration copious and *evidently purulent*, profuse nightly perspirations, acute pain in the side, incessant cough, disturbed sleep, and considerable dyspnœa, accompanying great emaciation and debility. The bowels, tongue, and skin were natural, the appetite very much impaired, and pulse 120. I learned from his account that some months before, a watry eruption (I suppose erysipelatous) attended with great heat and inflammation, appeared in many parts of his body, but was more particularly confined to his face, neck, and breast. Whilst in this condition he was imprudent enough to assist in drawing a fish-pond, and immediately caused a retropulsion of the eruption, from which time he dates the commencement of the symptoms before enumerated.— Nov. 29, Began the use of the saturated tincture; pulse 119. R. Tinct. Fol. Digital. gt. xv. ex cyatho lactis ter in die.—30th, Had slept rather better, the cough was less troublesome, and the expectoration somewhat diminished, night sweat rather less profuse, appetite bad, bowels, tongue and skin natural, pulse 104. In the morning an eruption resembling nettle-rash appeared over the whole surface of the body, which entirely receded before noon.—Dec. 1, A bad night, watchfulness in the early part being occasioned by a griping pain in the bowels, with diarrhœa, which terminated towards morning, when he enjoyed undisturbed repose for some hours; night sweat trifling. In the morning an erysipelatous eruption appeared in every part of the body; skin hot and dry. The tongue a little furred, very little pain in the side, cough and expectoration (to use his own expression) not half so frequent. In the forenoon he complained of slight nausea and vertigo; the appetite bad; pulse 94.—Cont. Dos. As he complained of much thirst, I ordered him a cooling beverage with Tart. Crystall. and Fruct. Tamarind.—2d, Slept better,

better, vomited towards morning, no night ſweat, bowels ſoluble, tongue furred, ſkin hot and dry; the eruption has partly diſappeared. Complains of ſlight pain in the hypochondriac and hypogaſtric regions; trifling vertigo; cough and expectoration the ſame as on the preceding day; appetite bad; pulſe 73. Ordered him to omit one doſe of his mixture.—3d, Slept conſiderably better; does not complain of nauſea or vertigo; no nightly perſpiration; bowels laxative, tongue and ſkin healthy. The eruption has entirely diſappeared; pain in the ſide trifling; cough more frequent, and expectoration increaſed; appetite much better; pulſe 85.—Aug. Dos. ad gt. xx.—4th, Had neglected one doſe of the tincture; ſlept well, trifling ſweat, no nauſea or vertigo, bowels ſoluble, tongue healthy; a ſlight appearance of the eruption; pain in the ſide continues; cough more frequent, and expectoration more copious; appetite tolerable, pulſe 80. Cont. Dos.—5th, Sleep interrupted by the frequency of the cough, no nauſea or vertigo, no colliquative perſpiration, b. t. and ſkin natural; the expectoration aſſumes a frothy mucous appearance with little pus. The pain in the ſide is leſs; appetite good; is much improved in ſtrength, and his countenance wears a more healthy aſpect; pulſe 90. Cont. Dos.—6th, Slept little better; cough and expectoration increaſed; pain in the ſide troubleſome; b. t. and ſkin natural; pulſe 75. Cont. Dos.—7th, Sleep almoſt prevented by frequency of cough; expectoration more copious; trifling night ſweat; pain in the ſide more acute; b. t. and ſkin natural; appetite tolerable; pulſe 78. Cont.—8th, Had tranſgreſſed the regimen I had preſcribed for him by drinking freely of ſtrong malt liquor; in conſequence he had ſlept ill; experienced a copious return of the night ſweat; cough, expectoration, and pain in the ſide conſiderably increaſed; bowels, tongue, and ſkin natural; appetite bad; pulſe 100. Aug. Dos. ad gt. xxv. —9th, Was prevented by other engagements from ſeeing him. —10th, Complains of conſiderable debility; a propenſity to ſleep when not diſturbed by the cough, which is very troubleſome; expectoration more profuſe, but not more purulent; pain in the ſide very acute; appetite very bad; colliquative night ſweat continues; b. and ſk. natural; tongue foul; pulſe 88. Cont.—11th, Sleep ſtill prevented by increaſe of cough and expectoration; night ſweats ſtill copious; pain in the ſide continues troubleſome; feels no inclination for food, and labours under very conſiderable debility; b. t. and ſk. natural; pulſe 75. Cont.—12th, Viſited him early in the morning; ſleep had forſaken him during the whole of the night; the increaſe of cough is conſiderable, attended with violent vomiting; extreme debility and acute pain in the ſide; and his ſtomach rejects

jects food; the expectoration is copious, but with little appearance of pus, which circumstance alone induced me to continue the Digitalis, the other unfavourable symptoms almost inclining me to desist from its further use; pulse 56.—Ordered him to omit taking the drops until bed-time.—13th, The urgent symptoms appear much more favourable; he had slept better; colliquative perspiration diminished; appetite amended; cough and expectoration less; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 73. Cont. —14th, Slept much better; no night sweat; cough less frequent; expectoration much diminished; appetite improved; pain in the side somewhat relieved; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 74. Cont.—15th, Sleep much disturbed; cough and expectoration again increased; as also the night sweat; pain in the side rather severe; appetite bad; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 80. Cont.—16th, Every symptom remained much the same as on the day preceding; appetite rather better; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 75. Cont.—17th, Slept tolerably well, very little perspiration; cough and expectoration less; appetite better; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 73. Cont.—18th, Very bad night; complains of intolerable head-ach; anxiety and languor extreme; no appetite; b. t. and sk. natural; Pulse 63.—19th, Watchfulness, anxiety, head-ach, &c. increased; cough much less frequent, and expectoration much diminished; no night sweat; appetite very bad; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 59.—On inquiry, I found the attendant had deviated from the directions I had given her, by administering gt. xxx. pro gt. xxv. of the tincture each dose; Cont. gt. xxv.—20th, The symptoms were rather relieved; had slept tolerably well; cough and expectoration continue to decrease; appetite better; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 65. Cont.—21st, Slept much better; experiences little inconvenience from the cough; the expectoration very inconsiderable, and *not at all purulent*; a slight return of the colliquative perspiration towards morning; has still slight head-ach; appetite improved; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 70. Cont.—22d, Every symptom appears more favourable; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 68. Cont.—23d, The unfavourable symptoms continue rapidly to subside; sleeps well; appetite rather craving; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 73. Cont.—24th, Sleep sound and refreshing; no colliquative sweats; the appetite very good; cough seldom occurs, and the expectoration is trifling; no pain in the side; b. t. and sk. natural; pulse 70. Cont. 25th, Every symptom still more favourable; pulse 73. —26th, Still continues to amend; pulse 70. Cont.—27th, No cause for diminution of hope, as favourable circumstances increased; pulse 71.—28th, The disease continues to give place to returning health; pulse 71. Cont.—29th, Every thing seems

to

to indicate a speedy though progressive recovery; pulse 70. Cont.—30th, Complains of watchfulness occasioned by acute pains in the knee-joints, apparently rheumatic; cough and expectoration very inconsiderable; pulse 69.—R. Pulv. Ipecac. comp. ℈j. hora somni. sumend. R. Linim. sapon. tinct. ℥ii. aa. ℥j. M. F. Linim. part. dolent. sæpe applicand. Cont. tinct. digital.—31st, The rheumatic affection has yielded to the sudorific powder and anodyne liniment. He scarcely ever experiences any occurrence of cough, except a little on first lying down in his bed; pulse 73. In short, not to tire your patience further by useless repetitions, I shall briefly observe, that he soon became convalescent; nearly a month has elapsed since he has experienced the smallest inconvenience from cough or any other unfavourable occurrence. He at present pursues his general occupation with his usual alacrity.

With the most sincere wishes for the long continuance and prosperity of your very excellent and laudable publication, I remain, &c.

Bradford, Wilts, Feb. 5, 1801. O. W. BARTLEY, Surgeon.

The following Letter from Dr. MARSHALL *has been transmitted to the Editors for Insertion in the Medical and Physical Journal.*

DEAR FRIEND,

FROM Tetuan Bay I did myself the pleasure of writing you, informing you that I was busily employed inoculating the fleet under Lord Keith, who issued a general order for that purpose to all the ships under his command; since then I have continued with him, and shall proceed up to Malta, for which place we set sail to-morrow.

I have now to tell you, what before I was suspicious of, that the matter I brought with me from England, after being kept three months, became quite inert; and though it was capable of producing an inflammation in the inoculated part, yet the pustule produced, did not partake in the least of the Cow-pox characteristic marks, nor produced any constitutional effect whatever; accordingly, all those upon whom it was tried, I again inoculated with the recent fluid matter. I have also, in presence of the medical men of Mahon, the jurats, and a number of the inhabitants, inoculated an infant who had had the

the Cow-pox, with the Small-pox virus, procured by one of the phyſicians preſent; the child reſiſted the infection, and of courſe, convinced thoſe who were unbelievers of the efficacy of the Cow-pox. Thus, the bleſſing of the Vaccine Inoculation is every day ſpreading more and more: I hope, in a very ſhort time, to carry it up to Sicily, along with the fleet, where it will have a more extenſive field to range in.

The army, from the liberal uſe of freſh proviſions and fruit, have got free from the ſcurvy; but thoſe regiments that were recruited out of the militia, are falling off very faſt, numbers of them dying daily: I think, upon their landing in Egypt, they will muſter very thin. We have certain accounts of ſix veſſels having ſailed from Toulon on the 13th inſt. with troops (ſuppoſed about 6,000) and ſtores for Alexandria; if they eſcape our ſhips and land ſafe, it may ſerve to embarraſs our operations there very much. I have had an opportunity of peruſing many papers and documents reſpecting the plague; and from what I there obſerve, I ſhould not heſitate in going with the expedition, for the purpoſe of procuring better information upon the ſubject, had I not another material object to employ me. It will give me great pleaſure to hear from you when you have leiſure. Believe me, &c.

His Majeſty's Ship, Foudroyant. W. MARSHALL.
Mahon, Nov. 27, 1800.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN declaring my reſolution, through the medium of your Journal, not to anſwer your correſpondent, Mr. Watt, I was actuated by motives of reſpect towards yourſelves, and decorum to your readers; as, I conceive, your object is to promulgate the knowledge of truth, and theirs to acquire uſeful information; neither of which can be promoted by the continuance of a diſpute, which, by the conduct of my opponent, has degenerated into PERSONAL ABUSE; ſo thinking, and acting from ſuch motives, it is not without ſurprize that I perceive you have printed in your Journal for the preſent month, a letter from him, in which I am charged with having declined the controverſy, becauſe I find *my attack no longer defenſible, and therefore get rid of it in the beſt way I can*; and likewiſe, am loaded with ſome more of that kind of perſonality which has

has already placed him beneath my farther notice. It is not for me to queſtion your motives for inſerting his letter, as I have no doubt that that juſtice which regulates your conduct, will induce you to publiſh this anſwer, which *that letter has made indiſpenſably neceſſary.*

He ſays, "he leaves your candid readers to determine, whether my anſwer to his *original* communication, or his reply, contains moſt unprovoked, illiberal, and PERSONAL ABUSE." If they have not yet determined this point, they certainly will do ſo; and, perhaps, the following recapitulation may facilitate their labour in making the deciſion.

Mr. W. communicated to you what he was willing to make your readers believe was an *invention or diſcovery* of his own. Without attempting to inveſtigate his own actual and private knowledge on this point, I ſhall be permitted to obſerve, that every man who makes his own diſcoveries public, hopes to gain reputation, at leaſt, by the communication; and every Plagiary who meanly extracts from the works of others, any thing which he artfully attempts to introduce as his own, hopes to purloin that reputation to which his conſcience tells him he has no right. Mr. W. ſtands in one of thoſe ſituations; and whichever it may be, it was natural for him to loſe his temper, when he found himſelf diſappointed of the objects he had in view.

Every man who writes, has an undoubted right to arrange his ſubject in that manner which appears to him to be the beſt; I heartily pity the man, who ſits deliberately down to write all that he can utter upon any ſubject. I was willing to make my anſwer as brief as the nature of the caſe would allow, and, therefore, only mentioned ſuch circumſtances as were matters of great notoriety in this part of the world; I enlarged on ſuch as required elucidation, and declared my intention to reſume the ſubject at a future opportunity: Perhaps, moſt of your readers underſtood, that if any thing mentioned in that anſwer required explanation, it would be explained when the ſubject was reſumed; perhaps Mr. W. FEARED this might be the caſe; and if he did not ſeriouſly intend to put an end to a diſcuſſion, from which he could expect no gratification, he *accidentally* hit upon a method of doing ſo moſt effectually.

In anſwering Mr. W. I ſaid nothing *directly*, or by implication OF HIM, either as an individual or as a profeſſional man, for the beſt of all reaſons,—I knew nothing about him: But of his work, as it appeared in your Journal, I was able to judge, and even thought myſelf capable of enabling thoſe to form a correct opinion of it, who had not reflected ſo much upon it as I have done; and your readers will determine whether I have or have not ſucceeded: At leaſt, they will allow

there was nothing improper in the attempt; the work was a fair object of criticism; and if its author had asserted things that were not true, if he had exaggerated facts, and drawn conclusions that did not regularly follow from the premises laid down, is he to blame *himself* for the unenviable situation in which he has placed himself; or *me*, for shewing the exact quantity of respect his communication is entitled to?

Mr. W. had an undoubted right to reply to my answer, and I believe he made the best answer his talents would enable, and his temper would permit him to make; but *fearing* that it would not effectually convince his readers, or silence me, he called in an auxiliary, which, like many others, can only disgrace the cause it is employed in: He turned *from* the subject *to* the author, and applied epithets to me which I could only answer properly, by treating with silent contempt.

As this is the act which justifies me in saying he is fallen too low for me to notice, the following quotations are produced in proof. P. 499. "I should certainly have suspected, had Mr. S. been writing another *Practical Essay* on distorted Limbs, that he had foisted in the *Shoe-maker* with little other motive than merely to *swell* the size of his volume."

Again, "Indeed, with regard to the labours of Mr. Holmes, *the Shoe-maker, and with him I may* ASSOCIATE *Mr. Sheldrake, the Truss-maker*," &c.

Again, p. 502. "Let him have recourse to the laws of his nation, and seek redress in its proper channel, and not with his NATIVE EFFRONTERY, *criminate* those by BARE ASSERTIONS, whom he cannot *condemn* by SOUND ARGUMENTS.

If I understand the construction of language, the first is a direct insinuation, that I am capable of fabricating a book, by foisting in matter unconnected with the subject, merely *to swell the size of the volume*; in other words, endeavouring to obtain money by false pretences. Of the second, I am to understand that, I had described Holmes, * the Shoe-maker, as an ignorant person, who had pretended to do what he was unable

* As this man has been dead many years, he can sustain no injury by his name being thus publicly mentioned. It is, indeed, necessary to do this, as it affords a singular proof of Mr. W's accuracy, and will shew how incapable he is, of distorting any thing to answer his own purposes. I mentioned that Holmes had been dead several years; Mr. W. made what observations he thought proper on the passage, and then proceeds, "*If there* IS *such a man as Mr. Holmes, &c.*" If any one should investigate the subject, to shew Mr. W's side of it, he would first enquire for Mr. H. and finding there IS no such person, his argument would run thus, "AS THERE IS *no such person*, &c." and he would form many conclusions that would be highly favourable to Mr. W's views.

able to perform; Mr. Watt, by *associating* me with him in *Italics*, meant to insinuate, that I was a man of the same description. The third is too plain to require explanation, and is that kind of charge, which no man would make in the face of another, and which Mr. W. has made very courageously, when at a distance that secures him from all the consequences. This part of Mr. W's reply, I call *slanderous personal abuse*.

This Mr. W. affects to consider as a victory; it is a singular one, however, and considered as a controversial artifice is not without merit. If it can be established as a precedent, there are many men who, like Mr. W. are deficient in argument and temper, and could easily supply the defect by the application of such terms as preclude all reply in writing, and of course, upon this principle, will be victorious in every contest they engage in.

This victory, such as it is, will not be of long duration, for I have promised to convey to you, an account of my method of curing these diseases, which cannot be done without previously examining other theories that have preceded my own. And in the course of that communication, your readers will be enabled to ascertain, whether in my reply to Mr. W. I advanced a single circumstance that deviates from the strictest truth.

Mr. W. seems to be endued with so much of the faculty of *second sight*, as enables him to foresee this; and this foresight is, I believe, the real cause of the notice he favours me with in your last Journal. He had advanced, with all the dogmatism of infallibility, that *all distortions in the legs and feet of children, by whatever cause produced,* or HOWEVER FORMIDABLE *they* MIGHT APPEAR, might be cured by the application of the same means: The two cases I have transmitted to you, prove the reverse of this; for though they are cases of the same disease, they are in circumstances so different, that no one will believe, and even Mr. W. has not attempted to say, that the *same means* that were employed to cure the one, could have cured the other. This is fatal to his dogma, and this is the shaft that rankles in the breast of Mr. W. But though he knows this, he is too uncandid a disputant to confess it. As the doctrine to be deduced from these cases, is directly opposed to his dogma, he would have been right in saying, THEY were directed against *it*; or, if he pleases, against *him*; but he must, at the same time, have admitted his own mistake. This he had not philosophy enough to do, nor had he fortitude sufficient to be silent, he therefore pretends to discover, that in conceiving the use of the terms*

* Lest Mr. Watt should imagine, that I decline the discussion of this point too, *because it is not defensible*, I beg leave to observe that the terms varus and valgus, only describe the position of the foot, but convey no ideas respecting

varus and valgus, my cenſure is *principally directed againſt* HIM. Now, as he proves that the ſame words have been uſed in the ſame ſenſe, "not only by medical writers, but even by claſſical authors, for at leaſt two thouſand years," and as my cenſure was expreſſed in the moſt general terms, it is moſt certain that it could not be directed principally againſt HIM, unleſs *he* is the *principal* of all the medical and all the claſſical authors who have flouriſhed during that time. If the conſtruction of my language will not bear me out, I beg leave ſolemnly to declare, that I meant no reference to Mr. W. in that paſſage, though I certainly intended that the *facts* of thoſe caſes ſhould be oppoſed to the *fallacy* of his doctrines. It is whimſical in Mr. W. to ſay he "*hates controverſy*,* while he ſhews, that he poſſeſſes in perfection one talent of the greateſt value to a profeſſed controvertialiſt, viz. that of evading thoſe parts of a ſubject on which he is completely defeated, and ſubſtituting others from which he expects to derive leſs diſgrace. Of this talent, the paſſage abovementioned is one compleat ſpecimen; another exiſts in his reply to my anſwer; this it becomes me to notice, as this is the only opportunity I ſhall have of doing ſo, and as it is intimately connected with that part in which he ſo elegantly mentions my *native effrontery*.

In his original communication, he ſays, "When I firſt thought of this inſtrument, I had no idea of its being applied to any other caſe but the *vari & valgi*; and there only when the diſorder happened to lie in the ancle joint; but *I have since*

---

reſpecting the ſtate of the parts concerned in the diſeaſe. The term Club-foot is, perhaps, a vulgariſm, poſſibly a local term, but certainly conveys no correct idea beyond that of a diſtorted foot; if, then, I ſay ſuch a patient has a Club-foot, and add an accurate deſcription of the ſtate of the parts concerned in the diſeaſe, and give the beſt information that the nature of the caſe will allow, and that a profeſſional man can require, for from the *whole of the deſcription* he underſtands the real ſituation of the patient; but if I ſhould only ſay, he has a varus, or valgus; and if I ſhould quote Plautus, to prove that theſe were *good old claſſical Latin terms*, I ſhould obtain more reputation for learning than for capacity to make others underſtand the nature of the diſeaſe I meant to deſcribe.

* When on a former occaſion, Mr. W. found that part of his writing bore a different interpretation from what he intended, he made a ſingular attempt to eſcape the dilemma, by obſerving, that *either* the word NOT was improperly inſerted in the manuſcript, OR, that it had been interpolated by the Printer. I made an experiment, by omitting the word *not*, but the ſenſe was not improved by the omiſſion, therefore the excuſe could not ſerve him; but on the preſent occaſion, it may do extremely well, as I think it very probable that Mr. W. wrote, "*I hate contradiction*," which the compoſitor has, by miſtake, ſet up, "*I hate controverſy*;" this amendment will not only improve the reading, but will likewiſe prove the fact.

ſince thought, that by a ſmall alteration it may be applied to all the different kinds of diſtorted limbs with conſiderable eaſe and advantage."

He then deſcribes his *notion* of applying a ſpring, to cure curvature of bones of the leg, and refers to a figure in his plate. It is this notion, or idea, which I believe to have been borrowed, copied, or by whatever term plagiariſm may be deſigned, from the ſpecification of my patent To prove this, I cited the paſſage at large from the ſpecification, compared it with the paſſage in Mr. W. and by referring to the figures in the plates, it will appear, that the diagram by which I illuſtrate the principle, exactly reſembles that application of a ſpring which Mr. W. calls his own invention.

The inference is *inevitable*; the reſemblance between the two paſſages is compleat. The priority of publication is with me; *therefore*, it is moſt certain, *either* that by a ſtrange coincidence of circumſtances, Mr. W. did invent that which I had publiſhed ſome years before, *without the leaſt knowledge of my publication*, or that he had taken from the latter an idea, which he had tranſplanted into his own, and through the medium of your Journal offered it to the public as an *idea of his own*: Thus meanly ſeeking to deprive me of what reputation may attach itſelf to the diſcovery.

Whatever doubt then exiſted as to the nature of the fact, has been diſſipated by Mr. Watt; he knows the operation of his own mind on the ſubject; and if this idea had originated with himſelf, he could have eaſily ſhown that it did ſo, for the exiſtence of ſimilar paſſages in different authors does not neceſſarily imply plagiariſm in either. Has Mr. Watt done this? No! With the ſpirit of a freebooter, who knows himſelf to be out of the reach of the law,* he exclaims, "*If my inſtrument nearly reſembles Mr. Sheldrake's, it is equally efficacious*; if more imperfect, it need not have given him any alarm; and inſinuates, that I fear him as a rival: And aſks, in a tone of bravado, why I do not have recourſe to the law?

To obviate all the miſrepreſentation that Mr. W. is evidently willing to derive from this ſource, I beg leave to obſerve, that according to my theory of theſe diſeaſes, and the treatment I have

* This ſimile may ſound harſhly, but it is moſt ſtrictly juſt; the protection of property by patent granted in England, does not extend to Scotland; *therefore*, if Mr. Watt had copied fifty patent inventions, for which the law might puniſh him in this country, he might enjoy the fruits of his ingenuity in his own in perfect ſafety, for *our laws could not reach him there*; of courſe, his aſking why I did not have recourſe to the laws of *my* country, is mere vapour.

I have founded upon it, not only no one kind of inſtrument can cure all the varieties of the diſeaſe, but no one ſpecimen of the diſeaſe can be cured by the ſame inſtrument; this will be fully explained hereafter: In the mean time, I beg leave to obſerve, that if a congreſs was aſſembled, of all the patients who have been under my care, with their friends, and the medical men who have attended them, they would unanimouſly determine, that Mr. W. has not at preſent the moſt diſtant comprehenſion of my plan; that the particular part which he has borrowed from my book, is not what, he ſays, he *has* practiſed, but what he *thinks*, "may be applied to all the different kinds of diſtorted limbs with conſiderable eaſe and advantage;" and to this I beg leave to add, that though the principle is undoubtedly true, whoever ſhall try that particular modification of it which he recommends, will find it cannot anſwer the purpoſe he recommends it for.

With this exertion of my *native effrontery*, I ſhall take leave of Mr. Watt, unleſs you ſhould indulge him, by publiſhing more of his perſonal reflections on myſelf: It is to repel *ſuch reflections only* that I have written this; and truſt, that *you* will ſee the propriety of putting an end to *ſuch* diſputes. But whatever may be advanced on profeſſional ſubjects ought to be liable to accurate inveſtigation, which I ſhall never wiſh to avoid, and which, I hope, will continue to be the chief object of your valuable Journal.

In my next, I ſhall continue the ſubject of my laſt; I ſhould have done ſo before, but I am waiting for the opinion of a gentleman who is at a diſtance from town, and which I think eſſential to the confirmation of ſome facts I mean to lay before you; as ſoon as I receive it, they will be communicated. I am, &c.

Feb. 10, 1801, *No.* 50, *Strand.* T. SHELDRAKE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I Was much pleaſed with the peruſal of a letter inſerted in your Number for February, 1801, from the pen of Mr. Cuſtance, and intended as a reply to a former epiſtle of mine, as it affords me the gratification of again ſoliciting the public attention to a ſubject of conſiderable importance.

During

During an extenſive practice among putrid fevers, I have had many opportunities of obſerving the effects of Yeaſt, particularly after the medicines uſually adminiſtered had loſt their ſalutary influence; and finding among the generality of caſes, not only a more rapid but ſucceſsful termination, I was pleaſed with the reſult, and determined, in moſt inſtances that occurred, to make trial of its efficacy; though, frequently, from the averſion of the patient to the naufeouſneſs of its taſte, I was neceſſitated to have recourſe to the old routine, and am happy to add, not unfrequently with advantage. But in the typhus of young children, the quantity of bark that could be got down was ſo ſmall, as to be productive of no good effect, and among them a more powerful remedy has long been a deſirable object. Whenever an opportunity occurred, I did not fail to adminiſter yeaſt, and can with confidence aſſert, among a variety of inſtances, not one terminated unfavourably. Such aſtoniſhing ſucceſs firſt prompted me to inſert the hiſtory of a cure effected ſolely by this medicine; and as ſeveral gentlemen of undoubted veracity had already communicated a variety of caſes in which the anti-putreſcent properties of yeaſt had proved beneficial, I thought it needleſs to trouble you with more, not doubting but their teſtimony, in addition to mine, would excite enquiry. With theſe principles only, I ventured to intrude on your attention; I believe, I avowed my motive in a former communication; and having peruſed ſeveral letters from gentlemen of eminence, recommending its uſe from principles of humanity, I confeſs I was hurt to obſerve a man of Mr. Cuſtance's abilities condemn, in ſo vehement a manner, what I knew from experience to be uſeful. Perhaps, a miſtaken judgment might miſ-conſtrue his meaning; but what are we to conclude from the following lines? "Thus we ſee, that however well a ſtrong Dutch girl may bear *working* with yeaſt, *it will not be ſafe* to have recourſe to ſuch means in recovering our fair country-women from putrid fevers!" By *working*, I ſhould ſuppoſe he meant to convey an idea as if jalap or gamboge had been given; and it appears plain to one poſſeſſed only of common ſenſe, that he perſecutes this remedy, when he ſays, "*it is not ſafe* to have recourſe to ſuch means in recovering our fair country-women from putrid fevers!" I cannot help admiring the ingenuity with which he endeavours to convince you that I have miſconceived the purport of his letter, by fixing my eye too long on a particular paſſage; but unleſs I am deſtitute of underſtanding, the words require no more than to be taken in their uſual acceptation.

Mr. C. informs us, his reaſon for diſapproving of yeaſt was, to "obviate the danger of empiriciſm." Why then did he

he addreſs his letter to the Medical Journal? as I am inclined to think, this publication is but ſeldom peruſed by perſons of that deſcription, and chiefly calculated for the inſtruction of men of education, who, by imparting their progreſs in the cure of diſeaſes, and the remedies employed, are enabled to develope many improvements, and diſcard injurious preparations. Had it been inſerted in the *Armenian, or Methodist's Magazine*, where, according to Mr. C. an exaggerated account firſt appeared, it might, probably, from falling into the hands of the lower claſs, have been productive of ſome advantage.

It is ſomething ſingular, that this gentleman, after expoſing my inadvertency, ſhould err in a ſimilar manner. He proceeds: "*The ſtatement of the caſe, as given by Mr. G. appears to be very vague and unſatisfactory. He tells us that the boy was attacked on the 10th of July with the usual ſymptoms of typhus. On the third day, that is, on the 12th, the ſponging and use of yeaſt appear to have been begun. From the 13th he became evidently better: In two days after the yeaſt was diſcontinued. On conſideration of the wonderful change which ſo rapidly ſucceeded the adminiſtration of the yeaſt, ſays Mr. G. I cannot but imagine it to be the beſt remedy in putrid fevers ever yet diſcovered. Are we to conclude from this relation, that Mr. G's patient was cured of a putrid fever within five days from its firſt attack: If I can underſtand Mr. G. right, this is the concluſion he wiſhes to be drawn.*" According to this mode of reaſoning, the words "*evidently better*" are conſtrued into a perfect cure; for if my letter is referred to, I made uſe of no other expreſſion; I conceived the boy, at the time the yeaſt was diſcontinued, *free from any putrid tendency*, though the ſeverity of the attack made him exceedingly low for ſome time after.

Mr. C. is of opinion, becauſe bark was alternately adminiſtered in conjunction with yeaſt, the appellation of ſpecific beſtowed on the latter is unjuſt; the cure, ſays he, may as well be attributed to the bark; and again, "*in the ſolitary caſe with which Mr. G. has favoured the public in No. XXI. the patient was ſponged all over, and directed the free use of yeaſt and wine.*" As I am unacquainted with the circumſtances of the cure recorded in the Methodiſt's Magazine, I cannot preſume to offer an opinion; nor do I credit the poſſibility of a patient in the laſt ſtage of putrid fever, being ſeen the next morning, after taking ſome yeaſt, walking in his garden apparently well; but from my own knowledge I can affirm, that it has proved effectual in reſtoring convaleſcence, after repeated quantities of bark had failed; and ſurely this circumſtance alone is ſufficient to eſtabliſh its claim to ſuperiority, when it raiſes a ſuperſtructure on the failure of ſo popular a medicine. Not that

I wiſh

I wish to decry the utility of bark; but it does not unfrequently happen, that a very small and insufficient quantity to counteract the putrid diathesis can be got down, and where it is plentifully administered, even to the extent of an ounce of powder in twenty-four hours, (and no less can be depended upon) the tone of the stomach is often, from a variety of causes, and especially hard drinking, so much impaired, as to be incapable of converting it to any salutary purpose. But I am authorised by experience to affirm, that in the far greater part of these instances, where bark was wholly useless, even small doses of yeast have been eminently serviceable.

But, says Mr. C. in the solitary case which I addressed to your Journal, many of your readers will attribute the success that followed as much to the vinegar and wine as to the yeast. This is the first account I have ever heard of cold vinegar (or water, for their influence in affusion is precisely similar) actually curing putrid fever; I will quote some part of that letter without altering the meaning, and see how far his ideas agree with the motive that induced me to make use of it. After stating the manner in which I applied it, I observed, "*he was sponged again at night, and I saw him soon afterwards evidently better, his pulse being regular, and body cool.*" Does it not appear very conspicuous, that the intention of applying cold vinegar was to diminish the febrile heat, and consequently promote perspiration; and that it was used as an auxiliary to the remedy? On what authority this idea is grounded, I am at a loss to imagine, for if we refer to the writings of both antient and modern practitioners, we shall find no one instance on record, of cold affusion curing putrid fever without the assistance of an internal medicine; that it has removed ardent fever, and in all topical inflammations proved of singular efficacy, I am satisfied; but never before heard of such decided superiority in the former disease. If we look into the writings of the antients, we shall find they used it with advantage in hot burning fevers. Hippocrates says, if the patient is thirsty while labouring under an acute fever, cold water is of great use, if given till it makes him vomit. Galen says, that cold water is a perpetual remedy, either by immersion or drinking. Paulus observes, that heat may be extinguished by cold water, by which we have wholly cured burning fevers. Celsus advises the use of cold water, and directs the patient to drink to satiety; and Paulus also adds, the cold bath alone is of service to those who labour under an ardent fever without an inflammation, a tumor, or an erysipelas; and in conformity with these observations, the learned and ingenious Dr. Currie has published a variety of instances where affusion has removed the in-

tenſe heat; but the diſcovery of its ſolely curing putrid fever, even allowing the uſe of wine, was reſerved for Mr. Cuſtance. Your readers will then perceive the motive of my actions; and I hope I have made it appear thus far my arguments were not wholly inconcluſive. Probably, the happy termination of this ſolitary caſe might be owing to the wine, but this ſuggeſtion is equally defeaſible. Let us refer to the ſtatement; "from the 10*th to the* 12*th, that is, for three days, he took repeated quantities without the least benefit, and on the latter, the yeast and sponging were begun*; and by a proper perſeverance in their uſes for three days longer, (making in the whole a period of ſix days, which Mr. C. ſhortened) the boy was ſo far *cured*, (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) as to be out of danger. After having previouſly taken ſufficient quantities of wine, I am ſurprized it manifeſted no apparent effect, or that its anti-putreſcent properties ſhould be dormant ſo long, to burſt forth at laſt with renovated vigour. But if the generality of your readers, as Mr. C. conjectures, will attribute this providential recovery to the wine, I will humbly acquieſce, though it is plain, Mr. C. is willing to beſtow the laurel on any thing but yeaſt.

Mr. C. juſtly obſerves, I have brought forward but one inſtance of its ſucceſs, and this is undoubtedly a very fair objection, as it is impoſſible to form any deciſive opinion from the hiſtory of a "*Solitary Caſe.*" As I have already ſtated my motive for ſo doing in the former part of this letter, I ſhall content myſelf with adducing ſome additional information, and ſuch as, I hope, will convince Mr. C. that my ideas are not hypothetical.

The daughter of —— Burnham, a labouring man, at Quaenton, near this town, ætat. 6, was attacked on the 14th of November with the uſual ſymptoms of typhus. As I did not ſee the child till the 17th, I cannot poſitively declare, whether ſhe had any thing previous to my viſiting her, but at this time her pulſe was languid and unequal, tongue black and dry, and a conſiderable number of petechiæ made their appearance on the breaſt. She was then ordered whatever quantity of red wine could be obtained from parochial aſſiſtance, (which I need not obſerve, is in general ſcanty,) and had a pint of ſtrong decoction of bark, with tincture and extract, and aromatics, acidulated with the acidum vitriolicum, and bark powders to be taken in the intermediate times. I heard the next morning ſhe was much the ſame as when I ſaw her, and deſired they would perſevere in the uſe of the bark and wine. I viſited her on the 19th, and found her in a delirium, which had continued from the night preceding. The bark was entirely rejected,

jected, and nothing would remain on the ſtomach but red wine, of which ſhe had taken about three quarters of a pint. The petechiæ were not increaſed, but aſſumed a more purple appearance, and the fæces were regularly diſcharged, but quite black and offenſive. As the dernier reſort, I recommended them to procure ſome ſmall-beer yeaſt, and having made an infuſion of malt, to give a large ſpoonful of the former, diluted with the latter, every four hours. This method was regularly perſiſted in, and I had the pleaſure to hear the next afternoon, ſhe had paſſed the preceding night much better, and the delirium was ſomewhat abated. 21ſt. I was much pleaſed to obſerve the appearance of my little patient; ſhe was ſenſible, and gave me her hand on approaching the bed-ſide. The yeaſt was continued as before, and the pariſh officers thinking her out of danger, refuſed to continue the wine; but, on application to the worthy Rector of the village, he generouſly provided her with a bottle. The next day her father informed me ſhe was ſo much better, I need not go to Quaenton; and as I heard no more from him, I did not call till the 26th, when ſhe was ſo far recovered, as to be free from any complaint except debility.

It is worthy obſervation, that the ſon of this man was afflicted with the ſame diſeaſe a month before, and had large and repeated quantities of bark and wine, with acids, but he died in a fortnight. This I mention, as it occurred at nearly the ſame time, and in the ſame family; the particulars of which are well known to the worthy Rector. It will be needleſs to particularize every ſymptom; I ſhall therefore briefly ſtate the moſt remarkable incidents.

E. Gibbons, a poor woman of this town, was ill during a week with putrid fever, and the treatment with bark, &c. ſeemed entirely uſeleſs; but on uſing the yeaſt, and infuſion of malt, *ſhe was out of danger in four days!*

The daughter of Mr. M——ly, of this town, ætat. 5, was exceedingly ill for twelve days, and was treated with bark, red wine, and brandy, but in a ſtate of approaching diſſolution; *one tea-cup full of yeaſt only appeared to reſtore her!*

Mr. S——y, of Claydon, and his child, ætat. three years, were now given over by an eminent phyſician, but were providentially ſaved by the timely adminiſtration of yeaſt.

From theſe ſtatements will it not appear ſatisfactory to a candid mind, that the early adoption of yeaſt not only accelerates the criſis, but is productive of a ſucceſsful termination. It has had to combat with the very worſt caſes, and is moſt generally poſtponed till after the exhibition of bark; and in

numberleſs inſtances, where death appeared inevitable, it has reſtored the ſufferer with unexampled rapidity. I would recommend Mr. C. to peruſe an ingenious pamphlet lately publiſhed, and entitled, "A ſhort Account of the infectious Malignant Fever, as it appeared at Uxbridge and its vicinity in the year 1799, and where the antiputreſcent influence of yeaſt was peculiarly conſpicuous. The intelligent author informs the public, "*he has found it particularly uſeful in a great number of caſes, and therefore cannot avoid recommending it as a moſt powerful antiſeptic in malignant fevers.*" In the caſe recorded by Mr. Brown, in No. XVI. the return of health, after ſuch ſevere indiſpoſition, was truly remarkable; and Dr. Lewin, in his ingenious letter, obſerves, "IN A FEW DAYS, on the compariſon, I had the pleaſure to obſerve ſome of our little patients much benefited by it, and was particularly ſtruck with the ſpeedy convaleſcence of one whoſe ſymptoms had been moſt diſtreſſingly ſtationary." Alſo, in an Epiſtle I had the pleaſure to receive from the Doctor, he adds, (what will be found explanatory of the former caſe publiſhed by me in No. XXI. which, on account of the ſpeedy relief experienced, is objected to by Mr. C. as vague and unſatisfactory) "I feel confident in aſſerting, that I have witneſſed more examples of true typhus ariſing at their acme in ſeven or eight days ſince the adoption of this remedy than formerly;" and concludes, with aſſuring me, that "it has been employed by the moſt judicious in that neighbourhood, and is extenſively uſed in a part of Staffordſhire, Worceſter, and Shropſhire."

Mr. C. has deemed my former letter unworthy a man, who profeſſes to be ſearching after truth; but how my actions have juſtified ſuch a concluſion, I am at a loſs to conjecture. It has been from a wiſh to ſerve that invaluable cauſe that I have ventured to obtrude on the public attention, knowing that oppoſition is the ſureſt teſt of truth; and facts cannot be more firmly eſtabliſhed, than when aſſailed by refellible enquiry. I have made no claim to diſcovery; nor have my views been prompted by ought but humanity and a love of inveſtigation; and I am inclined to believe, if Mr. C. rightly conſiders, he will loſe a portion of that reſentment he apparently feels. It is evident I have not built my expectations on ſpeculative notions, or been amuſed with the illuſion of hypothetical doctrine; for in all caſes where a putrid tendency has manifeſted itſelf, I have found the happieſt effects from its uſe, particularly as a poultice in foul putrid ulcers.

One objection made to my letter, is obviated by the explatory note of Dr. Bradley, as it appears that wine cannot be ſuppoſed fraught with more eſſential ſervice than ſupporting the

vis

vis vitæ. As Mr. C. has conducted his remarks on the whole in a fair manner, and avoided those personal reflections too frequent in controversial discourses, I am happy to elucidate his enquiries, and willing at all times to answer any reasonable doubts, when conducted in a liberal manner. Shielded by the irresistible banner of truth, I can bid defiance to the shafts of malevolence, and oppose with safety the language of experience to missile weapons, that will only recoil on their authors. Happily for mankind these important facts have been long known, and will eventually be in general esteem; but, like all introductions into the science of medicine, it will have an host of enemies to contend with. So much does mercenary inclination on the one hand, and bigotry on the other, retard the progress of information.

Having no more desire than Mr. C. to intrude on your attention, I shall take my leave of this subject, concluding in the words of Montaigne: "I have here a nosegay of culled flowers, and have brought nothing of my own but the thread that ties them."

I have the honour to be, &c.

Winsow, Feb. 9, 1801. J. H. GROSE.

Mr. Potts, *on the Means of supplying the Loss of amputated Limbs.*

A Patent has been obtained for a contrivance, which, in point of ingenuity, elegance, and utility, surpasses every thing which has yet been attempted of a similar nature. It is known, that where amputation has been performed above the knee, any artificial leg which has yet been invented to supply the loss, is very imperfect, as the person using it is obliged to make a semicircular motion with it in walking, and as the genuflexion or movement at the knee is so imperfect as to make the motion very aukward, inconvenient, and unnatural.

Mr. Potts, the patentee, whose attention was drawn to the subject by the loss of his own leg, has constructed an artificial one, which he himself has worn for years, and which is possessed of the following superior advantages: The knee and ancle joints are entirely at the command of the wearer; and the appearance of their motions is so natural, as very nearly to conceal the loss of the extremity: The leg is made of light materials, and indeed of such as imitate both the bony and fleshy parts. It is worn with ease and perfect safety; it does not injure the dress, which other artificial legs are observed to do.

do. The wearer can kneel and rise up; can sit down and rise up; can pull on a boot, and permit it to be drawn off by a boot-jack; he can turn the anterior part of the foot outwards and inwards; ride on horse-back with perfect safety, and imitate almost every natural motion without any assistance of his hands. The patentee, who has suffered an amputation above the knee, can walk eight or ten miles with his leg of this construction without fatigue.

(Signed) JAMES POTTS.

To Dr. BRADLEY.

Dear Sir,

Being convinced that the above invention is far superior to any thing I have hitherto seen, (and I have had frequent opportunities of examining the inventions of others) I take the liberty of recommending it to the readers of your very popular Journal, and sincerely hope the ingenious inventor will meet that encouragement which his merit entitles him to expect.

I am, &c.

Parliament Street, Feb. 21, 1801. W. LYNN.

P. S. I have the satisfaction to add, that I have introduced this invention to many of the principal surgeons in London, all of whom coincide in opinion with myself.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following few remarks on the external use of the inner bark of the Daphne Mezereum, may be thought worthy a place in the Medical and Physical Journal, I beg that you will insert them.

Linnæus classes several species of Daphne, but as I am acquainted with only two of them, the Daphne Mezereum, and Daphne Thymelæa, I shall confine myself to these only.

When, about thirty years ago, I first went to Russia, I heard of the bark of the Daphne Thymelæa being used as a substitute for issues, and was advised to try it.

Happy to hear that any method had been thought of to produce

duce an uniform diſcharge from the ſkin, on any part of the body, ſo as to obviate the neceſſity of inciſion, an operation often very much dreaded, eſpecially by children, and always painful, I did not heſitate, the firſt opportunity that offered, to give it a trial, which I did, by cutting a piece of the intire bark into the dimenſion of about three-quarters of an inch ſquare, and ſteeping it in vinegar ſix hours; I then applied its inner ſurface to that part of the arm where iſſues are generally cut, and faſtened it on with a bandage.

After letting it remain on the arm 24 hours, I took it off, and there appeared on the part where it had been placed, a ſlight degree of inflammation, and the patient ſaid it itched a little. I then prepared another piece of bark in the ſame manner as before, and laid it on as on the former day, and ſo continued to do every day, till an excoriation of the ſkin and ſuppuration took place, which were kept up by the ſame means for about a year, when the patient, a young ſubject, who had been afflicted with a ſcrophulous complaint of the eye-lids, got quite well. After leaving off the bark, a few gentle purges were ordered, and no ill conſequence happened to the conſtitution from ſtopping the diſcharge from the wound.

The Thymelæa, the ſpecies of Daphne I made uſe of in the above caſe, was at that time exceedingly dear, and it was chance alone that made me acquainted with the Daphne Mezereum,* the ſort that I have made uſe of ever ſince, and which now occupies a place in the Pharmacopœa Roſſica.

For the ſpace of five and twenty years I have hardly ever ordered an iſſue to be cut, but have truſted to the Mezereum bark alone, where a diſcharge by the ſkin has been thought neceſſary; and have ſeen a great variety of herpetic and ſcrophulous affections, where it has been employed with evident good effects. In uſing it, care ſhould be taken to change it every morning, and to clean the ſuppurating part, as is done in common iſſues.

Sometimes the inflammation on the arm is conſiderable, and the ſuppuration abundant; yet neither of theſe ſymptoms is ever attended with any ill conſequence, their violence being ſoon abated by laying aſide the bark for a few days, and wetting the part now and then with a little Aq. Saturnina; afterwards,

* An old Finniſh woman, who lived ſervant in a houſe that I attended, ſeeing me uſe the bark, and hearing that it was very dear, told me, that a ſhrub, with a bark very much like that which I employed, grew in great abundance in Finland, in the neighbourhood of Peterſburgh. I deſired her to procure me ſome, which ſhe did, and on examination it proved to be the Daphne Mezereum, which, on trial, I found to have the ſame effect as the other ſort, except that it acted more ſuddenly and vigorouſly on the ſkin.

wards, its uſe may be renewed and continued as before. This method of promoting ſuppuration has the advantage of the pea iſſue, for the reaſon above mentioned, in obviating terror, and it is not nearly ſo painful as a perpetual bliſter, at the ſame time it is more under the controul of the ſurgeon.

After having ſaid thus much of the convenience of the above method of exciting inflammation and ſuppuration, in preference to other means for the ſame purpoſe, it may not be improper to remark, that I have long indulged an idea that (although the abſorption be but ſmall from the bark) it may have a ſpecific virtue towards curing many diſeaſes of the ſkin. As I have had occaſion to mention the Pharmacopœa Roſſica, which, at leaſt the laſt edition, I preſume not to be in the hands of many medical gentlemen in this country, I ſhall take the liberty to tranſcribe from it the whole of the article under the title Mezereum.

Mezerei cortex, radix. Daphne Mezereum, L. Cl. viij. Ord. Monogyn.

Frutex in Roſſia ſeptentrionali, et Siberia ſpontaneous.

Odor corticis ſicci nullus.

Sapor ſi diu maſticatur valde acris, fauces exurens, recentis acerrimus, inhærens.

Virtus in pauca doſi reſolvens, in majori draſtica, cardialgica, deurens.

Uſus. Exutorium fonticulorum, tumores ſchirroſi et venerei ut tophi venerei, dolores nocturni, tumores tonſillarum, teſticulorum, colli, parotidum, ulcera venerea, acres humores alicubi ſtagnantes.

Doſis. Radicis Mezerei drachmæ duæ, totidem liquiritiæ cum aquæ libris tribus ad libras duas decoctum, quod per diem conſumitur; cataplaſma ex decocto hocce, et farina; corticis ſicci, aceto vini, vel aqua, per octo vel decem horas macerata fruſtrum, longitudinis pollicis, latitudinis ſex vel octo linearum, imponitur plerumque brachio, ſubter loco, cui inſeritur muſculus deltoideus, vel aliis partibus, proſciti medici indicatione et ſpleniolo tectum faſcia firmatur.

Præter hunc fruticem aliæ Daphne ſunt ſpecies, quæ corticem viribus priori ſupporem erogant, ut Daphne Thymelæa, Daphne Gnidium, L. et hicce eſt cortex verus (ecorce de Garou) Gallorum et Daphne Laureola, L.

Notwithſtanding I have mentioned three-quarters of an inch ſquare, and the Pharmacopœa Roſſica has preſcribed certain dimenſions neceſſary to the ſize of the piece of bark to be applied, I have never obſerved any general rule in that reſpect, but have varied its ſize according to the age of the patient or ſize of his arm, or to the degree of inflammation and ſuppuration I wiſhed to take place.

If

If these trifling Observations find room in your respectable Medical Miscellany, I shall continue to communicate to you a variety of foreign practice, not generally known in England; or, if known in terms, not frequently in application.

I am, &c.

Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury, Feb. 16, 1801. J. ROGERS.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR impartiality, in admitting into your very interesting Journal, whatever tends to prove or disprove the utility of Vaccine Inoculation, deserves universal applause.

In your last Number appeared a communication from Dr. Woodforde, not of the most favourable kind to this question. But, whatever effect it may produce, I am too well acquainted with the author, and with the rectitude of his intentions, to doubt that his motives in publishing the case were honourable.

In this instance, a person who was supposed to have had the Cow-pox twenty-eight years ago, lately had the Small-pox; which, Dr. W. observes, seems to militate against the permanent preventive influence of the Cow-pox.

He says, the above history may be considered as an addition to, and illustration of, the two cases communicated by Dr. John Sims in your Journal. It is therefore but justice to the new practice to remark, that Dr. S. has, since that time, candidly acknowledged, in the same Journal, a conviction of his error, confessing, he believed the matter used in vaccine inoculation, a real preventive of the small-pox. He has also signed the testimonial, which declares, that in the opinion of the physicians and surgeons, whose names are under-signed, those who have had the Cow-pox are perfectly secure from the future infection of the Small-pox.

The case of Mr. Jacobs, published by Dr. J. Sims, it is now well understood, bears no resemblance to the genuine Cow-pox. It is the spurious disease; against which Dr. Jenner cautions every person to be on his guard, lest it should create an idea of security, which might prove delusive. But admitting, for the sake of argument, that the disease which is related by Dr. W.

ſprung from matter generated in a puſtule, or a ſore, which had originally been of the true vaccine kind; what proof have we that this matter, when it was applied to the hands of the patient, and when it produced puſtules, had not undergone a change? What proof have we, that, when this matter infected the patient in queſtion, it had not degenerated, and loſt all its original properties and ſpecific virtue?

Of ſuch a ſpecies of degeneracy in the *Small-pox*, we meet with numerous inſtances in the works of Dr. Jenner; inſtances which occurred to very reſpectable practitioners, who are now living to ſubſtantiate the facts.

If, then, the permanent preventive influence of the Cow-pox can bear as ſevere a ſcrutiny as that of the ſmall-pox, which I am well perſuaded it can; this is all that the ingenious author of the paper under conſideration, or any other reaſonable and enlightened man, will expect; and if theſe obſervations tend in any degree to diſſipate the doubts which Dr. W.'s caſe may have excited, I am perfectly convinced no one will read them with more pleaſure than himſelf.

I hope this caſe will induce all medical men to inoculate with matter taken at an early period, and to refrain from the practice of taking it on the fourteenth and fifteenth day. I hope alſo, it will induce thoſe perſons who imagine they have had the caſual Cow-pox, to conſent to be inoculated for that diſeaſe, in order to preſerve them from one infinitely more dreadful; and that my friend, Dr. Woodforde, will prevail on the ſiſter of his patient, to ſubmit once more to this powerful prophylactic. Should it only prove a ſecurity from the Small-pox for eight-and-twenty years more, it is worth while to try it at this time; ſince it is probable, that before the expiration of half that period, the Small-pox will be known in this kingdom only by name.

It is by no means evident, that Dr. W's patient had formerly eſcaped variolous infection, in conſequence of having had the ſuppoſed vaccine diſeaſe; ſince the ſame thing often occurs in thoſe who have never milked a cow, nor been ſuſpected of catching the diſeaſe in any other way. Dr. Bancroft, junior, lately informed me, that his brother was inoculated for the Small-pox eleven times, and once taken to a patient labouring under the diſeaſe, and inoculated in both arms with a large quantity of recent matter; but to no purpoſe: Yet, he afterwards caught the Small-pox in the natural way.

Leaving every one to form his own opinion concerning permanent preventives, I beg leave to conclude with expreſſing my opinion, that if medical men perform their duty, and ſincerely unite in their endeavours to exterminate the diſeaſe, we ſhall not long have occaſion for a permanent preventive, or even for any

any preventive at all; provided care is taken to enforce a proper quarantine, when any veſſel arrives from foreign parts, where that worſt of plagues, the Small-pox, may happen to prevail. I am, &c.

New Street, Hanover Square, Feb. 12, 1801. JOHN RING.

A Peculiarity in the Courſe of the Radial Artery, communicated to the Editors by Dr. YELLOLY.

THE diviſion of the Brachial Artery into two branches near the ſhoulder, or in the middle of the arms, is a circumſtance noticed by moſt authors who write on the blood-veſſels, and does not unfrequently occur. I have obſerved, however, a peculiarity in the courſe of the radial artery, which it may not perhaps be improper to notice, as it is not mentioned by Sabatier, Mr. J. Bell, or Prof. Murray, though known to a few gentlemen with whom I have converſed. It is this, that the artery, inſtead of directing its courſe as in the uſual way, on the inſide of the radius, through the whole length of it, ſometimes ſuddenly turns outwards, about an inch above the place at which the pulſe is uſually felt, goes over the bone, and continuing its courſe along the top of, or near the outſide of it, can be diſtinctly felt going deep into the ſpace between the metacarpal bones of the thumb and fore finger. In ſuch caſes, a ſmall branch only is found in the uſual direction of the trunk; and this branch can be traced going towards the palm. It ſeems to anſwer to that which is ſent off about the place at which the radial artery uſually makes its bend outwards, under the tendons of the extenſors of the thumb. I firſt had occaſion to obſerve this luſus naturæ, about three years ago, in a robuſt man, with a recent attack of fever. The pulſe was extremely ſmall, very different from what his general appearance would have led me to expect. That of the other arm was very ſtrong and full. On examining more minutely into the cauſe of this difference, it was found to be what is above ſtated. Since that period, I have ſeen the ſame occurrence in about eight inſtances, one of them in a female, and two in the ſame perſon. Phænomena of this kind afford in general little practical inſtruction. Had I not been aware however of this deviation, I might perhaps, in ſome of the inſtances, have been induced to have drawn a more unfavourable concluſion on the nature of the diſeaſe, than the circumſtances warranted. I am, &c.

Bartlett's Buildings, Feb. 15. JOHN YELLOLY.

CRITICAL RETROSPECT

OF

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE,

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

Einige Krancheiten der Nieren, und Harnblaſe unterſucht und durch Leichen Oefnungen beſtaetigt; i. e. Some Diſeaſes of the Kidneys and Bladder, examined and explained by Diſſections. With thirteen Engravings. By FR. AUG. WALTER, Profeſſor at the Medico Chirurgical College of Berlin. Berlin, for Matzdorf, 1800. 4to. price 1 rixd. 12 gr. or about 5s.

Although the author had previouſly read this work before the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, in whoſe *Memoirs* of the year 1796, it is given in a French tranſlation, yet the ſeparate publication of it in the original language ought to be thankfully received by medical men, particularly as the above *Memoirs* come to the hands of few. Two engravings are alſo added to this publication, which, on account of the intereſting pathological information, and the caſes which are here communicated and explained by inſtructive engravings, (for which purpoſe the author has availed himſelf of his father's cabinet) muſt be conſidered as an important contribution to pathological anatomy. The intereſting contents of this book we ſhall impart to our readers in the following extracts. "Every calculus in the kidneys originates in the interior of them, increaſing from within towards without. Any heterogeneous matter, ſalt, earthy particles, blood, mucus, &c. remaining in one of the *calices* or *infundibula* in the kidneys, and not being carried away through the ureter by urine, cauſes a diſpoſition to a ſtone. For forming ſuch a calculus Nature employs one or ſeveral *calices* or *infundibula*; and ſtones are, as it were, according to certain laws, but rarely generated in the other ſubſtance of the kidneys. The irritation of the foreign body occaſioning a congeſtion of blood at the place of its ſeat, the growth of the calculus is promoted by the adheſion of ſimilar particles. When the calculus is generating more in the middle of the kidneys, ſo as to be capable of extending itſelf equally; when the irritation is not become vehement enough to produce inflammation and ſuppuration, and the corruption of the kidneys proceeds ſlower than the growth of the calculus, this may increaſe to an extraordinary ſize, without the kidneys being in the leaſt morbidly affected. The largeſt calculus of this kind in the collection of Mr. Walter's father, weighed *three ounces and a half and two ſcruples.*

"The

" The gangrene in the kidneys is commonly the consequence of a calculus, but rarely of a previous vehement nephritis; it follows when the inflammation occasioned by the irritation of the calculus extends to the whole substance of the kidneys, and continues a long time in a violent degree, and when the blood stagnates in the vessels; the substance of the kidneys is consumed by suppuration, and the putrid blood becomes extravasated, and is found sometimes quite dissolved.

" *The Dropsy in the Kidneys* is a disease, of which the cause is either to be sought for in the kidneys themselves or in the parts adjacent to the ureter. It is always produced as soon as the passage in the ureter is obstructed; and stones therefore which remain in the ureter and stop it, indurations of the duodenum and pancreas, indurated and enlarged lymphatic glands about the ureters, tumours, &c. dropsies of the *uterus*, of the *ovaria*, and of the Fallopian tubes, may, by compressing the ureters, occasion a dropsy in the kidneys: an inflammation of the ureter is likewise able to cause an obstruction in them, by producing an adhesion of its internal coats. This disease, however, occurs more frequently in females than in males. Stones are seldom the only cause of it, and it happens frequently that they generate by the precipitation of saline and earthy particles, after the obstruction is already established. The kidneys are generally so changed by this disease, that nothing remains of them but the external membrane; and they have from the extending fluidity, the appearance of a bladder. The urine, which on account of the ureter being obstructed, cannot be carried to the bladder, stagnates in the ureter and kidneys, extending them to such a degree that the secretion is at first diminished, and at last entirely destroyed; and instead of urine, nothing but a lymphatic fluid is secerned by the remaining vessels, which, however, never becomes sharp or putrid. It is remarkable, that in a dropsy of the kidneys fat is never found about them, which is always the case when the kidneys are destroyed by a calculus. In some rare cases it has been observed, that an obstruction of the ureter did not produce a dropsy, the urine being evacuated another way, by perspiration, &c.

" The kidneys are likewise consumed, extended and excavated by topical suppuration, that nothing remains of them but the external membrane, and they resemble a bladder. This disease, however, may in some cases be cured, whereas the dropsy in the kidneys is always incurable, and brings on death at last.

" Among the diseases of the urinary bladder, the *calculus* deserves to be first ranked, which in its external appearance differs according to the different mixture of the particles by which it is formed. A *calculus* has its origin, First, in the kidneys, by small stones that have penetrated from thence into the urinary bladder, where they remained: Second, by foreign bodies that happen by any accident to come into the bladder, of which he relates a case of a needle having slipt into the bladder, and given origin to a stone: Third,

if

it generates in the bladder without any other cause, particularly when some mucus, impregnated with earthy or other heavy particles, adheres to single spots of it, where it is incrusted with the different particles of urine; when blood penetrates into the bladder, adhering here and there in small drops, which are involved by the different particles of urine; when a polypous concretion generates in the bladder, which is covered with the particles of urine. In all these cases a calculus is produced, that frequently adheres to the side of the bladder.

" The inflammation of the urinary bladder, from which a great part of its diseases originates, is occasioned by the preternatural want or sharpness of the mucilaginous serum, which inoistens the internal surface of the bladder, and defends its nerves against the acrimony of the urine. How copiously this mucus is often secerned, appears in the *calculus*, and in the hæmorrhoids of the bladder. The seat of this disease is in the arteries of the bladder, and particularly in those vessels that secern the above mentioned mucus, whereby the coats of the bladder generally grow very thick, and the numerous veins begin to swell to a considerable degree. It is apparent that this complaint should be otherwise treated, as hæmorrhoids which are produced by an obstructed circulation in the vena portæ, and in the liver. The cavity of the bladder being corroded by the inflammation and suppuration, gives rise to an adherent calculus; for the particles entering into the little cavities and inequalities, precipitate there, and are covered with a preternatural cellular substance, by which means the stone and the bladder become one mass, which no art is able to separate. It seems, however, that a certain disposition is required for this formation of the calculus, because there are instances where, in the largest polypous excrescences in the bladder, no calculus was generated, but the mass increased sometimes by itself to an enormous size. *Mr. Walter* found in the bladder of a woman of forty-five years of age, a flesh coloured fibrous and soft mass, extending to the whole cavity and adhering to its coats. It consisted, according to a chemical analysis, of a gelatinous matter, with some volatile alkali, lime, a little oil, and common salt. In another case, a polypous adhering to the neck of the bladder, had penetrated through the urethra, out of which it hung in the form of a fleshy concretion, without the genitals being in the least injured by it.

" What has been called by *Ruysch scabies interna vesicæ urinariæ*, is nothing but a beginning corrosion of the internal surface of the bladder, occasioned by a violent inflammation.

" One of the most remarkable diseases of the bladder is a hernia or rupture, under which name we understand, when the muscular fibres of the bladder are any where dilated, that the nervous membrane gets through the interstices and forms by extension a sort of bag. It differs from a *prolapsus vesicæ urinariæ*, which takes place when a preternatural extension in any part of the pelvis happens, whereby the bladder comes out at the same time. The disposition to a rupture of the bladder depends on the strength and

stiffness

ſtiffneſs of the muſcular fibres: when theſe are rather ſtrong and ſtiff, not eaſily admitting extenſion, ruptures are ſoon brought on, particularly when the bladder is diſtended by a ſuppreſſion of urine. But when the fibres are more flaccid, ſoft, and eaſily yielding, this dangerous caſe rarely happens. Ruptures are particularly dangerous to *calculous* habits, becauſe the ſtone may enter into the cavity formed by the rupture, and become by that means out of the reach of the ſurgeon.

"What the author ſtates of the hernia of the urachus is entirely new; for as the opinion on the urachus was very unſettled, before Mr. Walter's father had more cloſely examined it, ſome taking it for a ligament not capable of extenſion, in which an opening is preternatural, it muſt not be wondered at when no anatomiſt has, previous to Mr. Walter, mentioned a hernia of the urachus. This is only ſhut up by a mechanical conſtriction, and always remains open from the *annulus umbilicalis* to the bladder. As ſoon as the muſcular fibres ſurrounding the entrance of the urachus into the bladder are dilated or weakened, the urine enters into it and extends it to a preternatural ſize, forming by that way a ſort of hernia. When the annulus umbilicalis is not ſtrong enough to reſiſt the urine, it is likewiſe dilated, and either a hernia umbilicalis brought on, or the urine runs out from the dilated urachus."

The Philosophy of Medicine, or Medical Extracts on the Nature of Health and Disease, including the Laws of the Animal Oeconomy, and the Doctrines of Pneumatic Medicine; illuſtrated by plates. By a Friend to Improvements, 4th edit. 5 vol. 8vo. each vol. about 600 pages. London, Cox, Symonds, &c. price 3l. in boards.

THE public opinion reſpecting this diverſified work is ſufficiently declared, by the rapidity with which it has gone through the former editions.

Vol. I. Contains the hiſtory of medicine from Hippocrates to the death of Dr. Brown; the hiſtory of chemiſtry to the preſent time; the laws of the animal œconomy, and the "relationſhip we ſtand in to the air we breathe."

Vol. II. Explains our relationſhip to light, heat, food, exerciſe, and all the variety of mental emotion.

Vol. III. Embraces the conſideration of *indirect ſtimuli*, and the diſeaſes of *aſthenia*, or weakneſs.

Vol. IV. Is employed in the conſideration of the effects of exceſſive ſtimuli, and the action of *poiſons*, with their *antidotes*.

And the Vth Vol. contains the riſe and progreſs of *pneumatic medicine*.

The Chemical Pocket-book, or Memoranda Chemica; with Tables of Affinities, or Elective Attractions, &c. &c. By JAMES PARKINSON. 2d Edition. With the lateſt Diſcoveries. 12mo. pp. 260. price 6s. in boards. London, 1801, Symonds, &c.

FOR

For our opinion of this correct and useful work, and of which the public opinion appears by its rapid sale to coincide with our own, see Vol. iv. p. 383.

Observations on the Nature, Causes, Prevention, and Cure of, Gout and Rheumatism; to which are annexed, Phænomena Physiologiæ, issuing in the Cure of these Diseases. By William Peter Whyte, 12mo. pp. 125. London, Rivingtons.

The subjects treated of in this small volume are of sufficient importance to excite general attention, and our readers will form an opinion of its merit from the following extracts:

"In his endeavour (says the writer) to develope these causes, the author has deviated from the track usually pursued by professional writers, in order to obtain for the subject, a form of investigation better adapted to the capacities of the generality of readers; a licence which he trusts, the candid will tolerate.

"Whatever specific denomination any thing operating as a cause of this disease may be technically entitled to, it would seem to derive terror and importance only, as it contributes, in a greater or less degree, to the production or augmentation of that peculiar chemical combination of the animal fluids, on which the disease would appear to depend. This combination seems to be so essential in its nature, that, without it, the disease cannot exist. It is one of those things which invariably go before, and are connected with it. Some authors, however, have questioned the existence of any matter at all, as a cause of this disease; but the irresistible and conclusive evidence, arising from well authenticated facts and from observation, establishes the affirmative. The curious, and the sceptical, may compare the case of Mr. Major Rook, late surgeon and apothecary in Upper Shadwell, reported and published by the late ingenious Dr. Samuel Pye in the London Medical Transactions, and thence copied into the Encyclopædia Britannica, vol. xi. p. 188. edit. 1797; where they may see the tenor of these observations terribly confirmed. What are the nature or physical properties of this matter, is an enquiry more of curiosity to the inquisitive physiologist, than of real utility and interest to the gouty valetudinarian. His attention will rather be directed to the means of eradicating the disease, and of extricating himself from it, if it recur. But, for his general information, we may just observe that the matter of gout would appear to consist, chiefly, in a peculiar modification or combination of the animal fluids, of a specific chemical description; which accumulates, and sometimes concretes, in the body, and produces the various mischiefs this disease unfolds. This is pretty evident from the effects of certain aliments, from some phænomena the disease assumes, and from the analogy it bears to some other complaints. To go more minutely into the nature and properties of it, would be inconsistent with the author's design, and unimportant to the generality of readers.

"The first question, Whence the morbific matter comes, is answered by observing that it must be taken in with our common aliment,

ment, or rather is a part of it; since it certainly is not created in the body, nor is it at all probable that we derive it from the atmosphere: and the notion of a certain *nucleus* or *radical* being propagated from the parent to the offspring, has been long since exploded as void of any foundation in Nature. If then the morbific matter be taken into the body with the common aliment, does every part of it afford the peccant matter equally; or, is the latter in any, and what degree, peculiar to any, and which, particular parts of aliment? A certain specific modification of matter may constitute the principal part of the material cause of Gout; but, in the aggregate of the animal fluids, there will be different degrees of approximation to it; and in proportion as this is in a greater or less degree, the disease will be more or less aggravated. From analogy, and from (what is a much better ground of argument in this case) observation, it would appear that strong animal food, strong and stale, heavy and glutinous fermented liquors, the mixture called punch, refined sugar, many sorts of wine, particularly red port and others abounding with acid, are among the most active of the chemical agents concerned in forming the morbific combination introductive of the disease. These would appear to be the principal sources whence the matter of this disease is derived: Our next enquiry will be, Why it accumulates in the body?"

Remarks on the Situation of the Poor in the Metropolis, as contributing to the Progress of Contagious Disease; with a Plan for the Institution of Houses of Recovery, for Persons affected with Fever. By Dr. T. A. Murray. Published by the Desire, and at the Expence of the Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor. London, 1801, Hatchard. Price 1s.

The poorer orders of society in great towns are peculiarly the objects of commiseration; the wretchedness of their habitations, and the general appearance of distress and poverty, so often observed in them, form a striking contrast with the ease and opulence of the higher ranks. The state in which so many of them live, however, goes further than barely the privation of comforts. From the confined and crowded nature of their habitations, contagion is generated and kept alive, and frequently diffuses its baleful influence far beyond the place of its origin.

Any plan which promises to correct an evil of so serious a nature, and so extensive an operation, cannot fail to meet with that support which its importance deserves; and we are happy to find, that, from the success of an institution established a few years ago in Manchester, exclusively appropriated to the admission of fever patients, the judicious publication before us is likely to call the public attention to the adoption of a *similar plan* in the metropolis.

The Author's introductory observations are meant to impress upon the public mind, the necessity of an institution, such as is proposed. The poor, from their manner of life, and the crowded and wretched state of their habitations, are peculiarly the objects

of contagious diſeaſes; their dwellings are frequently, on all ſides, ſurrounded by buildings which prevent a free acceſs of air; in a large proportion of them, a houſe contains as many families as rooms; and it is ſtated in the Appendix, on the authority of Dr. Willan, that from three to eight individuals often ſleep in the ſame bed. No means are employed for ventilating the apartments; and when any one of the family is attacked with fever, the wretched and perilous ſtate of the whole can hardly be conceived but by thoſe who have had an opportunity of witneſſing it: The diſeaſe frequently ſpreads from room to room, till the whole neighbourhood have become the ſubjects of its attack; and as no proper means are ever taken to remove the contagion from the walls and furniture of the habitation, a ſource of febrile infection often continues long, and it is to be feared, never entirely diſappears from ſome of the dwellings of the poor.

That many of the preſent evils will be alleviated by the inſtitution of Houſes of Recovery in London, ſeems extremely likely, from the ſtatements which the author has given of the ſucceſs of a ſimilar eſtabliſhment in Mancheſter. The number of fevers in the town, and particularly in the pile of buildings near the Houſe of Recovery, was, in a ſhort time, much diminiſhed; and in the very firſt year, there was a decreaſe of 400 in the Bills of Mortality.

Six inſtitutions, the author thinks, would be neceſſary to extend to every part of the metropolis, the benefits likely to be produced by Houſes of Recovery; he adviſes, however, the eſtabliſhment of one, by way of commencement.

The meaſure here recommended is patronized by a ſociety whoſe peculiar object is to better the condition of the poor; and under its auſpices, and thoſe of the reſpectable medical men* who have given it their ſanction, we have no doubt of its receiving due conſideration.

We ſhall ſubjoin, verbatim, an outline of the plan of ſuch an inſtitution, which the author ſtates to be ſketched entirely on the principles ſo ſucceſsfully applied at Mancheſter.

Outline of a Plan for the Eſtabliſhment of a Houſe of Recovery, for Perſons infected by contagious Fever.

"1. All poor perſons labouring under infectious fever, and reſiding within a mile of the Houſe of Recovery, ſhall be conſidered at the opening of it as proper objects of this charity, but the limits ſhall be enlarged as ſoon as poſſible.

"2. The Houſe to be provided for the reception of ſuch perſons, ſhall be in an airy ſituation; detached from other buildings; in the neighbourhood of a populous diſtrict of the town, and large enough to accommodate as many patients as the funds of the Houſe ſhall, at its

* The author particularizes Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Garthſhore, Dr. Willan, and Dr. Ferriar, of Mancheſter.

its opening, be deemed adequate to support. The room shall be furnished with iron bedsteads and straw-beds.

"3. Two or more Physicians and an Appothecary shall be appointed, the latter of whom shall reside near the House.

"4. The servants of the House shall consist of a Matron, who shall superintend the domestic concerns; three ordinary nurses (until more shall be found necessary); and a Messenger or Porter.

"5. Upon any application for admission, notice shall be immediately given to one of the Physicians, who shall, as soon as possible, ascertain the state of the person recommended; and if he deem it expedient that the patient be removed to the House, he shall give an order to that effect.

"6. A sedan chair, provided with a moveable lining, shall be kept at the House, in which all persons, ordered by the Physician to be removed, shall be carried thither at the expence of the institution.

"7. The internal regulations shall be similar to those of the House of Recovery at Manchester, with the exception of the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 15th, which relate to circumstances entirely local.

"8. When the Physician shall not think the removal of the sick person advisable; or when the fever shall have ceased in a dwelling-house; he may, with the concurrence of the Committee, order such measures as may be conducive to check the progress of contagion, or necessary to prevent the renewal of its effects. Of this description are white-washing and cleansing the apartments; purchasing new bed-clothes or apparel, when the destruction of those infected shall have been necessary, &c. The expence of such measures shall be defrayed from the funds of the House."

Medical Enquiries and Observations on the Yellow Fever, Gout, and Hydrophobia. By BENJ. RUSH, M. D. Vol. V. 8vo. pp. 236. London, Mawman, late Dilly, price 5s. in boards. See Journal, Vol. I. p. 105, and Vol. II. p. 376.

Three Lectures upon Animal Life. By BENJ. RUSH, M. D. 8vo. pp. 84. price 2s. 6d. London, Mawman. For an Account of these interesting Lectures, see Journal, Vol. III. pp. 184 and 283, &c.

We have introduced the Titles of these two valuable Works, for the sake of informing our English Readers where they may find them in London.

Observations upon the Origin of the malignant Bilious or Yellow Fever in Philadelphia; and upon the means of preventing it. By BENJ. RUSH, M. D. Philadelphia, 1799, 8vo. pp. 28, price 1s. London, Mawman.

IN this philanthropic pamphlet, Dr. R. adheres to his former opinion respecting the domestic origin of this scourge of the west-

ern world. Respecting the *remote Causes* of the yellow fever, Dr. R. agrees with Dr. Jackson and the best informed Europeans, that it is the "offspring of putrid vegetables and animal exhalations in all countries."

"The sources of it in Philadelphia are chiefly the following."—1. The docks; 2. The foul air of ships; 3. The common sewers; 5. Dirty cellars and yards; 6. Privies; 7. The putrifying masses of matter which lie in the neighbourhood of the city; and 8. Impure pump water.

Dr. R. next explains the concurrent state of the weather necessary to the production of the epidemic; and obviates several objections. He then examines the following interesting questions, viz. "*Is the yellow fever a contagious disease? Can the yellow fever be imported?*" And he infers the *negative* in both instances.

The Plague not contagious, or a Dissertation on the source of epidemic and pestilential Diseases. By CHARLES MACLEAN, M. D. 8vo. pp. 49, price 1s.—London, Murray and Highley.

THIS most important of all medical inquiries, at this moment engages the attention of so many diligent, able, and impartial investigators in every quarter of the world, that we may daily expect to see the limits of our confined knowledge considerably extended. In the mean time we should neither be "too rash nor diffident."

Practical Observations on the Inoculation of the Cow-pox, &c. By JOHN ADDINGTON, Surgeon, 8vo. pp. 52, price 1s. 6d.—London, Johnson, &c.—Birmingham, Belchers, &c.

IN the advertisement prefixed, the author says, "Since the design and plan of this little Essay were entered upon, a publication has appeared from Mr. C. R. Aikin, which, in a certain degree, must be allowed to supersede its purpose. Notwithstanding, however, the obvious similarity in the scheme and intention of the two works, the present has not been abandoned nor its arrangement altered:—for two reasons.—one part of the author's design cannot possibly be interfered with by the production of another person; viz. that of contributing in the proportion which his share of experience affords, to the general stock of knowledge extant on the subject. The other, which is that of promoting an enquiry allowed to be universally interesting; when undertaken by different persons in their respective spheres, and by the means they severally judge proper; is rather an affair of co-operation than of interference.

"In pursuance of these designs, especially the latter, the author has been led into a minuteness of detail, which were this part of the essay addressed to those who are already conversant with the subject, would require an apology,—by others it will be deemed unnecessary."

We find sufficient diligence and observation in this popular pamphlet, to induce us to recommend it to our readers and the public in general.

An

An Account of the Nature and Effects of the Cow-pock, &c. By JOHN MILNER BARRY, M. D. 8vo. pp. 45.—Cork, Harris.

This ſhort pamphlet contains a number of facts and caſes which we wiſh to recommend to the peruſal of our readers. The following opinion we think ſhould be generally underſtood. "The frequent occurrence of the *Scrophula* or Evil, after the ſmall-pox, has given riſe to a well-known popular prejudice, that the poiſon of the ſcrophula has been communicated with that of the ſmall-pox, from one family to another. Whatever reaſon there may be to doubt this opinion, from a conſideration of the laws of the animal economy, yet, its being ſo very general, proves the frequent appearance of the ſcrophula, after the ſmall-pox, where no pre-diſpoſition to it had before exiſted. From an obſervation of this fact, and hiſtorical reference to the period when ſcrophula was firſt known in Europe, it has been ſuſpected that this diſeaſe was primarily occaſioned, and is ſtill continued by the ſmall-pox.

"It is not the leaſt valuable characteriſtic of the cow-pock, that no ſcrophulous ſwellings of the glands of the neck, or other ſcrophulous affection, has been known to follow it in any of the numerous perſons hitherto inoculated. With what additional pleaſure we ſhall contemplate this diſcovery, if, by the more general extenſion of the vaccine inoculation, we ſhall, with the ſmall-pox, exterminate another loathſome diſtemper, in its ultimate effects no leſs fatal, and from its ſuppoſed hereditary nature, infinitely more dreaded than the ſmall-pox.

A Familiar Treatiſe on the Phyſical Education of Children during the early period of their Lives; tranſlated from the German of C. A. Struve, M. D. to which are prefixed, three introductory Lectures on the ſame ſubject. By A. F. M. WILLICH, M. D. author of the Lectures on Diet and Regimen, &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 450, Price 8s. —London, Murray and Highley.

THE author, in his ſhort preface, obſerves, that "the early education of youth has a more important influence on the health and happineſs of man, than is generally imagined. As, at this period of our exiſtence, the foundation is laid, either for irremediable debility, or for mental and bodily vigour, it requires conſtant care, and indefatigable perſonal attention. Nature has intruſted that office chiefly to mothers. To thoſe noble guardians of infancy, who liſten to her voice, I preſume to dedicate a work containing principles, by a proper application of which, they will not only become happy themſelves, but likewiſe train up cheerful and healthy children.

"There ſubſiſts an indiſſoluble connection between phyſical and moral education: if we attend merely to the former, our duty will be imperfectly performed; nor is it poſſible to attain any degree of perfection in the latter reſpect, without paying a due regard to the treatment of the body, leſt we ſhould be ill prepared to encounter the turbulent viciſſitudes of human life. Perhaps, by combining both objects, I have been enabled to reduce the preſent Treatiſe to

that

that ſtate, in which it may claim the ſuffrages of an indulgent public."

Of the three introductory lectures, the firſt contains "An hiſtorical ſketch of the manners and cuſtoms prevailing among different nations; hints and remarks on their phyſical character, as well as occaſional obſervations on their moral ſtate: together with an inquiry into the truth of the ſuppoſed degeneracy of the preſent age, when compared with the condition of our anceſtors."

The ſecond is "On the errors and prejudices prevailing in the treatment of Children, at an early age; on the dangers attending the improper application of medical remedies in general; hints towards radical, but gradual improvements; and ſatisfactory proofs that we are not yet in the poſſeſſion of a ſyſtem, founded on ſcientific principles, ſupported by experimental facts, and conſiſtent with the moral and phyſical conſtitution of man.

The third introductory lecture contains, "Strictures on ſeveral modern ſyſtems of education, eſpecially that of ROUSSEAU; a curſory review of their merits and defects, exemplified by a variety of ſtriking inſtances; an abſtract of Profeſſor HUFELAND's opinions relative to the food and drink, ſleep and cries, of children.

As a ſpecimen of theſe lectures we ſhall ſelect the directions reſpecting drink and ſleep.

"With reſpect to *Drink*, Prof. HUFELAND is decidedly againſt giving it to children in large quantities, and at irregular periods, whether it conſiſt of the mother's milk, or any other equally mild liquor. It is improper and pernicious to keep infants continually at the breaſt; and it would be leſs hurtful, nay even judicious, to let them cry for a few nights, rather than to fill them inceſſantly with milk, which readily turns ſour on the ſtomach, weakens the digeſtive organs, obſtructs the meſenteric glands, and ultimately generates ſcrophulous and ricketty affections. In the latter part of the firſt year, pure water may occaſionally be given; and if this cannot be procured, a light and well-fermented table-beer might be ſubſtituted. Thoſe parents who accuſtom their children to drink water only, beſtow on them a fortune, the value and importance of which will be ſenſibly felt through life. Many children, however, acquire a habit of drinking during their meals; it would be more conducive to digeſtion, if they were accuſtomed to drink only after having made a meal. This uſeful rule is too often neglected, though it be certain that inundations of the ſtomach, during the maſtication and maceration of food, not only vitiate digeſtion, but they may be attended with other bad conſequences; as cold drink, when brought in contact with the teeth previouſly heated, may eaſily occaſion cracks or chinks in theſe uſeful bones, and pave the way for their carious diſſolution.

"OF SLEEP.—Infants cannot ſleep too long; and it is a favourable ſymptom, when they enjoy a calm and long-continued reſt, of which they ſhould by no means be deprived of, as this is the greateſt ſupport granted to them by Nature. A child lives, comparatively, much faſter than an adult; its blood flows more rapidly;

pidly; every ſtimulus operates more powerfully; and not only its conſtituent parts, but its vital reſources alſo, are more ſpeedily conſumed. Sleep promotes a more calm and uniform circulation of the blood; it facilitates the aſſimilation of the nutriment received, and contributes towards a more copious and regular depoſition of alimentary matter, while the horizontal poſture is the moſt favourable to the growth and bodily developement of the child.

"Sleep ought to be in proportion to the age of the infant. After an uninterrupted reſt of nine months in the ſtate of a fœtus, this ſalutary refreſhment ſhould continue to fill up the greater part of a child's exiſtence; and Prof. HUFELAND affirms, that a continued watchfulneſs of twenty-four hours would prove deſtructive. After the age of ſix months, the periods of ſleep, as well as all other animal functions, may in ſome degree be regulated; yet, even then, a child ſhould be ſuffered to ſleep the whole night, and ſeveral hours both in the morning and afternoon. Mothers and nurſes ſhould endeavour to accuſtom infants, from the time of their birth, to ſleep in the night preferably to the day, and for this purpoſe they ought to remove all external impreſſions which may diſturb their reſt, ſuch as noiſe, light, &c. but eſpecially not to obey every call for taking them up, and giving food at improper times. After the ſecond year of their age, they will not inſtinctively require to ſleep in the forenoon, though after dinner it may be continued to the third and fourth year of life, if the childs ſhews a particular inclination to repoſe; becauſe, till that age, the full half of its time may ſafely be allotted to ſleep. From that period, however, it ought to be ſhortened for the ſpace of one hour with every ſucceeding year; ſo that a child of ſeven years old may ſleep about eight, and not exceeding nine hours: this proportion may be continued to the age of adoleſcence, and even manhood.

"To awaken children from their ſleep with a noiſe, or in an impetuous manner, is extremely injudicious and hurtful: nor is it proper to carry them from a dark room immediately into a glaring light, or againſt a dazzling wall; for the ſudden impreſſion of light debilitates the organs of viſion, and lays the foundation of weak eyes, from early infancy.

"A bed-room, or nurſery, ought to be ſpacious and lofty, dry, airy, and not inhabited through the day. No ſervants, if poſſible, ſhould be ſuffered to ſleep in the ſame room, and no linen or waſhed clothes ſhould ever be hung there to dry, as they contaminate the air in which ſo conſiderable a portion of infantine life muſt be ſpent. The conſequences attending a vitiated atmoſphere in ſuch rooms, are various, and often fatal. Feather-beds ſhould be baniſhed from nurſeries, as they are an unnatural and debilitating contrivance. The windows ſhould never be opened at night, but left open the whole day, in fine clear weather. Laſtly, the bedſtead muſt not be placed too low on the floor; nor is it proper to let children ſleep on a couch which is made without any elevation from the ground; becauſe the moſt mephitic and pernicious ſtratum of air in an apartment, is that within one or two feet from the floor,

floor, while the moſt wholeſome, or atmoſpheric air, is in the middle of the room, and the inflammable gas aſcends to the top.

"Having, in theſe Introductory Lectures, treated of almoſt every ſubject which appeared to me of eſſential conſequence in the general management of education, I cannot in this place extend my obſervations and remarks, without encroaching upon the limits of the following Treatiſe. And as Dr. STRUVE will ſometimes be found either obſcure, or apparently differing from the peculiar methods of educating children adopted in this country, I ſhall, on ſuch occaſions, endeavour to illuſtrate the ſubject by explanatory notes. At preſent, I cannot conclude theſe preliminary labours in words more appropriate than thoſe of Mr. MALKIN:

"In the progreſs of education, difficulties multiply; but in its firſt periods, the rules to be obſerved are ſimple and eaſy, if ſteadily purſued. To dedicate a cloſe attention to ſuch a regimen as may promote the health, ſtrength, and growth of the body; to operate by gentle progreſſion upon the tender intellect; to exhibit the equability of an amiable temper, and preclude the approach of dangerous example; above all, to perſevere in a calm and uniform method, through the courſe of didactic and moral diſcipline; theſe are the requiſites for diſcharging the parental office with fidelity and ſucceſs.

Our readers will readily appreciate the merit and ſolidity of Dr. STRUVE's Work by the following extracts:

"Whatever attention and trouble parents beſtow on their progeny, during the firſt years of infancy, may be conſidered as a legacy bequeathed to them for life. It is in this firſt ſtage of education, that the human creature is qualified to become a fit inhabitant of the world. Mothers, therefore, have great and important duties to perform, as they are by Nature appointed to regulate the earlieſt attempts made in education; though their merits, in this reſpect, are not ſufficiently acknowledged and rewarded. A mother, who educates her child in a rational manner, is an ornament to her ſex. The greateſt charms and dignity of a woman, are derived from her maternal office; and a good mother equally deſerves the affection of her huſband, and the eſteem of the world."

"Endeavour to harden the body, but without reſorting to any violent means. Before the human frame has acquired a ſettled conſtitution, it may more eaſily and ſafely be habituated to external impreſſions; for, at a later period, every ſudden change might be attended with dangerous conſequences. A child is conſtitutionally weak and irritable to a high degree: hence we ſhould endeavour to ſtrengthen and diminiſh this irritability, in order to procure it the greateſt happineſs of life, a firm body, which may reſiſt all the influence of air and weather. Such a management is highly advantageous, as it will enable children, when adults, to ſupport every ſpecies of fatigue and hardſhip.

"The plan of hardening children may, however, be eaſily carried to exceſs, eſpecially if we are miſled by the advice of pedagogues, who

who are not sufficiently acquainted with the physical nature of the human frame. An extravagant attempt to strengthen youth, deprives them of their natural susceptibility of excitement, renders them insensible, and produces all the bad effects before mentioned: they acquire only a temporary energy, which decreases as they advance in years, and is attended with an early loss of their premature vigour. Parents, therefore, cannot be too seriously cautioned against such mischievous experiments, though they are anxiously recommended by modern authors: good mothers are entreated to peruse their works with circumspection.

"Among the practices before alluded to, are principally included the cold bath, and violent bodily exercise; both of which are often carried to extremes. People do not reflect, that the exertion of the bodily as well as the mental powers, ought not to be inordinate. They have been justly warned against excesses committed with respect to the latter, while similar irregularities still prevail in the exercise of the former.

"Attention should also be paid to the state of the child's body; as feeble children require the greatest precaution in habituating them to external impressions.

"All attempts to render children hardy, must be made by gradual steps. Nature admits of no sudden transitions. For instance, infants should by imperceptible degrees be inured to the cool, and then to the cold bath; at the same time, attention must be paid to their previous management. If they have hitherto been accustomed to an effeminating treatment, and should be suddenly subjected to the opposite extreme, such a change would be attended with danger.

"Lastly, from what has been already observed, it is evident that when children have once been accustomed to a hardy system of education, such a plan must be strictly adhered to.

"All violent impressions on the senses and the body of children, ought to be carefully avoided. It is injurious to toss them about with rapidity in the arms. Loud crying, or shouting in their ears, discharging fire-arms, presenting glittering objects to their view, as well as sudden and too great a degree of light, are equally injurious. Thus infants are frequently stupified and affrighted; the brain is shaken in the most detrimental manner; and hence arise the most distressing consequences. On such occasions, we cannot bestow too much attention to the conduct of wet-nurses, or servants. I knew a simple man, who resorted to the absurd practice of placing himself over the cradle, and making a horrible noise, with a view to intimidate, and silence the crying infant. A child, however, ought to enjoy the most perfect rest and composure, if it be our wish to promote sound sleep, regular growth, and its consequent prosperity.

"It is equally detrimental to both mind and body, when infants are continually carried about on the arm of the nurse, teazed with loud soliloquies, prayers, or other mechanical prattling; and especially when they are incessantly provoked to display their anger

or revenge. Such conduct is neceſſarily attended with pernicious effects, while it prevents the ſpontaneous expanſion of infantine powers, blunts their ſenſes, and is ultimately productive of nervous and muſcular debility: a proof how imperfectly we are acquainted with Nature, and how little we are accuſtomed to reflect that the tender nerves of children muſt experience a violent ſtimulus from impreſſions, to which an adult may be habituated, or which do not ſenſibly affect him.

"The bodily education of boys and girls ought in every reſpect to be uniform. A great difference uſually prevails in the education of both ſexes during infancy; a diſtinction which, unfortunately, is the offspring of prejudice, and on that account, female children are cruelly neglected. Parents, being too anxious for the accompliſhment of girls, imagine that they muſt be kept under a certain reſtraint. Boys, in general, are not laced, but poor girls are compreſſed tight enough to ſuffocate them; becauſe it is erroneouſly ſuppoſed, that this injudicious practice contributes to an elegant ſhape, though, ultimately, the contrary effect is obvious; as it is the ſureſt way of making children round-ſhouldered and deformed. Girls are, from their cradle, compelled to a more ſedentary life; and, with this intention, dolls, and other play-things, are early procured; yet boys are permitted to take more frequent exerciſe. Thus, girls are confined in their apartments, while boys amuſe themſelves in the open air. Such abſurd conſtraints impede the free and progreſſive evolution of the different faculties inherent in the human mind. If, therefore, it be our wiſh to educate healthy wives and happy mothers, it is indiſpenſibly neceſſary to treat the female ſex, as well as the male, in a manner equally conſiſtent and rational."

MONTHLY REPORT of DISEASES,

Admitted under the Care of the PHYSICIANS of the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.
From Jan. 20, to Feb. 20, 1801.

	No. of Caſes.		No. of Caſes.
Hypochondriaſis and Dyſpepſia	6	Continued Fever	46
Aſthenia	59	Eryſipelas	7
Hyſteria	2	Cynanche Tonſillarum	2
Epilepſy	1	Pneumonia	1
Vertigo	1	Phthiſis Pulmonalis	4
Cephalæa	3	Cough and Dyſpnœa	23
Anaſarca	5	Diarrhœa	14
Infantile Diſeaſes	23	Chloroſis and Amenorrhœa	19
Chronic Eruptions	19	Menorrhagia	10

It is generally ſuppoſed that what are called nervous affections are almoſt excluſively confined to the ſuperior orders of ſociety: ſo

so far, however, from being the exclusive property of the rich and the luxurious, they appear, in some shape or other, to prevail in an equal proportion among the humblest classes of the community. The nerves of the poor are subject to the same morbid vibrations, and their imaginations to as great a variety of ridiculous and tormenting caprices, as even those are liable to that move in the very highest circles of the fashionable world. Cases of this description, so great a number of which have come under observation during the last year, have been remarkable for the multiplicity and diversity of their symptoms. Some have apprehended the near approach of death, when, to an impartial observer, they shewed every symptom that could indicate health, or that could give a promise of longevity. Some were continually haunted by frightful spectres; some fancied that there was something alive within them*; others, that they had no inside; as well as a great number of corporeal deficiencies and complaints which were entirely absent, and the presence of which there was not the slightest reason for suspecting.

No man has greater opportunities of observing the connection between the prevailing diseases and the various states of the weather, than the physician whose humanity or professional duty calls him to the relief of those classes of society which are most exposed to its influence. It is the peculiar privilege of Dispensary-practice that, being conducted upon a scale of vast extent, it presents an immense multitude of facts, from which this connection may be easily and satisfactorily traced. To note the effects of climate on the human frame, an enquiry of no less importance in a moral than in a physical point of view, is therefore the especial province of the practitioner, to whom this ample field of observation lies open. The general conclusion that will be found to result from the enquiry is, that no state of weather is equally salutary to every variety of constitution, or conducive to the relief of every species of complaint. A mild winter, by removing many causes of illness to which the poor are particularly exposed, is extensively beneficial; while, on the other hand, it is injurious almost to an equal extent, by impairing the vigour of the frame, and thus predisposing it to the long train of disease to which debility is the source.

The extraordinary warmth of the present winter, which has in some measure disturbed the natural order of the seasons, has occasioned a corresponding deviation in the usual course and succession of diseases. As the protracted autumn had prolonged the disposition to contagious fever, so the premature revival of spring has diminished the frequency and softened the severity of pulmonary complaints.

The late frost has scarcely been of sufficient continuance to arrest

* In one or two female cases, indeed, it turned out that *this* fancy was not altogether without foundation.

the progress of febrile infection. Seldom, indeed, does the sudden occurrence of great cold after a fever has once taken full possession of the constitution, immediately tend to mitigate the violence of its symptoms. This fact may, perhaps, admit of explanation, when we consider the rooted prejudice of the lower classes in favour of accumulating warmth around a sick bed. Cold weather being always more severely felt on its sudden arrival, than when a gradual approach has prepared for the encounter, will tend, in the former case, to inspire additional anxiety to obtain effectual protection against its attacks. The wretched patient, wasting under a burning fever, will often be overwhelmed, by the too officious care of his relations, with a superfluous load of bed-cloaths, and defended, with ill-judged zeal, from the salutary renewal of air. Heat, thus artificially excited, expends in fruitless waste the last remains of vitality; and an atmosphere, thus stagnant and replete with poison, more fatally malignant than the disease, extinguishes in silence the dimly glimmering flame of life.

Pulmonary complaints have been more frequent since the late alteration in the weather. Few diseases require more sagacity in detecting their nature, or greater accuracy in discriminating their varieties, than those that affect the organs of respiration: in none is it of greater importance that the diagnosis should be just. No mistake is more likely to be attended with such fatal consequence to the life of the patient than an error of judgment with regard to this particular. The same remedy, which will in one case save, would, if applied in another, inevitably destroy. Great attention is requisite to recognise the slow and insidious approach of peripneumonia notha; a disease, which, in this city, so often supervenes upon an ordinary catarrh. Hackney-coachmen are peculiarly liable to its attacks. Exposed to all the vicissitudes of an inconstant climate, with little general exercise of body, and with none that tends to preserve the feet in a due degree of warmth, it frequently in them assumes the leading characters of the true pleurisy. A physician, who was to have recourse to the lancet, would learn too late, by the aggravation of every symptom, and the speedy death of his patient, the fatal and irretrievable error he had committed. Bleeding is a remedy seldom applicable to the diseases which afflict the poor of the metropolis. Their general character has been for a long time past complicated with symptoms of debility. Of late, indeed, many causes have conspired with the warmth of the season, to enervate the once robust habits of our countrymen. Those circumstances which produced such ravages in former years, have, it is true, operated with inferior force. But little has it availed the poor that they have experienced less inclemency from the elements, while at the same time they have wanted internal support, as well as exterior protection against the vicissitudes of our atmosphere. They have had to struggle with an unprecedented degree of hunger, anxiety, and fatigue. Under the accumulated pressure of hardships like these, is it to be wondered at that disease has spread so widely, and yielded so many victims to the grasp of death? Is it to be wondered at that the mournful

mournful catalogue of infirmities, which each succeeding period obtrudes upon our view, should in every season, and in every country, still present the same picture of calamity, still rehearse the same endless tale of human misery?

Red Lyon Square. J. R.

Account of Diseases in an Eastern District of London, from the 20th of January to the 20th of February, 1801.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
ACUTE DISEASES.		Hysteria	4
Typhus	17	Cephalæa	7
Pneumonia	4	Hemiplegia	2
Erypsielas	1	Vertigo	5
Cynanche Tonsillaris	2	Fluor Albus	6
Dysenteria	2	Dysuria	4
CHRONIC DISEASES.		Lumbago	2
Cough	20	Rheumatismus	23
Dyspnœa	12	PUERPERAL DISEASES.	
Cough and Dyspnœa	15	Low Puerperal Fever	3
Catarrhus	4	Dolores Post Partum	5
Hæmoptysis	3	Mastodynia	4
Hydrothorax	5	Menorrhagia Lochialis	6
Ascites	2	INFANTILE DISEASES.	
Anasarca	7	Aphthæ	7
Gastrodynia	15	Diarrhœa	12
Enterodynia	17	Dentition	3
Diarrhœa	20		

It will appear from the annexed List, that a fever, which has for some time been considered as the prevailing epidemic, still continues to hold a distinguished place in the catalogue of diseases. It has been repeatedly remarked, that a great determination to the head forms a distinguishing characteristic of this fever. Affections of the head have appeared under different forms, and in various degrees; in some of the cases there has been so fierce a delirium, as to give the disease the appearance of phrenitis: The mode of its approach also, was frequently such as to indicate a diseased state of the brain; and so great was the torpor of the mental faculties, that it was difficult to raise the attention to any object, or when roused, to engage it for any sufficient length of time to answer any purpose. After a reply to any question, which was made with a degree of quickness, the patient returned to a state of sullen inattention, and the countenance indicated displeasure at being taken notice of, or roused to any exertions. These symptoms bearing a near resemblance to those which frequently occur previously to an attack of mania, naturally produced an alarm respecting the future state of the patient's mind; but being succeeded by

by more evident ſymptoms of febrile action, this apprehenſion gradually ſubſided. In ſome caſes the returns of furious paroxyſm were ſo frequent and ſo violent, that it became neceſſary to place the patient under reſtraint, and a ſtraight waiſtcoat was found a convenient mode of preventing his doing miſchief to himſelf, or his attendants. In two or three of the caſes referred to, an eruption appeared on different parts of the body, very much reſembling that of the meaſles, but without producing any particular change in the ſtate of the diſeaſe. In one of the caſes which proved fatal, there was a conſiderable rigidity of the muſcles of the jaw, ſo that it was with difficulty that the neceſſary food, or medicine, were conveyed to the ſtomach.

It may be hoped that the change which has lately taken place in the temperature of the atmoſphere, will produce a favourable change in the ſtate of this diſeaſe: On the other hand, we have reaſon to fear, that it will occaſion a leſs pleaſant alteration in the ſtate of pneumonic diſeaſes, which begin already to increaſe in their number, and to be attended by an aggravation of ſymptoms.

The DISEASES and CASUALTIES for the YEAR 1800.

Abortive and Stillborn	492	Gravel, Stone, and Stranguary	16	Surfeit	2
Abſceſs	37	Grief	5	Swine Pox	1
Aged	1742	Headmouldſhot, Horſe-ſhoehead, and Water in the head	80	Teeth	414
Ague	2	Head-ach	2	Thruſh	33
Apoplexy & Suddenly	252	Jaundice	67	Vomiting and Looſeneſs	2
Aſthma and Phthiſic	801	Jaw Locked	1	Worms	15
Bedridden	3	Inflammation	593		
Bleeding	9	Lethargy	2	Broken Limbs	9
Burſten and Rupture	15	Livergrown	3	Bruiſed	4
Cancer	58	Lunatick	162	Burnt	12
Chicken Pox	1	Lumbago	1	Drowned	124
Childbed	164	Meaſles	395	Exceſſive Drinking	12
Colds	27	Miſcarriage	4	Executed *	19
Colick, Gripes, and Twiſting of the Guts	11	Mortification	242	Found Dead	10
Conſumption	5721	Palpitation of the Heart	2	Fractured	1
Convulſions	4512	Palſy	122	Frighted	2
Cough, and Hooping Cough	380	Pleuriſy	37	Frozen	2
Cow Pox	1	Quinſy	1	Killed by Falls and other Accidents	62
Cramp	3	Raſh	1	Killed by Fighting	3
Croup	13	Rheumatiſm	4	Killed themſelves	29
Dropſy	1003	Scurvy	5	Murdered	4
Eaten by Lice	1	Small Pox	2409	Poiſoned	2
Evil	6	Sore Throat	1	Scalded	6
Fevers of all kinds	2712	Sores and Ulcers	8	Shot	1
Fiſtula	6	Spaſm	2	Smothered	1
Flux	9	Stoppage in the Stom.	8	Starved	8
French Pox	27			Suffocated	3
Gout	105			Total	3174

Increaſed in the Burials this Year 4934.

* *There have been executed in Middleſex and Surry 27; of which number (19 only) have been reported to be buried (as ſuch) within the Bills of Mortality.*

Chriſtened

Chriſtened	Males - 10112 Females - 9064	In all 19176	
Buried	Males - 11605 Females - 11463	In all 23608	

Whereof have died,

Under Two Years of Age - -	6657	Seventy and Eighty - - - -	1459
Between Two and Five - - -	2553	Eighty and Ninety - - - -	655
Five and Ten - - - - - -	848	Ninety and a Hundred - - -	97
Ten and Twenty - - - - -	710	A Hundred and One - - - -	1
Twenty and Thirty - - - -	1582	A Hundred and Four - - -	2
Thirty and Forty - - - - -	2055	A Hundred and Six - - - -	1
Forty and Fifty - - - - -	2308	A Hundred and Seven - - -	1
Fifty and Sixty - - - - -	2163	A Hundred and Eighteen - -	1
Sixty and Seventy - - - -	1973	A Hundred and Twenty - - -	2

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Royal Society of Sciences, at Gottingen, has received a preſent from Dr. Beer, oculiſt at Vienna, of three very maſterly drawn anatomical pathological figures of a remarkable degeneration of both kidneys, which was found in the hoſpital of Vienna, in the body of a young man, who had for a long time ſuffered a diabetes. The kidneys were extended by hydatids contained in their interior ſubſtance to ſuch a monſtrous ſize, that each was one foot long, and ſeven inches broad, and the ureters were of the ſize of a thumb. The chief drawing of the fore part is moſt admirably coloured, and the back part excellently drawn in black chalk. The preparation itſelf is preſerved in the Pathological Muſeum of the Hoſpital, and Profeſſor Frank intends to give a full account of this remarkable caſe.

According to the experience of Dr. Durr, the ſolution of muriated barytes, or terra ponderoſa ſalita, has in ſome caſes a remarkable effect upon the pulſe, and the circulation of the blood. In a ſcrophulous woman of nineteen years, forty drops of a ſolution of muriated barytes, prepared after Hufeland's preſcription, produced a conſiderable heat over the whole body, which ceaſed after being leſſened by degrees.—In a doſe of twenty-five or thirty drops, it cauſed in a young married man nocturnal pollutions, whenever he had taken it during day-time. It is probable that this effect is owing to the diuretic powers of this remedy. (Hufeland's Practical Journal, Vol. 9. No. 3.)

The ſame gentleman obſerved in two caſes, that after the ceſſation of the fluxus menſium, which had appeared rather diſorderly and in long ſpaces of time, a very ſtrong ſudor pedum enſued, combined with a moſt diſagreeable ſmell which went away by degrees, as ſoon as the fluxus menſium was re-eſtabliſhed; but inſtead of it an acrimony in the ſtomach was brought on, which could by no remedies

medies be subdued. Dr. D. is in general of opinion, that in the investigation of chronical diseases of the head and stomach, that circumstance, *viz.* sudor pedum, is not sufficiently regarded. He relates a case, where, after a customary sudor pedum had been repelled by bathing the warm perspiring feet in cold water, the four back teeth of the right side of the maxilla inferior fell out without any other perceptible cause, and without much pain, and an efflux of a puriform matter was occasioned, which lasted a long series of years, till the death of the patient. (*Ibid.*)

The New Inoculation having been ordered throughout his Majesty's Navy, by the authority of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Admiralty, the medical officers, with becoming public spirit, to commemorate this event, have voted a GOLD MEDAL, with appropriate devices, to be presented in their name to Dr. JENNER, as a token of the value with which they regard his professional labours, and the good which mankind is likely to derive from the vaccine practice.

Certus enim promisit Apollo. A Medal of exquisite workmanship is now executing by an eminent artist; the particulars of which, with a list of the naval medical gentlemen, we hope to be able to present to our readers in some future Number of our Journal.

Dr. NISBET has in the press a systematic work on DIET. It will include the application of all the modern discoveries in chemistry and medicine to this important subject, and will be written in a familiar style, adapted as well to the use of families and unprofessional readers, as to gentlemen of the medical profession. Such a book has long been a desideratum, as the few books existing which notice articles of diet, are either out of date or mixed with much extraneous and useless matter.

Dr. BATTY will begin his Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery, and on the Diseases of Women and Children, on Monday, March 23, at half past ten o'clock in the morning, at his house, No. 6, Great Marlborough Street.

Mr. MACARTNEY began a Course of Lectures upon Comparative Anatomy, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Thursday the 19th of February, which will be concluded early in May.

Mr. FOX commenced his Lectures on the Structure and Diseases of the Teeth, on Friday, February 7, at half past six o'clock. The Lectures are delivered near St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals. Particulars may be known of Mr. Fox, No. 54, Lombard Street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The original Communications, as usual at this time of the year, have been so numerous, that we have been compelled to postpone the insertion of several valuable Papers, Accounts of Books, Hints, &c.