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Case of Suppuration of the Brain, discovered by Dissection, but not suspected during Life. By JAMES EARLE, Esq.

(With an Engraving.)

MICHAEL KELLY was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, August the 3d, 1809. His age was about 40, his occupation a mason; he was naturally of a morose irritable disposition, and of a very costive habit of body. At the time of his admission, he had a small sore on his penis, a swelling in his right groin, an ulcer in his throat, and several scabs on his face, head, and over his body; his skin was hot and dry, his tongue furred, and his bowels costive. Prior to his admission, he had used a great deal of mercury in the form of pills, and was evidently labouring under the mercurial fever. He was directed to take some opening medicine, and afterwards salines with antimony. The scabs were fomented, and covered with soft dressings; when they came away, several ulcers were exposed to view with high excavated edges, considerable surrounding inflammation, and were acutely sensible. He continued this plan of treatment for some time; the fever gradually abated, and he improved in health. The only alteration for the first month was, that the sores were three different times fumigated with the sulphurate of mercury, and each time became more irritable and sloughed. During all this time he passed very restless nights, being much troubled in his mind about a promise of marriage which he had made and had broken through; he repeatedly told the nurse that he believed his present affliction was a curse from God, and swore positively that he had never touched but one woman who never had any venereal complaint. At the end of a month, his health and mouth permitting it, a mercurial course was recommended. He rubbed in a drachm of mercurial ointment for seven nights, when his health became considerably worse; his sores spread and his fever returned; he was now ordered to discontinue his

(No. 132.) H mercury,

mercury, was removed into a more airy ward, and directed to take salines as before.

Thus far in the history of the case, I am indebted to my friend Mr. C. Wingfield, I myself, did not take the patient under my care until the latter end of September; I regret much that it was not in my power to gain any clear information respecting the origin and progress of the disease prior to his admission into the hospital. When I first saw him, his skin was very dry, his tongue covered with a dark brown fur; he had no appetite; his pulse were frequent and wiry; he was very irritable, could not rest at night, and was so debilitated as not to be able to sit up in bed; he had also regular exacerbations of fever at night, and profuse sweats towards morning. The sores were in a very foul state, particularly those on the head and nose: the edges were very hollow; the sloughs of the cellular substance and tendon of the occipito-frontalis, extending in some parts nearly an inch under the skin; the superincumbent skin had a tawny colour, and was very painful, exhibiting altogether one of the most horrible objects I ever beheld. When the scabs and sloughs were removed by bread poultices made with the expressed juice of the carrot, the bone was left bare in several places; it had not the appearance of a carious bone as in the true syphilis, but exactly resembled a bone laid bare by external violence. Light preparations of bark with sulphuric acid were given him every six hours, and Plummer's pill with a grain of opium was directed to be taken night and morning; his bowels were kept regular with the *confectio sennæ*; his stools at first resembled pitch in consistence and colour, and had no feculent smell. The sores were carefully dressed twice a day with lint dipped in a weak solution of *argentum nitratum*; the edges were occasionally touched with it in a pure state, with a view to bring them more on a level with the sore, without which it was impossible for them to heal. Under this mode of treatment he improved considerably; the secretions from his bowels were better, and the sores improved; still, however, he rested ill at night. The whole list of narcotics was tried to a great extent, but to very little purpose; they relieved for a short time, but soon lost their effect. The means of relief afterwards adopted were small alterative doses of mercury, as one grain of calomel every second night, and tonics. It was frequently necessary to change his medicine, for he was exceedingly fanciful.

He continued progressively mending until the middle
of

of November; several of the sores were healed, and others were healing; one, however, on his nose was still irritable, when a small sore on his right cheek became painful and sloughed; immediately almost the sore on the nose improved, a circumstance I have frequently observed to take place. This sore continued to spread till it reached the corner of his mouth, and destroyed the levator anguli oris, in consequence of which the lip hung down, and he was unable to retain his saliva; it was very difficult to keep any dressings on this sore, which made it considerably worse; the discharge dried on the surface of it, forming hard scabs, which kept up continual irritation. I should have mentioned that all the sores, when I first saw him, had this disposition; and I consider that the improvement which took place in them, depended, in a great measure, in the careful removal of these scabs and sloughs twice a day, until the discharge became less in quantity, and more puriform.

On Tuesday, the 21st of November, I placed a small blister on the right temple, thinking that counter irritation might stop the progress of the sore on the cheek, as it had done that on the nose.

On the Wednesday night, after having taken a scruple of hyoscyamus and two grains of opium, to procure sleep, he rambled a little, frequently calling upon me; when awake he was perfectly collected. The sore looked a little better the following day, but at night he again was restless, and rambled; the same occurrences took place the two following nights, but in a very slight degree; his appetite had been falling off for some days, and he now refused to take food.

On Sunday, he told me he felt better; the sores *all* looked well, the blister had been kept open; his pulse were now strong and full, about 80, although he could not rise from his pillow. I remarked to Dr. Spalding, who was with me, that I thought it was the last effort of the constitution: the only remarkable thing I observed that day was, that he did not appear to be able to measure distances correctly; he could, however, see me, and answered my questions quite rationally. The following morning, at six o'clock, he terminated his wretched existence.

At five the same evening, I examined his body.—On opening the abdomen, I found the viscera, generally speaking, healthy; the only circumstances worthy of note were, that the gall-bladder was closely contracted round three large gall-stones, about the size and form of large dice.

dice. The faces were tinctured with bile. The spleen was small and pale. The thoracic viscera were also perfectly healthy. I next examined the head, more with a view to see the internal table of the skull, than in any expectation of finding disease. On removing the calvareum, I discovered a considerable slough and thickening of the dura mater, just above the right orbit, opposite to where the bone was laid bare. The internal table did not appear diseased; at one very small place, the bone had been absorbed; it was, however, covered externally with granulations; the external table to some extent was exfoliating kindly. Under this slough I felt a fluctuation. It being very late and dark, I resolved to remove the whole brain, and dissect it at my leisure; with this view, I cut through the dura mater below the slough, and on raising the anterior lobes of the cerebrum, was surprised to find the basis of the cranium between the dura mater and arachnoid coat filled with very foetid pus. The following morning I carefully laid open the back part of the right lateral ventricle, leaving the anterior part and the abscess untouched; here I found the same foetid pus, the choroid plexus was devoid of vessels, and had a sphacelated appearance, and the surfaces of the corpus striatum and thalamus were inflamed and ulcerated. At its anterior horn, the ventricle had a large ulcerated opening, with surrounding inflammation, which communicated with the abscess, which was now laid open, and found to occupy near one-third of the substance of the right hemisphere; its sides were covered with white sloughs. The left lateral ventricle was enlarged, its roof being half an inch higher than the corpus callosum; it had probably been filled with pus, the foramen of Monro being very open, but it had escaped by an opening made with the saw into the posterior horn. There was a small opening between the convolutions of the brain into the abscess, just where it rests on the orbital process. Pus was also effused under the tunica arachnoidea in the basis of the brain, which had escaped from the fourth ventricle. The medulla oblongata was rather soft and irregular on its surface.

I have thought the case worthy of being recorded, inasmuch as it shows to what an extent diseased action may go, in the brain, without its even being suspected during life. I merely add the following ideas which I entertained on the subject, as an attempt to explain the phenomena which presented themselves. This state of the brain must have existed for a considerable time; is it not probable then,

then, that the diseased action was first set up when the external wounds were in a foul sloughy state? Judging from analogy, this must have been the case; we know that abscesses and sloughs form on the brain from the effects of external violence done to the scalp, and in these cases, the external wounds are in a flabby, unhealthy state; certainly, the state of the sores and the bone for some time prior to death were not sufficient to account for this diseased state of the brain. The means employed, which seemed to have so good an effect on the external wounds, were insufficient to arrest the progress of a disease in a part whose vital powers were so feeble. I may also add, that the disease being once instituted in a circumscribed cavity, the irritating cause must still remain, and increase as the disease increased, or, to use the words of the Poet, "*Parva primum mox vires acquirit eundo*," and Nature at length finding herself incapable of making reparation, gives up the point, and death closes the scene. With regard to the cause and nature of the disease, it certainly in its appearance and progress was not venereal. It seemed rather to depend on a peculiar state of the constitution, (perhaps dependant on his disturbed state of mind,) which state was much aggravated by the improper use of mercury. I am induced to give this opinion, from having frequently had similar cases, which were relieved by persevering in an alterative and tonic plan of treatment.

To Dr. ADAMS,

MY DEAR SIR,

I Had hoped that sufficient proof was already adduced, not only of the benefits to be derived from that source, but of the great advantages attending the introduction of vaccination over the inoculated small-pox, as at least to have satisfied medical men, and to have fully justified the interference of the legislature, in preventing a continuance of the latter practice, as far as such an interference could be effectual.

There still appear to be *some*, who think proper to doubt the probity of the College; whose interest, in determining the point in question, could only be directed to the public good.

Of such a class is Dr. Carneiro; and of how little soever importance his work may be in the opinion of professional men, yet with the public at large, it is calculated to shake the confidence of those, whose only power of determining, is by comparing what may be advanced by the partisans on either side. Under such circumstances, therefore, it becomes the duty of every individual to correct whatever he finds erroneously stated; and to that part of the book which bears reference to this island, I shall confine my reply.

It is evident that the Doctor speaks only from report, but this is not a sufficient apology, as he should have taken pains to correct or confirm his information.

He says, "Besides, we learn from travellers and correspondence, that in the Island of Madeira, where the vaccine influence has been so prevalent, an eruptive fever, called by the physicians and surgeons measles, has raged epidemically and fatally.—Here it may be observed,

"1st. That the persons attacked with the eruptive fever, had the measles before.

"2dly. That the eruptive fever now predominant, has not so regular a type as the true measles.

"Hence it appears, that the diseases most frequently consequent on vaccination in warm climates, are of a pituitous kind, called by the cow-pox partisans, measles, having no other symptoms of the true measles, than the sneezing and the smallness of the eruption."*

That the epidemic alluded to, and which the Doctor is pleased to consider as an eruptive fever, the consequence of vaccination, was measles, will, I trust, be satisfactorily proved; and that vaccination has been successfully practiced here, I am equally sanguine that the evidence I shall produce will sufficiently establish.

In the beginning of May, 1808, a detachment of the 11th regiment landed here; some of the soldiers' children, brought on shore with the measles on them, were taken to the Military Hospital.

A few days after their landing, I was desired to see a child of Mr. Cathcart's, (the American Consul for this Island,) who had a considerable fever; in two days an eruption appeared, accompanied with all the symptoms of measles distinctly marked. At this time, however, though
confident

* *Vide Reflections and Observations on the Practice of Vaccine Inoculation, &c. by H. Carneiro, M. D. p. 38 and seq. English Edit.*

confident that the disease was measles, I was unacquainted that it had been introduced by the troops; and on my mentioning the case to Dr. Gourlay and others, they were rather led to think I might have been mistaken in the disease. It, however, went through the whole of the family, consisting of five children, one of whom was so severely affected with the pulmonary symptoms, as to require blood-letting to a considerable extent. A lapse of near two weeks took place, before another *island*-case appeared, and this also happened to be a patient of mine, living in the neighbourhood of the former. This led me to trace the source of infection; and it was then that I learnt the circumstances above related, and found that the little girl, who was the subject of the last case, had been in the habit of looking into the court-yard of the hospital as she passed by to go to school; and as the servants of the Consul daily passed the hospital gate in their way to and from town, I felt no difficulty in concluding that the infection might have been conveyed by those means.

It was at first objected, that the great length of time since that disease had visited this island before,* rendered it likely that it would have immediately spread, with a rapidity that such diseases are noticed to do in warm climates, and consequently, that the other practitioners would, ere this, have seen some cases also. This, however, happened so soon afterwards, as to put the matter beyond a doubt.

That the measles terminated fatally in many cases, there can be no doubt; it is not less certain, that neither the disease nor its consequences could be attributed to the effects of vaccination, since many who had it, never were vaccinated, but had regularly gone through the inoculated or casual small-pox.

Although the great mortality of that year was generally attributed to the measles, I cannot help considering them in a great proportion of cases, as the predisposing cause only; the fatal cases having generally terminated by dysentery, and that at a considerable distance of time, after the measles had been considered as subdued in those particular cases to which I allude.

To persons who have resided here, it is well known, that during the *fruit* season, there is generally a bowel complaint prevalent, arising from the too free use of

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that

* I believe about fifteen years.

that article in all its stages of maturity. The natives of the lower class, in fact, eat every part of the fruit, never considering whether it be ripe or not; the consequence of such a diet (for in reality it is *such* to many), after the constitution had been previously reduced by a severe inflammatory disease, was, what a priori might have been expected, acute dysentery, which in a great many instances terminated fatally.

As an additional proof of what I have advanced, it may be observed, that when a proper attention had been paid to the state of the bowels, for some weeks after the measles were subdued, and no fruit or irritating matter of any kind had been received into the stomach, such patients universally recovered.*

With respect to the effects of vaccination, as rendering the constitution free from the susceptibility of small-pox contagion, we have something more than presumptive evidence.

In June 1808, when the 2d Royal Veteran battalion arrived here, it was reported that they had some children under the influence of small-pox; of course, there was much apprehension entertained of its spreading.

I did not then consider that vaccination had been practiced with such energy by the professional men here, as appears really to have been the case.

About eight or ten days after the troops had landed, whilst in conversation with Dr. de Fretis and Mr. Woolriche on this subject, the wife of one of the soldiers came up to us, having in her arms a child with a very full crop of variola of the distinct kind, and in the latter stage. Some days after, the disease appeared upon another child, so that there can be no doubt of its having been in the island, and of its having gone through all its stages here.

As no steps were taken to prevent the infection spreading,† and as it was at the most favourable time of the year for such a circumstance, its having ended with these cases, becomes as strong an evidence in favour of vaccination, and as great a proof of the activity of the medical men of the island, as can be required.

Still, without a bond of union, or an establishment for the

* It is to be remembered that I speak more particularly of such cases as came under my own immediate observation, but I have also heard the same remark from others.

† The children were allowed to mix with the natives.

the preservation of the matter, it is not wonderful that it should become exhausted, the exertions of individuals are unequal to the charge; besides, that, from a particular religious impression, many of the natives are averse to vaccination.* This induced me, in the year 1805, to propose to the governor, Senhor Arcaneio da Segueira Freire, to form an establishment under his patronage for the general inoculation of the cow-pox through the island; and in order to render it more effectual, to obtain the assistance of the clergy, in removing their scruples concerning interfering with the *Divine Will*. I was particularly led to make this proposal, from having been informed that the governor had received instructions from his court, to give every assistance in his power to the cause.

Well aware that a plan upon an expensive scale was not likely to be countenanced, I had arranged it so that the government would not have been put to any expence; some of the merchants to whom I communicated my intentions, readily offering to become subscribers.

My proposals, however, met with no encouragement, and consequently every thing was left to depend on the zeal of individuals.

Shortly after the present governor arrived, I repeated my applications to him, but with the same ill success. Had General Beresford continued longer in the government, he promised me every assistance in his power.

Not having kept a register, I cannot with any accuracy state the number that I have vaccinated, but suppose, since 1803, it cannot amount to more than from four to five hundred, and I cannot recollect a single instance of any ill effect. Many of the number may have failed, as I had it not in my power to ascertain the progress of the complaint in those who lived at a distance from the town, as those children were most frequently not brought to me again, after the operation had been performed. In one or two cases, an ulcer on the arm has been the consequence of an early removal of scab, but this readily yielded to a weak solution of vinegar and water.

As however it is desirable in the cause of truth, where in the comfort and happiness of so many depend, that no part of the report should rest on the authority of any individual, I wrote the following circular note to Dr. Gourlay,

* This is principally confined to the lower class.

lay, Dr. De Fretis, physico mor, in the island of Madeira, &c. and Dr. Curado; their answers to which I have subjoined.

(CIRCULAR.)

To Dr. WILLIAM GOURLAY, *Physician to the Factory in the Island of Madeira.*

DEAR SIR,

YOU will oblige me by the favour of your answers to the following questions, and such further observations as you may have made on vaccination.

Believe me, yours truly,

Funchall, Oct 6, 1809.

M. W. ANDREWS.

1st. In the course of your practice, did you ever meet with any unpleasant symptoms that you could attribute to vaccination? If you have, what were they?

2d. Are you aware of any unpleasant occurrence that has taken place in any of the patients you vaccinated, immediately after, or at any subsequent period? If so, what is it? and can you attribute it to that cause?

3d. Do you believe the epidemic that was so prevalent here in 1808, to have been the measles? or do you consider it to have been an eruptive complaint induced by vaccination?

4th. Do you recollect if any persons you vaccinated had the measles afterwards? If so, did they appear to suffer more, or were they in greater danger on that account? or did the proportion of bad cases of measles, appear to depend upon that cause?

5th. About what number of persons have you vaccinated since 1803?

Here follows Dr. Gourlay's answer; Dr. Antonio C. de Fretis's answer, and Dr. Angelo Curado de Meneges, with translations.

To Dr. M. ANDREWS,

SIR,

In compliance to your request, by favouring you with answers to questions, and such further observations which I have made on vaccination, I hope the following will meet your approbation.

I am, &c.

Funchall, Oct 6, 1809.

W. GOURLAY.

In reply to your first and second questions, I do not recollect of meeting with any unpleasant symptom of consequence,

quence, which I could attribute to vaccination; nor am I aware of any unpleasant occurrence, either immediately after or at any subsequent period, which I could ascribe to that cause.

In regard to your third question, I am of opinion, that the epidemic which was prevalent here last year, was measles; the eruption not induced by vaccination; and which had been imported from England by a detachment of the 11th regiment; the nature of which I refer to a work which will soon be published, "*Observations on the endemial and epidemial diseases in Maderia, &c.*"

In answer to your fourth question: Numbers of those persons whom I had vaccinated, laboured afterwards under measles; but I am not sensible that they suffered more, or were in greater danger on that account: nor did the proportion of bad cases appear to depend at all on that cause.

Your fifth and last question I have to reply; that to the best of my remembrance, the number of persons I have vaccinated, have not exceeded four hundred.

From Dr. ANTONIO C. De FRETIS.

(Translation.*)

THE practice of Vaccination, which, since the year 1805, has been exercised in this island to the greatest extent under my direction, and assisted by the government, agreeable to the orders of H. R. H. to make it general in this colony, enables me to answer the questions which you have proposed, with propriety and correctness.

In the year 1805, not less than 2000 persons were vaccinated by me, and those people whom I delegated for that purpose in the different parts of the island, without the loss of one; nor have any subsequent symptoms appeared after that operation, which have made me repent the practice.

In the greater part of those vaccinated, the eruptive fever was scarcely perceptible; some few experienced a slight degree of weakness for a day or two, others continued in their ordinary occupations during the whole course of the complaint, almost insensible to its effects on the constitution, nor did the eruption extend itself beyond the inoculated part, except in one child, seven years old, who had a tolerable smart fever, and had 25 eruptions in different

* The original is transmitted to the Editors.

ferent parts of its body, each about the size of a sixpence. This child, however, recovered without any further inconvenience.

I inoculated a child, daughter to Sen. Francisco Anacleto Figueirao, lieut. col. in the militia, three years old; she passed through the complaint tolerably well, but on the falling off of the scabs, deep ulcers remained in the parts where the incisions were made, requiring a greater length of time than usual to cicatrize.

A person, of little reflection, would possibly attribute this to the virulence of the vaccine virus, it is therefore necessary to say, that I observed the same circumstance in her sister, who, two years before, had been inoculated with small-pox, and in whose arms very large cicatrices are still remaining.

From what I have related, you will see that the eruptive process has always been mild; that vaccination has not failed in any; nor do I recollect that this operation has been followed by any disease that could be attributed to that as a cause.

Two epidemics prevailed in this colony in the year 1808, introduced by the British troops forming the expedition commanded by General Beresford.

The first, and which spread immediately after the troops landed, was the whooping-cough; this epidemic destroyer of so many individuals in this colony on that occasion, equally attacked those persons who had been vaccinated, and those who had not undergone that operation. Many of those who had been vaccinated recovered, and others who had not, died, as if proving the inverse of what had been asserted, that the fatality was equal with both classes.

The second epidemic was the measles, introduced about three or four months after the former had been got under, by a detachment which came to complete one of the regiments of the afore-mentioned expedition. Some of the children with this detachment when they landed, were said to have the measles, which was confirmed, not only by the army medical gentlemen, but by the resident practitioners. In a short time this contagion spread through the city and its environs; at first the disease appeared in a mild form, but in its progress it became terrible, and its consequences produced considerable mortality throughout the island.

The first family that I attended with this disease, was that of Sen. Antonio José Spinola, Captain in the militia, whose

whose wife and eight children suffered from it. This lady was the first victim to the complaint.

The eruptive stage passed off without any extraordinary symptoms, and she left her bed, considering herself as perfectly recovered. She attended her children in the complaint for some days, and when it was least expected, had a pneumonic attack, which suddenly terminated in death. She had not been vaccinated; all her children had, and with the exception of *one*, recovered.

About the same time, a Lieutenant of the regular troops, Sen. Joas Bittancourt, a strong, robust person, who had never been vaccinated, received the infection, and went through the disease with the ordinary symptoms, till the eighth day; when considering himself recovered, he left his room. A diarrhœa, however, supervened, and in twenty-four hours he died.

Senhora Donna Maria Antonia Correa, a lady well known in this town for her virtues and benevolence, not previously vaccinated, was attacked with measles; she had the ordinary symptoms until the seventh day, when a diarrhœa came on with such violence, that she was for a considerable time in great danger, and the consequent debility remained so long after the disease was removed, that it was with difficulty her constitution recovered from its effects.

A grand-daughter of this lady, who had undergone vaccination, recovered from the measles, without any unpleasant symptom, and her sister, who had not been vaccinated, also went through the measles without any unusual occurrence. Three sons of Captain John de Fretis, who were vaccinated a short time before, had the measles; two died in consequence of the diarrhœa which supervened, and the other recovered.

I could adduce many other examples, but those I have noticed, are people well known in the island.

By the regiment that landed here to relieve the 11th, who are now serving in Portugal, the natural small-pox was introduced; several children in the eruptive stage of the complaint, passed through the streets without having communicated the disease to any of the inhabitants; this must be attributed to the effects of vaccination, as on the former occasion, when the small-pox was introduced, it spread rapidly through the whole island.

From what has been said, we may infer, 1st. That vaccination appears to have rendered the inhabitants of this island
free

free from the contagion of the natural small-pox; which was recently introduced by the present garrison.

2dly. That it has not produced any bad consequences either immediately after, or at any subsequent period, (up to the present date,) to those persons who have regularly gone through the process; and,

3dly. That the epidemics did not attack those who had been vaccinated with more violence, than those who had not undergone that operation.

I am, &c.

ANTONIO C. De FRETIS.

To Dr. ANDREWS.

(Translation.) The original with the Editors.

DEAR SIR,

In consequence of the irregular manner in which vaccination has been practiced in this island, it will not be in my power to give you such satisfactory answers to the questions you have proposed as I could wish; the following, however, are such as occur.

1st. I have never met with any unpleasant symptom in my practice, that could be attributed to vaccination.

2d. I do not remember having seen any of those bad consequences that have been imputed to vaccination; I have only met with three or four children, in whom an itchy cutaneous eruption, somewhat resembling urticaria, appeared about ten or sixteen days after vaccination, but which easily yielded to simple diaphoretic medicine. These exanthemata have been commonly considered as the effects of cow-pox, but I by no means think so. One of the children was teething, and the others had been subject to cutaneous eruptions before*, but in a mild degree; and the parents are not the most healthy. Besides which, cutaneous diseases are very common in many families of this island.

3dly. The epidemic which prevailed here last year, and which was brought by an English ship, had the Nosological characters of the true measles, resembling those that prevailed about the same time in England and Scotland, as described by Dr. Ferguson in the Medical and Physical Journal,

* Two of those alluded to by Dr. C. the one that was teething, and one of the others, I vaccinated, at which time the eruption was out; one of them was vaccinated twice, before it took effect.

Journal, No. 123. Independent of which, the first people whom I saw in the complaint, had not been vaccinated; many people of 70 years of age, who had before escaped the infection, and on that account supposed they had gone through the disease, on this occasion suffered much.

4thly. Many children, who had been vaccinated some years before, and others a short time previous to the epidemics appearing, also had the measles; some of these dangerously, but by far the greater number had the complaint in a very mild way. The worst kind of measles, and the greatest mortality, were to be met with amongst the poorest people.

I attribute this to their situation, not having the means of supplying themselves with medicines, and a proper diet; and also to the indiscreet religious maxim, which teaches them to consider the death of their children in their infant state as a great blessing.

5thly. I cannot with exactness say the number that I have vaccinated, having sent the greater part of those who applied to me, to be vaccinated by Sen. Antonio da Silva Silveira; who, from 1804 to the present date, has vaccinated more than four thousand.

I am, &c.

DR. JOAS ANGELO CURADO DE MENEZES.

I also wrote to Mr. Woolriche, surgeon to the forces, and principal medical officer in the island, requesting such information on these subjects as his situation enabled him to afford me. To which I received the following answer.

TO DR. ANDREWS.

DEAR SIR,

In answer to your inquiries relative to the progress of vaccination in this garrison, and the nature of the prevailing epidemics of last year, I shall shortly state what I happen to know on the subject.

Soon after the arrival of the British troops here in 1807, the vaccine virus was procured from England; from neglect, or bad arrangement, it soon was lost, and several months elapsed before a supply could be procured; subsequently, however, it was employed with so much industry and success as to include, I believe, nearly all that were liable to receive the variolous infection*. The Portuguese physicians

* In the families of the Military.

physicians too, appear to have been active, as a circumstance I shall mention immediately, strongly proves.

That the prevailing epidemic of last year was measles, I have not the slightest doubt; the cases I saw were clearly marked; in many instances, the pulmonary affections were very severe at the beginning of the disease, and obstinate bowel complaints, with bloody stools, were common at the termination of it. If there could be a question on this subject, the way in which the disease was introduced, I think would decide it. Early in May 1808, a detachment of the 11th infantry arrived from England; amongst the sick some cases of measles were reported; circumstances, however, rendered it necessary to empty the transport immediately, and the disease was established in the island. What I alluded to above, as proving the extent to which vaccination has been carried here, was the arrival of the 2nd Royal Veteran Battalion in June last, having amongst their children several cases of small-pox, which were landed without my knowledge; my anxiety was excessive; on meeting some days afterwards in the street, one of the children covered with pustules; it seemed too late to do any thing effectual, and in fact, nothing was done to prevent the spreading of the disease.

A younger sister of one of these children was afterwards attacked, she had an extensive eruption of distinct pustules, and here the disease ended, as far as I know, not having heard up to this date of any other case; a tolerable satisfactory proof, I think, of the activity of the medical people here, and of the efficacy of vaccination.

I am, &c.

S. WOOLRICHE, P. M. O.

Funchall, Oct. 19, 1809.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE paper inserted in the Medical Journal of last May, on the virtues of cobweb, having, as it appears by some of your subsequent numbers, excited the wit and provoked the ridicule of some of your Correspondents, I am now, I believe, in the act of opening a new field for their raillery,
if

if you think proper to give the following communication to the public.

In the year 1800, when I was in Guernsey with the Russian auxiliary troops during their cantonment in that island, happening one day, in company with Dr. Walters of the British Hospital staff, to pass an old man on the road, who made an obeisance to the Doctor of more than usual respect, the Doctor mentioned to me casually, that the person, when nearly blind, had some time ago recovered his sight, by drinking a strong infusion of the herb eye-bright, which had been recommended to him by some of the neighbouring peasants. The fact was distinct, and the person who reported it was a man of the strictest veracity. I noted it down, but made no application of it till about three years since, when a woman at Stockton upon Tees, applied to me for advice on account of dimness of sight, rendering her almost unfit for her business, which was that of a house servant. She judged indistinctly of place and distance; and objects were, in fact, so obscure to her, that she scarcely discerned the difference between a knife and a fork as they lay upon a table. She was about thirty years of age; of a slender form, and, exclusively of the defect in vision, not in perfect health. The eyes were dim and filmy, but without pain or inflammation. I gave her a prescription, which was sent to the apothecary; and I further desired her to procure some eye-bright, and to drink about half a pint of the strong infusion morning and evening. I was not, I must confess, very sanguine in my expectations, that what I had ordered for her would do her much good; and I was therefore the more surprised to find, when I enquired for her about a month afterwards, that her sight was perfectly restored. The eyes were now bright and clear, and the general health was comparatively good.

I ascribed more to the eye-bright in the case which I have now stated, than to the other parts of the prescription; and the detail which I am now about to give of its effect on my own person, confirms me in my opinion. I am now on the verge of sixty, and have used spectacles for the last eight years. My sight was originally good; but it has declined so fast, that my spectacles are already of the fourth sight; and I could not, twelve months since, make out a paragraph in a common news-paper without their aid, scarcely even read a passage with the naked eye in books of the best type. I remembered what had been told to me by Dr. Walters, respecting the eye-bright,

and thought I saw the report of its virtues verified in the case which has been noticed above; but I was desirous of further information on the subject, and for that purpose consulted the dispensatory. I there found that eye-bright had been recommended by Hildanus in strong terms, but that it was now generally, and according to the writer of the dispensatory, deservedly neglected. The dimness of my sight was a serious inconvenience, and its rapid progress in decay was rather alarming. The eye-bright presented itself to me daily last autumn, as I walked in the fields or lanes near my habitation; and I was thus, perhaps, urged by the frequent presentation to make an experiment which might decide, whether Hildanus and the vulgar, or Lewis and the faculty, were the best authority. With this view, I made a strong infusion from the dried leaves, and drank about half a pint of it at bed-time, and the same quantity early next morning. About one o'clock of the day, as my eye fell accidentally upon a news paper which lay on the table, near which I sat, I found it legible. I was struck with surprise; for, the day before, I could not have made out a single paragraph of it in any light in which it could have been placed. There was no visible cause to which the effect I have now noticed could be possibly assigned, except the eye-bright. It appeared to me to have begun an improvement, and I continued it three days longer, in expectation of further progress. At the end of three days, I could read the small army list, but not without difficulty. I then left it off, and at the end of a fortnight, my sight had so much declined, that I could scarcely make out a name in the army list, and I could not even read the news paper with satisfaction. I had recourse to it again, and continued it for six successive days; at the end of which, I was able to read the army list in a good light, and books of common type with facility in common light. I have repeated the experiment frequently, and always with similar effect.

My sight is renewed by at least three degrees, according to the measure of spectacles, since I commenced the use of the eye-bright; and though the clearness of vision declines after a time, it has not, even after the interval of a month, so far declined as to render spectacles absolutely necessary for common reading, though having been accustomed to read and write by their assistance, I still continue the habit. But besides the improvement, in so far as respects vision, the condition of the eyes is in other respects greatly more comfortable than it formerly was. Before I
had,

had recourse to the eye-bright, my eyes were frequently hot and painful, particularly in the evenings; the ball, when pressed, seemed flaccid and unequal; vision was often so obscure, that I was obliged to desist from reading, or seek relief in rubbing the eyes, or walking out into the open air; the sudden impression of light was painful, and accommodation to changes slow. At present, the eyes are rarely hot and painful in the evenings; the eye ball, when pressed, is comparatively equal, firm, and elastic; the impression of light striking suddenly is less unpleasant, and the eye more readily accommodates itself to changes than formerly. Under the immediate use of the infusion, and even for some time afterwards, all the objects in nature appear comparatively bright, as if they concentrated an unusual portion of light. Vision is not so minute as it was at the early periods of life; but the clearness and fullness of objects, perhaps, as contrasted with the recent dimness and diminution, are singularly striking, and convey very pleasurable sensations.

To the case which I have now stated, and concerning results in which I am not likely to have been deceived, I shall add, that of a respectable farmer in the neighbourhood of Castle Eden, where I resided last autumn. This person had experienced, about twelve months ago, a kind of hemiplegic attack; that is, the muscles of the left side of the face, and of the left eye, were considerably affected; the mouth drawn to one side, the eye staring and distorted. There was besides general numbness in all the limbs; a want of power, but no actual paralysis; the memory was greatly impaired, and the powers of vision was so decayed, that he was incapable of reading a good type; even with spectacles of the fourth sight. He was a man of full habit, a muscular form, and naturally of a social disposition. The pulse was tense and strong; bark, wine, and tonics had been ordered for him, and continued for a length of time without benefit; I changed the plan of treatment entirely, and with evident good effect, on the general aspect of the disease. But as vision was particularly defective, perhaps more impaired than any of the other functions, I thought the case a fair one for the eye-bright, the benefits of which I then experienced in my own person. The herb abounded in the fields surrounding his house; and as it was known to him, I desired him to make a strong infusion from the dried leaves, and drink half a pint, of it morning and evening. He did so; I saw him a few days thereafter. He was better in all

respects; but his eye-sight was astonishingly improved. It was nearly as good as it had been before his hemiplegic attack; that is, he could read easily by the help of his spectacles, and every thing around him appeared in his apprehension bright, distinct, and full. He left off the use of the infusion, and after a while, the distinctness and clearness of sight declined; he had again recourse to it, and experienced a similar improvement as at first.

From these facts, I leave it to the public to judge, whether the name of eye-bright has been given to this herb with reason, and whether or not, it is justly discarded from the catalogue of the regular practitioner. I mentioned its virtues to several persons; some tried it, and found benefit from it; others tried it without experiencing any sensible effect. It is perfectly innocent; it is not disagreeable to the taste; it is common in uncultivated fields and lanes, and it so directly renews the eye-sight, and so effectually and so agreeably ameliorates the condition of the stomach, that I cannot refrain from communicating this knowledge of its properties to the Editors of the Medical Journal, in the hopes that some poor man may thereby receive the benefit from it, which I have myself received.

I am, &c.

ROBERT JACKSON, M. D.

January 1, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

SURGEONS, after describing amputation, as it is most commonly performed by compressing the artery with the tourniquet, mention, where this cannot be had recourse to, the next step is to remove the extremity at the joint; without mentioning those cases which occur, where amputation is required, where no tourniquet can be applied from its nearness to the trunk, and where there is sufficient room to operate without opening the joint. That these cases frequently occur I have but little doubt.

In an attack on the Russian gun-boats, near Fredericks-ham, on the night of the 25th of July 1809, I accompanied the boats of the squadron under Capt. Pater, which were commanded by Capt. Forest. The force of the English was upwards of three hundred, including officers and
men;

men; the enemy's between two and three hundred. The victory was gained on our side by the loss of 70 killed and wounded. The enemy suffered in killed and wounded, about 100. The wounded English were accommodated on board a transport brig that was captured at the same time, until they were conveyed on board their own ships. This was done early in the morning of the 26th. The greater part of our men were wounded by the enemy's musquetry. One of the men belonging to the *Cerberus* frigate, had the os humeri broke about its middle by a musket ball. As I considered this a case requiring amputation, so soon as I had examined it, I placed the limb in an easy posture, and accommodated him with a birth, where he could lie horizontally, until he was sent to the care of his own surgeon; which was done in the course of five or six hours after. As soon as the men were sent on board their respective ships I returned on board my own, which was the senior officer's ship; he gave orders that the wounded prisoners should be sent on board the captured brig. There was no Russian surgeon with them. Mr. Noble, surgeon (at that time) of this ship, and myself, as soon as we had accommodated our own wounded men, went on board the brig to dress their wounded, &c. In the operations which were required to be performed, Mr. Noble and myself took our turns. The last man on whom we had occasion to operate, was wounded by a musket ball in the upper part of the arm; the os humeri was splintered. Mr. Noble said, that nothing else could be done here, but to remove the arm at the shoulder joint, and asked me, as it was my turn to operate, which way I intended to perform it? I proposed tying the artery in the axilla as the first step of the operation, and observed, that I thought there was no necessity for laying open the joint, as no extraneous body had already done it. This being agreed to, I proceeded to tie the axillary artery, having taken proper care to dissect it from the brachial nerves; after which I divided the muscles with a common scalpel, one by one, and took up each artery as soon as it was divided; by this means little blood was lost: the bone was then divided with a saw close to the insertion of the capsular ligament, and the integuments were brought over to produce union by adhesion. On the 27th the wounded prisoners were sent from the brig to a house on shore. On the 3d day the wound was dressed; no discharge was found confined, and the appearance clean and healthy. This man walked about from the time of the operation, and had no symptomatic fever;

his spirits and appetite good. On the 6th day after the amputation he was sent to Russia; at this time the wound was adhering and looked well, with very little discharge.

Mr. Noble and myself went on shore every morning, to attend the wounded prisoners; about the 28th, the surgeon of the frigate came on shore, just as we had done dressing the wounded men; he said the case which is mentioned, belonging to the frigate, he had amputated, and not having room for the tourniquet, he compressed the artery with a key, at the clavicle, and operated below the shoulder-joint, in the usual way as when you have a tourniquet on the limb; that the man had lost much blood during the operation, and was at this time very low. One of the gun boats, on the morning of the 26th, after the action, had gone alongside the frigate, and did not send her wounded men on board the brig, which were fifteen in number, until the surgeon of the frigate had dressed their wounds, and in one case had amputated the fore-arm; in this gun boat, which was alongside of the frigate, one of the Russians was wounded in a way very similar to the case on which I operated near the shoulder-joint, excepting that there was a much larger external wound extending down the arm; I did not see this man until the 27th, when much tension and inflammation had come on. On the day the surgeon of the frigate came on shore, I proposed in this case, that fomentations and poultices should be applied, and when the inflammation had subsided, to remove the arm, which met the approbation of the surgeons. This man was sent soon after to his own country, which prevented the operation. The joint in this case had not been opened by the shot, or the suppuration which followed.

Would it not be best to avoid in every instance opening the joint, where no extraneous body has previously done it, as the cure will be so much earlier accomplished, and the treatment of so many troublesome sinuses avoided? It is not at the shoulder-joint that I conceive this mode of operating will be confined to; a much greater convenience will be found by attending to this, in cases where the hip-joint is not laid open, and the injury so high up, that you have not sufficient room to apply a tourniquet. I know not if any one has ever recovered from amputation at the hip-joint. I have little doubt that it will be admitted, that it is not a desirable operation. Should I meet with a case where a shot has struck the os femoris, and splintered it so high up as not to leave room to apply the tourniquet, and still the cavity of the joint not laid open, I would tie the
femoral

femoral artery a little below Poupart's ligament; cut the muscles through with a scalpel; tie the arteries the same as in operating for the removal of a large tumour, and proceed afterwards as in the common amputation.

I am, &c.

JOHN HOWE,

Assistant-Surgeon on board H. M. ship Princess
Carolina, December 29, 1809. Yarmouth Roads.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN the discovery of Vaccination was first promulgated by Dr. Jenner, and very soon afterwards adopted by Drs. Pearson and Woodville in the metropolis, you became its zealous promoters. The first material check given to its progress, arose from the place where Dr. Woodville chose to conduct his experiments. The lymph sent into the country from the Small-pox Hospital, produced the small-pox, or a disease so like it, that the most candid practitioners who employed it, exclaimed, "What do we gain by this new practice?" And if the error had not soon been detected and explained, it would have proved fatal to the discovery. Soon after this, every one who could obtain lymph began to insert it into the arms of the young and old, who were believed to be in danger from the infection of small-pox: and so easy and safe did the practice appear, that no one hesitated to become a vaccinator, or vaccinatrix, for sex and age were not distinguished on this occasion. This was a far more dangerous rock than that on which Dr. Woodville split; for it was with reason apprehended, that cases of failure would not be less numerous than the successful ones. When variolous inoculation was first introduced into this country, the desire of gain, *auri sacra fames*, or at least a desire to share in the spoil, induced every one who could procure the means, to become an inoculator; and the consequence, as might naturally be expected, were frequent failures, either in the promised mildness of the disease, or the future protection of the subjects. This new practice, however, was never presumed to be undertaken by any but such as had received some medical education; whereas vaccination, on the contrary, was supposed by many, who undertook to perform

it, to require no instruction or knowledge whatever. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, the real failures were comparatively but very few. In this period of progress, an event occurred which might very naturally have been expected; for what happened at Ephesus when St. Paul's preaching began to threaten the craft of the priests of Diana, took place here. As soon as the success of vaccination began to be established, and the tide of popular opinion to turn in its favour, a number of adversaries presented themselves, who did not oppose cool reasoning, or physiological analogies to the new practice, but on the contrary, attempted to work upon the ignorance and prejudices of the lower orders by misrepresentation.

I always admired the concise and pointed observation of Dr. Denman, on the ground which they took to rest their opposition. "All the wit, and all the argument advanced against vaccination, is contained in the word *bestial*."

While, however, I allow that the opposition to Dr. Jenner's discovery was not conducted on physiological, philosophical, or liberal principles, I must still think that your zeal in defence of it, too often induced you to admit harsh or personal observations into your Journal, in reply to those opponents.

No one will deny, that it is very natural for those who have laboured much to bring any discovery, or even produce of nature, to its utmost degree of perfection, to become jealous and irritable, when they think it rudely and improperly assailed; but I cannot admit this as a sufficient defence of your too evident partiality. If your present impartiality should induce you to admit these strictures on this part of your conduct, I may hope you will not object to what follows.

When the alleged cases of failure had been investigated, and were discovered (with very few exceptions) to be misrepresentations, or wilful falsehoods; and when public opposition had nearly exhausted itself in the metropolis, the *only* spot in the world, as I am assured, where it acquired any thing like the appearance of force; his Majesty commanded the College of Physicians to investigate the subject, and make their report. The time and attention bestowed on this inquiry, gave it a weight and authority which appears to have silenced all opposition.

I can hardly abstain from expressing my regret at this event, for what before was public and avowed, became secret, or you took advantage of it, to shut the door against, not only all future *controversies* on the subject, but also, as

I sup-

I suppose, all future reports and histories, whether favourable or otherwise. If you have actually taken such a resolution, in consequence of vaccination being joyfully and generally adopted in every part of the world; or from any other cause, you will at least permit me to remonstrate against the line of conduct you at present pursue. After continuing for ten years to support, cherish, and defend vaccination, *quo jure quâque injuriâ*, the moment it is able to go alone, or has acquired powerful protectors, you instantly renounce all care and concern about it, as if you had never laboured to shelter it from the storms by which it had been assailed.

You, who reside in the metropolis, may perhaps receive frequent information respecting the progress of a practice, from which so much was expected, or may perhaps now be realizing; but we who inhabit the distant parts of the kingdom, cannot easily forego the gratification we used to receive from your Journal, on the success attending, or impediments opposed to a discovery of such general concern. We are particularly anxious to be informed whether public opposition to vaccination has really ceased, or is only passed over without notice by you, as unworthy your attention? Whether the zeal in the cause, so conspicuous a year or two ago, still continues unabated? or whether, like the foot-ball, it remains in perfect rest, because no one thinks it worth his while to contend about it? Whether any number of well authenticated failures has damped the ardour of its supporters? or whether government is taking any active steps to propagate and support the discovery? Whether any secret and insidious means are employed to discourage parents from resorting to this mild preventive of a severe and often fatal disease? or, on the contrary, the clergy are advised by proper authority to recommend it on all occasions?

These, Gentlemen, are the leading points on which I and several others in this part of the island are anxious to receive some information; and as we know no channel through which we have a greater right to expect it, or probability of receiving it, than the medium of your Journal, I have ventured to trespass so long on the patience of yourselves, and, if you indulge me with its insertion, that of your readers, very many of whom I may suppose to have the same desire of information on this interesting subject as myself.

I am, &c.

PERCONTATOR.

Aberdeen, Dec. 20, 1809.

IN answer to this Corerspondent, and others who may wish for similar information, the Editors assure them, that they have no intention to desert their favourite subject of Vaccination. For reasons already given in our Journal, communications respecting it will be much less frequent than heretofore, because the necessity for them no longer exists. Every thing either new or interesting shall be given with our usual zeal and promptitude, whether respecting the success, general adoption, opposition, or measures adopted by Government respecting it; and we hope the following document, which we have just received, will be a sufficient proof that vaccination is by no means in a state of inactivity. We are also assured, from the same authority, that very little reluctance against the adoption of vaccination appears in any part of the kingdom, except the metropolis. Printed instructions are given to all medical men, who apply for them, at the Board Room of the National Vaccine Establishment, respecting the progress and appearance of the *regular* vaccine vesicle; varieties not preventing the success of vaccination; irregularities and imperfections which denote the insecurity of the patient; the best manner of vaccinating, and some other subjects of less importance.

COPY of a circular LETTER addressed by the BOARD, appointed by His MAJESTY's Government, to regulate the Affairs of the National Vaccine Establishment.

"To the Governors, Managers, Directors, and Medical Officers of the several public Charities for Assisting the indigent Sick in the Metropolis, and Kingdom at large.

National Vaccine Establishment, Leicester Square, Dec. 10, 1809.

"My LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

"His Majesty's government, under the direction of Parliament, having appointed a National Vaccine Establishment, "for the purpose of rendering vaccine inoculation generally beneficial to his Majesty's subjects; the Board thereof, consisting of the President and Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, and of the Master and Governors of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, anxious to promote his Majesty's benevolent intentions, most earnestly invite your aid and concurrence in the furtherance of this important object; under the conviction, that the sanction of your approval and support will have much weight upon the minds of the lower orders of the community. They are persuaded, that your influence may be successfully

successfully applied, so as to effect in a considerable degree the removal of popular prejudices against vaccination, and to favour its progress to universal adoption. The Board therefore solicit your co-operation in their undertaking, in any manner which your wisdom may suggest; but they particularly recommend to your deliberation, *the establishment of gratuitous vaccination, conducted by the medical and chirurgical officers of your institution.*

"In the event of your adopting this plan, the Board will be ready at all times, upon proper application, to transmit to your appointed medical officers, a supply of vaccine lymph; and to attend to any information relative to the cow-pox, which may be deemed worthy of communication. At the same time they beg to signify their opinion, that it would be highly desirable to be favoured with a general annual report of the number of persons vaccinated at your establishment, and of the number of failures in the protection of vaccination against the small-pox, if any such cases should occur; in order that authentic materials may be collected for the formation of further important conclusions. This correspondence with the Board must be carried on by letters addressed to Dr. HERVEY, Register of the National Vaccine Establishment; under cover to the Right Hon. Richard Ryder, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, &c. &c. &c.

"It may not be unnecessary to observe, that a public notification of your having undertaken the gratuitous vaccination of the poor at your charity, under the auspices of his Majesty's government; and the affixing of such notice to the most conspicuous part of your edifice, would be productive of much advantage, by diffusing the knowledge of the high authority which sanctions the promotion of vaccination, and of the facility with which its benefits may be obtained by your means.

"The Board cannot conclude without again expressing their anxiety, that the proposal of this address may be deemed worthy of your favourable acceptance, and sufficiently important to be carried into immediate execution; as they conceive such assistance essential to the more general adoption of vaccination, at a time when, it must be confessed, considerable repugnance to its reception prevails among the lower orders; and when the increasing extension of the contagion of small-pox renders its antidote more necessary than ever to the public safety.

"By the desire of the Board,

"L. PEPYS, PRESIDENT."

DR. ALDER'S *Proofs of the proximate Causes of Diseases*
from the Practice of Physic.

(In Continuation.)

OPIUM. It seems past doubt that opium has done good in the hot fit of an intermittent; and how are we to account for this on any system? We certainly cannot on the Brunonian: but I *by no means* receive that system; I believe it is *full* of error. It is most probable that opium makes the arterial system propel the blood more effectually to the surface of the body, while the relaxation which soon follows, allows it to send off a considerable quantity of its constituent parts by the excretories. Conformably to this, we find, that when opium has done good in the hot fit, its employment has soon been followed by an universal and most copious sweat, which it is clear must relieve the internal parts greatly of their congestions.

WINE. Wine has not that tendency to relax the excretories which opium has, and of consequence does not always seem proper where opium is. It however gives firmness of tone to the arterial system, and by so doing, when the excretories are not shut up, it is in many cases of fever, &c. of considerable service. But we do not in general find wine is proper in bad fevers for removing debility, or in many other fevers, till after the disease has got a turn; that is, till the bowels have been opened, and the blood flows tolerably freely from the veins into the arteries, while the excretories are not at the same time constricted by any inflammatory diathesis. Opium is usually made to precede it, and this takes off any inflammatory diathesis in the arteries and constriction in the excretories. I will not say that wine is useless in all other cases and states of fever than these, because it is given with success where there is any gangrene in the system, or where there is much simple debility, and in some other instances, when it is not always clear whether these states are present or not, and where indeed we must often use it if they are, though afterwards in due time we seek to remove them. And, indeed, in some cases of debility, it will itself make the respiration freer, and must be given for this purpose as well as (which in part follows from this) to make the arterial system stronger; but I mean that the above states should, I think, very often be inquired into, when there is any doubt about giving wine.

Every body knows that wine is good to remove *simple* debility,

debility, whether this be the effect of a preceding disease or not; but it is *diseased debility*, that is, a debility which forms a constituent part of some disease which occasions difficulties. Debility uniformly follows an impeded pulmonary transmission, and is greater as this is so. This impeded pulmonary transmission, may be with a general check of the whole vascular system (as often happens in tetanus); or it may be with great congestion in the lungs (which almost always is the case in fever); the congested vessels too may be torpid, they may be irritated, or they may be inflamed. In almost all fevers they are torpid for some time at first, but in intermitting fevers most so. In some remittents and ardent fevers very little, and sometimes scarcely at all. In mild continued fevers they continue in a state of irritation a long time; but in many bad fevers particularly in bad remittents, they soon become more or less inflamed. Now debility in all these states must be removed by agents, suitable to the state of the lungs; and wine frequently is not that agent; bleeding often is: but these remedies are not always opposites. Again, when any other vital organ is congested from this disordered state of the lungs, debility may be great, and yet wine will be improper; bleeding often must be used. When the brain is much congested from this cause, an apoplectic state or tendency usually comes on; and this produces a great debility, which we know is not to be relieved by wine.

In cases where depressing passions chiefly act to check the respiration, impede the circulation through the lungs, and cause a febrile state and debility, wine and opium, with pure air and amusements, may give much relief, and these passions often have great share in producing sporadic fevers.

PURE AIR. This is the best preventive for fevers we have, and in many cases is the best remedy. But it is evident it cannot with any propriety be used when the congestion on the lungs has gone on to inflammation, or indeed to much irritation, till after this inflammation or irritation shall have subsided.

In the torpid state of the lungs, which occurs in a cold fit, it appears very proper, and has from a few trials been found so. In the sweating stage, and in intermissions and perfect remissions, it seems very proper. And in the latter end of continued fevers, or at least when all great irritation has subsided in the lungs, it appears equally proper, and has been proved so in one or two trials. But, in mentioning trials I have been deficient, for I alluded only to
artificial

artificial pure air; and the *natural* has been used in all these cases, in many thousand instances, with great success, while the artificial, in some of them, could be of more use, as it could be made stronger; though the natural in other cases is best as it is always applied, and from being weaker, is not so likely to cause unhealthy irritation.

The mode of action of pure air is peculiarly explicable on my principles, both in doing good and harm; its action either way cannot be explained otherwise than by them.

THE BATH. In some cases the warm bath is of service, in others the tepid, and in others the cold. In those dreadful internal congestions (before demonstrated) which so quickly run into inflammation, bleeding and the warm bath may be of use; but the cold cannot, nor wine either, let heat and debility be as great as they may.

The cold bath, like wine, is most suited to mild fevers, and I believe in such, when used according to Dr. Currie's directions, it is a most excellent remedy.

It prevents the blood from hurrying up to the lungs by the veins; diminishes the expansion of this fluid, which is caused by heat; takes off that constriction from the excretories which was caused by heat (from which perspiration is renewed); gives tone to the vascular system (which, now the excretories are open, is the more useful), and it takes off morbid irritability, and that inquietude of mind which arises from the morbid state which existed previous to its application. Finally, by all these ways it greatly relieves the lungs.

§. Some other remedies might be noticed, but I believe their *modus operandi* will not now in general be very difficult on the preceding principles. *Smoking tobacco*, as a preventive of epidemics, is the only one which now occurs to me, that appears to be so. It certainly has been respectably recommended; Diemerbroeck supposes he preserved himself from the plague by its means.

When I was at Cambridge, a short time in the winter 1798-9, several young men there, met in the evening in a convivial party and smoked their pipes, as they said, to prevent catching a fever, which at that time had occasioned several to leave St. John's, and go home; and as they all escaped fever, they might impute their exemption to the use of tobacco, just as Diemerbroeck did: but the fact was, those who escaped bore the proportion of three hundred to one to those who were seized.

The smoke of tobacco, however, is a most powerful agent; and I can readily admit it is efficacious in preventing

ing some diseases, epidemic, endemic, or sporadic: I mean those of an inflammatory nature, whether they arise altogether from catching cold, or from cold joined with bad air. And many epidemics (even many examples of "the plague," have been much of this kind. Its general use in Holland is supposed (and I think with justice) to have arisen from the people in that country finding that it considerably defended them from injuries from the noxious moisture of the climate; though Tulpinus says, notwithstanding, that (which is somewhat in opposition to more recent declarations) most of the bodies which he has opened there, have had plicers in the lungs. But I do not think it appears, that smoking tobacco is of any use against such fevers, as have nothing of a catarrhal or phlegmonic diathesis joined with them; or (of consequence) against a passive pulmonary congestion; or bad air uncombined with cold moisture, or simply cold. But, on the contrary, I see no reason to suppose it may not often be in some such cases in some degree prejudicial; though on many occasions it will drive the fluids to the surface of the body, and make pure air afterwards have a more pleasing effect.

I have tried the smoke of tobacco upon myself in two opposite states. I tried it once when I had an impeded pulmonary transmission without any inflammatory diathesis, and it made it much worse; it made my respiration and pulse almost cease; and the anxiety and oppression at the præcordia, and the debility, greater. But I have tried it several times to prevent inflammatory affections of the mouth, face, throat, and lungs, with very signal success; and I can recommend it in such cases as a most efficacious article, and the best which I know of. It is not too late to use it, when these affections (except pneumonia) are coming on, and in myself I have removed them by it. Last spring I was seized with an inflammatory affection on one side of my mouth, face and neck, extending to the ear, greatly exacerbated every evening, and then attended with the most excruciating pain. Pains in the face had been slightly epidemic all winter, as well also as a mild influenza. I used laudanum and emetic tartar, with a little temporary relief for six weeks, all that time keeping in the house, and keeping my head wrapt up. At last I had recourse to smoking tobacco on the pained side, till it made me sick, and for the first two or three times acted as an emetic. I particularly used it in an evening, and took tea before it, and a bason of hot water gruel not long after it, and then went to bed. A copious sweat soon broke

out,

out, and continued very long; I slept better, and in a few days was quite cured of the pains. When they recurred (which they often did) I always found smoking, till I was a little faint, completely removed them, and particularly if I took some warm simple liquid, both before and after. I have been rather minute in the description of this case, as it shews, I conceive, the efficacy of the smoke of tobacco, both in preventing one kind of epidemic (as well as endemic and sporadic diseases) and also in removing some of those excruciating pains in the face, for which the learned Dr. Heberden confessed he could find no remedy.

The action of tobacco in these cases is by relaxing the inflammatory state of vessels, and driving congested fluids to the surface.

§. If I have thus explained the operation of medicines in a just way, according to my theory, I conceive the *practice of physic* affords confirmation of its truth. It has not been here within my province to suggest new remedies or preventives; I had only to ascertain (which by the bye was no easy matter) what were good practices, and what were bad, and then to shew *why* they were so. I am induced, however, to notice, that I think my theory suggests one new remedy, which, *though* simple, seems to me to be of general applicability, and very probably of considerable efficacy, though it may, till reflected on, appear very trivial; I mean, laying much on the left side, in order to facilitate the entrance of blood into the arteries, and particularly when venæsection is used; as this most probably would prevent syncope, which in this case would be highly disadvantageous or dangerous. I say most probably, but I am of opinion, that if bleeding was *proper*, it most certainly would; while at the same time it would greatly impede, and perhaps prevent the pulmonic congestion from forming again, which otherwise might happen in a few minutes; and probably, particularly if the patient was erect, or on the right side, to a greater extent than before; the faintness which many people are apt to suffer from losing only a small quantity of blood, tending to make the pulmonic vessels more inirritable and relaxed.

When speaking of any particular case, it often is exceedingly difficult to ascertain the best practice for it; but how much more difficult must it be to treat of remedies with any certainty and precision applicable to all cases? And supposing a person do this, he will yet be very liable not to be well understood, or misunderstood. I have
spoken

spoken of fevers *generally*; and I persuade myself that I have found it proved from extensive practice, that neither wine nor the cold bath is a general remedy for fever, and that bleeding is; while, at the same time, the cold bath and wine are most excellent remedies for the common fevers of Britain, and bleeding is commonly unnecessary, and often would be prejudicial; but if we take an extensive view, we shall find the common fevers of Britain make an exceedingly small proportion of fever-cases in general.

Proofs from the general Causes of Diseases and of Fevers.

The causes of fevers are the causes of diseases in general. The most general and the most powerful are bad air, and pain, mental or corporeal; though a disordered intestinal canal, however induced, has great effect. Under the term "bad air," I include any kind of atmosphere not sufficiently pure, as one too pure, I think, is no where to be found; whether the impurity of it arise from moisture, from the results of putrefaction, fermentation, respiration, or combustion, or from terrestrial expirations, &c. and whether it be applied sporadically, endemically, or epidemically, singly, or in several of these ways at once, and of one kind only, or of several kinds together. But I have some grounds to hope, that neither epidemic, endemic, nor sporadic kind of bad air, in general, produces much disease by itself; that is, that one of them, in general, either is not sufficiently concentrated, or is not applied a sufficient length of time to produce much disease, without being effected by one or both the other kinds, or by some other cause. Thus we generally find, that very unwholesome bedrooms, or sitting rooms, houses, streets, towns, districts, and countries, often do not suffer much till an epidemic state of the air comes; and on the other hand we find, that during an epidemic state of the air, those who live in cheerfulness and in dry airy situations and apartments, commonly escape. There have been two or three instances in which this did not *appear* to be the case: but in one of these cases my observation, clearly, certainly is applicable, whatever it may to some *appear* to be, as the bad air in this case was light, and attacked elevated situations, in preference to low ones; and, in the other cases it most probably is so, as a light kind of bad air is a term which conveys nothing absurd. A great part of bad air, however, commonly is moisture, either directly from evaporation, from the ground, or from dews or clouds falling upon the

the ground; and consequently bad air usually is low: it often is so low as to affect most the beasts which graze, and wild beasts in dens, and little animals and reptiles: though on other occasions, it has reached so high as to affect the birds.

THOMAS ALDER.

(To be continued.)

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

MEDICAL Men have, in all ages, been eager to place upon record instances of uncommon formation of parts; and very frequently, have attached more importance to such cases, than in reality belongs to them. Many malformations of the human body are merely curious; and by far the greater proportion of the remainder, afford but very scanty additions to our practical information; and those only through the remote paths of physiology and general reasoning. There still, however, remain a few, the knowledge of which will, sometimes, materially assist us in relieving symptoms, whose causes it would, otherwise, be impossible to understand.

It is true, that, in the case of a new-born infant being incapable of making water, a sensible practitioner would examine the external urinary organs; but, perhaps, if he had not heard of the urethra sometimes being found imperforate, he might not think of such an examination, until other means had failed, which would necessarily involve a certain degree of protracted suffering to the child; on this account, I have thought it would be useful to send you the particulars of such an instance, which happened to me a week ago.

A male child, born on the morning of the 3d of this month, was observed to be very cross on the evening of the 4th, and to suffer from great, though unavailing efforts to make water. The nurse supposed it had heretofore made water at the time it went to stool, from its motions being large and mixed with fluid; so that no idea was entertained of the child having an imperforate urethra. The forcing increased in the night, and on the morning of the

he 5th, the attention of the bye-standers was drawn towards the external organs, in consequence of the penis appearing much distended; it being, according to the nurse's calculation, as large as half of her little finger, and nearly as hard.

Upon examination, they found a small vesicle projecting at the part where the urethra should have terminated, which soon after, from the child's exertions, burst and discharged a stream of urine with great force; the child was instantly relieved, and passed nearly a small tea-cupful of the natural secretion.

The nurse is positive it was a membrane drawn over the orifice of the urethra, because the distention of the penis had brought the end of the glands nearly on a level with the end of the fore skin, so that she had very little difficulty in completely uncovering the glans.

I am, &c.

H.

January 9, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following letter has been inserted in our papers; I am disposed to think, however, that the facts which it contains, deserve a wider circulation than can be given them by a provincial newspaper; should you be of the same opinion, you will perhaps do me the favour to insert them in your Journal.

I am, &c.

CH. CAMERON.

Worcester, Dec. 27, 1809.

AS much unfounded prejudice still exists against the cow-pox, and as inoculation for the small-pox is supposed, with undeviating certainty, to secure the constitution from any future attack of the disease: I beg leave to state the following case, which has recently occurred, as it may tend to remove the objections against the former disorder, and throw some suspicion upon the boasted security of the latter.

John Skyrme, the son of a respectable tradesman in
K 2 this

this city, 18 years of age, was on Friday, the 21st of October, seized with shivering and other symptoms of fever; on the third day, Monday, an eruption appeared, chiefly about the face and neck. When I saw it, I immediately said, this looks like the small-pox, to which his mother replied, that could not be, as he had been inoculated when he was three weeks old, together with four other children, and two servants, all of whom had the disease, to the entire satisfaction of the medical attendant, who, I may venture to assert, from my personal knowledge of him, could not have been deceived, and all the others (the children at least, of the servants, I know nothing) have hitherto escaped, which probably would not have been the event, had they not had the genuine disease. The disorder has now gone through its regular stages of suppuration and desquamation; and that no doubt might remain, I have requested several gentlemen of the profession to visit him, who are all unanimously of opinion, that he has had the small-pox. This may certainly shake our confidence in the immunity afforded by small-pox inoculation, and the following circumstance may perhaps induce us to place a superior reliance upon the cow-pox. A younger brother was ten years ago inoculated with cow-pock matter, and had the disease in a satisfactory manner, and though he slept with his sick brother every night till Monday, and has had daily communication with him since, yet he has resisted the infection, and continues in perfect health. As this is a curious and instructive statement of facts, I hope you will do me the favour to insert it in your Journal; and in order to obviate the cavils to which an anonymous statement might be liable, I shall authenticate it with the name of,

Yours, &c.

CH. CAMERON, M. B.

P. S. The younger boy still remains uninfected, at which I am not at all surprised, as subsequent to the cow-pox, he was twice inoculated with small-pox matter, which produced no effect, and he has enjoyed uninterrupted and even better health since, than he did previous to inoculation for the cow-pox.*

* The Editors received another copy of this communication from Mr. Bathen, of Powick.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

MR. ———, on a visit to this city, received an accidental blow upon the globe of his right eye, which caused him very considerable pain, accompanied with a sense of fulness in that organ; he informed me, that the sense of fulness in the eye-ball gradually increased every day, and that the power of vision diminished as the sense of fulness increased.

On examination, a very considerable quantity of extravasated blood presented itself, effused between the tunica conjunctiva and sclerotica, particularly next the external canthus, occasioned, no doubt, by the blow lacerating some of the vessels, if I may so express myself. I was struck with a beautiful congeries of arteries anastomosing round the ligamentum annulare, sent from the adnata and sclerotica; this inflammation was excited by the violence of the blow. The most particular appearance was the enlargement of the eye; the formation of a tumour by the protrusion of the transparent cornea, caused by an increased secretion of the aqueous humour. The motion of the eye-lid was much impeded, from the circumstance of the distended state of the eye. The above confirmed my first opinion, that this was a clear case of hydrophthalmia; and as I considered the sight only to be impaired by the morbid distension, I proposed the operation for the hydrophthalia, before the disease was aggravated so as to burst through the cornea, and totally destroy vision. After fairly stating both sides of the question to my patient, he readily consented to undergo the operation when I conceived it prudent; consequently, the 23d of November was proposed, which was eight days from the time he met with the accident. In cases of hydrophthalmia, where there is a probability of preserving vision, I prefer operating with a trocar behind the iris; but when it is to be done merely for lessening the globe of the eye, by discharging the aqueous humour, the knife is, in my opinion, to be preferred, as equally efficacious, and less painful. The head being secured, with my right thumb and finger I steadied the eye, and with a flat lancet-pointed trocar in my left hand, I made an opening in the most convenient part of the tumour, behind the iris; when the end of the canula was sufficiently covered by the tunica sclerotica, I with-

drew the stilette, and suffered as much of the aqueous humour to escape as was considered necessary.

The operation being completed, my patient was put to bed, laid on his back; the part first being dressed with a compress of linen, moistened with a solution of extract Saturni, and retained by a proper bandage. At night grt. xl. of tinct. opii were given, in order to diminish pain; a strict antiphlogistic regimen enjoined, with a low diet.

24th. Night passed tolerable easy; removed the bandage, &c.; found inflammation had succeeded to the operation, but in no considerable degree; the same plan was continued.

25th. A restless night; felt darting pain through the globe, with a sensation of dust or other extraneous matter in the eye. I removed the dressing, and found very considerable inflammation, with large distended blood-vessels running in strait lines towards the cornea, particularly on that side next the operation; the largest of these I divided with scissors. After raising them with forceps, applied the same dressings; gave a brisk cathartic, and ordered two leeches to the temple, on the side of the diseased eye.

26th. Expressed himself considerably relieved; had enjoyed a good night, and felt quite comfortable; on removing the bandage and the compress, my patient immediately exclaimed, I can see very well comparatively; the inflammation had in great part subsided; the pupil was distinctly seen, which visibly contracted on the application of light. The same plan, with little variation, was continued for some time; and when the inflammation had entirely disappeared, and absorption of the extravasated blood effected, this gentleman saw nearly as well as ever at the end of three weeks from the operation; and now no defect is visible, except a small mark where the instrument entered.

REMARKS.

This case of hydrophthalmia was no doubt caused by the violence of the blow, as the disease manifested itself very shortly afterwards, denoted by the symptoms enumerated.

The extravasation of blood was from the laceration of vessels, and the natural action of the eye-lid was impeded by the over-distension of the globe. If this disease had continued, I am of opinion, it would soon have ruptured the transparent cornea, and thereby entirely destroyed the eye.

The only chance of saving the organ was by the operation, and that chance was greater, as there was no previous

vicious disease, and the morbid action then present was so recent.

The operation succeeded beyond expectation, by first discharging the increased contents of the eye; and 2dly, by diminishing the inflammation; and by proper tonic applications, the natural or healthy action was restored, and the functions of the eye happily completed.

G. F. EDWARDS,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

Bath, Jan. 3, 1810.

We have been so entertained with the pleasantry of the following short letter, that we insert the whole as received, even with the droll postscript.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR answer to the letter signed an Old Correspondent, (sent you in October) in your Journal of November, seems to have arisen from a complete misunderstanding of the meaning, purport, and intent thereof. There were no anonymous observations in it upon any gentleman whatever. The inquiry made, both then and in the former letter addressed to you, was simply this, (and which, from your extensive acquaintance with authors, was thought not difficult to be answered by you) where can I find the history of, diagnosis, prognosis, and methodus medendi of a disease I see every month, or nearly so, called Gastrodynia? If any author has treated of it, the gentleman who uses the term, should be respectfully requested to give him to the world; or the term, together with some others, should be given up.

Ecce iterum Martinus Scriblerus.

On the cover of your Journal, this day received, as yet not cut open, I see advertised, a second edition of the New London Pharmacopœia, *revised and corrected*. Surely the first cannot as yet require *revision and correction*! Alas, what am I to do? I have bought the first, and cannot afford to buy the second already; is there no little sheet or list printed of these Errata and Corrigenda, to bind up with the first edition? that's somewhat hard upon us poor fellows, whose guineas and half guineas do not roll in upon us so fast as to require a leather lining to the waistcoat pocket, (a thing I have heard which was formerly much used); no, we must, I perceive, remain in ignorance,

because we are poor; possibly this new edition may contain a direction how to make the old Sal. Amarus (sulphate of magnesia, I believe it is now to be called) for I cannot find it in the first, nor can I discover it in the list of articles omitted.

In your Intelligence for this month, you mention that common spirit of turpentine has been recently administered, with good effect, in cases of tape worm. I have prescribed it for many years, exactly as there recommended, and have brought away, or caused to be expelled, many feet of that worm at a time. I always took care to ascertain tolerable clearly, and indeed, sometimes with certainty, what the case was before I ordered it. In some cases it has been necessary to guard the kidneys from its effects, by ordering plenty of emollient drinks to be given at the same time. I regret I cannot say where I got the remedy, it was many years ago. I cannot help thinking it was from Dr. Donald Monro's Medical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry,

In a letter I received last week from Edinburgh, mention is made, that Mr. Walker, author of the Archives of Universal Science, has produced a paper, in which he describes a part in the brain hitherto unnoticed and unknown; I hope your next month's Journal will give us some account of it.

I am, &c.

AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.

P. S. Pray do not forget me next month; don't quibble nor mistake my plain meaning, in answer to my former letters, and first part of this.

Remarks on the Infantile Fever, and on the Nature of Fever in general.

THE difficulty of distinguishing the diseases of children was never greater than at the present, owing to the various hypotheses that do but rise to fall, and which serve only to confound the timid and fluctuating mind of the young practitioner. Were medical men to establish theories, by drawing unshaken inferences from facts, instead of accommodating symptoms to any particular hypothesis, which, for the moment, usurps the empire of reason, we should be no longer driven backward and forward on the agitated

agitated waves of uncertainty. What must be the state of our knowledge, when in every publication on the diseases of children, the symptoms of hydrocephalus acutus and infantile fever are described as being exactly similar; and when black putrid stools are denominated hydrocephalic?

However some practitioners of respectable authority deny the frequency of hepatic affections in this climate, certain I am, they form no small proportion, as well of the diseases of children as of adults; that mercury will cure them, I am equally certain; but whether or no any other article of the materia medica have like efficacy, I cannot from experience determine. No medicine that I have tried has ever been attended with such happy effects, though the cause of such effects, or the *modus operandi* of the medicine, seems to be involved in obscurity.

When we are called to a child labouring under what is called the infantile fever, we are told that he has been poorly for some days; we find that he has no appetite; his bowels costive; and perhaps there is nausea, or vomiting. The child, if he be of an age to admit of it, will complain of violent head-ache, thirst, and a burning heat of the skin; he will start during sleep, and pick his nostrils. The eyes look suffused and heavy; and the tongue, on examination, will be covered with fur, independently of that whiteness which seems natural to the tongues of children. How are we to account for such symptoms, and consequently, what practice is to be pursued?

The violent head-ache, flushed face, picking of the nostrils, and starting during sleep, will, on the first blush of the subject, tell us these are symptoms of hydrocephalus acutus. Having thus discovered what we imagine to be the nature of the disease, we shall begin to deplete with the lancet or leeches, to blister the head, and besides putting our little patient to much unnecessary torture, induce a state of debility, from whence he may never recover; for so important a fluid as the blood cannot be formed without a due and energetic performance of the digestive process; this being put a stop to, the springs of life are dry, the waste of the system goes on, and death ensues from inanition. This description may be said to be too highly coloured; it may be so! yet the leading features of it, I doubt not, have been too often realized in the depletory practice of those who entertain too high an opinion of the lancet.

The next question which naturally occurs, and which

is by far the most important, inasmuch as it leads to successful practice, is, how are we to account unequivocally for such symptoms? This calls our attention to organs no less important than the brain, I mean the digestive organs. The bowels are constipated; there is no appetite; there is nausea, &c.; appearances manifestly evincing a derangement of the chylo-poietic viscera; but can this derangement account for the prostration of strength, heat of the surface, and the symptoms affecting the head? I think it can.

If we inquire what kind of evacuation the child has had prior to his having any noticeable complaint, we shall be told that it was black, small in quantity, and of an offensive smell; that, in short, it evinced no appearance from whence to infer the presence of bile. This leads us to the source of the disease. From whatever accidental cause, as cold, improper food, &c. the functions of the liver are either suspended, or the biliary ducts obstructed, the consequence is, that the aliment is incompletely digested; fæcification does not go on; the intestines are torpid from the want of their accustomed stimulus; and hence, the want of colour and retention of the fæces. If then the half-formed fæces remain in the intestines, without the addition of bile, they will, from the heat of the body, be in the most convenient situation for putrefaction; which must inevitably take place. The consequence is, that the more fluid parts of this putrid mass are taken into the circulation by absorption; this depresses the system, and perhaps contributes to produce the other phænomena; for if contagious matter, in the form of miasmata, will produce such direful effects on the animal economy, it is but fair to conclude, that putrid matter in its present form or modification will occasion the symptoms in question. Thus, then, we have accounted for the prostration of strength; "that nausea or vomiting takes its rise from thence needs no proof; there existing such a well known sympathy amongst the digestive organs, owing to their mutual dependance on each other."

Admitting this to be true, I think we are justifiable in attributing to the same cause, the alternations of heat and cold on the surface; for that there is direct sympathy between the skin and digestive organs, numerous proofs might be adduced; at present, however, I shall confine myself to a few familiar examples. It is well known that when a person is about to vomit, this organ is variously affected; at one moment the patient is chilled with a sense
of

of coldness, (the skin exhibiting the appearance called goose-skin); then again, he complains of intolerable heat. Now he is covered with a cold clammy sweat; then a profuse perspiration emanates from every pore. It is equally certain, that in some peculiarities of constitution, the eating of shell-fish and other species of aliment will be followed by an efflorescence on the skin. But here it may be objected, that in the examples I have brought forward the stomach was solely affected; and that as it is an universal sympathizer, it was sufficient to produce such symptoms; this I grant: but if we allow that the primary disease existed in the liver, and that in consequence of such disease, the stomach and bowels were secondarily affected, immediately the objection will vanish, and we shall be no longer at a loss to account for the phenomena in question. Now, with respect to the flushing of the face; those who argue for cerebral inflammation being the proximate cause of fever, will assert, that *this* proves a determination of blood to the head, and from thence they infer an actual inflammation of the brain. The fallacy of this can be easily detected; for as we have just shewn the sympathy between the skin and chylo-poietic viscera, and have proved the cause of the alternations of heat and cold on the surface in general; can we wonder that it here evinces a florid hue, where it is so plentifully supplied with vessels? To say that this was a proof of cerebral inflammation would be tantamount to saying that a transient blush denoted an incipient phrenitis.

The next set of symptoms that need explanation, and which those of the opposite opinion deem insurmountable, I shall proceed to investigate: I allude to the head-ach, starting during sleep, and picking of the nostrils. That pain of the head, starting during sleep, or convulsions, may arise from an affection of the chylo-poietic viscera, can be easily accounted for on the grounds of sympathy. Now the brain being the common sensorium, must sympathize with the rest of the system; that it does so, I need but call your attention to the head-ach and delirium that attend a symptomatic fever, arising from any considerable local injury. If then an injury done to a limb will give rise to such strange affections of the brain and nervous system, a fortiori, the effect must be greater when such important organs as the abdominal viscera being deranged, are the exciting cause. This being granted, we have only to prove a positive affection of the one, and no manifest disease of the other, to establish the point; and here dis-

section is decidedly in our favour, for we always find after death an inflammation of the mucous membranes, liver, spleen, or any other of the abdominal viscera; while the brain presents an appearance perfectly natural, there existing no sensible change of structure. Dr. Fordyce, and many other physicians of equal eminence, whose extensive opportunities for observation render their testimony unimpeachable, never found any disorganization of the brain in patients who died of typhus fever, while the digestive or pneumonic organs always evinced marks of disease.

As to the child's picking his nostrils, this cannot argue an inflammation of the brain, for as the Sniderian membrane is but a continuation of the mucous membrane lining the alimentary canal, (though it differs somewhat in structure) it is but rational to suppose, that when one part is affected, the other will be affected sympathetically; nor is evidence wanting on this point, for who will doubt the sympathetic consent of the membranes of the nostrils, fauces, ductus nasalis, and eye, when his fauces are irritated by too large a proportion of any stimulating condiment, as mustard, &c.? Admitting then a partial, we cannot hesitate to allow a general sympathy; and the moment this is granted, the fact in question is established, and we at once trace back the symptom to its original source.

Having thus, I trust, satisfactorily proved the proximate cause of the disease, or, in other words, the nature of the disease itself, the indications of cure are obvious, viz. to evacuate the intestines of their putrid contents, and thus relieve the symptoms, at the same time, by inducing a due secretion of bile to prevent their recurrence; that mercury will have these effects when administered early, at least before the absorption of contagious matter has been so great as to render the effects of medicine futile, I shall endeavour to prove by the recital of a few cases.

If we admit this Theory to be true, we cannot wonder that bark, wine, acids, &c. cure typhus; at least, support the sinking powers of the system till the poison has spent its force.

CASE I, Nov. 25, 1809. Master C——, æt. 4, having been unwell for some days, complained about midnight of a violent head-ach, thirst, and a burning heat of the surface. I saw him the day following, in the evening; I found him with a flushed face; eyes dull and heavy; head-ach, and costiveness, having had no stool for some days. He has no appetite, and is unable to walk about from
prosp-

prostration of strength. His tongue is furred, and pulse quick; but as the circulation goes on with great rapidity in children, I did not attend to the latter symptom.

Mitte hydrargyri submuriatis, gr. v. triturated with an equal quantity of sugar; to be taken immediately: and after two hours, a little of the sulphate of magnesia dissolved in infusion of senna.

I ordered the patient to be laid in a recumbent posture, and the head kept wet with vinegar and water, to cause an evaporation from the surface, fearing from the accounts that are set down in books, an incipient hydrocephalus. The mercury produced evacuations upwards and downwards, the faces were black, and of an intolerably offensive smell. The child expressed himself as being nearly well, and the eyes seemed to have recovered their wonted vivacity.

Nov. 27. Our patient has had no stool, and no return of appetite. Rep. pulvis calomelanos statim. sumendus. This was again productive of the most happy effects; he had several evacuations which gradually returned to their natural colour; and the day following, the child was completely recovered.

CASE II. The sister of the above child was soon after affected with the same set of symptoms, and as speedily recovered by the use of calomel.

CASE III. Nov. 28. Mr. M's child, aged 3, of an extremely delicate habit, has been indisposed for three or four days, in consequence of having, as they supposed, caught a severe cold. She has violent fits of screaming, starts during sleep, and is incessantly picking her nose. She seems to refer her complaint chiefly to her head; her face is alternately flushed, and pale; the eyes look dull and heavy; and the pupils seem considerably dilated. She has an incessant cough, and breathes laboriously; her bowels have been some days constipated; and she refuses food. Still haunted with the fears of hydrocephalus, I gave directions about wetting the head, as in the preceding cases, previously proposing the application of leeches, and a blister, which, happily for the patient, the parents would not accede to.

Mitte hydrargyri submuriatis, gr. iv. statim sum.; and after two hours, a little of the solution, which indeed, could not be administered.

Nov. 29. The calomel produced four copious, black, and offensive stools. The child seems much relieved, though she still refuses her food, and is incapable of motion; lying constantly on her back. Rep. pulv. calomelanos.

30. The stools still evince no bile, but she was able to walk about, and has taken a little nourishment. Rep. pulv. calomelanos.

31. The stools now resumed their natural colour; the cough and difficulty of breathing disappeared; in short, she was *completely* recovered by good diet and tonic medicines.

CASE IV. Dec. 10, 1809. I was requested to visit Miss S. æt. 4, who is naturally of a robust constitution, but has been some days indisposed. She complains of a pain in her head, and is unable to move her lower extremities. Her face is flushed; eyes heavy, and pupils considerably dilated. She has had no sleep for some nights; refuses food; and has had no evacuation since she began to be ill. Mitte hydrargyri submuriatis, gr. viij. statim sum.

11. The calomel produced its usual effects; she has had an indifferent night, but is apparently better. Rep. pulv. calom.

12. The stools evinced bile; she could now walk; her appetite returned; and a little of the decoction of bark completely restored her.

I am, &c.

JUNIUS.

January 11, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the Medical Journal does not reach me till the month in which it is published is far advanced, and as the season is become rather more unhealthy, other engagements press upon my notice, I have not leisure at present to resume the subject of my former communication in the manner I could wish, and must content myself with a hasty reply to the observations made in your last Number, in so far as I find myself immediately affected by them.

I may premise, that I am by no means an enemy to a plan of general and gradual Reform; to use a figure which has of late been much usurped by political writers, such a course of alteratives as will effect a radical change in the body-professional, and render the streams more clear by purifying and improving their source. But in calling myself an enemy to the quackery of corporate bodies, which
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your liberal and well informed Correspondent thinks is quaintly expressing nothing at all, I mean that kind of quackery which prescribes certain and absolute rules, and precise enactments for remedying certain evils, some of which, if they really exist, are to be referred for their causes to radical defects, out of the reach of legal nostrums. To exemplify my meaning, and that the drift of my argument may be better understood, I would ask your Correspondent, to what we may attribute the great increase of empiricism? Not, I should presume, to want of numbers, nor the want of skill, in the regular practitioners. This subject I know has been amply discussed; but of the causes assigned for this increase, I know of none more weighty than the increasing opulence and luxury of certain ranks of men; the consequent leisure, pusillanimity, and credulity with regard to medical subjects, which are naturally induced in such situations; and the pernicious example of benevolent and well-meaning, but weak and ill-directed people, the Buchans and Bountifuls, who infest the land with their cant, and their small-ware-acts of generosity.

I did not require Dr. Harrison to publish the whole bill, which it is intended to lay before parliament, but to give those who have not had the means of understanding thoroughly what was meant to be proposed, some better information of what they were called upon to pay for; and as your Correspondent asserts, that our gains are few, he will not wonder that we are inclined to ask, *cui bono*, before we open our purses. I am not versed in parliamentary matters, but I have no notion of a thing being unparliamentary, of which that "August Assembly," as yet, has taken no cognizance. The explanation which your Correspondent has given, has certainly obviated some of my objections to the measure; yet still I fear that, at best, it will not answer the expectations of its advisers.

I shall not stop to trace how the present pre-eminence of the law over other professions has arisen, and that we are at present blessed with lawyer rule; if I were, I think it could be proved that such pre-eminence has rather been the cause than the effect of those ordinances, by which your Correspondent thinks its professors have been so much benefitted. The multiplication of laws, the multiplicity of taxes, and the division of property of a mercantile country, all explain why the profession of the law should be more lucrative, and more commanding; and since the faculty of talking is become the road to power, it is not surprising that lawyers should usurp it. But I still main-

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tain, that in so far as my observation extends, the profession of physic has lost no ground in point of respectability, except perhaps within a certain London circle, where riches have gained a temporary superiority over information and intellect; and that in the part of the country where I reside, my Lady gives her hand at a ball to her medical attendant, with as much respect, and as much freedom, as she does in the sick chamber. As to the remarks of Viator, I presume that the rule of precedence, which he has given upon the authority of the Herald's Office, holds only within the naval and military establishments, where every thing ranks subordinate to the profession of arms; and on board the fleet, I believe, an admiral takes place of an earl. But in society at large, and in promiscuous assemblies, such a degradation of either of the learned faculties is far from being recognised; and in common language, the professions of law, physic, and divinity, still hold an equal rank. If such is the courtesy of the country, as stated by the Herald's Office, doubtless it is given upon the most ancient authority, and is an additional proof of the amelioration of the condition of our profession, which now holds a rank, in common acceptance, far above that it held some centuries ago. The assertion of your Correspondent, that medical men in the country, are the associates of the steward's room, and the butt of the squire, scarcely merit notice; for it is, as far as I am acquainted, perfectly unfounded, and is what does not exist, except in some novels and plays, amongst which, ridicule of the learned professions is handed about as a standing dish. Your Correspondent seems also to doubt the superior estimation in which medicine is held in this island. I remember a friend of mine, who had travelled upon the continent, once told me, that he always found it more to his advantage to pass for a simple *savant*, than to exercise the right of an M. D. or to be esteemed a physician.

In a moral and political point of view, the ascendancy which the science of medicine and its professors have over the minds of the present enervate generation, is sufficient for its purpose; it is too great, if we may credit the elegant Rousseau. "Cet art mensonger plus fait pour les maux de l'esprit que pour ceux des corps, n'est pas plus utile aux uns qu'aux autres; il nous guérit moins de nos maladies qu'il ne nous en emprunte l'effroi. Il recule moins la mort qu'il ne la fait sentir d'avance; il use la vie au lieu de la prolonger. Voulez-vous, trouver des hommes d'un vrai courage? Cherchez-les dans les lieux où il n'y a point

point de medecins, ou l'on ignore les consequences des maladies, et ou l'on ne songe guère à la mort." The immense numbers, particularly of the female sex, who live the slaves of their physicians, and the victims of unfounded apprehensions of disease, almost warrant the conclusion of this strict observer of human nature. I have been led into this digression by the comparison drawn between the relative situation of law and physic. If the former has taken too much hold upon our property and our actions, may not the latter usurp too great an authority over our minds?

To a well digested plan of reform, directed chiefly against empiricism, I have no objection; and it may be extended towards the improvement of the medical school, to the exclusion of ignorance and incompetence there; but for the rest of the profession, I should wish to see it make its own way, and find its own level.

If Dr. Harrison, or any of the projectors of the bill, will assure us of their having provided against the invasion of corruption amongst those from whom authority to practice is to be obtained, and of their lasting competence to the task of judging: If they will assure us that the caprice of individuals, and the caprice of men, will not render restriction nugatory; and that in the lapse of a few years, it will not be found that their laws are binding only upon those who have entered within their immediate limits: I am ready to subscribe my guinea towards the expence of an Act of Parliament; and if we are indeed sunk so low, as not to class with the children of the sister arts, I am willing to concur in any measure which will convince the world, that we still aspire to the situations formerly held by Locke, Garth, and Ratcliffe, and their contemporaries.

January 14, 1810.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN your Journal of last month, (January, 1810) there is a letter addressed to you by a gentleman who signs himself OBSERVATOR, respecting the *hacknied custom*, as he is pleased to call it, of Physicians directing their prescriptions

(No. 132.)

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scriptions to be taken to the shop of a druggist to be prepared. I cannot but observe, that this letter deviates very widely from the *liberal principles* which he says many physicians are deficient in. After complaining of the practice of medical men, who direct their prescriptions to be made up by some particular druggist, he says, "for there are physicians who have their favorite houses." And a little farther he adds, "it is not for me here to hazard an opinion as to the motives for so doing." Now, whatever may be this gentleman's secret opinion I know not; but I would ask him, what evil can possibly arise from this practice? If I be not mistaken, it is in many respects greatly advantageous. A man who is constantly in the habit of preparing the prescriptions of some one physician, becomes familiarly acquainted with his writing; therefore, as some physicians frequently write very unintelligible through haste, &c. this man is, doubtless, more capable of knowing the true meaning of his prescription than a stranger, and consequently less liable to error. This is not, I conceive, the only circumstance that occasions medical men to make use of one particular shop. When a physician begins to practise in public, it is of essential importance that the medicines which he prescribes be genuine. In order to render this secure, he looks out for a man who, in his opinion, is qualified, and whose chemical and pharmaceutical preparations are in the highest perfection. This done, he fixes upon him as his compounder; and would it not be absurd for such to be continually changing from one shop to another?

I cannot imagine what *Observer* can adduce against what he terms, *physicians having their favourite houses*. He seems to have a particular hostility against druggists, and in his haste to point out their defects, appears unconscious that his own arguments may be applied with equal force against himself. This passage of an ancient author, "*Suo sibi gladio hunc jugulo*," could never be more justly applied than in the present case. He taxes the druggists with the want of that which I am sorry to say, too many apothecaries are not possessed of, viz. Education. That there are illiterate druggists in many parts of the metropolis, as well as in other places, cannot be denied; but then, are there not many illiterate apothecaries also? I would ask the gentleman, what it is that makes druggists so much inferior? In point of education, one has an equal advantage with the other; and there are thousands who are capable of construing a Latin prescription, who

who know not the smallest principle of the language. He concludes his epistle with these words: "If accuracy of judgment, genuineness of medicines, &c. be of any importance in the preparation of medical prescriptions, it scarcely needs be mentioned where they are most likely to be combined." Whatever may be his real sentiments of the accuracy of judgment required in compounding medicines, I would, contrary to his insinuation, venture to assert, that from the superior chemical knowledge possessed by most druggists, they are in this case to be preferred. Indeed, the advantages derived by the druggist from his superiority in chemical knowledge, are very numerous; it enables him to know with certainty what effects certain combinations will produce; and as substances, simple in themselves, are known to act upon each other in such manner as to produce the most dangerous poisons, it is obvious that those who are best acquainted with these principles, are the properest to be applied to. His knowledge also of the quality of drugs, and the methods with which he is well acquainted, of detecting any adulteration, is without doubt of the greatest use in discovering the genuineness of medicines; and how many apothecaries there are, who, from a deficiency in this respect, are incapable of distinguishing a good drug from a bad one.

Being impressed with these considerations on reading the very partial letter of *Observer*, I could not resist the inclination of committing them to paper; and if you will be kind enough to insert them in your useful *Miscellany*, you will much oblige,

Yours, &c.

A CONSTANT READER.

January 13, 1810.

*** Though the subject of the above, and *Observer's* letter, may not appear scientific, yet they are connected with another which we wish to see canvassed on the most enlarged and liberal scale; we mean, that of Medical Reform. It cannot be questioned, that apothecaries and druggists have both acted out of their proper sphere. The apothecaries are, become physicians, and the druggists apothecaries. The consequence is, that with most of the rising, and even the passing generations, each branch has been educated with a view to the stations they expect to fill. But as this is not universally the case, both our Correspondents may be right as to individuals. The question,

however, has quite a different bearing. Whilst the fees of physicians remain as at present, an order of medical men is absolutely necessary to visit the patient frequently in all acute, perhaps many chronic, cases; and the only established mode of payment is by their profit on the medicines. This is only one part of the question unnoticed by these gentlemen; there are many others which will occur to every reader, though our Correspondents, in their zeal or haste, have omitted to touch upon them. EDIT.

Observations on the remarkable Efficacy of Carrots, under a new Mode of Application, in the Cure of Ulcers and Sores. By MR. RICHARD WALKER.

(From the Philosophical Magazine.)

THE carrot poultice is an application which has been long in use to correct the disposition and improve the discharge of the putrid or scorbutic ulcer.

The manner in which it is usually applied, is by grating or scraping the carrots fine, and laying them on raw.

I have lately had reason to believe, that the effects of it may be considerably increased, by varying the mode of application.

Several cases occurred in the Radcliffe infirmary, during the summer and beginning of the winter last year, of the true, malignant, scorbutic ulcer.

All the common methods of treatment were adopted, and of course the carrot poultice was not omitted.

The inefficacy of it however was too evident.

In consequence therefore of the ill success attending this practice, several of the cases terminating fatally, and as fresh instances were continually occurring, the following change was at length tried, in the use of this remedy.

The carrots being previously cleaned by scraping and washing, were split and boiled till quite tender, in a small quantity of water; the liquor was then strained, or poured off, and the carrots beaten in a mortar, to the consistence of an uniform soft moist pulp.

The ulcers were first washed clean with the liquor rather warm, in which the carrots had been boiled, sometimes fomented with it, and the carrot poultice being previously spread ready, that the sore might be as little exposed to the air as possible, applied cold.

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This was repeated night and morning, and oftener when the quantity of discharge, or other circumstances, made it necessary; but this was seldom required, when the mode above mentioned was adopted sufficiently early; that is, before the sore had made much progress in its scorbutic state.

It scarcely need be observed, that this disposition was known to have taken place, when the ulcer, from being firm, florid, and discharging good pus, became spongy, pallid, and discharged a considerable quantity of a thin, bloody, or gleety kind of matter.

The superior effects of this treatment were apparent in a very short time; in a few days the sores (several of which, before, were spreading rapidly, threatening the lives of the patients) were obviously improved; and in short, without any interruption to their progress in amendment, they were all of them gradually restored to a healthy appearance; and the cure finished, either by a continuance of this, or the methods ordinarily used to sores in a healthful healing state.

In all the cases above alluded to, bark, opium, &c. were as usual administered.

Nothing, however, has been particularly stated with respect to the exhibition of such remedies, as the object of the present paper is merely to direct the attention of practitioners to the use of the carrot poultice, and to recommend, under the sanction of many successful cases, the mode of applying it above described.

Oxford, November 2, 1795.

November 30, 1803.

Since the above was written, a very considerable number of similar cases have at different times occurred, in which the efficacy of the carrot poultice, applied as above, has been abundantly confirmed; viz. very large sores, chiefly on the leg, extending in some instances from the knee to the

* The antiseptic power of the carrot poultice has been ascribed, I believe, to the carbonic acid gas which the sore is supposed to imbibe from it during its application; hence it might be inferred that the carrot was fittest for use in its raw state.

I am however rather inclined to impute the efficacy of the carrot to its mild anti-putrescent quality, depending chiefly on the pulpy saccharine matter it contains in common with other vegetables, but in greater abundance; meliorated and softened into the fittest consistence by boiling and pounding for application to the tender, irritable surface of ulcers, sores, inflamed skin, &c.

the ankle, originating from accidental injury, habitual ulcers likewise, surfaces of stumps, and other sores after operations, all having assumed the morbid disposition before mentioned. In every one of these cases, the carrot poultice has been the immediate and constant resource, and with the completest success.*

As the efficacy of carrot poultice in different sores, and the fittest mode of its application, have, occasionally, ever since its adoption, engaged my particular attention, viz. for a period of nearly ten years, I am now enabled to speak more confidently, and with greater precision on the subject, and shall therefore give a more particular detail of every circumstance relative to it; premising in addition to what I have before said respecting that morbid disposition of a sore which requires this remedy, that it is commonly preceded by a more than usual disposition in the sore to bleed on the slightest touch or motion, and very quickly after this appearance the diseased state alluded to follows.

The carrots are now cut in thin transverse slices (instead of being split) for boiling, and the poultice when ready, observing to have it as moist as it will admit of without the inconvenience of its running about, instead of being spread on the cloth, is applied wherever the situation of the part will allow, by laying it on in portions with the hand, filling up first the cavities lightly, and then laying a coating of it about the thickness or rather more than that of an ordinary poultice, over the whole surface, and considerably beyond the edges of the sore; pressing it close, smooth, and of an uniform thickness, quite to the edge of the poultice; otherwise it will become dry at the edge, and occasion some inconvenience in removing, by its adhesion.

The cloth or fine linen is then to be applied and pinned tight over it; and a short roller may be used in order to keep the poultice uniformly close, and prevent it from being displaced.†

The more recently the carrot poultice has been boiled
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* Large wounds and ulcers not unfrequently acquire an ill-conditioned state, notwithstanding the most skilful application of adhesive plaster, requiring a suspension of that mode of practice for a time.

† The method here described of applying the poultice was found convenient in very large sores with irregular surface; but in general it may be applied in the usual way spread on cloth, observing that the fresh poultice be ready to be applied immediately on the removal of the old one.

and prepared the fitter it is for use, therefore it is best when prepared immediately before using. But as the process of boiling the carrots sufficiently requires some time, enough may be made at once for two or three days consumption, but not longer, particularly in hot weather, when indeed it should be prepared daily; and when it is necessary to warm it for application, this is best effected by placing a bason containing it in a vessel of water over the fire.

It is particularly requisite that the carrot poultice be applied as moist as can be, in order that it may not become too dry by the next time of application.

As many of the cases in which it is applied are those in which the temperature of the body and the sore are considerably above, or hotter than the healthy temperature, particular care should be taken that in such cases the poultice be applied so as to produce in the patient a sensation of coolness; but in ordinary cases, a sensation of warmth.

Most cases require it to be applied twice in the day, viz. every morning and evening; and very few indeed require it oftener.

If the sore should require from its foulness to be washed at the time of dressing, it is best done by squeezing a sponge full of the liquor out of a bason containing it over the sore repeatedly (catching the foul liquor in a bowl) till cleansed; the outside should then be wiped dry to the edge; the sore itself, however, should on no account be touched with the sponge, but be cleansed with lint if necessary.*

The liquor may be that in which the carrots have been boiled, or in defect of that, milk and water or pure water, observing that its temperature be not hotter than the sore can bear with the most perfect ease to the patient. The washing may be omitted unless when the sore is very foul.†

The effect of the carrot poultice thus applied is to correct the fœtor or stench of ill-conditioned sores, and to reduce them to a perfectly healthy or good-conditioned state; moreover to thicken and diminish the discharge as well as correct it; hence it follows that it is particularly indicated in large sores with too thin or too copious a discharge.

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* This precaution is particularly necessary in putrid cases, to avoid the danger of keeping up or renewing the contagion in the sore.

† It is essential that the sore be as little exposed to the air as possible; hence it is better not to be very solicitous in cleansing the sore, the repetition of the poultice effecting this sufficiently.

When the sore is found to be sufficiently restored by the use of the carrot poultice, it should be dressed by applying first a single stratum of loosely made lint, not of the close compact kind which is made by an instrument; then a pledget of any common simple cerate, spread fresh and rather thick on fine cloth, if the sore be very large, otherwise upon fine lint, sufficient to cover the edges of the sore completely, and over this a defensative plaster in the usual way of epulotic cerate on tow, with a compress and moderately tight roller. Dressing once a day is commonly sufficient, that is, every morning; but if the sore is large, or whilst the discharge is copious, it is better to dress it twice every day.

If the discharge is considerable, the stratum of dry lint upon the sore may be thicker, that is, in all instances just sufficient to absorb or retain the discharge.

It is not amiss, when the sore is become apparently fit for dressing, to apply one or two poultices more, having a single stratum of fine lint applied as above, immediately under the poultice, and then proceed as before mentioned.

The carrot poultice may be safely and efficaciously applied to sores in a healthful, healing state; but as sores then require pressure by bandage, and other management, known to every experienced surgeon, it is best to stop the use of it at this stage.

Since the effect of this carrot poultice is in a peculiar degree to diminish as well as thicken the discharge of a sore, it should never be used where an increased discharge is required, from mischief being likely to arise by pent-up matter; as when any part becomes swollen or inflamed for want of a free discharge at the sore, in that case a soft emollient poultice, and the practice usual in such cases, must be adopted.*

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* Cases of this kind, in which alone its application is objectionable, cannot be confounded with the dry, foul, or scorbutic ulcer, in which the carrot poultice by correcting the disease promotes a healthy discharge, and separation of sloughs; nor with sloughs arising from various other causes, such as sometimes occur in the course of the cure of gun-shot wounds, burns, &c. in which it is equally efficacious. Unctuous applications to sores of large surface are apt to produce superficial sloughs, which increase, or spread, by continuing the use of such applications—this disposition not unfrequently occurs in extensive scalds. Where such sloughs, accompanied with intensely inflamed edges, are forming from this cause, it is truly astonishing to observe the effect of this specific application in arresting the progress of this disease, by the almost immediate vanishing of the inflammation, the quick separation of the sloughs, and the rapid progress of the sore to a healthy healing state.

The carrot poultice in this form is applicable to all other species of sore, viz. venereal, cancerous, scrophulous, &c. and will be found, with the aid of proper medicines, the best application for the purpose of keeping the sores in good condition, and healing such of them as are not in their nature incurable.

The carrot poultice as above, is a good application to excoriations of the skin in any part, or from any cause or disease where a thin disagreeable discharge occurs.

In the cases before mentioned, where the carrot poultice is improper from pent-up matter, if the surface of the sore has acquired the scorbutic taint, a thin stratum of the carrot poultice may be applied over that surface, and the emollient poultice* over it, until that disposition is corrected.

The carrot poultice, as may be naturally inferred from what has been said of it, may be applied with singular good effect to a variety of other diseases which produce a thin, hot, acrid humour on the part, viz. ophthalmia, herpes, &c.

In old habitual ulcers, the carrot poultice may be applied at any time when the sore is foul or ill-conditioned; and particularly when such a sore has a dry sordes on the surface, carrot poultice applied thin over that surface, and an emollient poultice over it of bread and milk, never fail to bring on quickly a discharge of good-conditioned pus.

It sometimes happens when a cure is tedious, as in sores of extensive surface, or of a languid or sluggish disposition, that from the mere changing of the application for another a short time, and then renewing the former, the sore will become invigorated and more disposed to heal than before: when this appears to be the case, the intervention of a few carrot poultices will effect it, I think, better than any other application, and hasten the healing of the sore very considerably.

Small obstinate sores in bad habits which resist the usual means, are commonly brought into a healing state by carrot poultice alone, but sometimes more readily when it is conjoined with the use of *hydrargyrus nitratus ruber*; and when such a sore is become clean and florid, the cure may be completed by dressing with a little of the down of lint loosely upon, or in the sore, and the carrot poultice over it.

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* A poultice of bread and milk is, I believe, much fitter for this purpose than one of linseed flour.

There is no circumstance in the curative art more lightly, but more erroneously thought of than the healing of sores; this being supposed by many to depend upon the mere circumstance of taking off one plaster and putting on another; whereas too frequently even an apparently trifling sore (not arising from any constitutional cause and consequently requiring no internal medicine) will baffle for a long time the efforts of a skilful practitioner: and, indeed, I am well assured, that very commonly the patient is loaded with bark, &c. to the injury of his health; whilst the sore remains the same, or is becoming worse, till a mode of dressing appropriate to that particular case is hit upon.

Carrots may be procured fit for use all the year round, and though fittest when they have but just arrived at maturity, are nevertheless sufficiently efficacious at all seasons. Or they may be collected at the proper season, and preserved in sand, till the next return of them to a perfect state.

In defect of a pestle and mortar to pound the carrots, a wooden wash-hand bowl, with an appropriately-formed pestle of wood, having its base largely convex, in order to bruise the carrots more readily, may be used in their stead.

Of late years, bark and Port wine have been much more sparingly used in cases of scorbutic ulcers, &c. the carrot poultice, with an ordinary restorative diet, having been found to answer best.

In large sores that require a great quantity of the carrot poultice, the outer part of the poultice may be rather coarse, but that which applies to the sores should in all cases be a perfect pulp.

The only objectionable circumstance, that I know of, respecting the carrot poultice as an application, is its disposition to become dry, particularly when used in small quantities, as in small sores, or when the carrots are not in their most succulent, pulpy state: this circumstance, however, is completely obviated, by applying a stratum or portion of the prepared carrot upon the part affected, and laying a poultice over it of linseed flour, or bread and milk, as the nature of the case may seem to require.

I have been induced to offer these observations to the attention of the public, from a conviction of the utility that may ensue from the knowledge of the efficacy of the carrot poultice, thus prepared, being made general; which has hitherto, I have good reason to think, been chiefly confined to this vicinity; where this poultice is used as well in private practice as in the Infirmary, and with the most eminent advantage.

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POSTSCRIPT.

At the time this mode was originally tried here, the usual, and I suppose I may say, the constant practice in surgery was, to apply the carrots raw as before mentioned; this manner of using them being directed in all books of surgery, and the practice of it confined chiefly to the purpose of removing the ill smell or fœtor of sores.

The circumstance that led to it was the extraordinary bad cases above related; which originated in a man who had a very large cancerous sore of the arm, which became so putrid and offensive, as to contaminate, as was supposed, the ward: several of the patients soon after, having sores, some even of a trifling description, which quickly assumed the putrid, scorbutic disposition above described, and several others in succession.

This affair became so serious, that it was thought advisable to have a consultation of the faculty, which accordingly took place.

The result of this was, all medical and chirurgical skill having been exhausted to no purpose, that all the wards should be fresh white-washed, and fumigated;—but still the evil continued with unabating fury.

At this juncture, having observed the effects of the carrot poultice used when raw, to exceed, in some degree, the rest of the various remedies employed, consisting, among others, of the fermenting poultice, so highly esteemed in cases of this nature; I proposed using a poultice made of the carrots boiled, hoping their efficacy might be increased thereby, attending particularly to the process and application myself; the result of which was, as before stated.

The good effects indeed of this treatment were so decided, that, although of sixteen cases which occurred in the course of the year 1794, ten terminated fatally, notwithstanding the most skilful application of the means then in use; there was not one, out of at least the same number of cases, equally dangerous, which presented themselves the year after, but what ended well under this new method.

Since that time this mode alone of applying the carrot poultice has been in use in the Radcliffe Infirmary, not only for the scorbutic or putrid kind of ulcer whenever it occurred, but for all untoward or foul sores of every description.

That the efficacy of the carrot poultice thus modified, is not generally known, even at this time, I can assert with some degree of confidence, having been repeatedly
assured

assured by a professional gentleman, that the carrot poultice, prepared in the old way, is still in general use, and without attributing any efficacy to it, beyond that which was originally allowed to that remedy. It has, however, lately found its way into some publications, but in a very vague and indeterminate manner.

Oxford, Oct. 1, 1806.

* * * The above account of the efficacy of carrots, brings to the Editor's recollection, a similar instance of cure performed by turnips, as communicated by a friend. The following is the case alluded to: "A man about 50 years of age, and who had lived irregularly, had been for several years afflicted with ulcers on both legs. They at last extended from the knee to the ankle downwards, the discharge being greater, and the sores worse-conditioned along the shin-bone in front of the leg. When the writer of this article first saw the man in question, he was confined to bed, and had been unable to walk across the room for several weeks: he had been successively attended by all the medical gentlemen of the town in which he lived, and had undergone several courses of medicine with a view to purify the system, but without effect: his sores were dressed with the usual ointments. The application of turnip poultices was suggested to him by a country woman who came into the town on market-days. Her instructions were, that he should night and morning apply poultices of white turnips to the sores, previously bathing them with the liquor, squeezed out when the roots were boiled into pulp. The poultices were directed to be applied hot. The above directions were faithfully attended to by the patient under the inspection of the writer of this article: within the first twenty-four hours, the ulcers had assumed a different appearance, and in about a week from the first application of the turnips, the ulcers were so far healed that the man was able to walk out. In a few days afterwards, the sores entirely disappeared, and the skin soon resumed its usual appearance. During this period, no medicine was taken by the patient; the state of his bowels not even requiring a dose of salts."

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENELEMEN,

THE report given of M. Girard's Essay on Tetanus Rabiensis, in page 40 of your last Number, leads me to wish that you would have the goodness to notice, in the way you may think most proper, the view which I took, nearly six years ago, viz. in May, 1804, of the *close analogy between Hydrophobia and Tetanus*; as may be seen by referring to page 94, and 108, 9, of my publication; and to the corresponding places in your Journal, where the two diseases will be found to be almost identified as one and the same; the same predisposing and proximate cause being assigned to each, as well as that the proximate effect appeared to me to be the same. This will also be further confirmed by referring to a passage in page 137, 8 of my work, beginning with "The valuable facts," and ending with "e morsu animalis rabidi being added as a definition." *In this paper you will find hydrophobia denominated "Tetanus hydrophobia, or tetanus rabidus, e morsu animalis rabidi being added as a definition."* This, I presume, is a satisfactory and demonstrable claim to an actual *priority of nearly six years* in these doctrines and opinions, over M. Girard; which cannot, I think, considering how extensively your Journal has all along been circulated, not merely upon the continent, but in every quarter of the globe, be resolved into a coincidence of opinion. But this I leave to your better judgment, in the hope that you would be kind enough to notice it in your next, or the succeeding Number. The profession at large should also be informed, and I know of no method more likely to give publicity to the fact, than for it to be announced in your Journal; that in a case of hydrophobia, which occurred at the Manchester Infirmary in August last, and is briefly noticed at the bottom of page 181 of my work, *the cold affusion was repeatedly used, not only without any reluctance being manifested by the patient, but with evident relief to some of the most distressing symptoms, particularly the aversion and difficulty attendant upon the swallowing liquids, &c.; so much so as to have induced the patient to have called for it to be reapplied before the appointed time.* But though the symptoms were in some degree mitigated, the disease terminated fatally, having advanced to nearly the last stage at the time of the patient's admission

admission. The reason these circumstances were omitted in my book is, that I imagined the case would have been published by Dr. Bardsley soon after it happened. Understanding, however, that some time may possibly yet elapse before the particulars will be made public, I have thought it proper to communicate this important fact to you, without meaning to enter any farther into the history or treatment of the disease.

Your very laudable and well known zeal in every thing relating to the interests of medicine, convinces me you will excuse this freedom; in which hope I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.

Manchester, Jan. 19, 1810.

M. WARD.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE
RECENT PUBLICATIONS
ON THE
DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF PHYSIC, SURGERY,
AND MEDICAL PHILOSOPHY.

An Essay on the Use of a regulated Temperature in Winter-Cough and Consumptions; including a Comparison of the different Methods of producing such a Temperature in the Chambers of Invalids. By THOMAS BUXTON, M. D. Physician to the London Hospital and to the Surry Dispensary.

It is now so generally understood that many of our English complaints arise from climate, that we cannot wonder if the means of obviating its inconvenience has very much engrossed the attention of the medical public. Indeed, there is one circumstance which renders the inquiry peculiarly necessary at this time. Such is the state of the continent, that an English invalid can find safety in no part. The island of Madeira seems now the only spot on which the panting phthisic can feel the balmy influence of an atmosphere suitable to the tender state of the lungs. The difficulty of finding accommodations in that highly favoured spot has long been complained of, and the increased resort thither must greatly out-run the accommodations which the inhabitants are now encouraged to prepare for strangers. Besides this, it neither suits the circumstances nor connections of many, to leave their friends and country. We cannot therefore fail to wish encouragement to every

every attempt that may relieve these interesting sufferers without the necessity of encountering so many inconveniences and dangers.

On this account we shall follow our author according to the arrangement he has pursued in this useful little performance.

In his description of the winter-cough, we cannot help thinking Dr. B. a little too gloomy, as it is well known there are subjects who have continued through a long life with this inconvenience, and some of them have even apprehended the loss of their cough as the fore-runner of much more serious diseases. However, it must be admitted that such opinions ought not to be encouraged. A cough is certainly *morbus minime contemnendus*, and the neglect of it has been too often followed with all the inconveniences described by our author. The following remarks on inflammation of the lungs occurring in the spring, is sufficiently judicious and pointed.

“ Inflammation of the lungs not unfrequently attacks a patient after he has suffered from winter-cough during a longer or shorter period; but generally after the lungs have been much weakened by a cough of considerable duration, and thus predisposed to inflammation. The patient catches cold, most frequently at the close of winter, or the commencement of spring. He feels, in consequence, acute pain in his side, or at the pit of the stomach. He perhaps spits up some blood occasionally, but usually in no large quantity; his difficulty of breathing is excessively great; his countenance is often livid. Sometimes he cannot lie down in his bed, or can lie only on one side. The quantity of phlegm which he spits up is very considerable. In a short time great debility comes on; the cough and the phlegm increase so much that the poor sufferer has no longer strength to struggle with the disease, and dies suffocated. The pain is often not very severe and acute, but rather consists in a sensation of a dull, heavy, oppressive nature, and spread over a considerable space. In this case likewise the cough and phlegm brought up are very considerable, and the debility, quickly induced, extreme, so that the patient's life is very soon destroyed. In the former case it appears that the membrane lining the exterior part of the lungs is the principal seat of complaint; in the latter the membrane lining the ramifications of the air tube. Yet from repeated observations I think I may venture to affirm, that neither of these membranes is in general the seat of severe active inflammation, without causing the other to partake in a greater or less degree of the same. The number of elderly persons who die in these ways is immense. I believe I have never passed a single spring since I began practice, without losing several patients from active inflammation attacking the lungs after winter-cough had some time existed. The patient, in these cases, generally, though not always, dies in a short time after the attack has commenced. These kinds of inflammation appear to me more distressing, both to the patient and to the practitioner, than any other, as the pain, or the oppression, of the patient are most

most excessively great, the mode of treatment difficult to be decided on, and the success generally (to speak in the most favourable manner) extremely doubtful."

Dr. B. next proceeds to describe general dropsy, and water in the chest, as among the sequels of these complaints, after which he reverts to the causes of the original diseases and their remedies, considering a regulated equable temperature as the principal, and indeed as that without which the others will be altogether inefficient. This is illustrated with a variety of arguments, calculated, as the writer proposes, rather for the public at large than for the readers of our Journal. Several cases follow, related by different practitioners, and by the author, with some further testimonies.

The next consideration is the mode of regulating fire places in such a manner as to produce this effect with the least expence, both in the first fitting up, and in the future œconomizing of heat and fuel. With this view an accurate description is given of the German and Russian mode of heating rooms by stoves; after which the author describes his own plan, which, whilst it equally preserves most of the heat raised by the fuel, admits also some change of atmosphere in the apartment.

"Perhaps, says he, the best mode of showing the practicability of what I propose, will be by giving a description of Miss H's chamber, and of the stove by which it was warmed; as thus the mutual proportions of the one to the other will be immediately perceived. This room is thirteen and a half feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight and a half feet high. A common ironing stove was procured, twelve inches long, nine inches wide, and nine inches high. This, by my direction, was placed as far as it conveniently could be from the walls of the room, in order that every part of the room might be the more equably warmed. It accordingly stood two feet from the chimney-piece, which projected ten inches from the nearest wall. Its distance from the next nearest wall was five feet. A chimney-board was made by a carpenter to fit into the fire-place vertically. In the upper part of this a hole was cut, through which the flue of the stove passed. The stove was fixed so low, that the flue, which had an elbow almost immediately after quitting the stove vertically, then passed nearly, but not quite, horizontally, as it gradually ascended from the stove to the hole in the chimney-board. The stove stood in a flat iron dish, with the rim very slightly raised. This was placed on the floor, and projected for some distance round the stove, to hinder the cinders which occasionally fell out, from setting fire to the boards. I have entered into these particulars, that they may be a guide to any person who wishes to put up such a stove in a chamber. At first some little inconveniencies were found in the management of the fire. But in a day or two these were completely overcome, so that, although the weather during the spring of this year (1809) was very severe, the chamber could always be kept with the greatest ease at a temperature from 60° to 65°. In order that

that this temperature might be strictly preserved, a thermometer was always hung up close to the head of Miss H's bed. Notwithstanding the heat was thus kept up, a person entering the room from the open air, could not perceive any unpleasant, close or confined sensation. It is worth while noticing that the fire never smoked, a circumstance of some consequence in a sick room, particularly where the lungs are affected.

" From the large heated surface of the stove, constantly surrounded by the air of the chamber, as well as from the distance which the smoke has to travel before it ascends the chimney, a much smaller quantity of heat uselessly escapes up the chimney than in the common English fire-places. Hence we may easily credit, that the part of the room farthest from the stove could be kept at an equable temperature of 60 or 65 deg. The air of the room was constantly changed, although not with the same degree of quickness with which it is changed by the common fire-place; for the opening into this stove is only of sufficient width to let the air enter which is necessary for the fire. A sufficient change thus takes place to keep the air pure in a moderate sized room, without occasioning those strong currents and drafts, so troublesome in our wide open fire-places. But if from accident the air at any time should appear at all vitiated, the draft may easily be increased, and the room ventilated by augmenting the fire in the stove, and opening sufficiently the door or window. The expense attending this kind of stove I have stated at three pounds ten shillings; which cannot be considered as a very extraordinary sum; and the labour of putting it up is inconsiderable. The trouble of preserving the heat of the stove is not greater than that of keeping up a common fire; and the expence is not so great, as it does not consume so much fuel. The principal trouble, attendant on a regulated temperature, is, that some person must look after the fire by night as well as by day. But this trouble is incident not merely to the mode which I am now recommending, but to every mode of preserving the temperature constantly at an equal standard. The plan adopted by the friends of Miss H. was, that some one of the family sat up late, and just before going to bed raised the fire, which occasioned no danger, as the extensive iron plate placed around the stove on the floor, effectually secured the boards from accidents. Another of the family rose early in the morning, and immediately kindled the fire in Miss H's stove. By this management the thermometer rarely sunk considerably during the night, being seldom in the morning much below 60 degrees. But still it must be confessed, that, if practicable, it would be better were the fire kept in during the whole night, as thus the thermometer need never descend lower than the standard; for every degree below that is a deviation, greater or less, from the plan proposed. The expence attending the first establishment of this fire-place I consider as the only additional one, and the trouble of a person sitting up as the only additional trouble. It is true, that in the

"method adopted by Miss H's friends, the plan was not carried to its greatest perfection; but this near approximation was infinitely better than a total neglect of the plan."

The only objection we have to this plan is, that the materials of the stove not being specified, are we conceive of iron, which always produces an unpleasant smell. There is one made of four pieces of porcelaine, placed in such a manner as to form a hollow square, on the top of which is placed another flat piece, as a cover, the whole is bound together by brass hoops. Such a one as this is well known as forming part of the furniture of Sir Joseph Banks's parlour, in which he receives his morning calls, and is so placed that the frequent opening of the door is scarcely perceived. We ought to remark that Dr. B's great attention to economy in the construction of his stove, is probably the only reason why he has not adverted to such materials, as he does not fail to give the preference to the composition of the Russian over the German stoves, because the former are of iron. But we conceive the different expence could not be considerable, where the object, being only health and convenience, the coarseness of the earthen ware would not be an objection.

EDINBURGH JOURNAL. NO. XXI.

ARTICLE 1.—*Medical Report for Nottingham, from March 1808 to March 1809.* By JAMES CLARKE, M. D. Physician to the General Hospital, and to the Vaccine Institution.

THE first part of this paper consists of the epidemic constitution of the air for that period. Valuable as these registers always are, the present contains nothing particularly interesting to the general reader. A case of hydrophobia follows, concluding in the usual melancholy way. The only thing worth remarking is, that though two or three other people were bitten, yet in the course of twelve months, no threatening symptoms had appeared on either of them. In the deceased, no inflammation or uneasiness on the wounded part was ever felt subsequent to the injury. The dog showed no rabid symptoms. Though this seems to excite much surprise and even doubts in some writers, yet it has been very often observed before.

ARTICLE 2.—*Observations on Purulent Ophthalmia.* By WILLIAM GOODLAD, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, &c.

ARTICLE 3.—*Observations on the Cause of Purulent Ophthalmia of Infants.* By W. ANKERS, Esq. London.

ARTICLE 4.—*On the Purulent Ophthalmia of New-born Infants.* By ROBERT LYALL, H. Surgeon.

As this subject has lately been somewhat minutely discussed in both the Journals, we shall offer only a brief statement of the contents of these papers.—Mr. Goodlad goes chiefly to remind us of what has been first remarked as an inference from Mr. Hunter's account of

of the transplanted teeth, namely, that the healthy secretions of one animal, applied to the secreting surfaces of another, even of the same class, may, in certain cases, become morbid poisons. The paper concludes with proposing a division of the inflamed vessel, as the best remedy. This gentleman also uses fomentation of poppy water; and to the palpebrae, when they continue thickened, applies any stimulating ointment. Mr. Ankers follows pretty nearly the same ground, as to the cause of the disease; and remarks, that being always carefully attended to an early ablation of infants' eyes, immediately after birth, he has never met with a case of purulent ophthalmia in the offspring of females delivered by him.

Mr. Lyall gives an abstract of all that has appeared lately in Gibson, Ware, Scarpa, and the two Journals. He seems disposed to agree with all, excepting Mr. Simmons, who, by his late communications, does not appear to us at all obstinately tenacious of his opinions. Lastly, Mr. Lyall having admitted all the causes proposed by the different writers, concludes by recommending the remedies of each.

ARTICLE 3.—*Observations on the Fever which appeared in the Army from Spain on their Return to this Country in January, 1809.* By JAMES M'GRIGOR, M. D. Inspector of Army Hospitals for the Portsmouth, Severn, and South West Districts.

Few papers are so important as reports of diseases and remedies on that scale, which army practice affords; yet of how few are we in possession which add to our stock of real knowledge! Every other practitioner seems, with a few exceptions, as if relating a muster roll, and the juniors are so full of the success of their remedies, as to deem it unnecessary to describe accurately the diseases they cured. The paper before us being drawn up by an Inspector of Army Hospitals, might be expected to be free from both these imperfections, and to a certain degree it is less chargeable with them. But Dr. M'Grigor, though we believe an honest man, a well-informed and experienced practitioner, and even in the habit of writing, has not yet acquired the knack of laying statements before his readers, in such a manner, as to preserve a proper interest, by connecting the various facts, nor of course to teach him to derive that practical knowledge which is the main object of all medical reading.

The "Observations" include the practice of not less than a dozen medical gentlemen of different departments; yet so confusedly are they related, and most of them with such brevity, that it will be difficult to form any decision, why some succeeded with remedies altogether different, and others failed, though apparently with a practice similar to their more successful brethren. From the materials, such as they are, we shall endeavour to draw every advantage that the manner in which they are thrown together admits; trusting to the candour of the author and of our readers, if we sometimes seem to infer more than can with certainty be collected

from accounts; which, in our opinion, the writer has taken too much pains to compress.

Dr. M'Grigor begins by stating the health of the troops in Portsmouth district, before the arrival of the wreck of the Spanish army, and the unfavourable circumstances under which the latter were received.

"The healthy state of the troops, during the winter quarter, as shown by Table No. I.* in the districts where I have the medical superintendence, was interrupted by the arrival of the wreck of our unfortunate army from Spain. The first transports with them arrived at Portsmouth, about the 20th January, when they appeared more the victims of disease than of the sword of the enemy, severely as they had suffered by that.

"The unfortunate circumstances under which this army was placed, will readily account for the appearance of a mass of disease, and of the worst character. A dispirited retreating army, in which order and discipline, so necessary to its health, were with difficulty maintained, badly clothed, marching over a desolated country, in the most inclement season of the year, was readily predisposed to disease. In their retreat, the British army mixed with, or followed in their route, the remains of that army which the Marquis de Romana had transported from the shores of the Baltic; a fever of the most malignant character had committed great havoc in Romana's army, and the contagion of it was readily communicated, under the above circumstances, to the retreating British army under Sir John Moore. It has been said, that this army had likewise been debilitated by marches, harassing and long, beyond their physical powers; and it is acknowledged on all hands, that they suffered much by irregularities on their march, and an indulgence in intoxication the most disgraceful.

"After the action of Corunna, the army, imbued with disease, some corps more, some less sickly, was thrown on board transports, and mixed together. During the voyage to England, which proved a very tempestuous one, it was not easy to keep up ventilation, and to preserve that state of cleanliness of the persons of the men, as well as of the ships, which is at all times so necessary to the preservation of health afloat.

"Under such an accumulation of misfortunes, it will not appear surprising, that, as it arrived at Portsmouth and Plymouth, every part of the army was found to be unhealthy. It was observed, however, that that part of it which, under General Crawford, embarked at Vigo, was much more healthy than the main body which embarked at Corunna; indeed, the light corps who embarked at
Vigo,

* By this table, it appears that the whole number on the sick list, including venereals and slight complaints, was 1644, the strength being 12,284, and the number of deaths from November 6, 1808, to February 11, 1809, was only 25. Ed.

Vigo, continued tolerably healthy, until, at Portsmouth and other quarters, they mixed with the other divisions of the army.

"It was not, however, only in Spain, or on leaving its shores, so fatal to Englishmen, that Sir John Moore's army was unprosperous. Misfortune continued to pursue them to their own shores. So tempestuous was the weather for some days after the ships had arrived at Portsmouth and Plymouth, that it put a stop to all disembarkation and communication with the shore, while disease was hourly making rapid progress in every ship of a very large fleet.

"But as it is probable that the whole of the misfortunes of this brave but ill-fated army were induced by causes which no human ability could have foreseen or averted, let us not, at this period, attempt to withdraw the veil with which time is fast covering them.

"Would that we could so far profit by them, as in future to prevent their recurrence; or, if such misfortunes are inevitable in the present state of human affairs, at least to mitigate the miseries of the soldier! What could be done by the gentlemen of the medical department in Spain, under circumstances the most arduous, I firmly believe was done; I willingly bear public testimony to the great zeal and humanity of these gentlemen on landing at Portsmouth, as well as of the other medical gentlemen employed to attend a sick army here. There was a service of as real danger as any that had occurred to military officers in Spain; and it is much to be lamented, that so many of them fell a sacrifice to the zealous and unwearied discharge of their duty here."

We shall now endeavour to select such passages as will best mark the character of the fever, particularly as far as it was seen by Dr. McGrigor himself.

"On the arrival of the first ships, several died in the boats which brought them on shore, and were brought corpses into the hospitals, while the greater part was in the last stage of low fever. It is my duty likewise to mention, that, for some time after their arrival, the relapses, both in dysentery and fever, were extremely frequent; and that, though the conversion of these diseases frequently occurred, yet, as this could not be in every instance ascertained with accuracy, it is not noticed at all in the table. It will be evident, that, if these circumstances were introduced, they would greatly lessen the proportional mortality.

"In the symptoms, the fever which was prevalent, varied much at the different periods at which it appeared, and in the different description of subjects it attacked. At first, in some cases which I saw on ship-board, and in the first cases which were received into the hospital, most of them being in an advanced stage, had the symptoms of what is described a nervous fever, with not a few of the appearances said to denote a state of putrescency, the body being covered with petechiæ, maculæ and vitæces, and there appearing (as was reported me) in a few cases, glandular or bubonic swellings. This was the case with those first received into the naval hospitals, into the two hospital ships, into the dépôt hospital at

Hilsea, and at the general hospital at Gosport, particularly with about one hundred cases received there from Hilsea, when this station overflowed.

"In the cases of several officers first landed (I understood that the same had frequently been observed in Spain), the pulse was found but little altered from the natural state, and an inattentive observer would think the patient ailed little; but while there was not great prostration of strength, and even when food was called for, an obscure low delirium might be discovered, with a tendency to despondency and melancholy.

"A prominent feature of the first cases of this fever, which made their appearance on ship-board, or immediately after landing, as well as in those who had been attacked in Spain, was the strong disposition to gangrene in the feet and legs. This was, most probably, induced by the previous circumstances of great fatigue and long marches, undertaken by the exhausted soldier, where, in many instances, he was badly provided with shoes. The tendency to mortification in the sacrum and back was likewise great, and phlegmonous abscesses frequently appeared on other parts of the body. In some cases, erysipelas was seen; but the most constant symptoms in this fever was the great determination to the head and chest, with, in many cases, a torpor of the abdominal viscera.

"The cases which made their appearance while the troops were in harbour here, or immediately after landing, had, I believe, almost universally topical determination, in a greater or less degree; the head was very frequently affected, but more frequently the lungs and pleura. In the progress of the disease, imperfect hearing and bluntness of all the senses were frequently attendant symptoms.

"It was not a little curious to observe the different appearances which, at different periods, in the various subjects of its attack the disease wore. As already mentioned, the cases which were first landed, and they were mostly in an advanced stage of the disease, all appeared to be pure typhus. Those which made their appearance after the ships came to anchor here, whose first stage we had an opportunity of seeing, had a considerable degree of re-action, with generally topical determination.

"The orderlies or attendants on the sick were provided from the 8th Royal Veteran Battalion, or from the regiments of militia in garrison here. A considerable number of these orderlies were attacked with the fever; and in all these corps several cases of it appeared, but with varied features. While the old invalids of the 8th Royal Veteran Battalion, who suffered much by this fever, had it with its lowest symptoms, yet, in almost all of these men, catarrhal or pulmonic symptoms were seen. In the healthy and robust frame of the militiamen, as well as in the men of the German Artillery, the disease, when it appeared, assumed a very different character. They, in the first stage, had always the strongest arterial action, with great determination either to the head or to the chest;

chest; in many cases bordering closely on pneumonia, where the great and only relief was by venesection and evacuates, the blood, after the second or third operation, always shewing what is called the inflammatory crust."

Such, as far as we can make out, is the result of the author's own observation, or information immediately derived from others. It is not less a matter of surprize than regret to us, that we can nowhere discover what was the author's practice. It is probable that as he was inspector, the practical part was left to others, but still it was, if not under his direction, at least under his controul, which might have given the best comparative means of forming a true judgment of the result of different methods.

We shall now extract, with as much accuracy as we can, the practice of the other medical gentlemen, in which Dr. Macgrigor is somewhat more communicative.

Dr. Keils, of the King's German Artillery, observed inflammatory action in most of the cases which occurred in the hospital, of that corps. He used the cold affusion, and no fatal case occurred.

Mr. Fosbrooke, surgeon of the Durham Militia, reports, "that all the cases which he admitted into the Durham Hospital were the synochus, and that some of them closely approached to synocha. They commenced with strong arterial action, the patient having the appearance of inflammation going on in one quarter or other; but after a few days, there appeared a tendency to typhus. When petechiæ were seen, the excretions were scanty and fetid, particularly the alvine; in most cases dark, in some seemingly mixed with blood."

This gentleman reports, that he tried the cold affusion in the Durham Hospital, "that it succeeded in no case; nor was Dr. Hamilton's plan of treatment with purgatives more successful in the hands of this gentleman. Mr. Fosbrooke, with success, gave his patients a combination of calomel with antimonial powder, in repeated doses. It will be recollected, that all the cases in the Durham Hospital had a mixture of pneumonia; and I may here mention, that my friend, Dr. Alley of Cork, has met with the greatest success by using mercurial frictions, in the disease which some have denominated pneumonia typhodes. Nearly two years ago, when this disease and an epidemic catarrh were very prevalent among the troops, I witnessed the great success of some gentlemen who used calomel, or calomel and antimony, so as to affect the gums. I was a few years back led to this practice, by a paper sent me by my venerable and much respected friend, Dr. Wright of Edinburgh."

Mr. Arminger in his report, says, "In the first attack, with extreme languor and lassitude, there were severe aching pains in the head, back, and large joints. As the disease advanced, the temperature during the exacerbation rose very high, (not determined by degrees for want of a thermometer), especially in the cases which

which did not come under my treatment till the third or fourth day of the disease. The heat was pungent, the sensation to the patient, as well as to the observer, burning, in most of the cases pretty equally diffused; but in those in which the determination to the head was greatest, the lower extremities, particularly the feet, were generally deficient in warmth, sometimes very cold. The pulse frequent, and certainly both harder and stronger than in the typhus mitior of Cullen; the urine deficient of high colour, and remaining long unaltered in its appearance; considerable determination to the head, as evinced by fulness and flushing of the countenance; head-ach of the throbbing kind; vessels of the tunica adnata turgid; temporal arteries seem to pulsate strongly; delirium of the more lively kind; increased susceptibility of impression; correspondent impatience and restlessness; want of sleep. When the determination to the head was still greater, it was characterized by drowsiness, stupor, delirium mite; and, in cases which ended fatally, coma, floccitatio, and subsultus tendinum.

Mr. Arminger concludes a very accurate report, by observing, "that during the period of the prevalence of this fever, agues were more frequent;" and he adds, "the majority of the cases of fever which I saw were the synochus of Cullen; but I feel disposed to class some with remittents."

"Mr. Arminger observed, that when mercury was employed, the febrile action seemed to yield as the mercurial action was established."

"This gentleman used purging on the admission of his patients, both to remove the torpor of the abdominal viscera, and to relieve the determination to the head." Mr. Arminger sometimes used the aspersion with cold water, and sometimes cold affusion. He says, "that no case proved fatal in which mercury had a fair trial. It seemed to produce great good when the determination to the head induced stupor. In two cases in which the usual means had been carried to their full extent previously to its use, and little or no benefit had been derived, he considered it as the curative means; in several other cases, it was usefully employed as an auxiliary."

"Dr. Clarke, who had latterly the sole charge of the General Hospital at Gosport, and who at first had the charge of the majority of cases of fever there, writes me, "that, in the eighty cases under my charge, which came from Hilsea, it appeared pure typhus gravior; but, from what I have since seen, I suspect, that even those cases had, in the beginning, every symptom of synochus. They were of from eight to ten days standing; the symptoms of debility and putrefaction were strongly marked; there were petechiæ or vibices in almost every case."

"Dr. Clarke says, that on their admission into the General Hospital, every patient was put into a warm bath, and made thoroughly clean; they were then freely evacuated by purgative medicines, and frequently the fætor of their stools was intolerable. Whenever the heat of the surface was above the natural standard,

standard, the cold affusion was freely used; this degree of heat was often induced artificially by stimuli given internally. I recollect one case in particular, where, on admission, the pulse was hardly perceptible; the extremities were cold, and the patient appeared to be rapidly sinking. After the warm bath, he was put to bed, and, as deglutition was easily performed, he had stimulants freely given; the pulse then rose; the heat of the surface became intense. In this state, the cold affusion was instantly used, and with the happiest effect; the disease ran its course, but the symptoms were comparatively mild. Wine and other stimulants were given in every instance, so as to keep up sufficient action. This required much attention, as the danger of giving too much appeared in many cases more alarming than the disease.

"There were three very interesting cases among the eighty which I received from Hulsea, which, on their admission, had hardly any marks of vital action; the face, hands, and feet, were livid; the strongest stimulants were in those cases applied, such as general friction with volatile liniment, sinapisms, &c.; internal stimulants, when deglutition was practicable, were also used. Two of these three recovered; but in one of them the toes sphacelated. Of the whole eighty cases, I think four or five died during the twelve days I had charge of them; the others seemed in a state of convalescence; but I believe a few relapses took place.

"The appearances and treatment were much the same on board the hospital-ships; there were but few cases of fever, and I do not recollect one fatal case. In none of these instances was the lancet employed; but I have since used pretty freely, and with success, whenever there is any symptom of local affection, such as pain in the head, thorax, or abdomen, even where the pains in the extremities are much complained of, and the arterial action considerable. In those cases, the typhoid type has seldom appeared, and I am well satisfied of the utility of the lancet in pyrexia, where there is the slightest symptom of local affection. You are not unacquainted with my own case, in which the lancet was so freely used; and I yet reflect on the relief I felt at each bleeding, with gratitude to the able advisers, Dr. Cabbell and Mr. Burnett. I had only once an opportunity of using the cobweb since I learned from Dr. Jackson the extraordinary properties of that substance; it was in the latter stage of chronic dysentery, where there was much anxiety and great irritability; and in that case, it certainly had all the good effects attributed to it by the doctor. The patient became quiet and easy immediately after taking five grains of it."

"Dr. Keating, who was in charge of the Dépôt Hospital at Hulsea, to which, as well as to the Naval Hospital, most of the severest cases which were first landed were sent, reports of about two hundred cases which he had, that almost every one of whom came to him covered with petechiæ." This gentleman used cold affusions with cordials, as recommended by Dr. Jackson.

Mr.

Mr. Foaher of the West Essex, describes the disease as varied according to the subject, and the period at which he saw it. His practice seems to have varied accordingly. The following is all the information we have of the dissection.

"There was some variation in the appearances found on dissection of the dead. I regret that the regulations of the Naval Hospital did not allow our dissecting but a very few of the cases which died there. In all the other hospitals, agreeably to the rules which I established ever since I have had any charge, a dissection was made of every case which died, and, with a very few exceptions, this was done.

"The reports of the dissections made at the General Hospital, under Dr. Clarke and Mr. Aveling, describe in several cases an affection of the brain being observed, the vessels in each hemisphere being found turgid; water frequently in the ventricles; the substance of brain in some case soft and pulpy. On opening the chest, both lobes of the lungs frequently bore marks of previous inflammation; in some cases, adhesions of the pleura, with some water in the pericardium.

"The tenor of the reports made from most of the hospitals was the same; but in those which I have from the 8th Veteran Battalion, West Middlesex, and Worcester Militia, no morbid appearances were seen either in the head or chest."

We shall intermix our remarks with the remainder of our extracts, to render the winding up of the whole as pointed and as useful as we can.

And first, we are extremely glad to find that somebody besides ourselves, is disposed to quarrel with a part of the medical language, which, in the opinion of one of our brother labourers, has been attended with such serious inconveniences.* If it is necessary to give diseases names, they should at least be such as mark one striking character, and we should be careful, that even that name shall not mislead us, by teaching us to look for such a character as in all cases so uniform, and attended with symptoms so correspondent, as in all to require a similar mode of treatment.

It may be said, that fever is a general term, yet we admit of different kinds of fevers, and a different treatment to each.—Time was, when we were satisfied with the term fever, and the immortal Sydenham thought it enough to describe each as it appeared, and to direct the mode of treatment accordingly. But since we have heard of *typhus* as a contagious disease, arising from camps, poor houses, and prison, and also of *typhus* as the term for the low nervous fever, arising from any cause; what can we expect, but that every low fever will be called *typhus*, and every *typhus* a low fever? Hence, should the infectious atmosphere of ships, camps,

* Adams, on "Morbid Poisons," p. 375 and 376.

camps, or prisons, induce a high fever, we are obliged to halt, in order to determine whether we shall call it typhus, or whether the atmosphere, supposed to be peculiar to typhus, may not induce synochus or synocha, or some other name imposed upon us, whilst we ought to be considering every symptom, tracing every probable cause, and accurately attending to the effect of remedies.

If typhus were to be the general name for every fever, arising from an atmosphere vitiated by confinement of the sick, and for that only, there would be no more impropriety in the use of it, than in the use of variola for small-pox, a disease which arising from the same effluvia, shows different symptoms, and is treated according to those symptoms. But it is evident, that typhus not only implies a fever from vitiated atmosphere, but a fever of a low type. Hence, if such an atmosphere should induce a high fever, either the terms must be abandoned, or the practice must be in direct opposition to the language. Having said thus much, we shall extract a few passages from Dr. M'Grigor's paper in illustration to our meaning, and add some further remarks, which we trust may be useful to our younger readers intrusted with the lives of our brave defenders.

"Though, says our author, as first seen here, when the army disembarked from Spain, the fever had low nervous, and likewise putrid symptoms, and was called typhus, (a term in by far too general use), yet, in most of the cases, it was of a very different type; and several gentlemen were of opinion, that, though in the cases first landed here, the typhoid symptoms were seen, that the disease had commenced with those of a different form of fever. Neither in the case of Dr. Clarke, in that of Mr. Lind, surgeon of the 43d regiment, nor in that of Mr. Foaher, surgeon to the West Essex Militia, was the fever of the typhoid type, though they were attacked with the disease during their attendance on the sick from Spain. In all of them, there was strong arterial action, and great topical determination.

"I have heard, that, in the cases of some other of the medical gentleman attacked, the symptoms were those of nervous fever. I saw that this was the case with Mr. M'Grigor, surgeon of the Military Asylum, who volunteered to act as staff-surgeon here, in Mr. Aubert of the Guards, and in that of Mr. Hawkins of the Oxford Militia."

Of this passage, we shall only remark, that the gentlemen mentioned in the first paragraph, were exposed to the atmosphere of the sick, whilst they themselves were probably in high health, having suffered no previous privations, anxieties, or repeated causes of dejection. As to the gentlemen under the immediate inspection of Dr. M'Grigor, whose symptoms were those of nervous fever, we should have been glad to know whether, like the former, they were exposed to the sick on their first landing, or not till the atmosphere with which their persons and cloaths were imbued, was somewhat less concentrated by exposure to the air, and
the

the cleansing the bodies of the patients; or not till they had been previously reduced by a long attendance on their duties.

"I may in this place," says Dr. M'Grigor, "mention further, that I learn from my friend Mr. Burnett, who superintends the hospitals for prisoners of war in this quarter, that at the same time that our army landed from Spain, many prisoners were brought over, whose disease appeared to be the same fever as that under which our soldiers laboured. Mr. Burnett had frequent opportunities of seeing this disease on a very large scale. It was this gentleman who, in conjunction with Dr. Cabbel, had the treatment of Dr. Clarke, whose case, drawn up by himself, is subjoined. Mr. Burnett says, in a statement with which he has favoured me, "that he has no doubt of this disease having been inflammatory from the beginning. I accordingly treated it with liberal evacuations, and in no instance, when the patient came under my care in his first attack, did I fail of producing a complete remission in twenty-four hours. Though the disease did, in some instances, assume the form of synchus, it was only in such patients as had not been evacuated in the early stage of the disease. *I had about fifteen or sixteen of my nurses taken ill; they were bled to sixty or seventy ounces the first day they complained, and none of them died.*" Mr. Burnett's authority is of considerable weight. The prisoners of war here are seldom under 10,000; and in the hospitals under Mr. Burnett there are seldom fewer than three hundred sick.

"I must not conceal, however, that the fever prevalent at this time appeared with features extremely different in other quarters. In an accurate memoir of Dr. Lempre's, which he was so kind as to permit me to peruse, I see that the cases received into the Dépôt Hospital, Isle of Wight, were pure unmixed typhus."

It is not easy to ascertain the exact situation and description of the other patients; but one thing we may see, that the nurses, who, like the orderlies in the last account, were exposed in a similar manner to the destructive cause, and affected in the same manner, were relieved by the same means.

"In the hospital for the prisoners of war here, [Woolwich,] Mr. Burnett says, "I have had patients sent to me on the 8th or 10th day of the disease, that had been taking bark and camphor, under the idea that the disease was typhus, with high delirium, foul tongue, strong full pulse, and passing their stools and urine involuntarily. I have ordered them a bleeding of twenty ounces, blistered the head, and given a cathartic; and on the following day have found my patient calm, in one case without pyrexia, and, by persevering in this plan, they ultimately recovered. Those who were not bled in the early stage of the disease, were frequently subject to cynanche parotidea, which was always a favourable, though a very painful symptom. I have found it indispensably necessary to attend to the state of the bowels during their convalescence, and their diets required equal attention, as constipation on the one hand, and a full meal of animal food on the other, has, even after

five or six days of convalescence, induced a return of pyrexia. You will readily recollect our worthy friend Clarke's case, and how fortunately it terminated: you know we were not sparing of the lancet, which I can have no doubt saved his life."

Here we find nothing but bleeding would relieve even prisoners of war. What circumstances gave rise to such high inflammation in such subjects, we cannot learn from the relation, but Dr. Clarke's situation is more easily accounted for; and we shall conclude with the history of his case as given by himself.

"Dr. CLARKE'S Case."

"First symptoms, lassitude, great prostration of strength, loss of appetite, vertigo, dimness of sight, head-ach very severe, with strong pulsation of the temporal artery, thirst, and every other symptom of pyrexia: bowels, formerly regular, now constipated to a degree, and remarkably torpid. After taking repeated strong laxative and cathartic medicines, without the least effect; at last, by a large dose of jalap and calomel, two or three evacuations were procured, with considerable relief. In a few hours, all complaints increased, and, at my own earnest request, I was bled in the arm; but before sixteen ounces were obtained, syncope was induced. I continued much in the same state; pain in the head, and want of sleep, with extreme anxiety, my chief complaint. Was bled to sixteen ounces this evening, independent of the bleeding on board of ship, and was kept in a constant state of nausea by vin. antim. in frequent doses; this invariably eased my head-ach, but vomiting was once occasioned by it, which exertion brought on such action, that the pain became excruciating, (but very slight, if any, intolerance of light); head-ach continuing very severe, notwithstanding the hair being removed, vinegar and water constantly applied, and a variety of internal medicines; a dose of camphor was taken one night, which brought on great delirium, and much increased pyrexia. At the suggestion and strong entreaty of my good friend and excellent practitioner, Mr. Burnett, I was freely blooded, with almost instantaneons relief. The bleeding was repeated as often as the head-ach returned, and each time with the same good effect. In all, I was nine times bled, of which three were on the 11th or 12th day from the first attack. I lost about 127 ounces of blood. With the exception of the delirium brought on by the camphor, I was quite collected during the whole period, except when I thought I felt disposed to sleep. I then had much watching, and frequent incoherent ideas, but very seldom gave way to them, I mean by making unconnected remarks to the attendants. No low or typhoid symptom appeared throughout the whole course of the disease. In the early stage of convalescence, I was allowed nothing stronger than milk, tea, weak chicken-broth, and the like; nor did I take any thing stronger during the whole length of the disease. For nineteen nights and days, I cannot say I was ever sensible of being asleep, nor could any of the attendants

attendants ever find me so. Towards the latter end, or from the 12th to the 19th day, want of sleep was the only complaint; and, for several weeks after this period, I never slept above an hour or so at a time. Vertigo continued on the least exertion for some months.

(Signed) J. CLARKE. M. D.

Portsmouth, 20th August, 1809.

We wish our readers to attend to various accounts of cold affusions in the above paper, and to determine for themselves, whether mere heat is a sufficient indication for that remedy, or whether the preparatory steps recommended by Dr. Jackson are not sometimes necessary.

ART. 4.—*Lues Borina Intertropica, and the Consequences thereof, with Remarks.* By C. CHISHOLM, M. D. F. R. S. &c. &c.

“ In the year 1783, in the island of Grenada, in the West Indies, a very singular coincidence took place. Late in that year, the cynanche maligna appeared in several parts of the island, for the first time observed, I believe, by the oldest inhabitant in that or any other of the West India islands. The symptoms of this disease were most violent; its rapidity to a fatal termination most alarming. But the circumstance which gave greatest singularity to this disease, was its concomitancy with a contagious distemper, of a very extraordinary nature (within the tropics) epidemic among the cattle and mules in the same parts of the island, wherein the cynanche maligna appeared. Both were new and unknown, and both were concomitant; insomuch, as to render it difficult to perceive whether they proceeded from a cause common to both, or whether the cynanche was an effect, on the human race, of an imported contagion, which seemed peculiarly, in the first instance, to affect the horned cattle and mules. These animals, while feeding, and apparently in perfect health, in the pastures, suddenly fell down dead. The malignity of the disease had so rapid a progress, that seldom could other symptoms, or rather any symptoms be observed: sometimes, a few minutes before death, the animals were languid, lay down, and neglected their food. Sometimes a swelling of the glands of the throat formed a large tumor, which might be perceived for some days before death; but though this swelling sometimes suppurated, and though the matter was discharged, it never proved critical. On dissection, the whole course of the trachea or œsophagus, the stomach, and greater part of the intestines, were found in an inflamed or a gangrenous state. Various modes of cure were adopted, but, except in a few cases, always without effect. In these few excepted cases, the Peruvian bark, given in very large quantity, seemed to complete a cure; but the use of this medicine was too expensive to render it extensive, and the instances I have mentioned, I believe, were experimental. Methods of prevention were also tried; of these, I was assured, that tar rubbed on the forehead, to the nose, and under the throat, had frequently the desired effect. At this period, 1783, Grenada had intercourse only with some of the other islands

islands in possession of the French, within the tropics, and with Ostend in Austrian Flanders chiefly, in Europe—there was no intercourse with North America, and none whatever with the Spanish colonies; and, upon the whole, well-grounded reasons exist for believing that the fomes of the bovine pestilence was imported from Ostend, by the Imperial neutral ships which exclusively carried on the only trade the circumstances of the existing war then permitted.

“ On those plantations where care was taken to burn the carcases of the diseased cattle, no further consequences resulted. But these unhappily were few. On those where this precaution was not used, and, indeed, it is surprising that it should be used in any, seeing that the disease was new, and its effects unknown, the flesh of the cattle that died being dug up, and eat by the negroes, proved most dreadfully septic, producing a pestilential carbuncle, attended by a malignant fever. There were not wanting instances of the iniquitous practice of offering the flesh of diseased cattle for sale, and on these occasions such was the highly septic nature of this poison, that even touching the flesh, in such manner as that part of the sanies adhered to the finger, produced the same fatal consequence. A remarkable instance of this occurred in a respectable married lady of the island. In the finger to which the virus was thus inadvertently applied, a pestilential carbuncle appeared, and her life was preserved by the amputation of the diseased member.

“ This disease, thus originating, was distinguished by the name of malignant carbuncle; and among the French part of the population by that of *Charbon*. The series of its symptoms was thus: Without any previous symptom of disease, the patient complained of a tumor, often in no certain part of the body, but generally on one cheek, resembling the inflammatory vesication which succeeds inoculation for the small-pox. Soon after a fever came on, but by no means violent, and continued during the twenty-four or thirty-six succeeding hours, when it gradually subsided, and left the patient apparently without a single symptom of disease except the tumor. This tumor was nearly circular, had a depression in the middle, and the skin immediately around it was œdematous. At this period, however, in the middle of the tumor, a small whitish carbuncle arose, and breaking discharged considerable quantities of a yellowish ichor. But this seeming freedom from disease was, in about twenty-four hours after the eruption of the carbuncle, succeeded by vertigo, a most excruciating pain stretching across the abdomen, accompanied by anorexia, thirst, and palpitation of the heart; the pulse sunk below the natural state; cold sweats broke out; and in short, the patient was carried off in twelve hours after the seizure of these latter symptoms. It is obvious, that the danger of the disease lay chiefly in its obscurity and novelty—for among the negroes more especially, being much subject to sores, sometimes attended with slight symptomatic fever,

ver, and which were easily cured, no apprehension of fatal consequences, for some time, was excited; and when the second stage or state came on, the administration of the most powerful antiseptics was unavailing. More than half of those thus diseased therefore perished.

"On dissection, the stomach and all the intestinal canal appeared inflamed, and generally covered with large livid blotches; and in the valvulæ conniventes was a considerable quantity of a yellow gelatinous matter. Large quantities of the same matter were found among the muscles of the abdomen, and between them and the peritonæum. The brain and all the other viscera were sound.

"The principal, and indeed only beneficial remedies, were bark and wine, exhibited before the commencement of the second state."

The ingenious author next traces the history given of a similar disease in the island of Barbadoes, first from the account given by the Rev. Mr. Hughes, and next from the information he (Dr. Chisholm) received, when making a tour of the island, from his friend and host Mr. Cummings. All the accounts agree in the contagious property of the disease, and its communication to the human, by eating or touching the flesh of the dead cattle, and, in one instance, by taking an over quantity of the milk from a diseased cow.

Having described, in the above manner, the disease between the tropics, Dr. C. proceeds to trace the similarity between it and the murrain of European cattle. In this he shows equal industry, and having every where written documents to refer to, is much more minute. In the northern disease he discovers two very striking symptoms, unnoticed between the tropics, viz. a pustular eruption on the fifth day as characteristic of the disease, and a peculiar swelling in the part, called by Sauvaage the *omâsum*, and by Ramazzini *antica parte pectoris*. The part alluded to seems to have been the coat of fat under the integuments covering the pæticities of the superior part of the abdomen, or the inferior part of the thorax. By each the tumor is called *anthrax*, but by the latter, on account of its situation, it is also denominated *anticardia*.

Ramazzini, who is much the most minute in his description of the symptoms, is not less so in his account of the appearances after death. He speaks of hydatids in different parts of the body, and also of bladders filled with air, and others filled with serum.

Had this faithful writer been more in the habit of examining the entrails of cattle, he would have found many of these appearances in animals, slaughtered apparently in health. They are therefore no further to be taken into the account, than as they may imply a probability that animals, in reduced health from any cause, may perhaps be more liable to encysted tumors.

But the most important difference in the two is, that if we can
trust

trust to the above accounts, the tropical disease was communicated to the human, not only by the application of sanious matter, but by eating the flesh of the dead cattle; and, in one instance, by the milk of a diseased cow. Whereas, by the testimony of Goelick and Haller, as cited by our author, and by the silence of Vicq d'Azyr and Dr. Layard, there is every reason to suppose that the murrain did not affect the human race. The opinions of Sauvage, and the imperfect accounts of Lancisi, though tending to a different conclusion, are shown to be very unsatisfactory.

In remarking the difference in the symptoms between the European and intertropical cattle, the author conceives much, if not the whole, may be imputed to the difference of climate: every disease being for the most part more rapid in proportion as we approach the sun. Hence the cattle in the islands died before the full evolution of all the phenomena of the disease. We conceive the different accounts of the contagion reaching the human race, may be explained with still more ease. The accounts of those who perished from eating the flesh, is extremely confused. Perhaps it stands on no better authority than Lancisi's remark, that those men in Rome who ate of the infected flesh were infected with diarrhœa and fever, which is contrary to the testimony of most contemporary writers. That others might be infected by the effluvia, or contact with diseased parts, is not only probable, but an occurrence that might happen under any other local disease, or by contact with flesh in a putrid state from the common process of corruption.

Our industrious author next enters into a long disquisition on the subject of diseases communicated from one race to another, or rather of their existing at the same time in different species of animals. In the account above-mentioned by himself, there was a coincidence of angina maligna and the pestis bovina at Grenada; yet he candidly acknowledges not only the difficulty of tracing on many occasions any immediate means of infection, but even of ascertaining whether the cynanche maligna in the human subject preceded or followed the epizootic malady. That pestilential diseases have at the same time affected various classes of animals and man cannot be questioned; but under such circumstances, there is every reason to suppose that the whole originated in some constitution of the atmosphere, even admitting that the disease became afterwards infectious. The author concludes his paper with the following paragraph:

"Having lengthened this paper much beyond the limits I originally proposed, I shall intrude no longer at present; but as the inquiry involves in it a very curious and important question relative to the influence of the effluvia from dead animal bodies, passing through the natural process of putrefaction in the open air, on living animal bodies, I shall take some future occasion to communicate to you such remarks as have occurred to me on the subject."

We shall feel our obligations much increased, if Dr. Chisholm will in his future paper, accurately distinguish between diseases communicated by contagion from one race of animals to another, and those which may be imputed to a common cause in the atmosphere, and if in the former he would distinguish such as were excited only by the contact of diseased matter from those which may be imputed to the contact with mere putrid matter. We are aware of the difficulties attending these inquiries, and on that account we impose them with the less reluctance on a writer of some leisure, and of extensive means of information, both from reading and actual observation.

(To be continued.)

Report of the Diseases of Edinburgh for December, 1809.

By JOHN ROBERTSON, M. D.

For several days after the commencement of the month the weather was variable, frost and thaw alternating with each other frequently in the course of one day. About the end of the last third of the month, however, the weather became more regularly of a tempestuous nature, and we were, for several days, almost constantly assailed either by hard gales of very cold wind, by falls of snow, or by torrents of rain; at other times all these prevailed at once, forming a most tremendous hurricane.

During the latter half of the month the weather was less tempestuous, but very inconstant. Frost, rain, and slight falls of snow, continued to alternate with each other, till its termination.

The barometer was in general low, especially in the earlier part of the month. During some of the more favourable days, however, nearer the end of it, the barometer, for a few hours only, rose considerably.

The thermometer stood in general about 40, or from that to 45 degrees. The few frosty days, however, which we occasionally had near the end of the month, reduced it much lower.

The most prevalent diseases of the month have been of an inflammatory nature, fevers, croup, and small-pox.

It is almost an universal rule for the greatest inflammatory state of the general system to commence with the cold weather, and terminate in the course of the spring months. Thus various inflammatory diseases exist in various individuals, the same cause producing these different effects; partly from the immediate particular habits in eating, drinking, &c. So far, however, as the winter season has advanced,

vanced, the usual inflammatory disposition has not been nearly so conspicuously marked as in almost every previous year. To account for this, is perhaps impossible. The weather, to the particular nature of which we have been in the habit of, in a great measure, ascribing these complaints, has not been, in any remarkable degree, different from what is usual at the same period of the season. From former reports also, it will be observed, that last year, after the inflammatory complaints began as usually to abate, they again, even when the warm weather had commenced, became much more general, and in many instances more fatal than even during their prevalence in the previous winter months. It would therefore appear that there are some other causes besides what have been enumerated, tending to increase the inflammatory disposition.

Although, as observed, these inflammatory complaints have not been nearly so general as usual, yet they have not been by any means entirely wanting. In practice we meet with some very severe cases of pneumonia, enteritis, and the inflammatory or first stage of hydrocephalus internus. Catarrh and acute rheumatism are also occasionally met with.

I have seen a few cases of pneumonia of uncommon severity, which were cured only where the most active means were employed. In two of these I found it necessary every day, for ten days, to order large bleedings; blisters over the whole forepart of the thorax, and saline cathartics, to be repeatedly administered. One of these patients recovered completely, the other seemingly recovered, but in a few days effusion of fluid into the thorax and abdomen took place, which, notwithstanding every means that could be used, terminated fatally. The generality of the few cases of this complaint which have appeared here, yielded, with great facility, to the common practice.

Enteritis has, in almost every instance, yielded almost immediately after the effects of a blister applied over the abdomen had been produced.

The first or inflammatory stage of hydrocephalus internus has been more common than either of the two formerly mentioned complaints, but early attention to the state of the pulse and the bowels almost uniformly prevent effusion into the ventricles of the brain. The application of the cap blister, the administration of purgatives till the stools (which as an occasional accompanying symptom of this disease are in general green or black) become

become of a natural colour; and the application of leeches to the temples, or even, in severe cases, opening the jugular vein or temporal artery, are followed by the happiest effects.

Catarrh, which indeed is scarcely ever absent from this city, has been very common; but, like other inflammatory affections, not very severe. Purgative medicines, bathing the feet and legs in warm water before going to bed, and the occasional use of diluting and mucilaginous drinks, have always removed it. Acute rheumatism has also appeared in various parts of the city, and has been removed by attention to the bowels, by sudorific medicines, and, when the first inflammatory state of the complaint had yielded, by the liberal use of friction with the flesh brush or a coarse cloth. In this, as well as in many other complaints, the applications for its removal are too often, in regard to its stages, indiscriminately applied. Frictions, with heating balsamic substances, are often used from the very first appearance of the symptoms; this, I have no hesitation in asserting, protracts the disease, and not unfrequently contributes to assist the complaint in terminating in chronic rheumatism. Were our dependence, in its early stages, to be placed in cooling laxatives and sudorifics, and when these had relaxed, the application of friction, we should prevent such a termination, and even better effect our purpose in its early stages.

Fevers of the typhoid kind are never absent from this city; and as foulness is the cause of them, the reverse tends to prevent or in a great measure to cure them.

Croup has appeared among children; some cases have been very severe, and have even proved fatal. Like every other disease, this is easily removed when early attended to. Large doses of calomel, with the occasional application of blisters round the throat or over the chest, almost uniformly remove the affection.

The small-pox, disgraceful to state, seems to be gaining ground among us. That mulish stubbornness, which, as in other countries, prevails in no scarcity about this place, is certainly the cause of this. Our countryman, Doctor Smollet, termed this city the hot-bed of genius, but he omitted to state, perhaps from partiality to his own country, that it certainly is a soil much calculated to the production of that obstinacy which is strongly marked among the Scots. This is too often mistaken by my countrymen for independence of thought, while independence of
thought

thought itself is but rarely felt here. Upon the introduction of any remarkable improvement, such as the cow-pox, or any circumstance where open and liberal sentiment is expected to be expressed, each individual, terrified at hazarding his own opinion, seemingly wishes his neighbour to advance what he has to say; and then, as the majority takes one or the other side of a question, the rest soon espouse the same side. It is this which has retarded many useful improvements, and among others, the universal inoculation of the cow-pox.

Princes Street.

An Account of Diseases in an Eastern District of London from December 20, 1809, to January 20, 1810.

ACUTE DISEASES.		Menorrhagia - - - -		4
Typhus Mitior - - - -	4	Fluor Albus - - - -		7
Pneumonia - - - -	7	Diarrhœa - - - -		3
Pleuritis - - - -	3	Enterodynia - - - -		4
Peripneumonia Notha -	5	Rheumatismus Chronicus	12	
Rheumatismus Acutus -	3	PUERPERAL DISEASES.		
CHRONIC DISEASES.		Menorrhagia Lochialis -	3	
Tussis - - - -	23	Dysuria - - - -	4	
Dyspnœa - - - -	10	Rhagas Papillæ - - -	5	
Tussis cum Dyspnœa -	28	Dolores Post Partum -	7	
Hydrothorax - - - -	3	INFANTILE DISEASES.		
Anasarca - - - -	2	Aphthæ - - - -	4	
Cephalalgia - - - -	5	Diarrhœa - - - -	5	
Syncope - - - -	1	Dyspnœa - - - -	2	
Hysteralgia - - - -	1	Convulsio - - - -	3	
Gastrodynia - - - -	4	Vermes - - - -	2	

The changes in the temperature of the air, which have taken place within the last few weeks, have been very considerable, and in general very sudden. In the course of a few days, the thermometer has shown a variation of 15 degrees. For a considerable time the wind blew from the west and south-west points, the temperature of the air was comparatively high, and a considerable degree of humidity prevailed.

Those diseases of the chest, which are the usual consequence of the approach of winter, have assumed a milder form, and the disease wore more the appearance of the chronic than the acute species. During this period the cough and dyspnœa, or slight peripneumony of the aged, consi-

considerably abated. Amongst the instances included in the list, there was one of a man of 96 years of age, who recovered from a peripneumonia notha, and who is now as well as he has been for the last 20 years of his life.

During the state of the weather now referred to, fevers of the low or milder typhous kind prevailed. In one of the cases the disease was protracted to a very considerable length. The subject was a boy 10 years old, in whom the great prostration of strength and low delirium, attended with constant incoherent mutterings, strongly marked the nature of the disease. The weather having undergone so material a change within the last few days, we may expect an alteration in the state of diseases, and that in the complaints of the chest, the more acute and inflammatory species will prevail, attended with an aggravation of symptoms, which, with respect to the aged in particular, must produce considerable alarm.

INTELLIGENCE.

The PHYSICAL SOCIETY of GUY'S, have sent the following CIRCULAR LETTER to their HONORARY MEMBERS, signed by their Secretary.

“ SIR,

“ At an especial Meeting of the Committee of the Physical Society, appointed December 22d, 1809, to consider the best means of furthering the general interests of the Society, and more particularly those of the ordinary Members, it was unanimously resolved, that a circular Letter be sent to all the Honorary Members, soliciting their countenance and support. The Members therefore, who regularly attend its Meetings, and who feel warmly for its improvement, request you would favour them by attending as often as you conveniently can; and by frequent communication of physical news, give energy and importance to its debates. By a perseverance in these means they are convinced you could contribute very materially to the improvement of the junior Members.”

HENRY HINDE PELLY, Esq. of Upton, Essex, a gentleman advanced in years, and who used to be laid up annually for three or four months, with a violent fit of the gout, having read in some old book, that a leadstone worn next the skin was a sure preservative against that excruciating disease, and knowing that some of the finest and most powerful magnets are found in Golconda, employed an agent in India to procure him one from that province. This stone chipped into a convenient shape, he constantly wears, sewed in a little flannel case, suspended from a black ribbon round his

his neck next his skin. It is about two inches long, an inch and a half broad, and two-tenths of an inch thick, and its magnetic virtue is very great. It much resembles a piece of slate, such as school-boys learn to cypher on. Mr. Pelly says, that he now and then has some slight twinges, which only serve to remind him of the terrible paroxysms to which he once was subject. He happened one day to omit hanging this amulet about his neck; another and another day passed, and as several years had elapsed without a fit, he began to think that the magnet had altered his system, and rendered him intangible by gout. One night however he awoke in torment; he called for his safeguard, and threw it about his neck; he escaped with a slight attack, and has never since been without his piece of loadstone, which he wears night and day, and enjoys perfect freedom from all the pains inflicted by his old enemy.

Mr. CLARK, Veterinary Surgeon, of Giltspur Street, has for several years paid particular attention to the structure and uses of the several parts of the horse's foot. He has traced its gradual changes from birth through the first five years of the animal's life, when it becomes completely formed; and in the course of this investigation, he has discovered the uses and importance of several parts which were not before known. This has naturally led him to notice the effect of shoeing, and the changes it produces in the structure and functions of the feet. Hence he has been able to deduce several most important conclusions respecting the preservation of the feet, and the general causes of lameness, particularly in the fore feet, as well as the means of avoiding them. The first part of this interesting work is already printed, and we may expect its publication in a few days.

An American paper contains the following extraordinary instance of depletion, practised on Captain James Niblett, a man thirty years of age, of a full and plethoric habit of body when in health, and accustomed to daily exercise on foot, of a bilious aspect. His complaint was an inflammatory affection of the lungs. From the 28th of May to the 28th of July, Captain Niblett lost, by admeasurement, 600 ounces of blood, and by weight 688 ounces 6 drachms; being, it is presumed, the largest quantity ever drawn from the veins of any human being in the same length of time, by medical advice, and for the person to bear it and do so well. He was bled fifty different times, and the blood every time was covered with a thick, strong, white coat, and lost from four to twenty ounces at each time. He was cupped, and had leeches applied daily, for several weeks, exclusive of the bleedings at the arms, and the discharge from the seton.

The Spring Course of Lectures at St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals, commence the beginning of February; viz.

At St. Thomas's, Anatomy, and the Operations of Surgery, by Mr. CLINE and Mr. COOPER. Principles and Practice of Surgery by Mr. Cooper.

At Guy's Hospital, Practice of Medicine, by Dr. BABINGTON

and Dr. CURRY.—Chemistry, by Dr. BABINGTON, Dr. MARCET, and Mr. ALLEN.—Experimental Philosophy, by Mr. ALLEN.—Theory of Medicine, and Materia Medica, by Dr. CURRY and Dr. CHOLMELEY.—Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children, by Dr. HAIGHTON.—Physiology, or Laws of the Animal Economy, by Dr. HAIGHTON.—Structure and Diseases of the Teeth, by Mr. FOX.

Dr. HOOPER will commence a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic, the Materia Medica, and Chemistry, on Monday February 5, 1810, at his Lecture Room, in Cork Street, Burlington Garden; at eight o'clock in the morning. A Prospectus with particulars may be had by applying to Dr. H. at his house, No. 21, Saville Row.

A new work by Dr. MACLEAN will be published in a few days, entitled, "An enquiry into the origin, early signs, nature, causes, and cure of hydrothorax, or dyspnoea of the chest; in which a safe, speedy, and effectual method of evacuating the water, by combinations, and on principles in many respects new, is pointed out; together with an Appendix, containing a considerable number of interesting cases; and many living testimonies of the superior efficacy of the means recommended.

Mr. ASHFORD, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Assistant Surgeon in the Royal Artillery, has in the press an Epitome of Anatomy, comprised in a series of tables. The work will form a thin quarto volume; and as its object is to furnish a copious vocabulary for the Students of Anatomy, perspicuity and simplicity of arrangement have been chiefly aimed at by the author.

Mr. BENJAMIN TRAVERS, Demonstrator of Anatomy at Guy's Hospital, and Surgeon to the Honourable East India Company, has in the press, and nearly ready for publication, an Experimental Inquiry concerning Injuries to the Canal of the Intestines, illustrating the treatment of penetrating wounds and mortified hernia.

In the course of next month will be published, The New London Pharmacopœia, enlarged from the last Edinburgh and Dublin Pharmacopœias, and reduced to one common Nomenclature; with an Appendix of the Genera, and Species of the different Articles of their Materia Medica. Translated and alphabetically arranged, by RICHARD STÖCKER, Apothecary to Guy's Hospital.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We are obliged to T. for his ingenious communication, and agree with him that an anonymous answer to a real correspondent may be sometimes admissible. We think, however, on further reflection, T. will see that his remarks might be more gentle. Perhaps he will put them in the form of queries, which will have the double advantage of leading the gentleman he addresses to reconsider his case, and also to feel flattered by being referred to for further information. We are indeed so much pleased with T's paper that we should gladly insert all his remarks in the form of an essay, without any, or with only a side reference to the Correspondent he wishes to set right.



Cooper sculp.