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To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following paper be judged worthy of a place in your very useful Journal, it is at your service. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble servant,

Bedford Row, May 9, 1800. THO. WHATELY.

A Description of a new Instrument for performing the Operation for the Fistula in Ano.

By THOMAS WHATELY, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London.

SIMPLICITY of construction is certainly a great recommendation to all instruments employed in surgical operations. We are not, however, to give the preference to any merely on account of their simplicity, as it may happen that the more complex may sometimes be better calculated to perform the operation in a proper manner; this is the case with Pott's instruments for performing the operation for the radical cure of the hydrocele, which I know, from experience, answer better than the more simple Seton lancet used by Mr. Hunter for the same purpose.

The ingenuity of artists has been frequently exercised in contriving an eligible instrument for cutting for the fistula in ano; an operation which consists in dividing a portion of the rectum and of the adipose membrane and the sphincter ani, so as to lay open the sinus or sinuses which constitute the disease. If these sinuses are not completely laid open, or if the division be made in an improper place, the first operation sometimes fails of making a perfect cure. Any of the instruments which have been made for this purpose may answer the intention in particular cases very well; but the blunt-pointed

crooked bistoury, recommended by that excellent surgeon Mr. Pott, certainly has the pre-eminence, and when the operation is performed after the recent bursting of abscesses in these parts, or where the external orifice is open enough to admit readily the passage of the knife, there is perhaps no instrument more eligible.

There are, however, many cases of fistula in ano, in which I think a better instrument may be used. It frequently happens in those of long standing, (which oftener come under the operator's care than the more recent ones) that the external orifice is very small; sometimes scarcely large enough to receive the point of a common probe. In some of these cases, the fistulous cavity leading to the gut may be easily traced by a probe. In others, either on account of small windings in the cavity, or from other obstructions which the probe meets with in exploring it, a little time is required in the examination, in order to ascertain the direction and extent of the sinus; and whether it communicates with the cavity of the rectum by a direct opening through the gut, or runs on its outside only, without such a communication with its cavity. When the external orifice of the fistula is very small, it will not be possible in some cases, especially where a patient is timid, to pass the probe-pointed knife so as to meet the finger, without its wounding more or less some of the parts in its passage. If the true direction of the sinus be not followed after the introduction of the knife, it must be apparent to every one, that it cannot be explored without giving much unnecessary pain, by an instrument that is liable to cut. And although it may not be difficult to push the instrument within the cavity of the rectum, so as to meet the operator's finger, yet it appears highly probable that this perforation may sometimes be made in a different part to that which was intended; an error which may occasion a failure in the cure. Sometimes we find the orifice of the fistula situated upon the buttocks, at the distance of three or four inches from the anus: In this case, the external sinus must be in part opened by the knife, before the probe point of it can possibly reach the operator's finger; and this may occasion some difficulty in finding the true direction of the sinus.

These circumstances led me to adopt a new instrument, which is the subject of this paper. This instrument consists of a very narrow probe-pointed curved knife*, with a ring affixed

* This instrument may likewise be made perfectly straight. In this form it will answer extremely well where the gut is to be slit not much above the sphincter,

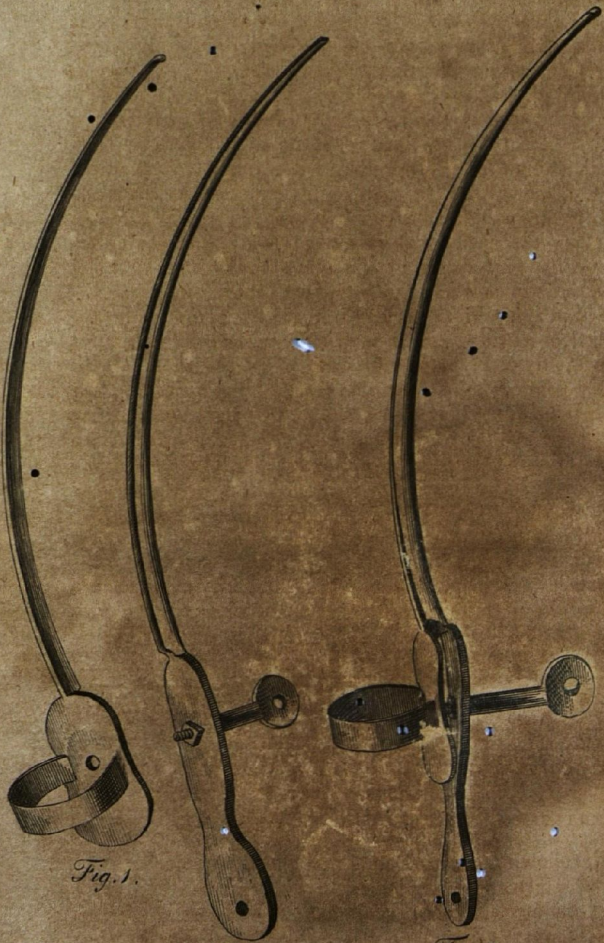

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

affixed to its handle, (*fig.* 1,) and a sheath on its blade, having a screw fixed to one end of it, to confine the knife and the sheath together, (*fig.* 2). By the handle of this screw, the operator's assistant may draw off the sheath from the knife. At the point of the sheath there is a very fine division in its central part, to the extent of a quarter of an inch, in order to prevent the edge of the knife being injured in withdrawing it. While both parts are fixed together, they make a perfectly smooth and uniform instrument, not unlike a curved probe. (*fig.* 3.) This instrument may be introduced into any fistulous orifice that will admit a common probe; and may be easily passed along the cavity with one hand, while its point is received by the fore finger of the other hand thrust into the anus, in those cases where the gut is perforated by the disease. Where it is not perforated, this instrument, by means of the fore finger in its ring, can be very easily pushed through it, as Mr. Pott justly observes may be done in a like situation with the probe-pointed knife. At this stage of the operation, the sheath may be set at liberty in a moment by an assistant; after making a single turn of the screw, he may instantly, by its handle, withdraw the sheath from the knife. The surgeon directly afterwards finishes the operation by dividing the gut, as with the probe-pointed knife.

With this instrument, (made within the last two months by Mr. Evans, in a very neat manner) I have performed the operation much to my satisfaction in five different subjects; the last of whom declares, that the whole operation gave him much less pain than the previous examination of the sinus by the probe.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following History of a Malformation is, I think, worthy of a place in your Journal. In the first place, it is no common malformation; it is, on the contrary, as Dr. Baillie remarks, a very uncommon one. (Morbid Anatomy, page 181.)

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sphincter; but where this is to be done nearly to the extent of the fore finger, as will be necessary in some cases, a straight knife will, without great care, be apt to cut the operator's finger. It may also be made of any degree of curvature, or with a handle, of any shape or size, instead of the ring.

181.) Again, it ſuggeſts a very uſeful caution againſt truſting implicitly, on all occaſions, to the ſenſes. And laſtly, it proves, perhaps, that perſons of experience may, by that very experience, be liable, in ſome inſtances, to draw haſty and falſe concluſions. You will judge of theſe reflections; and you will do with them, and with my hiſtory, as may, in your opinion, beſt anſwer the purpoſes of your Journal. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient ſervant,

W. VAUGHAN.

Rocheſter,
January 20, 1800.

A few years ago, a child without an *anus* was born at Gillingham, near Rocheſter; and I was requeſted to ſee it. There was indeed no *anus*, nor even the leaſt index of one; but the *fæces* were voided from a conical body extending upwards, from under the *ſymphyſis pubis*, and reaching the umbilical region. The child ſucked ſtrongly; and the *fæces*, in an almoſt fluid ſtate, were diſcharged as often as the child cried.

The urine flowed, I obſerved it twice, from a part concealed by the baſe of the conical body.

Some pronounced the child a female; and others, thinking it a male, were deſirous to make an *anus*.

The child lived only a few days. When the cavity of the *abdomen* was expoſed, and the inteſtines traced as far as the laſt *vertebra* of the loins, it was found, that the *rectum*, inſtead of deſcending along the *os ſacrum*, paſſed immediately into the *vagina*. The prolapſed part, which was the *rectum* inverted, was eaſily drawn backwards, through the opening, into the *vagina*.

Now, is it not likely at leaſt, that the perſons who miſtook the protruded inteſtine for a *penis*, imagined, from their experience of Nature's monſtroſities, that the want of a *præputium*, and the preſence of a villous coat, were both *luſus naturæ?* If this were not the caſe, it is hard to account at all for their miſtake. This much is, however, certain, not only that the *rectum* was miſtaken for a *penis*, but alſo, that the *labia pudendi* were miſtaken for a *ſcrotum*, into which the *teſticuli* had not yet deſcended. If any attempt to form an *anus* had been made, the diſappointment of the operator muſt have been inconceivable and diſgraceful!

Appendix to the Case of Malformation in a Fœtus.*

By T. POLE. (See Page 397.)

IN consequence of this phænomenon being thrown before the public through the medium of the Medical and Physical Journal, it has, agreeably to my wishes, met the eye of my ingenious friend, Charles Cooke, surgeon and practitioner in midwifery, in the city of Gloucester, (to whom I am indebted for this and another extraordinary lusus naturæ) who has obliged me with further particulars in the following letter:

"DEAR SIR,

"HAVING just read (in the Medical and Physical Journal) your Case of Malformation in a Fœtus, I am no longer surprised at your silence.

"Soon after that fœtus was forwarded, I requested a medical friend in London to call and inform you of it; and, if you wished to know the particulars, I would readily answer your queries.

"As I had not heard from you, I thought the parcel never came to hand; however, I am glad to find you did receive it, and will give a brief account of the presentation, labour, &c.

"In January last I was called to Mrs. ——; she had regular strong labour pains; I found the os uteri fully dilated; and the membranes distended; I could feel the action of the extremities of the fœtus within them, and labour appeared to be in that forward state, which required nothing but rupturing the membranes to produce a quick delivery, provided it should prove a footling case.

"When I ruptured the membranes, both feet immediately followed the discharge of the waters, and the other parts of the child progressively succeeded by a continuance (with hardly any intermission) of strong labour pains, so that I had no time to regard the manner in which the child was protruding, for, before I could have supposed it possible, the head was also expelled. The latter circumstance, added to this being a first child, greatly surprised me; and upon passing my hand higher, to ascertain the cause of such an easy expulsion of the head, I thought, from what I then felt, that the violent efforts of the mother

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* The words "Unusual Conformation," in the title of the plate, should have been "Extraordinary Malformation," agreeably to that of the case.

In page 397, line 9 from the bottom, for "on the right side," read "on the left side."

mother had protruded the head entangled in the uterus. I was soon relieved from my apprehensions by feeling the ball upon the left side, and the funis on the same side, as described by you, connected with (what I at first supposed to be part of the uterus) the placenta.

"The child was born alive, appeared healthy, and lived thirty-six hours; but the placenta became extremely putrid before the child expired, which prevented my sending the whole in a better state of preservation.

"The mother is a thin, delicate woman, about twenty-two years of age; has been generally in good health, except having a cutaneous eruption, of which she has been cured near two years.

"She is in a situation of life not exposed to bodily fatigue or exertion, and not known to have entertained any improper mental presentiments during pregnancy. She cannot recollect having been surprised or frightened more than once during this period, and that was in the fifth month, when riding in a gig, the horse started and ran away, but she was neither thrown out nor hurt.

"Is it probable that the preternatural appearances in this case arose from the above fright?

"Is it your opinion that no malformation of the fœtus, or its extremities, could take place at that period of gestation?

"The quickness of the labour (which was completed in less than an hour) I have no doubt arose from the singular adhesion of the head to the placenta, being the strongest possible stimulus to uterine action, during labour. Happy for me and my patient, that no part of the head presented. I observe, you have not noticed that the two first phalanges of the middle finger of the right hand were deficient*.

"Since the above case, a partial preservation of the placenta has fallen to my lot, and terminated favourably; but the child suffered so much, (I suppose from the loss of blood sustained in the delivery) that it only survived, in a lingering state, six weeks.

"The mother, who is perfectly recovered, was very near being the first midwifery patient I ever lost, during a tolerably extensive practice for the last ten years. And although I have conducted upwards of eighteen hundred labours, I only recollect four fœtal malformations, viz. a spina bifida; two monsters sent you; and the two fore-fingers of the right hand completely united.

"You"

* Occasioned by my attention being engrossed in describing the head and upper parts of the body. T. P.

"You may communicate this letter to the public, if you think proper. I remain

Your obliged friend,

Glouceſter, CHARLES COOKE."
May 3, 1800.

"In anſwer to the queries propoſed in the foregoing letter, viz.

1ſt. "Is it probable that the preternatural appearances in this caſe aroſe from the above fright?"

I can only anſwer briefly, that it does not appear to me probable that the appearances aroſe from the cauſe mentioned.

2d. "Is it your opinion that no malformation of the fœtus, or its extremities, could take place at that period of geſtation?"

It is my opinion that no malformation of the fœtus, in any of its parts, can take place after it has once acquired its proper form, except what may ariſe from preſſure, owing to ſome unfavourable poſition in utero, or from inflammation of two ſurfaces in contact with each other.—The firſt may produce incurvation, or other diſtortion of parts.—The ſecond, adheſions. Inſtances of this latter we not unfrequently meet with; and it ſeems to have conſtituted one of the peculiarities in the caſe before us, to wit, the adheſion of the head to the placenta.

To account for the various malformations which are produced in an endleſs variety, appears to me to be beyond the ſtretch of finite wiſdom.

I cannot ſuppoſe it poſſible for the human mind, under any, even the moſt violent impreſſions, to diſfigure the fœtus. If we could admit, as well authenticated indubitable facts, all the fanciful hiſtories related by grave writers, reſpecting the wonderful malformations in the human fœtus, as correſponding to previous mental impreſſions, either from frights or longings, there would be no difficulty in admitting the mother's imagination to have a controul in the original formation, or in deforming it when once well formed.

None of my own patients, whom I have delivered of monſtrous fœtuses, or other women with whom I have been acquainted, ever expreſſed any apprehenſions of peculiar appearances in their children before delivery; but after they have been informed of the circumſtances, they are prompt enough to recur to ſome paſt occurrence, in order to explain them, which had no affinity to the appearances in ſuch children. On the other hand, a number of my own patients, as well as many others, have, from ſome ſhocks, or peculiar impreſſions excited in their minds, had ſtrong prepoſſeſſions that their children would be deformed or marked with correſponding impreſſions; but in no one inſtance have I ever known it to be the caſe.

We

We cannot possibly entertain the most distant idea, that when a child is produced with two heads, or without a head, that it has been occasioned by the mother's having longed for such a thing, or that she had seen such a child in the streets or elsewhere. Neither can a scientific man, possessed of his rational faculties, conceive it possibly in the power of the mother to add even a supernumerary finger or toe to a fœtus, in any stage of gestation, or to remove from the fœtus, and from the uterus, an extremity already well formed, or to transpose any of its parts; all of which every now and then occur to our notice. If we admit the mother's mind, imagination, or will, to have the power of performing such miraculous feats, with such an admirable dexterity, in the human species, we must go still further, and admit the same powers in the inferior parts of the creation; for we are presented with precisely similar deviations in quadrupeds, birds, &c. Some men, strenuous to establish their opinions in favour of the influence of the mother's mind, contend even for the possibility of these effects in such animals being produced by the same cause; and say, there is not that vast difference between reason and instinct, or between human ideas and those of other animals; that we arrogate too much, when we compare the perceptions of the human mind with those of some of the more sagacious quadrupeds. But we do not observe it to be among such that the extraordinary effects in question are produced. However, if they will contend that they arise from the causes assigned; if they will refer the multitude of phænomena to the powers of the mind, perhaps they will have no objection to carrying their favourite opinions one step further, into the vegetable kingdom, and suppose the innumerable instances of monstrosity, which daily occur to our notice, are produced there by the same cause, especially as there appears so great a similarity in these to those of animals, or, at least, as much so as the nature of the two can possibly admit. So that, after all that has been said by writers on both sides of the question, or perhaps all that can be offered on the subject, we must be content to sit down and confess, that the true cause is involved in inscrutable mystery, as are many more of Nature's laws. We can only view them as *lusus naturæ*; the true causes of which, or the manner in which the admirable powers of Nature are combined to effect them, will probably remain in the repository of her secrets to the end of time, as humiliating proofs of our limited comprehension.

One remark I have made of late is, that far the larger proportion of monsters are females, at least in the human subject. Those which I have collected do not admit of a single exception; though I have certainly seen several instances of male monsters?

monſters: but thoſe deviations from the common mode of Nature's operations have been generally in the organs of generation, yet, in this reſpect too, the majority has been in females.

Theſe obſervations are not particularly addreſſed to my friend C. C. whoſe queries only demanded an affirmative or negative anſwer; but I have availed myſelf of this opportunity of contributing my part to the doing away of thoſe opinions which do not appear to be well founded, and which frequently excite conſiderable diſtreſs in the minds of pregnant women, who meet with alarming occurrences liable to agitate the mind, and thence give them painful apprehenſions of their being productive of ſome diſguſting formation in their children.

Leadenhall Street, May 10, 1800.

Dr. Blackburn, on Light.

WE have to lament, that Dr. Blackburn has been prevented by his avocations during the laſt twelve months, and at preſent has not ſufficient leiſure to arrange the proofs and reaſoning upon which his concluſions are founded: he has, however, permitted us to lay before the public the reſults of his inveſtigation in the abſtract, viz.

1ſt. Light is a compound reſulting from a peculiar combination of caloric and oxygen.

2dly. In all thoſe phenomena which have given occaſion to the idea that light is identical with, or a modification of, caloric, the manifeſtation of this latter principle is to be referred to the diſunion of the conſtituent principles of light. The caloric, therefore, which light ſo frequently exhibits, is the reſult of its decompoſition.

3dly. The phenomena of colours are to be aſcribed to the different qualities of light, as containing caloric and oxygen in different proportions. Theſe different proportions manifeſt themſelves in the circumſtances both of the decompoſition and the formation of variouſly coloured light.

4th. The ſeparation of light by the priſm is to be regarded as a chemical decompoſition, not a phyſical or mechanical diviſion of light.

5th. The changes which take place in the colours of different ſubſtances, as of plants during the proceſs of vegetation; of metals during that of oxydation, are referable to correſpondent

ſpondent changes, which theſe ſubſtances experience in their chemical action upon light.

6th. The evaneſcence, or, as it is frequently termed, the abſorption of light, is owing to the complete reſolution of the compound into its conſtituent parts.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

ALTHOUGH the purport of the following Anſwers to the Queries inſerted in your laſt Medical and Phyſical Journal has already been given in the Treatiſes I have publiſhed on VARIOLÆ VACCINÆ, yet, in deference to the requeſt of the gentleman who has propoſed them, I do not heſitate in begging the favour of you to lay the following before the public; and remain,

GENTLEMEN,

With great reſpect, your obedient ſervant,

New Bond Street,
May 15, 1800.

EDWARD JENNER.

ANSWER to the firſt Query:

The inoculated cow-pox, taking the reſult of a great number of caſes, appears to me to be a diſeaſe as much milder than the inoculated ſmall-pox, as that diſeaſe is milder than the caſual ſmall-pox.

To the 2d. I have uſed a variety of means to diſcover whether the cow-pox could be communicated by effluvia, but ineffectually.

To the 3d. A perſon on whom the vaccine puſtule has been excited by *perfect* matter, and which has *completely* gone through the progreſſive ſtages of inflammation, maturation, and ſcabbing, is ever after ſecure from the ſmall-pox.

To the 4th. I have ſeen pimples excited by the cow-pox with ſometimes a little fluid at their apex; and, in two inſtances, a vaccine puſtule, reſembling that on the arm produced by inoculation; but in no inſtance a ſmall-pox-like puſtule.

To the 5th. The vaccine diſeaſe does not appear to make the leaſt impreſſion on the conſtitution unfavourable to health: on the contrary, in a great number of inſtances, eſpecially among children, in whom the ſcrophulous diatheſis has evidently been

been exifting, its beneficial conſequences have very ſoon been manifeſted.

To the 6th. No peculiar diſeaſes have been noticed among thoſe who have undergone the cow-pox at diſtant periods of their lives.

The 7th and 8th. Anſwered already.

To Dr. BRADLEY.

SIR,

AS an old fellow-ſtudent, I take the liberty of applying to you to ſend me ſome of the *matter* of cow-pox, which, I find by your uſeful Journal, has been conveyed to different parts in letters. I have made many inquiries in this neighbourhood to procure it; but as the complaint has not appeared lately among the dairies, I have not been fortunate enough to meet it. I find, however, that the country people are well acquainted with the diſeaſe, and deſcribed it very accurately to me. It is known by the Iriſh name of Shinagh. They have long attributed to it the anti-variolous power, which renders it ſo important a diſcovery to the happineſs of mankind. I met with two people, who had been themſelves affected with the complaint. A lady ſhowed me the mark of it in one of her hands. She had it about forty years ſince, and was then informed by ſome of her neighbours that ſhe never would have the ſmall pox; but gave little credit to their aſſertions. She has, however, been ſince frequently expoſed to the infection, and in conſequence of her incredulity received ſeveral frights, particularly during the illneſs of her children, who had the ſmall-pox rather heavily; but though ſhe attended them very cloſely through the whole of their complaint, ſhe did not take it herſelf. The other perſon is a gardener, who lives with a country gentleman of my acquaintance. He gave himſelf the cow-pox purpoſely by rubbing himſelf againſt ſome perſon who was affected with it, from a conviction that it would prevent the ſmall-pox. This happened ſeveral years ago; and though he has often put himſelf in the way of the ſmall-pox infection, and even lain in the ſame bed with his children when they were covered with it, he has not taken the diſeaſe. If I had time to make the neceſſary inquiries, I am ſure I could multiply inſtances of this kind, as I heard of many others who had the cow-pox, and eſcaped the ſmall-pox in the ſame manner. But as I ſaw and converſed with theſe two, who are people of un-

doubted veracity. I believe they will prove ſufficiently ſatisfactory to you. May I expect the pleaſure of a letter from you ſhortly with the *vaccine matter* incloſed? Your Journal is taken in by many of the faculty in this city. I hope in the courſe of time to be able to tranſmit to you ſome uſeful facts for inſertion in it. I am,

SIR,

Your obedient humble ſervant,

Cork, April 20, 1800. JOHN BARRY.

STATE OF DISEASES IN LONDON.

Account of Diſeaſes in an Eaſtern Diſtrict of London, from the 20*th of April to the* 20*th of May*, 1800.

	No. of Caſes.		No. of Caſes.
ACUTE DISEASES.		Hydrothorax	2
Typhus mitior	4	Anaſarca	4
Peripneumonia	2	Apoplexy	2
Pleuritis	1	Vertigo	4
Sore Throat	1	Hyſteria	3
Acute Rheumatiſm	2	Epilepſia	1
CHRONIC DISEASES.		Paralyſis	2
Cough	9	Chronic Rheumatiſm	16
Dyſpnœa	5	Scrophula	2
Cough with Dyſpnœa	7	Prurigo	1
Hæmoptyſis	5	Tinea	1
Phthiſis Pulmonalis	6	PUERPERAL DISEASES.	
Dyſpepſia	8	Inflammatio mammarum	1
Bilious Vomiting	2	Menorrhagia lochialis	3
Gaſtrodynia	7	Dolores poſt partum	5
Diarrhœa	14	INFANTILE DISEASES.	
Enterodynia	6	Ophthalmia	2
Conſtipatio	3	Tinea	
Colica	2	Scrophula	3
Hepatalgia	1	Convulſio	4
Aſcites	3	Croup	1

The variety in the ſtate of the weather which has occurred ſince the laſt report, has been productive of ſome change in the conſtitution, and in the ſtate of diſeaſe. During the few warm days at the beginning of the month, the number of pneumonic complaints was leſſened, or the ſymptoms of them greatly mitigated.

The great degree of warmth, however, gave occaſion, in many inſtances, to a haſty and imprudent change of clothing; in

in consequence of which, upon the return of easterly and north-easterly winds, some, who were recovering from previous disease, suffered a relapse, and others were exposed to catarrhal or rheumatic affections.

To the same causes also may be attributed many complaints of the bowels, which have prevailed for some time. Diarrhœas, colic, dysentery, and cholera are frequently the diseases of autumnal months which have succeeded a very warm summer; and some symptoms of these complaints, which have lately prevailed, though in a lower degree, may be attributed to the sudden variation of temperature. But, whilst diarrhœa has proved troublesome in some instances, a different and opposite state of the bowels, viz. an obstinate constipation, has occurred in others. This disease is very apt to prove troublesome to persons in advanced life, and not unfrequently is accompanied with serious and alarming symptoms. It may be traced to a variety of causes, and occurs under very different circumstances of the constitution. It is sometimes the attendant of high health, and the consequence of strong exercise, producing a rigid state of the muscular fibres; at other times it occurs to persons of a different constitution, and who are subject to different habits. In some patients, who are of a weak and relaxed temperament, the bowels, partaking of the general affection of the system, act but feebly on their contents, and their evacuation is but slowly promoted. Bile, which is the natural cathartic, is defective in its quantity, or is not sent forward regularly into the intestines. This state of the system is generally indicated by a peculiar appearance of the countenance, and is frequently accompanied by symptoms of hypochondriasis, and what has been termed nervous affections. These circumstances occurred in the instances referred to in the list, and the frequent use of different cathartic remedies became necessary. Aloes and rhubarb were found useful in these cases; but it was sometimes necessary to have recourse to the more active operation of jalap, cathartic extract, or calomel.

Diseases admitted under the Care of the Physicians of the Westminster Hospital, from the 18th of April to the 21st of May, 1800.

Continued Fever	10	Aphthæ	1
Intermittents	1	Ascites	1
Pleurisy	4	Asthenia	9
Measles	1	Cephalæa	5
Amenorrhœa	7	Colic	3
Anasarca	4	Convulsions	2

Cough

Cough	11	Lepra Græc.	1
Diarrhœa	5	Lichen	1
Dyspepsia	2	Menorrhagia	2
Dysuria	3	Obstipatio	1
Enterodynia	6	Paralysis	2
Erythema	2	Palpitation	1
Gastrodynia		Phthisis	
Hæmoptysis	3	Rheumatism	9
Hæmorrhois	2	Sciatica	3
Hypochondriasis	1	Struma	3
Impetigo	2	Worms	2
Ileh	4		

MONTHLY REPORT of DISEASES

Admitted under the Care of the PHYSICIANS of the FINSBURY DISPENSARY, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

The District, in which the Patients of the Finsbury Dispensary are visited, comprehends the Parishes of St. James, and of St. John, Clerkenwell; of St. Luke; of St. Sepulchre within and without; of St. Bartholomew, the Great and the Less; the Liberties of the Rolls and of Glass-House Yard; the Town of Islington; the Parishes of St. Pancras; of St. Andrew, Holborn; and of St. George the Martyr, Queen's-Square. This tract of Ground may properly enough be termed a North Western District of the Metropolis.

LIST of DISEASES, &c. from April 20, to May 20.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Continued Fever	8	Asthenia	10
Sore Throat	2	Cough and Dyspnœa	15
Pneumonia	3	Phthisis	6
Hæmoptysis	2	Paralysis	4
Dysentery	3	Hysteria	5
Diarrhœa	7	Jaundice	2
Chlorosis and Amenorrhœa	16	Dropsy	9
Menorrhagia	12	Scrophulæ	6
Leucorrhœa	13	Gout	1
Acute Rheumatism	2	Prurigo	17
Chronic Rheumatism	14	Cephalæa	4
Lumbago	1	Worms	4
Hypochondriasis and Dyspepsia	12	Infantile Diseases	14
		Hæmorrhois	2

The principal difference that is to be observed between the above list and that of the preceding month, is, that in consequence of a change of season it exhibits a much smaller proportion of *pulmonary* diseases.

The weather, it may in general be remarked, has more influence

fluence upon complaints of the lungs than any remedies which are applied. That credit is accordingly too often given to the advice of the physician, which is, in fact, due to a favourable vicissitude in the atmosphere. This remark applies more especially to those catarrhal affections which occur at an advanced period of life.

Persons at an advanced period of life are peculiarly addicted to a superstitious reverence for medicines; and yet it is to them that medicines are with the least efficacy and propriety applied. The coughs and asthmas of the aged are most frequently relieved by a change of air, even to a one less pure. It would be remarkable that change of air was not, in such cases, more generally prescribed, if we did not reflect that air is not an article in an apothecary's shop. At the same time, although medicines are seldom useful to the aged, by acting immediately upon the body, they may however be, in some instances, essentially so, by acting upon the imagination.

Upon the influence of the imagination in curing diseases, a judicious and ingenious pamphlet has been lately published by Dr. Haygarth, of Bath. It is a subject of great interest, and almost unbounded extent. The mind is continually meddling with the body, and interfering with the remedies which are applied to it. A due attention to this circumstance would afford much instruction to physicians, and throw new light upon the efficacy of medical applications.

Even a kindness of manner on the part of a medical attendant, that bespeaks an interest in his patient's health, may not unfrequently be conducive to its restoration; gratitude will cure a disease, when it is out of the reach of all other remedies. A patient will get well, or, which in many cases amounts nearly to the same thing, will endeavour to fancy himself well, in order to *oblige* his physician. On the other hand, a brutality, rudeness, or arrogance of demeanour seems, as it were, to induce a *spiteful* obstinacy in the disorder.

Most of the cases which have proved fatal, have occurred amongst persons at an advanced period of life.

The old age of *nature*, and the *artificial* old age of intemperance, equally defy all remedies, *except* the dephlogisticated nitrous gas of Dr. Beddoes; which, however, was not to be procured at the Dispensary.

In the cases of phthisis, little else was attempted than to relieve the troublesome symptoms. In a decided instance of this disease a *cure* cannot perhaps, in the present state of medical science, be reasonably expected.

How astonishing, that in one of the most hopeless of all disorders,

orders, Hope should be one of the most characteristic symptoms!

There is no disease which more invariably and obviously shows itself in the complexion and general physiognomy of the patient.

It is remarkable, that a connection may, in many instances, be observed even between the complexion of a person and his habitual occupation of life. Shoemakers, for instance, are almost uniformly of the melancholic temperament; a circumstance that can scarcely be accounted for, unless upon the idea that a person of a sanguine disposition could not easily reconcile himself to so sedentary an occupation.

The fact above alluded to, which was first stated to the author of this article by his friend Dr. Willan, has since been, in numerous instances, confirmed by his own experience. To the remarks of that learned and accurate observer, experience has almost invariably afforded a similar confirmation.

J. R.
W. W.

To Dr. BRADLEY.

DEAR SIR,

CASES of Polydipsia happening so rarely, it is not to be wondered at if practitioners in general are deficient in their knowledge of the manner of treating such complaints, when they actually occur in practice. I, for one, confess myself ignorant of the method in which such a case ought to be treated; for, having never met with it as an original disease, I was almost induced to believe that it could only happen in consequence of some other existing complaint, as fevers, &c. On these occasions, thirst is a very common attendant, and is easily removed by curing the primary disease; but when it happens without any other complaint or symptom to direct us to the cause, it requires some knowledge of similar cases to enable one to prescribe effectually.—The following being a case in point, I beg leave to request your opinion on the subject, presuming that, from your extensive practice, you may have met with something of the like kind, and therefore may be able to direct me in the proper mode of treatment, which shall be implicitly followed*.

A lady, some months ago, applied to me for advice, on account of a very extraordinary thirst which she at that time laboured under, attended with no other symptom of disease, excepting that she was now and then affected with what she termed a weakness of her nerves. Her appetite for food has never been in the smallest degree impaired; on the contrary, since she has been affected in this way, it has been rather better than before: her bowels at the commencement, were not perfectly regular, but, by means of some gently aperient medicines, this was soon removed; her tongue, during the whole period, has been quite clean; and the only medicines she has taken were of the aperient and tonic kind; an emetic might have been proper, but the bad effects produced by one taken some years ago, deterred me from proposing it at this time.

Having asked her a number of questions relative to her former habit of body, &c. I learned that the catamenia stopped about seven years ago; and about, or rather before, that

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* The Editors are convinced that this Case, communicated to Dr. Bradley as a friend, ought to be laid before the Public; and that the answers of their learned Correspondents will be far more satisfactory to Dr. Dyce and their other Readers, than that of any individual.

time, she was seized with an uncommon spitting, which lasted nearly eight months, after which she was quite well. The smell of what was spit up was extremely fœtid; and in the course of a day, two or three handkerchiefs would have been used in consequence. About two years ago the spitting again returned, but continued for a short time, as it was only in a trifling degree: since that time she has kept in a tolerably good state of health till August last, at which time, being in the country, she ate about fifty or sixty cherries in a forenoon, and complained of being rather uneasy; for which she swallowed about half a glass of brandy, and was relieved. She ate her dinner, &c. just as usual, but next day the thirst commenced, and has continued much in the same way ever since. The quantity necessary for her drink in twenty-four hours may amount to about three quarts, or at most one gallon; at the same time she says, that an equal quantity of urine is secreted. About a month after she was affected in this way, she was seized with a very violent tooth-ach (her teeth being mostly carious); she applied a blister behind the ear, which, together with some doses of laudanum, to the amount of twenty-five, seldom more than thirty drops, to produce rest, procured her relief; during this period, which was about ten days, she had little or no thirst, but when ever the pain ceased the thirst returned. For some days past she has been taking a few drops of laudanum every night at bed-time (not more than twelve), from which she thinks that she has found some relief, not in her thirst, but in being less nervous. She has also complained, within these few days, of a slight degree of cramp in the muscles of the left leg and foot, attended with some heat in the palms of her hands; but these being in no great degree, have not been much attended to. These, I think, are all the particulars that I have been able to collect, excepting that, in her outward appearance, she is rather thinner; and if, from the statement which I have now laid before you, you can advise in course what is proper to be done in this case, it will confer an additional obligation on,

DEAR SIR,

Your already obliged,

And very obedient humble servant,

Aberdeen, May 3, 1800. WILLIAM DYCE.

A Case

A Case of Ulceration in the Stomach.

A STOUT middle-aged woman had long complained of conſiderable pain in her ſtomach, which ſometimes darted through to her back; ſhe likewiſe had occaſional fits of vomiting in the morning. Theſe ſymptoms were attributed by her friends to drinking, to which ſhe was much addicted; the event, however, makes it more probable, that her ſufferings were the cauſe of her drinking.

She paſſed the morning of the 29th of March laſt at an alehouſe; and, at one o'clock in the forenoon, ſhe was attacked ſuddenly with ſuch a violent pain all over her belly, as to be forced to ſcream aloud.

Mr. Patten was immediately called to her aſſiſtance, who employed ſuch remedies as he judged proper. He informed me, that when he ſaw her, her pulſe was quick and weak; and ſome degree of coldneſs had taken place on the extremities.

The ſufferings of the patient abated with her ſtrength; ſhe ſunk rapidly, and expired thirteen hours after ſhe was attacked with the pain.

I opened the body thirty hours after her death; and although the corpſe lay in a room without a fire, yet the abdomen was diſtended with gas, and there was conſiderable emphyſema in the cellular membrane, the effect of beginning putrefaction.—This evinces that gin and porter, though drunk plentifully during life, have little power in retarding putrefaction after death.

The firſt preternatural circumſtance which occurred in opening the abdomen, was the effuſion of about two quarts of a whitiſh fluid. It was diſcovered, that the ſource of this was a circular orifice in the ſtomach, about a quarter of an inch in diameter; and it appeared that the white fluid was gruel and the other drinks, which the patient had ſwallowed previous to her diſeaſe, mingled with the ſecretions of the ſtomach. Upon examining the internal ſurface of this organ, two ulcers were diſcovered, each about an inch in length, of an oval form, and apparently ſpreading towards each other. In the centre of one of the ulcers was the ſmall hole formerly mentioned: its edge was thin and ſmooth; the ſubſtance of the ſtomach, near the ulcers, was thickened, and in ſome degree inflamed; the peritoneum was ſlightly inflamed, and the body had no other diſeaſed appearance.

The diſeaſe which deſtroyed this poor woman, though uncommon, has been mentioned by authors. Bonetus, Morgagni, as well as others, have recorded ſimilar caſes; and the various

appearances of ulcers in the ſtomach are accurately deſcribed in Dr. Baillie's Morbid Anatomy.

This is, probably, a more frequent cauſe of ſudden death than is generally imagined, for it is the ſecond inſtance I have met with.—The firſt was a very young girl, whoſe only complaint was occaſionally vomiting her food. This gave her ſo little uneaſineſs, that ſhe tried as much as poſſible to conceal it, leſt ſhe ſhould be adviſed to ſwallow medicines. One night ſhe was ſeized with what was believed to be a very violent fit of the colic. Opiates did not diminiſh the pain; in a few hours cold ſweats broke out, her pain left her, and ſhe died in ſixteen hours from the beginning of the attack.

Two circumſtances occurred in both theſe caſes, different, I think, from what was naturally to be expected.

The firſt is, the ſudden attack of excruciating pain, which was felt all over the belly. I know no alteration in the diſeaſed parts which could have occurred to produce this effect, except the opening in the peritoneal coat of the ſtomach, and the effuſion of its contents into the general cavity of the abdomen.

The gaſtric juice gives no ſenſation to the ſtomach itſelf; but it is, perhaps, capable of exciting all the torture theſe patients endured, when applied to the peritoneum, a membrane not adapted by Nature to ſuſtain its application.

The ſecond circumſtance is the very ſudden death of the patients;—to what is this to be attributed? The moſt ignorant medical man might eaſily have foretold, that theſe patients could not recover after a hole was formed in their ſtomachs; but, I doubt if the wiſeſt could have propheſied that this event would put ſo ſpeedy a termination to life. The ſymptoms of this malady are few and equivocal. But if it could be known, that any one had an ulcer in the ſtomach previous to its penetrating into the abdomen, a regimen and treatment might be preſcribed, which, poſſibly, would contribute to heal it. For it is certain, that ulcers in this organ have healed; poiſons have been ſwallowed, which muſt have eroded portions of the internal ſurface of the ſtomach, and wounds have been received into it without proving mortal.

The chance of curing this diſeaſe being, however, very ſmall, let us turn our attention towards the cauſes and the prevention of ſo dangerous a diſtemper: we muſt here, as in other parts of the obſcure ſcience of medicine, have recourſe to analogy and conjectures. Ulcers upon the external parts of the body are produced either by diſeaſes or by accidents. The latter is the more common cauſe; and this may likewiſe be the caſe with ulcers in the ſtomach.

Many perſons are extremely raſh in ſwallowing fiſh bones, fruit

fruit ſtones, and other hard and ſharp ſubſtances. Women frequently ſwallow pins without fear, ſo that it ſeems to me very difficult to give a good reaſon why ulcers in the ſtomach occur ſo ſeldom as they do. It is to be wiſhed, that the danger of ſuch practices was more generally inculcated, that a real benefit might reſult from theſe diſſections; for it is known to all ſurgeons, that a very ſlight puncture in the ſkin ſometimes degenerates into an ill-conditioned ulcer.

The ſtomach is not invulnerable, and it is ſuſceptible of ulceration as well as the ſkin. The contact of the gaſtric juice, and the variety of foods which are ſwallowed together, with the action of the ſtomach, are not very favourable circumſtances for healing an injury in this part; and ſhould any of theſe circumſtances, or ſome malady in the conſtitution, excite ulceration, a healing diſpoſition may never take place; and, if the ulcer ſpreads and pierces the coats of the ſtomach, a ſudden and painful death is the inevitable conſequence.

Groſvenor Street,
April 23, 1800.

JAMES MOORE.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE read with pleaſ[ure] [your] correſpondence on the various uſes of Digitalis Purpurea. I have exhibited it in Phthiſis Pulmonalis, and in ſeveral ſpecies of active Hæmorrhage, with unequivocal advantage.

Laſt October I was called to Mrs. J——ns, aged 32, about three months gone in her pregnancy; by painful and reiterated coughing, ſhe expectorated much ſeeming purulent matter; her pulſe meaſured from 100 to 110 ſtrokes in a minute: ſhe had likewiſe pains at intervals in the region of the uterus, attended with a profuſe diſcharge of blood. I preſcribed for her pills compoſed of opium, camphor, and digitalis. In three days, and by the time ſhe had taken five grains of digitalis, her pulſe was reduced to 70. The cough and expectoration now ceaſed to haraſs her; the uterine pain and hæmorrhage entirely ſubſided, nor did ſhe experience any relapſe. The ſecond of this month ſhe was delivered of a full-grown child.

The uterine affection in this caſe may be conſidered as having been, in ſome meaſure, produced by the ſeverity of the cough and ſymptomatic fever; it was therefore only natural to hope, that by removing the cauſes the effects would ceaſe.

By

By reflecting on the above case, I have been induced to attempt the extension of fox-glove as a medicine; and in a line of practice where, should it prove successful, it would add as many lives to the human species, as phthisis pulmonalis destroys, even adopting the much by far too much, exaggerated proportion of Dr. Beddoes;—I mean, the prevention of abortion.

The increase of the luxuries, and, perhaps, the increase of the private vices of the present age, have given to the British females an irritability of constitution, which renders them liable to abortion from casual, and often trivial increase of mental or corporeal exertion. In the female predisposed to abortion, there is a peculiar irritability of the constitution, and particularly of the uterus. The pulse, in general, is quick, though feeble, and, from causes that would not affect the healthy female, quickened 20 or 30 strokes in a minute. The usual medicines and regimen, directed as preventives of abortion, often fail; and in those females who have experienced two or three abortions, the prospect of future progeny becomes only a forlorn hope: thus, the peace and happiness of families are impaired, and the lineal succession of many noble and opulent families is destroyed.

It would be displaying a puerile enthusiasm, to hope much from the few imperfect trials which my practice, during the few last months, has afforded; and it would, no doubt, be considered as arrogant, to pronounce a decision on a subject which, to establish, would require the united practice of hundreds; yet, I cannot help indulging a slender hope, that, one day, the fox-glove will rank the first medicine as a preventive of abortion.

By detailing the cases and formula in which I prescribed the digitalis purpurea, would only be needlessly filling your useful pages; every medical man conversant in practice, and acquainted with medicine as a science, will know how to modify its dose and formula to the existing circumstances of his patient. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble servant,

WILLIAM CARSON, M. D.

Practitioner in Midwifery.

Birmingham,
April 12, 1800.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

BEING fully ſenſible of the diſguſting appearance produced in mixtures by an unſucceſsful combination of ſpermaceti with water, I was much pleaſed to read in your 13th number, (page 263) an attempt to meliorate it. But though the contrivance is ingenious, I am far from being of opinion that the method recommended will be adopted in practice, on account of the ſtrong rancid ſmell, and diſagreeable taſte, produced in the mixture by means of the heat uſed in the proceſs; a circumſtance of no ſmall importance to a certain claſs of patients, whoſe capricious palates it is oftentimes exceedingly troubleſome and difficult to pleaſe. I am further of opinion that the heat employed, (together with the additional proportion of yolk of egg, which will be found indiſpenſably neceſſary to fit the ſpermaceti for the reception of the water) would diſpoſe the mixture to become ſour too readily, thereby not only rendering it diſagreeable to the taſte, but injurious to the ſtomach. Reſpecting the ſmoothneſs and uniformity of the mixture, I think, if the following formula be uſed, it will be found to ſucceed in every reſpect as well as ſoon as the one in queſtion.

Spermaceti and double-refined ſugar, each two drams; rectified ſpirits of wine, thirty drops; yolk of egg, a very ſmall quantity; diſtilled or common water, half a pint.

The ſpermaceti and rectified ſpirits are firſt rubbed together a ſhort time; the ſugar is then added, and the trituration continued ſome time longer; then the egg, and laſtly the water.

The above recipe, in the hands of a ſkilful operator, is almoſt invariably found to anſwer the purpoſe of forming an uniform mixture, unaccompanied by any of the diſagreeable conſequences above alluded to, and will, with the addition of any ſpirituous water, keep a ſufficient length of time. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble ſervant,

Hereford, March 10, 1800. ANDREW BLACKBURN.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU will further oblige me by inserting the following observations in your interesting and esteemed Journal. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Yours very respectfully,

THOMAS PECK.

Higham Ferrars,
April 15, 1800.

IN your last Journal, Mr. Davies very politely attempts an elucidation of his case of Adhesion of the Placenta, for which I thank him; and as he does not appear to be displeased with my commenting upon it in the *first*, I earnestly hope he will not in a *second* instance.

It is *indisputably* allowed, that "a firm adhesion of a considerable part of the placenta to the internal surface of the uterus" constitutes an *obvious cause* of its retention, and, when happening, *frequently* "formidable:" but, that the *hazard* of inversion, or producing symptoms of irritation, (by persevering in our attempts to extract it immediately) are *more* dangerous than the continuance of a con[illegible]portion of it in utero, is strongly suspected. Mr. Da[illegible]th great justness, remarks, that "Nature alone points [illegible] propriety of an early delivery of the placenta by its *[illegible]* expulsion after the birth of the fœtus." If Nature, then, (whose kind dictates we do well to imitate) so clearly demonstrates this, it unquestionably behoves us to *assist* her when her efforts are *insufficient*. An *early* contraction of the uterus after delivery, for evident reasons, is earnestly to be desired; but, where the placenta (or a portion of it) attaches, *this* cannot take place. It therefore becomes our duty to separate it as *quick as possible*; and if it does not adhere to the *fundus* uteri, very little difficulty will be experienced in its extraction; and even in *that* case, the trouble to the operator, or pain to the patient, will be *comparatively* trifling.

Mr. Davies, *in your last*, does not hesitate to *affirm*, that the *exhaustion* of his patient was owing "to the *fatigue* occasioned by the previous labour, together with the *irritation* produced in endeavouring to detach the placenta from its adhesion to the uterus; for no material hæmorrhage had taken place at *that time*." Yet, in *the account* of the case we are told that Mr. Davies had lost the common aid to the extraction of the placenta by the rupture of the funis. He then says, "*And* an hæmorrhage of *too considerable* a nature taking place to trust it

to the natural efforts of the ſyſtem, I endeavoured to lay hold of the ſubſtance of it, and bring it away." Unfortunately, Mr. Davies did not effect this. He therefore, very properly, gave his patient ſome reſpite, and anticipated better ſucceſs at a little diſtance of time. "But," ſays he, "finding the *hæmorrhage rather alarming*, and the patient *ſinking*, I reſolved, in leſs than *an hour* from the firſt attempt, to make *another* effort, as the only alternative left to preſerve her life." The *hæmorrhage*, therefore, appears to have *given riſe* to Mr. Davies's fears for the ſafety of his patient—and the ſymptoms, faintings, colliquative ſweats, &c. moſt palpably aroſe from it: and though Mr. Davies appears to differ from me in attributing ſuch ſymptoms to exceſſive fatigue, I am ſtill of opinion they would not have exiſted but from the *hæmorrhage*.

I candidly admit the earneſt ſolicitude of Mr. Davies for the welfare of his patient, and ſincerely do I congratulate him on the happy termination of the caſe.

The grand object I have in view is to prevent, as much as poſſible, a *too haſty* acquieſcence in that plan of treatment, which, *though ſucceſsful* in a *few* caſes, may probably conduce to laxity and ſupineneſs, and prove prejudicial in *others*: for, though the placenta *may* be retained for ſeveral days *with impunity*; yet, ſhould the patient be loſt from any untoward circumſtance (in ſuch ſituation), the practitioner would incur cenſure for leaving *that* to nature *ſo long* which *timely* aſſiſtance might preclude the neceſſity of.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IF you think the following caſes of Hydrocephalus Internus worthy a place in your valuable Journal, by inſerting them in your next Number you will much oblige,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble ſervant.

Dudley, Worceſterſhire, April 11, 1800.

J. T. SHAW.

——Timmin's ſon, ætat. 6, of a healthful and ſanguine temperament, had for ſome time paſt been obſerved by his parents to have had worms, from the voraciouſneſs of his appetite

and the unuſual ſize of his belly, as likewiſe from his having voided ſeveral at different times; but as his health, in other reſpects was not affected, they did not think it neceſſary to apply for any advice.

March 1. For a week paſt he has complained of a cold ſhivering, heat, &c. which continues with other ſymptoms of pyrexia; he had a ſaline mixture with an antimonial powder, which operated as an emetic, and brought off a large quantity of bile from his ſtomach with evident relief.

March 2. To-day I found him in extreme agony, ſcreaming and ſtruggling in a violent degree; at intervals he lies in a comatoſe ſtate, taking no kind of notice of any one, and, if diſturbed again, recurring into the ſcreaming paroxyſms; p. 100, ſmall and weak; belly ſoft, of its natural ſize; had a looſe ſtool yeſterday after the operation of the emetic; tongue parched, ſkin hot and dry; drinks whatever is given him, but at times ſeems to ſwallow with difficulty; will not take any thing in ſubſtance, but refuſes not panada, gruel, &c. The pupils are dilated, the left rather more than the right, and they do not contract on expoſure to a ſudden and ſtrong light. I had his head ſhaved and bathed with vinegar; the apparent eaſe it gave, made me perſevere in its uſe for ſome time, till its effects ceaſed; a bliſter was applied to the vertex, and iij grs. of calomel ordered twice a day. Ten o'clock P. M. p. 96, fuller and rather harder; ſtill continues in the ſame ſtate, ſcreaming and toſſing his head about, unleſs held by the attendants, and will not be put off the lap: although we cannot get him to ſpeak, at intervals he ſeems to be ſenſible.

March 3. P. 100, weak and ſoft; has had no ſtool; belly ſtill ſoft; paſſed a reſtleſs and diſturbed night, ſeemingly in great agony, moaning during the ſhort intervals he was free from the ſcreaming paroxyſms; makes but little water, and that involuntary: takes whatever fluid is given him. Cont. mixt. ſalin. et calomel.

March 4. P. 120, belly ſoft, and no ſtool; ſkin dry; has made more urine, which is very high coloured, and what could be caught depoſits a copious ſediment; reſted better laſt night, owing to xv. drops of tinct. opii in his ſaline potion; is more reſtleſs this morning, and ſcreams with greater violence. Cont medicam. et veſper. n. p. injiciend. enema domeſtic.

March 5. Laſt night the enema was adminiſtered, which produced a copious evacuation; had a better night; was in a comatoſe ſtate when I viſited him, but, upon diſturbing him, again relapſed into his former ſcreaming fit; he is nearly hoarſe, and is much debilitated. The bliſter upon his head is nearly dry.

dry. Applic. empl. veſicat. inter ſcapul. Cont. medicam. ut heri.

March 6. Reſted a little in the night, and is quieter to-day during the intervals of ſcreaming; does not moan as uſual; had another glyſter this morning, which operated like the former; ſkin rather moiſt; his nurſe thinks his breath ſmells very fœtid. Cont. medicam.

March 7. Bliſter diſcharges very much; ſeems to be ſenſible at intervals, and anſwers with a monoſyllable; the ſcreaming paroxyſm continues not ſo long or ſo violent; the pupils continue dilated, but not to ſo great a degree; has had a natural ſtool; urine in greater quantity, but ſtill involuntary; his breath continues fœtid, mouth a little ſore, tongue moiſt, which hitherto has been the contrary. Cont. med.

March 9. He neither ſcreams ſo often or violently as on the 7th, but is very petulant if diſturbed; his pulſe is very irritable; the bliſter ſtill diſcharges conſiderably; natural ſtool each day; ſleeps little in the night, and what he has is diſturbed. Cont. miſt. ſalin. calomel. et augeat doſ. tinct. opii ad gt. xx.

March 12. The ſcreaming has left him; the bliſter is in a healing ſtate, and he is mending as faſt as poſſible; a diarrhœa having occurred, I have diſcontinued the calomel.

March 16. Every complaint has now left him except debility; continues very petulant; the pupils are ſtill dilated beyond their natural ſtate, but contract on expoſure to light; his appetite will now take any thing given him. Hab. decoct. cinchonæ et omitt. op.

April 1. Has now recovered his uſual ſtrength, and there is no appearance of any relapſe.

During the whole of the time I attended this patient, or ſince his recovery, which was rapid, conſidering the violence of the diſeaſe, he has voided no worms; nor is there at preſent any ſymptom of their preſence.—I was led to preſent you with the above caſe, in conſequence of Mr. White's aſſerting, in your XIIth Number, that he ſaw no good effects reſult from the uſe of mercury uncombined with digitalis; but can aſſure him I have proved its efficacy in ſeveral prior caſes, and the preſent recent one tends to convince me of its utility.

About four months ago a child, ſeven years old, who labourcd under a complication of diſorders, with ſlight ſymptoms of hydrocephalus, after lingering ſome time, and taking a variety of remedies, at length the diſeaſe terminated fatally: upon examining the head, nearly two ounces of a limpid fluid was found in the ventricles, but no other unnatural appearance was perceptible.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE very laudable design of your excellent Publication being to rescue the practice of medicine from the hands of empirics, by encouraging a recital of such cases as may be conducive to the improvement of science, either by tending to establish just theory, or to refute vague hypothesis, I do myself the honour of transmitting the following account of a patient who was placed under my care in the year 1798; and, if it shall be thought of sufficient importance to merit a place in your Journal, the insertion of it will oblige,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most humble servant,

March 6, 1800.

G. LIPSCOMB,
Surgeon, at Birmingham.

CASE.

William Hunt, of St. Nicholas' Parish, Warwick, aged thirty years, had, during almost two years, been afflicted at irregular intervals with a difficulty of breathing, which came on more frequently in the evening when he lay down in bed; was succeeded by excruciating pain about the heart; and when the pain went off, great faintness and weakness followed. His appearance was emaciated, his skin tinged with a yellowish cast, and the smallest exertion brought on the difficulty of respiration. He slept very unquietly, and the pain, which commenced at the scrobiculus cordis, extended up towards his shoulders, particularly on the left side. His pulse was hard and oppressed, varying considerably when the breathing became affected; it then usually beat with amazing celerity, and was greatly laborious. As soon as the difficulty of respiration ceased, the pulse sunk rapidly, till it was scarcely perceptible. It has often decreased in frequency, while I kept my fingers on the radial artery, from 160 beats in a minute to 40. It continued very slow while the pain lasted, and gradually acquired its accustomed degree of celerity when that symptom ceased. The pain and oppressed breathing *seldom* took place at the same time; the former *almost always* succeeded the attack of the latter; and the duration of the paroxysm varied from a few minutes to three hours or longer. The urine was high coloured, and deposited a reddish flocculent sediment: it was less urbid when evacuated either in the paroxysm or soon afterwards;

wards; and its quantity was considerable: The state of the bowels was regular, but the pain returned more frequently when a diarrhœa had supervened. The skin was dry, but easily relaxed; and the pain was mitigated when a copious perspiration took place: the extremities were *very* cold during the paroxysms.

The unfortunate subject of these distressing complaints, previous to his being placed under my care, had consulted *several* practitioners, and taken a great variety of medicines without any considerable benefit. The wheezing and oppression of the chest, when he lay down, induced me to suspect that the functions of the lungs were interrupted by the presence of a fluid in the cavity of the thorax; but the strictest examination did not afford the smallest proof in support of that conjecture, for the thorax was not at all enlarged; and when he assumed a vertical position, he could walk about briskly without *any* inconvenience. The state of the pulse induced me to bleed him; twelve ounces of blood were taken away; and the *three* ensuing paroxysms were shorter and less painful than usual. His pulse became softer and less obstructed, and in the paroxysm did not increase to more than 110. The operation was repeated in a few days, but without any apparent advantage. The blood coagulated speedily; the proportion of red particles was but small, and the serum was turbid, resembling pus diluted with water; the violence of the pain and the difficulty of breathing again increased. The secretion of urine was promoted by diuretics, without much advantage; powder of digitalis was continued for a fortnight without any benefit. He complained of a great pain in the kidneys, and evacuated some gravel: the pain continued, and the diuretics were laid aside. A sort of asthmatic paroxysm took place, which was relieved by ammoniacum, squills, and other expectorants, a very thick and viscid phlegm being thrown up. His appetite was much impaired, and he slept little. Nauseating doses of ipecacuanha joined with calomel were given, but no beneficial alteration followed the use of any medicine whatever. He was seen by different practitioners with whom I happened to be acquainted; and in April (about two months after he had been placed under my care) one of them strongly recommended the use of guaiacum; which was accordingly exhibited in large doses, but with no advantage. The pain in the paroxysm became intolerable, and opium was resorted to from necessity; for, as I had long thought there was a considerable derangement of the heart or the great vessels, it did not appear to me at all probable that antispasmodics would produce benefit. Opium was given in doses of 2, 3, 4, and 5 grains, at the commencement

mencement of the paroxysm, without any diminution of the violence of the pain or its continuance. Blisters were applied to the scrobiculus cordis, which discharged plentifully, but the pain continued to recur at short intervals. No particular alteration took place, excepting that the patient's appetite was a little increased by the use of infusion of quassia, until the 9th of May, when he complained of a total suppression of urine; and the next morning, as he was walking across his room, he fell down suddenly and expired.

The relations of the deceased very readily submitted to my request to be permitted to examine the state of the viscera; and the appearances, on dissection, were as follow:

The lungs were found diminished to less than half of their natural size, pale, flaccid, the inferior edges of both lobes discoloured and apparently impervious. No tubercles, nor matter in the bronchia; more than five pints of a pale watery fluid in the cavity of the thorax. The pericardium, greatly distended, contained one pint (exactly) of the same fluid. The heart considerably enlarged. The left ventricle full of coagulum. The right contained a large polypus, part of which passed into the auricle, and prevented the valves being applied close. The end, which terminated in three points, reached about three inches into the vena cava. The pulmonary artery was in a natural state.

The liver was discoloured, but firm and free from tubercles. The gall bladder of a large size, and full of bile. The duodenum in a natural state. The jejunum, ileum, and colon of a darker colour than usual. The bladder empty, though no urine had been discharged for more than twenty-four hours. The appendic. verm. was not quite half an inch long. The omentum was also remarkably small. The spleen and kidneys afforded no uncommon appearance.

The diminution of the size of the lungs seemed to have been as gradual as the accumulation of the water; and this accounts for no fluctuation being perceptible, nor any degree of tumescence observable, during the progress of the disease.

After the death of the patient (but not before) his relations recollected that he had sustained an attack of peripneumony about the time when the complaint of difficulty of breathing first took place, in consequence of immersion into the river Avon on a very hot day.

In the relation of such cases as the present, humanity cannot but shudder at the deficiency of the medical art. We see disease baffle the most industrious exertions, and we feel the inefficiency of human acquirement. For, if the understanding can develop the *cause*, the hope of relief is but further removed from us, and we *know* only to *lament!*

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

SHOULD the following obſervations meet with your approbation, by devoting a page of your highly uſeful and extenſively circulated publication to the admiſſion of them, you will confer an additional obligation on

Your obedient ſervant,

Grenville ſtreet, London,
May 5, 1800.

DAVID URVINS.

Two gentlemen, a few months ſince, took occaſion, through the medium of the Medical and Phyſical Journal, to lament the alarming progreſs which *empiriciſm*, in different forms, is making in this and in other countries; and, at the ſame time, propoſed means which, to them, appeared moſt eligible for its ſuppreſſion and aboliſhment.

After the ſubject had been for ſome time in a ſtate of dormancy, I was extremely happy in obſerving, in the table of contents of this excellent publication, a paper entitled, "*On the pernicious Effects of Quackery*," hoping therein to meet with ſome obſervations more conſonant with my own ideas, reſpecting the method which ought to be purſued, for the purpoſe of arreſting this lamentable evil.

Upon peruſing this paper, I, however, ſuffered a degree of diſappointment, in finding no additional matter to what had been before advanced on the ſubject, excepting the publication of a few caſes, which were by no means neceſſary to ſtrengthen the evidence againſt all kinds of noſtrums and ſpecifics.

Without wiſhing in the leaſt to detract from the merit, ingenuity, and philanthropic intentions of thoſe gentlemen who have favoured the public with their opinions on the ſubject; I beg leave to obſerve, that, in their zeal for the extermination of quackery, they have neglected to trace it to its origin and foundation.

To what are we to attribute the confidence which is ſo generally placed in the falſe atteſtations and hyperbolical aſſertions of men, who are only recommended to public attention by the extremes of *ignorance*, *temerity*, and *effrontery*; while thoſe of *character*, *talents*, and *judgment*, in the medical profeſſion, are frequently ſuffered to remain in the utmoſt obſcurity, neglected and diſeſteemed?

I have

I have no hesitation in affirming, that *ignorance on the part of the public*, and not neglect of legislative interference, is the grand basis on which quackery is founded.

The benevolent exertions and persevering industry of those gentlemen who are endeavouring to introduce the physiological part of the medical science to public attention, cannot therefore be too highly esteemed or commended.

There is a class of individuals, which forms a large part of the medical practitioners of this country, who, without education, without abilities; nay, sometimes, even destitute of common sense, having, perhaps, for a few years been in the habit of vending and compounding medicines in the shop of a druggist or an apothecary, have the effrontery to deem themselves qualified to practise physic, and enrol themselves in the list of medical professors!

Such characters as these being permitted without detection to pursue their "murderous career," is an evil of still greater magnitude, and calls more loudly for the attention of medical men, than the more open profession and practice of the publishers of nostrums and universal remedies.

The dissemination of medical, or rather physiological knowledge, would enable unprofessional individuals to distinguish the scientific and meritorious from the bold and ignorant class of men above described; would infallibly destroy the blind confidence which has hitherto been reposed in quacks, nostrums, and specifics; and would, consequently, prove of the greatest advantage to the regular practitioners of the important science of medicine.

Happy will it prove for society, when, in consequence of the philanthropic exertions of *Dr. Beddoes* and others, ignorance and temerity will be banished from physic, when quacks and specifics shall no longer exist!

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

FROM the animated and extensive discussion which the subject of inoculation of the Vaccine disease has undergone in your past Numbers, it appears that, in many instances, the first and often succeeding attempts have failed in ingrafting the *matter*. This disappointment is the more to be lamented, as the patient may, in the interval between different trials, run the hazard of being exposed to the natural variolous infection;

and thus bring the practice among designing or shallow observers into disrepute, as it has frequently done the inoculation for Small-pox. Some of your correspondents, perhaps, impute this failure too much to the state of the vaccine matter; when they might find a better reason, from the particular condition of the skin where the incision is made on the arm of the patient. The arm of the child is sometimes exposed for a considerable time, often while using persuasions to quiet his fears, or to hide his face from the sight of a lancet. If it happens to be cold weather, the skin becomes pale and flaccid, the blood and warmth retreat from the surface, and the sensibility of the spot is diminished; for the part of the arm which is usually cut is not remarkably sensible. When my practice, formerly, lay much in this way; and finding my incisions often fail in communicating the variolous infection, particularly with very young children, I was in the habit of ordering the arm to be *well bathed* with warm milk and water; which, when wiped with a *rough towel*, would excite such a temporary inflammation on the spot, that I never failed afterwards. This gave the nerves of the part that susceptibility which was required to receive the poison; and I thought also, that the succeeding inflammation was quicker in consequence.

The JENNERIAN Inoculation has been introduced into this neighbourhood by Dr. Huggan, and earnestly supported by all the scientific part of the medical profession, as appears in your Journal. Like the early propagation of CHRISTIANITY, by its DIVINE LEADER, it was first "preached to the poor*." The children of poor soldiers and poor fishermen first partook of its blessings: publicans and sinners have since embraced it; and the purity of its doctrine and practice is making proselytes to the very land's end in Cornwall. The time that the West Kent Regiment has been quartered in Plymouth, will therefore be a memorable period in the future History of Damnonia. But this is not the first instance where this regiment has been eminent for philanthropy. While quartered in Ireland, a dreadful infectious fever raged in the neighbourhood. These officers stepped forward; made their entertainments and amusements subservient to the wants of a starving multitude; opened, by their example, the purses of the rich; stemmed the torrent of contagion, and rescued hundreds from the grave. This heroic conduct convinced the deluded people in the district, that a regiment of British militia did not come for the purpose

* There has, as yet, been no attempt to render this inoculation general in the Navy.——Vid. Med. Nautica, Vol. II. Art. Small-Pox.

of dragooning them into submission, but to share with them the nobler attributes of British union, British feeling, and British charity. Such a fact as this does not belong exclusively to the ALBUM of Benevolence; it is strictly medical; and was its spirit general, there would be little occasion for disputations on *Nitrous Vapour or Fumigations*. While the age is frequently shocked with the horrid barbarities of parish officers, and views with regret the supine and reluctant trials which modern politicians have made to give parochial charity the pure practice of the British constitution, it is pleasing to hear, that it preserves its innate virtues among the officers of the army and the navy. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Cawsand Bay, May 6, 1800.

Your obedient humble servant,

T. TROTTER.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE last remark of Dr. Yeats, in Number XV. of your Journal, are just come to hand.—The Doctor's language in one instance appears exceptionable: What does he mean by a "manly recantation?" In my second Volume, I have admitted, that there were mistakes in my letter to Mr. Nepean; and in p. 39, there is such an apology made as the error seemed to require; for it does not affect the ground which I had taken in this dispute. I might have, with equal propriety, retained the term *nitrous gas*, as *nitrous vapour*. Is not Dr. Yeats contending that this vapour oxygenates the atmosphere, or bodies floating in it? If it gives out oxygen, what is the residuum? In what state of oxydation is the *azote* left? Is it *nitrous gas*, or *azotic gas?* If either of these, a poisonous quality, according to his own premises, must still be added to the surrounding medium*.

But I deny that this vapour increases the respirable portion, on the very authorities which Dr. Yeats adduces. That *oxygen* may be separated, no one can doubt; but this separation must

* Does not this exactly agree with our first remark, that it adds to the atmosphere of a ship's deck the very substance which every intelligent officer is constantly endeavouring to expel?

muſt be ſpontaneous, if it is to add to the vital part of the air, and make it more ſalutary to life: it muſt form combinations with no other ſubſtance, but remain in a condition fit to be inſpired by the human lungs. Therefore, neither Berthollet's experiments nor Lavoiſier's opinion ſanction the concluſion that the vapour of *nitric acid* adds to the reſpirable portion of the atmoſphere; and by no means apply to the proceſs of diffuſing it in the decks of ſhips, and the wards of hoſpitals. Whatever may have been Dr. Yeats's firſt opinion on this ſpecies of fumigation, it is uncontroverted that the original author intended to deſtroy *contagious matter*. It therefore involves the whole hiſtory of fumigation, which, to trace *ab origine*, includes the ludicrous inſtances of necromancy, and does not degrade the gravity of diſcuſſion. We there follow the human mind, in its progreſs through ages of barbariſm and ſuperſtition, to the attempt of ingrafting a popular deluſion on the ſound ſtock of human knowledge, that has been accumulated by chaſte and accurate experiment.

If ſuch is the defence of this once prevailing and unqueſtioned doctrine, in the hands of Dr. Yeats, what are we to think of the *farrago* for fumigation, ſtill employed by many phyſicians of the preſent day? Surely, it is a more natural practice to look to the common atmoſphere in its pure ſtate, for the healthful ſupply of *oxygen*, than to ſeek it from chemical agents. [redacted] will give out *oxygen* equal to the [redacted] rt or window, or the draught of a [redacted] ail? I think with Dr. Yeats, that "fumiga[redacted]ly employed, are more calculated to deceive by enveloping diſagreeable ſmells, than to be beneficial by neutralizing and [redacted] gious miaſma." But this does not agree with what he ſays afterwards: "If we can by the powerful aid of chemical agents neutralize diſagreeable exhalations, is it not a deſirable object? No: it was much better to ſhift the poacher, and burn the ſtraw on which he lay in Bedford Jail, than to neutralize the offenſive exhalations by *nitrous vapour*. In the laſt ſentence quoted, Dr. Yeats ſhows much of that diſpoſition which we have obſerved in all the favourers of fumigation; he recurs to it inſenſibly. He wants *oxygen* to deſtroy a diſagreeable ſmell; and ſeems to forget, that by opening the window he can have it in abundance: *quem quæris adeſt*: he does not appear to like it in this form, but goes round by the Cape of Good Hope, and brings it from the ſoil of Hindoſtan in an Eaſt Indiaman. He thus leaves the preventive of a court phyſician to the indelicate office of purifying foul utenſils, which a cleanly nurſe at Haſlar Hoſpital, or a decent London chamber-maid, would effectually correct by

ſoap and water, and throwing up the ſaſhes; and that too long before a fumigating phyſician would be able to arrange his pipkins, to the entire diſcredit of this new-fangled prophylactic, and the utter confuſion of all medical necromancy.

Dr. Yeats will allow with me, that all proceſſes of this ſort carry with them an air of myſtery, and are calculated to impoſe on by-ſtanders, and thus render attendants of the ſick negligent and careleſs of the moſt eſſential parts of their office. Theſe vapours alſo convert the white-waſh of our decks into a *nitrate of lime*, that makes the ſurface of the timber attract moiſture in damp weather, which we abhor.

I muſt now conclude, that it is an object of national importance to convince the officer and ſeamen, by the moſt ſimple manner poſſible, that they have in their own hands the genuine prevention and cure of infection. This has, in fact, been the caſe; and I have the notion that a large portion of human miſery has been oppoſed or relieved by it; perhaps, more ſucceſsfully during the laſt three weeks of our duty than on any former occaſion, in clearing two ſhips of the line of contagion and fever. The detail of this buſineſs muſt be reſerved for future animadverſion; becauſe, what I conſider as highly gratifying to every medical reader, it will unfold the *triumph* of ſcientific arrangements, that are capable of extending ſympathy, truly Britiſh, to the ſick bed of a brave ſailor, over a vicious ſyſtem of tactics.

In thus taking [illegible] aſſure him of my perfect eſteem, [illegible] certain of his learning and talents. I muſt alſo, [illegible] your pardon, and that of your [illegible]ders, for the naſty [illegible]ls I have ſent you. I am, with [illegible]

GENTLEMEN,

Plymouth Dock,
May 4, 1800.

Your very obedient and humble ſervant,
T. TROTTER.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

THE very pointed manner in which Dr. Squire has animadverted on my opinion of "the expediency of an early delivery of the placenta," *naturally* engages my attention; which is the more excited from a ſuppoſition that he has conſiderably *perverted* my deſign. If, therefore, *as addenda*, you will give place,

place, in your next, to the following remarks, you will particularly oblige,

GENTLEMEN,

Higham Ferrars,
May 6, 1800.

Yours respectfully,
THOMAS PECK.

THE first idea which Dr. Squire attacks, is that of the propriety of an "immediate removal of the placenta." Now, it is no difficult task to *wrest* an opinion: For instance, detach a sentence, and Scripture at once appears *false*. "There is no God." But, who has said it?—I have urged, that the placenta cannot be too speedily removed after the expulsion of the child. Dr. Squire has, very uncharitably, omitted the connection; "I do not mean to urge the *propriety* of a *forcible* extraction of the placenta the very moment the funis is divided, but to pay *direct attention* to the efforts of Nature; and if *such* efforts are not sufficient to expel it in ten or fifteen minutes, to extract it;"—and I would, here, beg to be understood, "not to pull with a force which may endanger its separation."

Dr. Squire then says, "To wait no longer than ten or fifteen minutes for the efforts of Nature, is *a position which cannot be too strongly reprobated, unless flooding, or other untoward accident, should require the assistance of art.*" In Mr. Davies's case, however, the *former* took place; [illegible] led me to suppose, that an immediate extraction of the placenta was requisite, as a means of preventing a hæmorrhage, which is *always* to be dreaded, and is not *unfrequently* fatal. [illegible] could Dr. S. have remained an idle spectator in a case of hæmorrhage, *clearly* arising from adhering placenta? Would [illegible] have remained inactive in a case of *confessedly* "*alarming*" *flooding*, when proper "manual operation" might have prevented its continuance? Certainly, he would not.—Dr. S. appears to deduce a self-pleasing inference from the fortunate termination of Mr. Davies's case, by saying, "We may indulge hope in the most *desperate* situations, *this* instance affording a proof of the strength and resources of the human constitution." But, does *this* case *sufficiently* warrant a similar conduct in all such instances? Mr. Pott, in his Remarks on Amputation, Vol. III. p. 362, has a passage which may tend to illustrate my idea: "When a judicious man says that a limb *ought* to be removed, it is not to be supposed that he means to say, that it is absolutely impossible, at all events, that such limb can be saved; nor, that such patient must infallibly die, if the operation be not performed: no, he only means, *that from repeated* experience of himself,

himſelf, and others, in all times, it has been found that the circumſtances above mentioned put the patient's life much more to hazard in an attempt to ſave the limb, than the operation does in removing it; and, *therefore*, that humanity, as well as judgment, determines for the latter." As it reſpects the delivery of the placenta, I mean to ſay, in *caſes of urgency*, I would prefer the *extraction* of it to the waiting for the efforts of Nature.—Dr. Squire has thought fit to quote very reſpectable authorities in ſupport of his reaſonings: Firſt, Dr. Smellie: "If there is no danger from a flooding, the woman may be allowed to reſt a little, in order to recover from the fatigue ſhe has undergone, &c." A practice allowed to be conſiſtent; a practice I *have* plainly acceded to, by ſaying I would wait "ten or fifteen minutes;" and I would not *even confine* myſelf to that period, except in caſe of hæmorrhage, or other untoward circumſtance: I mean to ſay, that, *generally* ſpeaking, *in that time* the uterus will contract *ſufficiently* to throw down the placenta; but *even then*, how often do we find it diſpoſed to remain in the vagina, unleſs it be removed per artem? The next extract is from Dr. Hunter's Lectures, "Whether the placenta comes in a few minutes, or an hour, uſe little or *no force*, &c." I *perfectly agree* with *this* practice *when I preſs* the *impropriety* of a "*forcible*" extraction of it:—nor have I *ever* found a *neceſſity* for any *exertion*, when the placenta has *not* been retained longer than ten or fifteen minutes; but I have *frequently* been called to caſes where the child has been expelled one, two, or more hours, wherein great difficulty has actually occurred.—Dr. Harvey is then quoted: He ſays, "by pulling down the burden by the navel-ſtring, *if a portion* is *ſtrongly* adherent to the uterus, we may by *this* force invert the uterus." But who, in ten or fifteen minutes after the birth of the child, would *forcibly* pull down by the funis? If I underſtand Dr. Harvey in this place, he intends by it, that he would rather bring away the ſubſtance of the placenta by a graſp, than (*in caſes of retention*) depend on the firmneſs of the funis.—Dr. Squire, fourthly, has recourſe to Dr. Denman, who (after ſpeaking on the propriety of leaving the placenta to the action of the uterus) ſays, "We are at liberty to act when Nature is not ſufficient, or when *dangerous* circumſtances demand our aſſiſtance." Is not hæmorrhage a dangerous circumſtance? Dr. Denman goes on, "The *mere debility* of the patient is therefore *often* a reaſon why we ought to wait, without making any attempts to haſten the ſeparation or extraction of the placenta; as an immediate ſeparation, natural or artificial, would be an addition to the danger which ſhe was before in." I preſume it is unqueſtionably

questionably intended, in *this paragraph*, where the *debility* arises from *fatigue* in labour, and not from profuse hæmorrhage. We *next* have an extract from Mr. White: "Certain pain and danger *must* attend the operation; and, in *almost every case*, the odds are great but it is totally unnecessary, &c." But Mr. White does *not* say it is inexpedient in *every case*. He knows instances where patients have materially suffered through the long detention of the placenta. Hamilton's Outlines are then ransacked, and we find that "the introduction of *the hand* is *seldom* necessary, and never should be had recourse to except in the most urgent cases." This meets my most cordial approbation. Dr. Osborne says, "The natural expulsion of the placenta is both easier and safer than the artificial extraction, however skilfully performed." I know *no* practitioner who will dare to deny so plain a fact. Drs. Clarke and Bland are, lastly, brought to prove, what every practitioner must know, that "the placenta should *not* be delivered in a *hasty* manner; and that it very rarely is detained." Perhaps the motto "*Naturâ monstrante viam*" is as deeply impressed in my breast as in that of Dr. Squire; and, I assure him, it would be my *last* intention to counteract her benevolent dictates; and *however erroneous my* opinions in *practice* may appear to Dr. Squire, so *long* as they are not in *my* own view *irrational or dangerous*, so long shall I heartily adopt them: and I am extremely happy in noticing Dr. Scott's ideas as consonant with *my own*, as well as the *experience* of many veterans in midwifery. Having, I hope, sufficiently explained myself, and satisfactorily proved it is not my aim to mislead, I leave the subject, *at present*, earnestly wishing the conduct of Dr. Squire, towards parties entirely unknown to him, may, in future, be divested of asperity.

On the Operation for the Aneurism.

"Laudatur ab his, culpatur ab illis."
HORAT. Sat. II. Lib. 1.

THE various improvements that have taken place in the operations of surgery within these last forty years, are certainly sufficient to attract the attention, and claim the acknowledgement, of all professional men. Yet, upon inquiry, perhaps, we shall find, that we have not made such considerable advances

advances to perfection as might have been expected from our additional knowledge of anatomy and physiology; nor, though assisted by the accumulated experience of the antients, have we yet been able to diminish, or totally to remove, what have too long been styled the "opprobria medicorum." Among those subjects that still remain to be improved and established by our increasing knowledge and discoveries, there is no one of greater importance to us as men, or more worthy our attention as surgeons, than the treatment of the Aneurism.

If we look back into the history of our art, we shall find the writers on surgery, fully acquainted with the nature and importance of the disease, explaining the different causes and situations of it; and also describing the method of operating for the cure, in particular parts of the body. And it does not appear that our knowledge of the disease is increased, or that we have arrived at a much greater degree of certainty in the treatment of it, since the days of Ætius and Paulus Ægineta.

It is true, the component parts of the human body have lately been more minutely examined and explained by the discoveries in chemistry; the circulation of the blood through the inosculating arteries has been more clearly ascertained and better understood; the doctrine of absorption has been more thoroughly canvassed and more accurately defined: but how far these theories are compatible with practice, and are likely to be attended with permanent advantage to the "ars medendi," it still remains for future experience and observation to determine. In aneurisms in the arm, we undertake the cure with more confidence and certainty of success; and from the respectable testimony of Heister, Dr. Monro, and Dr. Wm. Hunter, nobody would hesitate to recommend the performance of the operation. The reasons that encourage us to hope for success in the superior extremities, are plain and obvious; the arteries coming more immediately from the aorta, the ramifications being more numerous, and the circulation in all the vessels more strong and vigorous. It [illegible]re be remarked, that an improvement in the operation for the popliteal aneurism was suggested by the justly celebrated John Hunter, viz. the taking up the femoral artery on the anterior part of the thigh, without doing any thing to the tumour in the ham; and this ingenious proposal has been sanctioned by experience. The numerous successful cases upon record seem sufficient to justify the attempt to save the limb, by including the vessel in a ligature in the popliteal aneurism, and even in some cases where the disease is situated in the femoral artery; but, when the aneurism is high up the thigh, or in the groin, which sometimes occurs, the young practitioner may be frequently at a

loss

loss what conduct to pursue. He may be perplexed or divided in his own mind, by the various opinions of different authors; he finds the operation of taking up the diseased artery with a ligature, strenuously recommended, and as vehemently condemned. On the one hand, he is encouraged with the most animating prospects of success, by the plausible theory of the ingenious John Bell; on the other hand, he is told by the learned experience and profound judgment of Pott, that the operation had never, within *his* observation, been successful; and, in his opinion, ought never to be attempted.—The ingenuity of Mr. Bell's reasoning, and the slender testimony of Guattani, cannot surely determine the matter, when such an eminent surgeon, and so many respectable practitioners of the present day, entertain the very opposite sentiments. What has been said upon the treatment of aneurisms, in a modern system of surgery, does not appear sufficient to direct the inexperienced judgment of a tyro in the profession, nor sufficient to enable him, with confidence, to decide what plan to adopt for the cure. It is to be regretted, therefore, that a collection of *facts* has not been published, and a comparative view taken of the average of successful cases where the operation has been performed; by which means every one might be enabled, in some measure, to form his own opinion, and act from his own judgment, without being directed by the fallacious testimony of a single case, or biassed by the prejudiced voi[illegible] of an individual.

Norwich, Feb. 20, 1800. HENRY REEVE.

An [illegible] *of the Flos Cerevisiæ,* [illegible] *Fever.*

By CH[illegible]WN, *Surgeon.*

To the Edito[illegible] Medical and Physical Journal.

Gentlemen, *Operat*[illegible]

READING in your valuable miscellany, some observations on the medicinal use of yeast, by Mr. J. H. Grose, I take the liberty of sending you the particulars of a case of recovery, apparently from the exhibition of this valuable remedy.

Mrs. Northmore, living at Mr. Cadwallader's, in Charles Street, Hatton Garden, was delivered on the 25th of last December of a very fine boy.

The next day ſhe was as well as women uſually are in her ſituation; being coſtive, an opening mixture was preſcribed, which had the deſired effect. For three days ſubſequent to her lying-in, nothing particularly occurred, but on the fourth ſhe complained of pain in her limbs and cheſt, with head-ache, great thirſt, and dryneſs about the fauces. Sudorific medicines were preſcribed; the next day ſhe was much better, when I preſcribed a weak decoction of the bark and ſnake-root. She was ſo much better on the 3d of January, as to be able to get out of bed, and ſit up for three hours. On the 6th, ſhe found herſelf again very poorly, and in the evening I was called in. I found her with a quick ſmall pulſe, pain in her head and limbs, and great proſtration of ſtrength; ſhe had been all the day very ſick at her ſtomach, and troubled with a griping pain in the abdomen. I preſcribed an emetic, and at bed-time a doſe of calomel with an opiate, which had their deſired effects. Through the whole of the next day, ſhe had a conſiderable remiſſion of the fever. On the 11th ſhe was much worſe. Her ſenſes were impaired, her pulſe very ſmall and quick, and ſhe had ſeveral ſtrong convulſive fits in the courſe of the day. At night ſhe had ſubſultus tendinum, and talked incoherently during the night. Upon viſiting her next day, I found her lying in a comatoſe ſtate. Her tongue and fauces were blackly furred, and her pulſe ſmall[illegible]ck. I directed a bliſter to be applied between the ſho[illegible]and a ſaline draught with gr. viij. of the antim. calcinat. r[illegible]iniſtered every four hours. An opiate was given her at[illegible]. She had a tolerably good night. Dr. Squire, a [illegible]humane practitioner, was conſulted next day, an[illegible]adminiſter the bark and port-wine very [illegible]the next day, we found her ſo ill, [illegible]e and myſelf, ſhe could [illegible]. The bark ſhe rejected, [illegible]ine, of which hitherto ſhe [illegible]airing of being able to afford h[illegible]pared the minds of her friends for [illegible]ion, I no longer placed any hopes on medicine. [illegible]a pint of freſh yeaſt, of which I directed a table ſpoonful to be given her every three hours; which directions were very punctually attended to.—A very unexpected alteration took place.—Her pulſe became quick, and leſs feeble; ſhe looked upon her friends about her, ſeemingly as if ſenſible ſhe was better—the ſubſultus tendinum ceaſed, and her ſkin became moiſt. The yeaſt was continued for ſeveral days, *ſhe* gradually mending; and after taking two quarts, was quite recovered.

Hatton Garden,
April 3, 1800.

I have the honour to be, &c.
CHARLES BROWN.

An

An Account of the good Effects of Alkaline Salts in counteracting the Poiſon of Corroſive Sublimate.

APRIL 17, 1796, John Podmore, a healthy young man about 25 years of age, the ſon of a farmer in this neighbourhood, had an eruption upon his ſkin that was ſuſpected to be the itch; in conſequence of which he was adviſed by his ſiſter to buy three pennyworth of corroſive ſublimate (hydrarg. mur.) and two ounces of Glauber ſalts. The ſublimate was to be diſſolved in water, and applied as a lotion to the parts affected, and the ſalts to be taken in the morning faſting. The young man being totally unacquainted with the articles he had purchaſed, made uſe of the mercury inſtead of the ſalts, putting about one half of the quantity he was poſſeſſed of into a large cupful of warm water, ſtirring it about for ſome time with a ſpoon, and then drank it. Fortunately for him, a conſiderable portion of the ſublimate remained undiſſolved in the bottom of the cup. The quantity ſwallowed (from what was left) I ſuppoſed to have been not leſs than half a drachm. After this he took a walk into [illegible]s; where finding himſelf ſeized with a violent ſic[illegible]iting and griping, it was with ſome difficulty he [illegible]ome. The family, obſerving him ſo extremely ill [illegible]h alarmed; which induced his mother to exami[illegible]n which the ſalts and ſublimate had bee[illegible] to her great concern, ſhe diſcovered [illegible]de; upon which I was deſired [illegible], it being then near two ho[illegible]. The moment I was informed [illegible] ſituation, two caſes of the [illegible]ed on a ſimilar occaſion, publ[illegible]. BARLES Bl[illegible] Edinburgh Med. Com. occurred to me. I [illegible]ected half an ounce of ſalt of tartar to be diſſo[illegible]gh. ounces of water; of this ſolution he took a large table ſpoonful, which afforded him much relief, by abating for a ſhort time the violent pain in his ſtomach; he afterwards took an emetic, which operated powerfully. Notwithſtanding which, he had frequent returns of the pain, which extended through the whole courſe of the inteſtinal canal; but was as often relieved by the alkaline ſolution, which he took occaſionally for ſeveral days. On the 18th, a purging draught was adminiſtered, and at night an opiate. This day his tongue began to ſwell; a cold ſweat broke out all over him, accompanied with a ſlow and feeble pulſe, a trembling of his limbs, and a total debility of the

Account of the beneficial Effects [illegible] in a Caſe of Ly[illegible]

whole ſyſtem. 20th, Continued nearly the ſame, the opiate having procured but little reſt: ſeveral large puſtules of a livid hue appeared upon his face and breaſt. 21ſt, A copious ptyaliſm came on, which continued for many days. The inteſtinal canal was affected quite to the anus, from which oozed a corroſive ichor, that excoriated the external parts, and rendered them ſo ſore, that it was with difficulty he bore clyſters of olive oil and milk to be injected, which I directed to be adminiſtered twice a day, in order to lubricate and waſh the parts from the acrimonious diſcharge, as well as to empty the inteſtines of any fæces that might be retained in them. 23d, The pain of the ſtomach and bowels being conſiderably abated, I ordered him a decoction of Peruvian bark, with the addition of Huxham's tinct. of the ſame, and chalybeate wine, to be taken three times a day. This plan was purſued till the 29th, taking opiates every night; but they did not afford him that relief I expected, for he got but little reſt until the ſalivation left him, which happened on the 28th. From that day his appetite began to mend, and his ſtrength gradually returning, he diſcontinued his medicines.

During the whole of his illneſs he was ſupported with milk, gruel, and chicken broth. Notwithſtanding which, he was more reduced both in bulk and ſtrength, than any patient I ever ſaw in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time. Had the alkaline ſolution been adminiſtered immediately after the poiſon was taken into the ſtomach, there is little doubt but the decompoſition of it would have been more effectual, and the patient's ſufferings in conſequence of it conſiderably alleviated.

Ketley, May 7, 1800. J. EVANS, M. D.

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I OBSERVED in the laſt Number of your Journal, ſome "Remarks on the Expulſion and Extraction of the Placenta after Delivery," by Dr. Squire; to which, he ſays, "he was induced from the peruſal of two communications on the ſubject;" whereto, "he thought it a duty he owed to ſociety to prevent, as much as might be in his power, the mode of treatment therein deſcribed."

Since he has involved *two* correſpondents, equally "recommending a mode of practice ſo oppoſite to rules laid down by

by the ableſt and moſt experienced men of the preſent time," and, withal, "ſo dangerous in its tendency," I can only be reſponſible for *one*, and think it equally my duty to refute a charge ſo palpably erroneous, and ſo injurious to medical reputation; for, although the doctrine he reprobates is ſtill maintained by ſome reſpectable practitioners, and, in ſome caſes, perhaps is indiſpenſable; yet I am convinced, from repeated obſervations, that the contrary mode of treatment is, for the moſt part, the moſt eligible.

How the Doctor came to confound my ſentiments with thoſe of Mr. Peck's, on the "Expediency of the *early* Delivery of the Placenta," at all events, I cannot poſſibly account for. For the principal deſign of publiſhing my caſe was to recommend the *contrary* practice, unleſs imminent danger ſupervened; which induced Mr. P. to comment upon it in a former Number of your Journal; and if, in the management of my caſe alluded to, it appeared that I deviated from the ſentiment, the neceſſity aroſe from the appearance of ſymptoms which portended danger, if I had longer delayed to proceed in the manner deſcribed.

As to the Doctor's obſervations on my treatment of it, I am not at all concerned to notice; they might ſerve to amuſe him in writing, and they do not offend me in reading them. And as to the *liberality* of his ſentiment in aſſerting that the ſubjects of his remarks were the "erroneous opinions of men who have had no experience," likely to "miſlead the ignorant and unwary," I ſhall ſuffer it to prove its own confutation, only begging leave to obſerve, reſpecting medical "experience," that as ample a ſhare of it falls, ſometimes, to the lot of private practitioners, as certain public teachers.

I now take leave of the Doctor and his Remarks, wiſhing him all poſſible ſucceſs in his intended publication on the ſame ſubject, to which, perhaps, the Remarks are a kind of prelude; and that every future attempt to ſerve the general cauſe may be attended with every beneficial effect. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Yours reſpectfully,

H. DAVIES.

Piccadilly,
May 10, 1800.

To

To the Editors of the Medical and Phyſical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

I TAKE the liberty of ſending you this letter, in anſwer to three of your correſpondents, who have animadverted on my opinions, reſpecting the uſe of opium and venæſection, in the practice of medicine, which I will thank you to inſert, if you think it worthy of a place, in a future Number of your Journal.

I paſs over, without any notice, what Mr. Urvins, the firſt of theſe gentlemen, has, in the preface to his remarks, hinted by way of caution to your readers, againſt the reception of *haſty* or *extravagant notions*, which I ſuppoſe mine are thence implied to be, as alſo his oblique imputation of entnuſiaſm to the encomiums which I have beſtowed upon opium in the cure of febrile diſeaſes.

If this gentleman thinks he can ſee any thing like argument to the purpoſe, from the conceit of any perſon's being equally juſtified in recommending the complete expulſion of opium from the *liſt of remedies*, becauſe he may have, by accident, been a witneſs to its fatal effects, or the mis-application of it, it is ſufficient, by anſwer, that I have not contended againſt venæſection from the conſideration of its ill effects *only*, but that under any circumſtances, even the moſt favourable to the employment of it, as a means of cure, I do venture to affirm that it is never neceſſary. This, in whatever light it may appear to Mr. Urvins, is no haſty or extravagant notion, but what I have aſcertained to my complete ſatisfaction, at leaſt as far as I can truſt to the facts and obſervations on which this concluſion is grounded. Venæſection may therefore, in my opinion, be as ſafely and as advantageouſly ſuperſeded in inflammatory fevers, as in any other diſeaſe, in which its diſuſe has been acknowledged as an improvement.

With regard to venæſection in croup, I have, in a former part of this Journal, (Numb. XI. p. 56.) briefly ſtated my reaſons why I do not think it even admiſſible; theſe were the reſult of ſome experience, much reflection on the danger of bleeding children at the early age at which this diſeaſe generally makes its appearance; as alſo the infirm ſtate of health of ſeveral of my acquaintances, whom in early life I can recollect to have been ſubject to croup; and, on that account, occaſionally blooded. To theſe I ſhall here add, that, if it is contagious, as has been alleged, this would weigh with me as a further objection againſt the employment of the lancet.

As Mr. Purton has had much experience in the treatment of croup, I dare say that he has sometimes observed the symptoms, after they had been alleviated by means of the lancet, return with redoubled violence, and carry off the patient before any assistance could be afforded him.

The relief obtained in croup from opium has certainly appeared to me to have been more permanent, and the recurrence of the disease less violent, than after the employment of venæsection. If opium is to be trusted as our principal remedy in croup, I must again repeat it, the dose of it must be proportionate *to the violence of the disease*; and, what is of equal importance, must be administered early in the disease, otherwise it will be equally as inefficacious, in averting the impending danger, as any other means which we can devise; for, as Dr. Ferriar justly observes*, "if the alarming symptoms are not mitigated during the first six hours, the disease generally proves fatal." And we learn from the same respectable authority, that "in the case of very young children we must almost despair, for it is extremely difficult to procure any blood from them by the lancet, and leeches afford a very inadequate mode of depletion." Under such circumstances then, and especially after the second bleeding and emetic have failed in putting an end to the disease, when we are told that "we have nothing to hope from medicine," surely the humane physician may, without incurring any risque of censure, have recourse to opium, rather than leave his patient unavoidably to perish in the unequal struggle with so formidable a disease as croup; and if he ventures to administer it with freedom, for once, perhaps, he may not be disappointed. Not only does this learned author strenuously enjoin venæsection in croup, but also sanctions a licence in performing it, to me altogether

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* Medical Histories and Reflections, by J. Ferriar, M. D. Vol. III. Cadell and Davies, in which the reader will find a very accurate description of Croup; such, indeed, as might be expected from the pen of that learned writer:

About three years ago I was desired, a little past midnight, to visit a boy, about nine years old, whom I found expiring in a fit of the croup; I was told, that after a slight indisposition of two or three days, he had been attacked the preceding evening in a similar manner, for which he had been directed to take an emetic, and seemed to be better in the course of the day, till towards evening he was again seized as I found him. On dissection, I found some of the branches of the trachea completely filled with a membrane-like exudation, which had entirely cut off all communication with the external air; the aorta, and its larger branches, were lined with a membrane of the same appearance. Had proper remedies been applied on the first severe attack, this boy would have had a better chance for his life.

together unjustifiable; the surgeon is told not to be scrupulous about the appearance of *mangling* in circumstances so dreadful. Now, if the arm is made choice of for that purpose, we know from anatomy, with what caution this nice operation must be done, to avoid doing mischief. Would it not be better in such cases, in which blood-letting is held to be indispensably necessary, to open one of the small branches of the external carotid artery, than run the risque of doing an irreparable injury, by rudely performing an operation, that requires the greatest delicacy and steadiness on the part of the surgeon, and which, at best, is seldom or never performed in the nice manner that it ought to be*? Were I again to have recourse to venæsection, I would generally prefer the external jugular vein; as, here, the orifice may be made with less risque to the patient; it closes again as readily, and the blood will flow in a larger stream than from the veins of the arm or leg, therefore a less quantity will suffice.

Mr. Purton having insinuated rather too hastily, that the cases of croup which fell under my observation must have been of the spasmodic kind, if they yielded to opium before a general depletion had been made; I shall just observe in answer, that though the inflammatory and spasmodic may, in their less distinct forms, often with difficulty be distinguished from each other, yet, there are sufficiently unequivocal marks by which a case of genuine cynanche trachealis may, I think, always be known. The cases to which I alluded chiefly, were first attacks, such, I believe, are always inflammatory. Indeed, I think it probable that the spasmodic croup never occurs as a primary disease, and, perhaps, is to be met with in those instances only, in which the inflammation had extended from the inside of the trachea to the neighbouring muscles; it ought, therefore, to be regarded as a variety, or the consequence, rather than as a distinct species of croup.

I shall conclude this part of my letter, with expressing my regret, that the venerable father of physic, when he adverted to the inutility of *antispasmodic*, in preventing the fatal issue of this disease, had not sufficiently proved the efficacy of the most powerful of that class of medicines. (First Lines of the Practice of Physic, CCCXXX.) I come next to Mr. Dray's criticisms, which he too, like Mr. Urvins, has thought proper to introduce with an admonitory hint, nearly of the same tendency.

This gentleman, in his first animadversion, points out, what he

* B. Bell's Surgery, Vol. I. Ch. on Blood-letting.

he conceives to be an inconsistency, or contradiction of myself, which he infers from the theory that he has been pleased to impute to me, as "the *basis of all my practice*;" and the assurance which I had given, in the outset of my communication, that wherein my practice might differ from that of others, it was entirely the result of experience, as I had no *theory to serve*; by which was simply meant, that, what I was about to submit to the consideration of the public, was founded on the sure basis of experience, as I had no fanciful or delusive speculations to gratify. The *debility* which accompanies every deviation from the healthy state, and is the unavoidable consequence of increased action of the system, was held out solely with the view of precluding venæsection, or whatever tends to debilitate further, as a matter of course; but this, surely, was not insisted upon, as the principal, or only circumstance, by which our method of cure ought to be regulated; for I am equally aware with that gentleman, how *truly incongruous* a practice, built upon such vague and unsatisfactory grounds, must be. I shall here, however, briefly state, for it can be done in a few words, what really is my theory of inflammatory fevers, and leave it to the enlightened and unprejudiced part of the profession, to decide how *properly* it is adapted to the practice which I have proposed. In inflammatory, or fevers with arterial strength, there is, it is presumed, an excess both of stimulus and sensorial power*. Now opium, exhibited in such a dose as to afford a greater stimulus than that of the inflammatory pains, will speedily and effectually exhaust the sensorial power, or the greatest part of it; hence, if the spasm of the extreme arteries is not overcome, it will cease to excite the parts affected, or the whole vascular system, into inordinate action, from defect of sensorial power.

By venæsection, if copious, the activity of the whole system, from the *sudden* loss of part of that important fluid which conveys nutriment and stimulus to all the parts of it, is instantly diminished; whereby some of the functions, particularly that of the brain, are as suddenly impaired, or cease entirely, as appears from the drowsiness or fainting that often follows great and sudden loss of blood; hence the protracted period of diseases, and slow recoveries, after the free use of the lancet. So far from theory also, we think the preference due to opium, as leaving the system in a less debilitated state, after its action, than venæsection†. It

* Zoonomia, Vol. I. Sect. Stimulus and Exertion: Vol. II. Theory of Fever, Art. Incitantia.

†Such of your readers as are not quite disgusted with the French bombastic

It is unneceſſary to follow Mr. Dray through all his reaſoning, as, from the *data* only which he has aſſumed, that muſt be inconcluſive. I ſhall not either contend with him about the propriety of changing the mode of treatment, in the caſe of the military men which he mentioned, that had been adopted previous to his attendance; as it muſt be plain to every diſcerning practitioner, that, under the circumſtances as he ſtates them, a plan of cure, conducted with a view to the concomitant debility *only*, muſt have been obviouſly abſurd, and the iſſue, as might be expected, generally fatal. I find, however, that we agree ſo far in our ideas of the treatment neceſſary in inflammatory fevers, as, that we both think it right, to employ "means which diminiſh increaſed excitement;" our only difference of opinion ſeems to be, whether theſe *means* ought to be ſuch as ſuddenly increaſe the ſtimulation, ſo as to exhauſt the ſenſorial power completely, or ſuch as ſuddenly diminiſh both. There is alſo a difference of opinion between us reſpecting the effect of bliſters, which he is inclined to think are apt to increaſe the ſymptoms, when applied before "the inflammatory diatheſis is ſufficiently ſubdued." I conſider the action of bliſters to be merely local, and, as I barely hinted in my Inaugural Diſſertation on the Influenza, they produce their effects ſolely, by exciting a greater irritation in the part than that for which they are applied. I can therefore ſee no impropriety, nor did I ever experience the ſmalleſt increaſe of the ſymptoms, from the early application of them in pneumonia, or other caſe of phlegmaſia.

Mr. Dray's arguments, taken from the practice of the ancient phyſicians, as well as his own experience, and that of the ableſt practitioners of our own day, allowing them their full force, go only to prove that venæſection has been, and may ſtill be employed in phlegmaſia with advantage, ſo far as to remove the danger with which they are attended. This has never, to my knowledge, been denied; but they do not invalidate the teſtimony which I have given, or overthrow the doctrine that it holds out in favour of a method of cure in theſe diſeaſes, in which venæſection may, with ſafety, and evident advantage, be omitted.

All that has been urged againſt the early exhibition of opium in ſynocha, &c. has, in my opinion, ariſen almoſt ſolely from prejudice, or the miſapplication of it in ſome ſhape or other;

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baſtic accounts of their battles, their robberies, and their travels, may find, in the 3d Vol. of Sonnini's Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt, p. 68, a remarkable inſtance of a ſevere ſpecies of ophthalmia being cured by an over doſe of opium, after a copious bleeding had failed in giving any relief.

; hence effects have been imputed to it which it does not produce, and explanations given of its action, equally erroneous.

This remark is occaſioned, principally by what has been written on this ſubject by the illuſtrious author of Zoonomia, (Vol. II. Article Incitantia, p. 2, 1, 6.) where we are told, that, in the caſes of phlegmaſia, in which opium gives relief, it acts firſt by increaſing the pain, and is ſometimes followed by ſo great a torpor, as to produce "the death or mortification of the parts;" hence we are cautioned againſt its uſe in inflammations, particularly that of the bowels; and further, that the relief thus obtained is not permanent, as the pain is ſaid to return with its former violence.

With the utmoſt deference, however, to ſo great authority, I muſt here take the liberty of ſaying, that I ſuſpect theſe to have been aſſumed, as the effects of opium, in conformity to the learned author's general doctrines, or perhaps from inſtances of timid or injudicious exhibition of it, rather than clearly demonſtrated by any fair or deciſive trials of it. Thus far at leaſt I have preſumed from my own experience. I have not met with an inſtance of relief, in inflammation, being procured by opium in a full doſe, in which the pain was firſt increaſed, though this has been looked for. When given in ſmall doſes indeed, as I have obſerved, it will not fail to increaſe the pain, by adding to the ſtimulation, already too great, as well as producing a ſtill greater quantity of the ſpirit of animation, by which means the vital powers of the ſyſtem will be worn out by ſuch inordinate action. In one caſe of enteritis which I have met with, ſix grains of opium, given in two doſes, produced the happieſt effects. I have certainly obſerved the return both of inflammatory and colic pains after relief had been obtained by opium, but in no one inſtance with the ſame violence.

I have been the more readily induced to meet this celebrated phyſician's objections to the exhibition of opium in the firſt ſtages of phlegmaſia, (they would have been unanſwerable if well founded) as, upon the ſame grounds I can, with confidence, correct another ſtatement of his reſpecting opium, which he has certainly aſſumed merely from conjecture.—In the beginning of the ſame paragraph, he ſays, that this relief does not occur till ſome hours after the exhibition of opium. I know from frequent obſervation, that opium, if given in a ſufficient doſe, will produce its utmoſt effects in leſs than an hour; when it fails in that time, we may be aſſured that the doſe has been too ſmall, and ought to be repeated in the ſame, or half the quantity previouſly adminiſtered. In ſlighter caſes

of inflammation indeed, (in such only, I suspect, has opium been ventured upon, in the first instance) in which relief has been procured some hours after the exhibition of opium, it seems to have acted, by assisting the other stimuli, in reducing the sensorial power to the natural quantity, rather than by exhausting it entirely by its own specific powers.

I shall not, at present, enter into any further discussion of the propriety of substituting opium in the cure of synocha, &c. instead of venæsection, as, in the end, that must be decided by experience *alone*; to that test then, in the hands of the liberal and intelligent part of the profession, as far as I am interested in the issue, I do most cheerfully appeal. Whether, however, the practice which I have so strenuously recommended, be ever adopted or not, I feel conscious that it was not communicated to the public with any view of entering into a controversy on the subject, or from any hope of being able to build my fame on the reception it might meet with, as that is not at all necessary; nor from the affectation of singularity; but solely, from the persuasion and experience of its being the preferable and safest plan; and with the sincere wish, that it may prove, in the hands of those who may be inclined to give it the trial, as satisfactory as, in the course of nearly five years, it has been in mine*.

I shall

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* As Mr. Dray seems to think my "opinion in its nature so calculated to mislead young and inexperienced practitioners, as to be productive of the most fatal consequence," I may, with equal justice, reply, that it cannot be of less dangerous tendency to allow so unlimited a power in the use of the lancet, as to authorise, not only stout athletic adults, but even infants, to be blooded ad deliquium. The lancet therefore may become a formidable weapon, when wielded by ignorance, inexperience, or enthusiasm. When I was about eleven years old I was thrown from horseback, and pitched upon my head; and had I been permitted to lay where I fell for a few hours, till I had recovered from the state of insensibility in which I was carried home, I might probably have escaped the severe discipline which I afterwards underwent. A bleeder was sent for immediately, who, in addition to what I had lost, from the coronary artery of the lips, which was cut through, took away a cup plate full of blood from each arm; having very carelessly bound up the orifices, they were burst open, a few hours afterwards, by the agitation of vomiting, and continued to bleed again till I had almost fainted. The effects of so great a loss of blood I felt for years afterwards.

When I was very *young* and *inexperienced* in the profession, having just laid out of my hands Sharp's Critical Inquiry into Surgery, in which I had been reading, that in no complaint (pleurisy excepted) was bleeding more useful than in hernia; I happened to be sent for to a stout man, about fifty years of age, who had been seized with this dreadful disorder, not however in a more violent degree than he had sometimes experienced it before. Towards morning all the symptoms of strangulation were coming on rapidly. Encouraged by such authority as that of Mr. Sharp, I immediately took away about

I shall not take up your time, with endeavouring to refute Mr. Dray's oblique insinuation of presumption, implied in the first part of p. 328; as it does not appear, from any part of my communication, to have been merited: nor shall I cavil about the degree of weight *only*, which he allows to the cases which I selected, from several others of a similar nature. I shall only explain more particularly, some circumstances, to which he has very erroneously ascribed a greater share of the cure in the cases of contusion than they merited. In neither of them was the loss of blood from the contused parts so great as either to promote or retard the cure in the smallest degree. He is equally mistaken, in the effects, which he supposed the calomel to have been given, in the case of pneumonia, or in any of the others, with the view of producing. As mercury, in whatever manner its mode of action is to be explained, has been found to aid the efficacy of other remedies, it is upon the supposition of its increasing, or promoting, the anodyne powers of opium, that I generally prescribe calomel along with it. In injuries from external violence, especially of the head, I have been in the habit of directing the patient to have a brisk cathartic, after the effect of the opiate has ceased, not from any view to evacuation as being at all necessary, but for the purpose of exciting a different action in the system, if that can, in any degree, avert the danger that may be dreaded; this, I allow, may be more imaginary than real; it is only a secondary consideration.

I shall

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about twenty ounces of blood from a large orifice, by which he was certainly much relieved; but on the following evening he died, with every appearance of the fatal event having been hastened, if not occasioned *solely*, by the loss of so much blood.

I have lately been induced to inquire more particularly into the effects of "forty to fifty and sixty ounces of blood" being taken away "in a couple of hours," (Medical and Physical Journal, Vol. II. p. 284) and that in dysentery too, in which I have always understood that the lancet ought to be used with caution. Nay, as the author, as well as his assistants and his patients have told me, upwards of a hundred ounces have been taken in the course of a few hours. How many "valuable lives" were not lost by such treatment, can only be inferred from other complaints having been mistaken for, or fancied to have been, dysentery. The result of my inquiry, however, was neither gratifying to my own feelings, nor at all encouraging to adopt this author's practice.

This evacuating plan, incredible as it may appear, is even trifling to that of the Transatlantic practice of physic, (Rush's Medical Inquiries and Observations, &c. Vol. IV.) No matter what the theory is, the author generally contrives to make it correspond to his practice. If the *arteries* are *convulsed*, blood must be drawn to check their inordinate action; or, if the blood-vessels are morbidly distended with "septous gas," an opening must be made to let it escape. The consequences of such practice must appear *obvious* to every enlightened physician, at least on this side of the Atlantic.

I ſhall not take notice of what Mr. Dray has advanced reſpecting the treatment of certain caſes of Ague, with any intention of criticiſing either his opinions on the ſubject, or his practice; but to recommend to him another remedy, perhaps leſs objectionable than the cinchona, and, I hope, I am not too ſanguine in adding, equally as efficacious; I mean, the broad-leafed willow bark. It will alſo give me an opportunity of acknowledging to Mr. White, of Bath, how much I feel myſelf indebted to him, not only for his publication on the ſubject, but alſo for the benefit which I have myſelf experienced from its uſe.

I have for ſeveral years been ſubject to attacks of a quartan, and which I hardly dread ſo much as the diſtreſſing effects of the Peruvian bark, which it never fails to produce, if I take it in ſubſtance, even in very ſmall doſes. About two months ago I had a ſevere attack of ague, accompanied with vertigo, &c. the paroxyſms of which were removed by an ounce of willow bark in powder, taken in the courſe of forty-eight hours; I was alſo agreeably ſurpriſed with finding, during this period, my appetite much increaſed; indeed, I did not experience a ſingle unpleaſant effect, except coſtiveneſs, from it. This ſuggeſted to me a hint, of the probability of its further utility; I have therefore tried its efficacy in the incipient ſtates of convaleſcence, to promote the appetite, in a doſe of half a drachm, an hour before breakfaſt, and the ſame before dinner, and with as much ſucceſs as could reaſonably be expected. I have alſo experienced the ſame good effects from its uſe, in ſeveral caſes of Diarrhœa; one, of a child ſeventeen months old, who was very much emaciated from the ſeverity and duration of the complaint. The quantity taken was two drachms of the powder in the ſpace of three days. Though I agree with Mr. Dray, that "a few caſes only, ought not to ſatisfy any practitioner," yet I think they are ſufficient encouragement for myſelf to make further trials of it, and to recommend the ſame to others of the profeſſion. My own is the only fair caſe of ague, in which I have had an opportunity of adminiſtering it, ſince I met with Mr. White's publication. It is indeed much to be wiſhed, that its efficacy in curing agues could be fully eſtabliſhed, for other reaſons than merely that of its making a very valuable addition to our liſt of febrifuge remedies, or of a great ſaving being thereby made in the neceſſary expenditure of public charities. That claſs of people who are moſt expoſed to the cauſes of ague, are, in general, the leaſt able to procure the means neceſſary to obviate either the diſeaſe itſelf or its too baneful effects, many of whom, from ſuch a cauſe, are yearly loſt, if not irrecoverably, at leaſt for a conſiderable time,

to

to their friends and the public. It would therefore tend, in some, I hope in no small degree in numerous, instances, to alleviate if not to prevent entirely the accumulation of human misery from disease as well as poverty, if a remedy could be found growing by the sides of our own rivulets, of equal efficacy with that which we are obliged to purchase at a great price, and from a distant clime, in rescuing no small portion of our fellow-creatures from the clutches of "a meagre fiend," which,

"With feverish blasts, subdues the sickening land."

As I have often witnessed much distress from long continued ague, and the poverty of the patients who were afflicted with it, I am the more earnest, on that account, in recommending trials of the broad-leafed willow bark, as a substitute for the Peruvian, by others of the profession, to whom favourable opportunities for that purpose may occur; notwithstanding it has been so flatly asserted, perhaps on very slight grounds, that, "in point of efficacy, it is in no degree to be compared with the Peruvian bark." (Edinburgh New Dispensatory, 1797, p. 233.)

I shall conclude this letter with a little speculation on the oxygenation of the blood, which, if not well founded, will, I hope, do no harm. This process is generally supposed to be carried on by the oxygen of the atmosphere passing through the moist membrane of the lungs, without any *peculiar* action on their part, but entirely from its being attracted by the blood. This theory is neither supported by analogy, for here, demonstration is altogether out of the question; nor does it, in my opinion, explain why, under the same atmosphere, the blood of one person becomes superoxygenated, as in synocha, consumption, &c. or suboxygenated, as in hæmorrhea petechialis, confluent small-pox, &c. or why similar changes take place in the state of the blood in the course of a few hours, in the same person, as I suppose to happen in the cold and hot fit of fevers. It may therefore, I think, be fairly presumed, that the oxygenation of the blood, instead of being a mere chemical process, is carried on by an appropriate set of organs, which, from their minuteness, and the office which they have to perform, will ever elude the nicest investigation of the anatomist; and, that it ought to be regarded as one of the animal functions,—that, indeed, on which all the others depend. If this is granted, I can carry my speculations to the production of diseases accompanied with these different degrees of oxygenation, as also to the action of some of the remedies commonly employed. We suppose then, that the cold fit of fever is occasioned by a torpor of these organs, which, from their office,

may be called INHALENTS, whereby the blood is not supplied with its *usual* or *neceſſary* quantity of oxygen; hence, the death of perſons who have died in this ſtage of fevers may be accounted for, not merely from the heart becoming torpid by aſſociation with other parts of the body, but chiefly from a defect of this ſtimulus in the blood. Upon the ſame principle, I ſuppoſe, that ſome noxious powers induce diſeaſe, by affecting the *inhalents* either primarily, by being *directly* applied to them, as in contagious diſeaſes, pneumonia, &c. or *indirectly* by their aſſociation with other parts of the ſyſtem, as in the ſmall-pox from inoculation, ſcurvy, fever from external violence, &c. Conformably to this opinion, it is ſuppoſed, that thoſe medicines which affect the oxygenation of the blood, act, not by forming a chemical union with either of its conſtituent parts, or by communicating or depriving it of oxygen, but ſolely, by increaſing or diminiſhing the powers of the inhalents, whether they are applied *directly* through the medium of the atmoſphere, as ſuggeſted and practiſed by the juſtly celebrated and ingenious Dr. Beddoes, or act by aſſociation, as exemplified by digitalis, opium, &c. exhibited by the mouth, mercurial frictions, &c. If this doctrine ſhall hereafter be found to be juſt, it will become of importance to ſtudy, with what parts of the ſyſtem the action of theſe veſſels is moſt particularly aſſociated, that we may adminiſter our remedies with better effect, and guard more effectually againſt the exciting cauſes of diſeaſe. Though this theory has long been the favourite amuſement of my leiſure hours; yet, I durſt hardly have indulged my ſpeculation ſo far, as to hazard public criticiſm, had I not met with ſomewhat of a ſimilar opinion in the great M. Fourcroy's Memoir on Pneumatic Medicine, in the 2d Number of your very uſeful Miſcellany.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your humble ſervant,

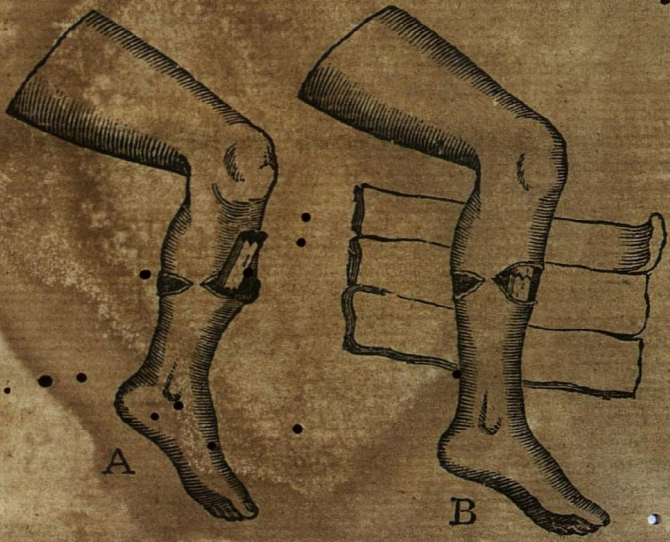
Plymouth, May 1, 1800. A. HUGGAN.

P. S. Since the foregoing letter was written, I have had an opportunity of peruſing the 15th Number of the Medical and Phyſical Journal; wherein I find a cynical animadverſion on my opinions, in Mr. Chriſtie's communication, p. 455, which I wiſh to notice, not for any *argument* that it contains, but only to ſay, that by his ſarcaſtical alluſion of *originality*, he gives me more credit, in that reſpect, than I deſerve. I was induced by authority ſufficiently reſpectable, and reaſoning that appeared to me, as experience has ſince proved it, equally concluſive, to chooſe the lancet entirely. I feel neither ſo intoxicated with the ſubject, as to have placed *my own conceits* "in a conſpicuous ſituation," as real matter of fact, or to have given the

the haſty reſult of a *few* indeciſive trials, as that of ſteady and attentive experience and obſervation. Nor need I be deterred from it, by the fulleſt analyſis and compariſon of "the materials with the ſolid ſtructure of truth, of old induſtry, of extenſive experience, of candid reaſoning, of ripened talents." This I ſhould rather wiſh than fear to meet, as I am confident, that neither *cruel diſappointment* nor *fatal deception* will ſo often follow the practice therein ſuggeſted, if adopted to the extent which is recommended, as that for which Mr. Chriſtie is equally as ſtrenuous an advocate.

Mr. Dunning's query (p. 439) may be anſwered in the negative, as one of my cow-pox patients has, about a fortnight ago, had the meaſles.

Caſe of a Compound Fracture of the Leg, with a conſiderable Protruſion of the Tibia, ſucceſsfully treated, principally by the Mode of healing by the firſt Intention. By J. Evans, M. D.



On the 21ſt of November, 1798, John Vaughan, a boy about eight years of age, being employed in the coal mines in this neighbourhood, at the uſual hour of quitting his work,

got into a chain ſuſpended by a rope, in order to be wound up out of the pit, which rope, after paſſing over a large iron pulley, was faſtened to a wooden machine (commonly called a gin) that was moved round by means of a horſe; which being under the management of a careleſs girl, was ſuffered to carry the child with conſiderable force againſt the pulley, the edges of which form a deep groove for the reception of the rope. The boy being unable to free himſelf, had both the tibia and fibula of his left leg completely fractured, the broken end of the lower part of the tibia protruding upwards for ſeveral inches, and the integuments with the muſcles were deeply divided in a circular direction round the limb, except a ſmall portion of ſkin on the inſide of the leg, near where the bone puſhed out. Had not the horſe been fortunately ſtopped at the moment he was, and the boy extricated from his perilous ſituation by a young woman who ran to his aſſiſtance, the limb muſt inevitably have been amputated. Being from home at the time the accident happened, Mr. Thomas Dugard, an ingenious young gentleman, a pupil of mine, went immediately to his relief; when, upon his arrival, he found the leg in the ſituation before deſcribed, without much hæmorrhage*. He directly placed the limb in that poſition in which the muſcles appeared to be moſt relaxed, by which method he was enabled to bring the fractured extremities of the bone in contact; over which he brought the retracted integuments as cloſe together as he poſſibly could, retaining them in that ſituation by ſlips of ſticking plaſter, covering the whole with the eighteen-tailed bandage, which was afterwards frequently moiſtened with a ſolution of crude ſal ammoniac in vinegar. Flexible deal ſplints were uſed at the ſame time, to preſerve the proper form of the limb. Opiates were occaſionally adminiſtered; but as no fever or much tenſion came on, I did not judge it neceſſary to direct any opening medicines, eſpecially as my patient's bowels were quite regular. The adheſive plaſters were not removed for ſixteen days after the firſt application, at which time they became looſe in conſequence of a ſlight diſcharge. When they were taken away, the wound appeared granulated and united in every part, except where the bone protruded. Dry lint was the only application made uſe of to the greateſt part of the wound during the remainder of the cure; but where the tibia was expoſed, a thin piece of ſponge was laid over it, with a view of abſorbing the matter, which was the means of preventing the limb being frequently

* It is well known to men of experience in ſurgery, that lacerated wounds are ſeldom attended with profuſe hæmorrhage.

frequently disturbed for the renewal of the bandage. In the course of six weeks the callus was so firm, that the child could bear the leg to be lifted up without making the least complaint; and at the end of two months from the time of the accident, was able to move it in any direction, of his own accord. A portion of the tibia exfoliated as far as it was denuded of its periosteum; and a piece of the fibula, which had been broken off, made its way through a part of the wound on the under side of the leg. At the expiration of four months, the boy returned to his usual employ with a well-formed limb, equal in length with the other.

REFERENCE to the DRAWING.

A. The appearance of the limb immediately after the accident.
B. The representation of the limb after the ends of the bone were brought in contact.

CRITICAL RETROSPECT

OF

MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL LITERATURE.

[FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.]

Annals of Medicine for the Year 1799; exhibiting a concise View of the latest and most important Discoveries in Medicine and Medical Philosophy. By A. DUNCAN, Sen. M. D. and A. DUNCAN, Jun. M. D. &c.

[Continued from pp. 482—486 of our last.]

V. *Observations on the Pemphigus Major of Sauvages.* By Dr. R. HALL, Physician, Edinburgh.

In a former paper Dr. Hall had given it as his opinion, that Pemphigus is merely a sporadic disease. Some other practitioners believe it to be contagious. "An opportunity soon occurred of submitting this opinion to the test of actual experiment, by the re-appearance of the disease, in one of the two patients who had been subjected to this affection, nearly about the same period, in the preceding year.

"Mrs. H. had, for a few weeks previous to the present attack, been occasionally subject to slight febrile paroxysms, for which bark, &c. had been prescribed, but were never diligently employed.

"Towards the evening of the 28th July, she was seized with giddiness and head-ach, a sense of great lassitude and weakness, with other precursory symptoms of fever. On the following morning, her skin was preternaturally hot; pulse frequent, weak, and irregular; head-ach rather more violent; respiration somewhat oppressed; was thirsty, but not costive; her tongue parched, but not foul. She had passed a restless and uneasy night, and said, that she now apprehended the nature of her disease would prove similar to that which she had experienced last year. In the evening, a single vesicle appeared on the thigh.

"30th. She had been equally restless as on the foregoing night; and to an aggravation of the former symptoms were now superadded, great irritability of the system, and frequent, but irregular shiverings. In the course of the day, five more vesicles made their appearance on different parts of the body.

"August 1. A small one appeared on the exterior part of the meatus auditorius. By the evening of the next day, all the febrile symptoms had suffered a considerable abatement; but she continued, for a few days, affected with much languor and debility; had a slight exacerbation of fever every night, with an evident apyrexia in the morning.

"Towards

"Towards the decline of the complaint, an eruption of ſmall pimples came on, eſpecially about the neck and arms, ſimilar to thoſe excited by nettle burning; but which ſoon went off, without any bad ſymptom. The diſeaſe was mild, in compariſon with that ſhe had ſuſtained in the preceding year, and ſhorter in the term of its duration. The veſicles were few in number, and wholly confined to the external ſurface of the body. Thoſe that did appear were filled, however, in like manner, with a yellowiſh ſerum, and of the ſame magnitude as on the former occaſion. They were painful upon being touched, but the circumjacent ſkin was not much inflamed. Of two or three that were punctured, ſhe complained a good deal, and obſerved, that her ſenſations after the operation were ſimilar, as ſhe conceived, to what would have been felt by her upon the application of any corroſive or cauſtic matter to the ſame part of the body. Upon the moſt diligent ſcrutiny, I could not diſcover that any perſon, either in the town or neighbourhood, had been affected with a ſimilar complaint; nor was the diſeaſe communicated to any one, although, both now and in the preceding attack, the patient had, at my particular requeſt, continued to allow a perſon to ſleep with her during the whole period of her illneſs.

"Both during the progreſs, and at the height of the diſeaſe ſome of the fluid with which the veſicles were filled was taken, and with it I inoculated myſelf and two other perſons, in both arms, making three punctures in each arm. In one of the patients on the day after the inſertion of the matter, a ſingle puncture exhibited a very ſlight degree of inflammation; not, however, more than what frequently occurs from a ſcratch or puncture made with a clean inſtrument: but neither in this patient, nor in the other two, was any conſtitutional effect, or the leaſt perceptible indiſpoſition, produced. The reſult of theſe attempts to communicate the diſeaſe, by inoculation and contact, although not perhaps ſufficiently numerous to prove deciſive of the queſtion, is at leaſt extremely unfavourable to the hypotheſis of thoſe who aſſert the contagious nature of pemphigus, and tends ſtrongly to ſupport and confirm the negative concluſion.

"From the foregoing ſtatement it would appear, that the following inferences may be fairly deduced:

"1ſt, That pemphigus is a diſeaſe of which perſons are ſuſceptible more than once in the courſe of their lives.

"2dly, That the diſeaſe originates where no ſource of infection can poſſibly be diſcovered, and ſeems generally connected with more or leſs of an affection of the whole ſyſtem.

3dly, That patients labouring under it may have conſtant intercourſe with others, and yet never communicate the diſeaſe to any of them.

"4thly, That the diſeaſe is not communicable, like the cow-pox or ſmall pox, by inoculation.

"On the whole, when we comprehenſively ſurvey the evidence recorded by recent writers on the ſubject, as well as that furniſhed by the preſent and former caſes, we muſt, I apprehend, be neceſſarily led

led to conclude, that the pemphigus major of Sauvages is an affection merely ſporadic, and not of a contagious nature.

"That the ſymptoms accompanying one or other inſtances of this affection, are thoſe which attend febrile diſeaſes, whether inflammatory or putrid, the caſes given by Drs. Dickſon and Stewart, and the one recorded by Mr. Chriſtie, ſufficiently evince. In practice, therefore, it would appear, the moſt important diſtinctions are, to aſcertain,

"1ſt, When the fever is of an inflammatory nature, and accompanied with ſtrong and increaſed action of the vaſcular ſyſtem.

"2dly, When the fever has a tendency to the typhoid type; is marked by great debility, and ſymptoms which denote a tendency of the fluids to putrefaction. In the firſt caſe, it will be obvious, that evacuation and other antiphlogiſtic remedies, ſuited to the nature of the caſe, will be proper. As, on the other hand, in the ſecond, it will be equally neceſſary to ſhun all evacuations, and to employ thoſe remedies alone which ſupport the ſtrength, and give tone and vigour to the ſyſtem.

"From the whole concourſe of ſymptoms, in the preſent, and in the two caſes of this affection formerly communicated, we are naturally led to infer, that the diſeaſe, in a great meaſure, depended on a certain ſtate of debility, and a tendency of the fluids to putrefaction.

"The general indications of cure thence deducible are ſufficiently obvious.

"In the caſe now under conſideration, on the firſt acceſſion of the complaint, when the ſkin was hot and dry, a mild antimonial was exhibited, in order principally to excite a gentle diaphoreſis; but its uſe was ſoon diſcontinued.

"Afterwards, opiates combined with vitriolic æther were found very uſeful in diminiſhing the effects of irritation, and in promoting the determination to the ſurface. The bark and other tonics, particularly the nitrous acid, in a ſtate of proper dilution, were early adminiſtered, and proved very effectual in obviating the effects of debility. By theſe means, and the ulterior employment of other auxiliaries, the health of the patient was ſpeedily re-eſtabliſhed."

VII. *Hiſtory of a Caſe, terminating ſucceſsfully, in which an inverted Uterus was extirpated.* By Mr. Alexander Hunter, Surgeon, Dumbarton.

We paſs over the firſt part of this caſe, and only preſent our readers with the concluſion.

"When the womb firſt came down, it was nearly of the ſize of a ſmall pine-apple, and felt hard. The ſecond time it was ſmaller, but ſtill harder. Before returning it into the vagina, a trial was always made to reduce the inverſion of it; but after the firſt time, the fundus was only dinted by any force that could be uſed.

"The proſpect before the patient was now deplorable. The reſtoring

reſtoring the uterus was abſolutely impracticable; and, if allowed to remain in its preſent ſituation, it muſt be very diſtreſſing.

"About a fortnight elapſed in this way, when a new ſet of ſymptoms took place. A diſcharge of a thin watery nature began to flow from the whole ſurface of the womb, which gradually increaſed in quantity, and became ſo extremely fœtid, that it was very diſagreeable to enter the room. And, though great attention was beſtowed, the bed was always wet. Her ſtrength was ſoon much reduced. And, notwithſtanding a liberal uſe of bark, elix. vitriol. and port wine, ſevere hectic attacks came on.

"In this ſtate of the buſineſs, no plan could be figured for ſaving the patient, without amputating the uterus. Every endeavour I had uſed for procuring information, either from medical men or books, left me ſtill in the dark; as in every caſe of inverſion mentioned, not one was to be found, where the patient had ſurvived for any time, unleſs the womb was directly returned. But, after conſidering that the organ was not immediately neceſſary to life; that very extenſive wounds, even in the diſtended ſtate, had been made without any ill ſymptoms; and that, in its preſent ſituation, the functions were for ever deſtroyed; indeed, that it was now only a burthenſome maſs; and the woman herſelf wiſhing eagerly to be relieved from the miſerable way ſhe was then in, it was determined to extirpate it.

"I began the operation by fixing a ſtrong ligature on the neck of the tumor, cloſe to the os externum. But being fearful of ſpaſmodic affections from this compreſſion, I waited ſix hours without proceeding further. During all that time, however, no complaint was made, no pain was felt.

"With a ſcalpel the whole uterus was then cut off, cloſe to the ligature. Still neither ſymptoms of pain, nor even uneaſineſs, were perceived. And, I believe, the operation was over before the patient knew it had been begun. She was then laid to reſt, and an opiate adminiſtered.

"During the night ſhe ſlept well; and, next morning, was very much refreſhed. The hectic ſymptoms went off; her appetite returned; and, in fourteen days, ſhe was able to get out of bed. At the end of a month ſhe was perfectly recovered.

"Since that time ſhe has enjoyed a very good ſtate of health; except now and then ſome touches of hyſteric head-ach, and ſometimes ſtrong and plethoric ſymptoms in the ſpring and ſummer months. She does not menſtruate, although ſtill a young woman. She has a tendency to obeſity, and even all her precautions cannot counteract it.

"From what happened in the preceding caſe, it will probably be allowed, that the womb, when not in an inflamed ſtate, may be handled, or even wounded, without pain; that the whole of it may be cut off without injury; and that, in caſe of inverſion, attended with ſevere flooding, if the womb cannot be returned, the hæmorrhage may be prevented, by tying a ligature round the neck of the uterus,

"Some

"Some months after this case happened, I gave the uterus to Dr. Jeffray, of Glasgow, who, I believe, still has it."

XII. *Observations on the Benefit derived from the Application of cold Water, in cases of Scarlatina Cynanchica.* By Dr. Geo. Mos[illegible], Physician, Bradford.

"A boy, eight years of age, on the 31st of July last, was seized with great lassitude, with rigors, succeeded by extreme heat, thirst, sore throat, and every symptom characteristic of that species of pyrexia denominated *Scarlatina Cynanchica*.

"On the following day, the apothecary to the family was consulted, and prescribed an emetic, which operated well. He was then directed an aperient solution, which procured him several evacuations, without any abatement of symptoms.

"On the morning of the 2d of August, when I visited him, the whole surface of his body was covered with a scarlet eruption. His tongue was dry, and exhibited a fur approaching to black; the internal fauces were considerably tumefied, and were of a deep red colour; his eyes had the appearance of an incipient suffusion upon the tunica albuginea; his pulse beat 135 strokes in the minute; his urine was scanty, and singularly pale.

"I had not an opportunity of applying to him the thermometer, but his skin felt intensely hot.

"Previous to the occurrence of this case, I had perused Dr. Currie's admirable treatise on the use of cold water in fevers. As I have been in the habit, for several years past, of exhibiting and applying cold liquids in almost every case of pyrexia, the practice was not new to me. But Dr. Currie's mode of application is different from mine. He directs the patient to be taken out of bed, during the hot stage, and to have water thrown upon the whole surface of the body. I have constantly recommended cold vinegar, or vinegar and water, to be applied, at the period specified, by means of a sponge.

"The effects produced upon the system by Dr. Currie's method and mine, are precisely similar; and I am confident, from an enlarged experience, that, if it be possible to render the phænomena of fever less formidable, or to arrest their progress, the application of cold water is the instrument to be employed.

"It is true, that the popular prejudice against the exposure to cold in the hot stage of fever is remarkably strong, and I have found much difficulty in combating the error. When I once succeed, however, in persuading any patients to make the experiment, there needs little art to induce them to repeat it. The use of cold fluids is so refreshing to them, and produces so complete a solution of the intense heat and restlessness under which they labour, that upon every recurrence of similar phenomena, they are eagerly solicitous for the same grateful application.

"The father of the boy whose history I now relate, is a well-informed man, and I found little difficulty in obtaining his sanction to a practice which was deemed conducive to the restoration

of his child, and which might probably obviate the danger of contagion in a very numerous family.

"When I first visited my patient he was under the influence of the hot stage, and there appeared not the smallest tendency to its solution by perspiration. I therefore introduced into his chamber a free current of air. I then directed him to be placed in the middle of the floor, and the whole surface of his body to be sponged with cold vinegar.

"I saw the operation performed; and although he was at first much averse to it, yet he felt it so cooling and refreshing to him, that he never afterwards objected to a repetition of the experiment. The attendants, therefore, had recourse to the application as often as he felt hot, or appeared to them to be so, and with the most beneficial effects. But they had the strictest injunctions not to hazard the application when he had the least chillness upon him, or when there was the smallest tendency to perspiration. In either of these cases, I conceive the practice to be highly dangerous: but during the hot stage of fever, I have uniformly found that the application of cold liquids reduces the frequency of the pulse, and increases its strength. It has also a wonderful effect in obviating the tendency to delirium, in diminishing thirst, in increasing the efflorescence of the skin, and in inclining it to a gentle moisture.

"In the present case, these effects were strikingly exhibited indeed.

"From the apparent violence of the attack, and the early period at which the most alarming symptoms made their appearance, I had every reason to prognosticate the approach of delirium, accompanied by those phænomena which precede the last catastrophe. On the morning, however, of the fourth day of fever, I found that he had had a good night, and was then very composed. His tongue was moist; his pulse reduced to 120 strokes in the minute; his skin felt soft, and the febrile heat was much diminished.

"I should have observed, that from the first of my attendance, I had directed him to have a table spoonful every hour, of equal parts of *aq. ammon. acetat. et aq. fontan.* And attendants were instructed to give him a spoonful or two, occasionally, of the opening solution already mentioned, so as to keep the bowels in a state of solubility. His common drink was cold water.

"This morning there appeared a little sloughness on the tonsils; and I ordered him a gargle with *guel. rof. et hordeat.* acidulated strongly with the nitrous acid. The cold applications were constantly used on the approach of the hot stage; and to each dose of his julep a few grains of nitre were added.

"During the whole of this day he continued to derive relief from this practice, and on the morning of the 5th his urine was nearly of the colour of bright water. His tongue was clean and moist; his pulse 105; the sloughs in his throat had disappeared; and from this period he recovered rapidly.

"Seven of the family were successively seized with the same species of

of fever; and, by a similar treatment, were all speedily restored to the most complete health.

"In one of the cases, the most serious consequences were manifestly combated successfully by the practice described. In no instance was the fever protracted beyond the 5th or 6th day.

"I have thus sketched the most prominent features of [illegible] contary case of scarlatina, cured by the use of cold applications; and were it necessary to establish the efficacy of the practice, I could adduce a very considerable number.

"During my attendance on this family, I caught the contagion. The symptoms of scarlatina were distinctly and rather strongly marked; but by the timely application of a shower-bath, twice a day, the febrile affection was speedily removed. I took no medicines.

"If the good effects of this practice be deducible from the cold produced by the process of evaporation, are there not other applications which would more effectually and powerfully accomplish the object proposed?"

XI. *Medical Cases*; by JOHN HAXBY, Physician, Pontefract.

3. A case of enlargement of one of the spinal vertebræ, gradually disappearing on an enlargement of the trochanter major of the right thigh, which was succeeded by hydrocephalus, terminating fatally.

"W. S. aged nine years, had for some time laboured under immobility of the lower extremities, with constipation of the bowels, and a degree of dysuria; owing to an enlargement of one of the spinal vertebræ.

"Caustics were applied to each side of the prominence, and kept open some time; during which there was a slight alleviation of his complaint. But as the amendment was not in proportion to his expectation, nor equivalent to the sacrifice of his ease from the irritation of the caustics, about two months after their insertion he allowed the ulcers to heal.

"Very soon after this, the trochanter major of the right thigh bone began to be enlarged; and in proportion as it increased in bulk, the diseased spinal vertebra was diminished, till at last there was no inequality in the appearance of the spine.

"The trochanter continued to be enlarged for about a month; though great pains were taken to reduce the swelling by friction with spirituous embrocations, which was at length effected; and now he could walk with perfect ease, as far as could be expected from his reduced strength; but he soon began to complain of pain in his head, which became more and more violent, so that when I saw him, (which was about a week after it had come on) he appeared to have every symptom of hydrocephalus internus, except strabismus, which supervened in a day or two, when he died.

"Was the hydrocephalus, in this case, at all connected, as cause and effect, with the previous enlargement and subsequent diminution of the trochanter major and spinal vertebra?—Would the timely re-insertion of the caustics have prevented hydrocephalus?"

This

This volume contains a variety of other important cases and hints, for which we must refer our readers to the work itself. As memoranda in the Materia Medica, we notice a case of tetanus* cured by the liberal use of wine; a case of epilepsy cured by musk and opium; cases of croup cured by hydrarg. muriat. mitis, and by the polygala seneca.

A brief History of Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases, with the principal Phenomena of the Physical World, which precede and accompany them, and Observations deduced from the Facts stated. By NOAH WEBSTER, Member of several American Societies, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 1301. Price 18s. in boards. London, Robinsons, &c.

This comprehensive and elaborate work commences with an account of the diversity of opinions respecting the cause and origin of pestilence. The author then presents his readers with historical views of pestilential epidemics, and the phenomena in the physical world which preceded, attended, or followed them, from the earliest accounts down to the year 1798. These subjects occupy the first volume.

The second volume begins with a tabular statement of the bills of mortality for the two last centuries, which the author introduces thus:

"Our accounts of diseases and the phenomena of the world, which appear to be connected with them, are altogether imperfect. But in the two last centuries we have a tolerable history of diseases, and occasionally an account of the seasons and remarkable occurrences. In the following tables the reader will find the bills of mortality for London, Augsburg, Dresden, Boston, one church in Philadelphia, with the bills of a few years for Paris and Dublin; to which are prefixed such of the remarkable phenomena of the elements as I have been able to collect.

"As winter makes a part of two years, the word *severe* is set against the year in which the winter began. Thus, against the year 1607, the word *severe* refers to the winter of 1607-8. The blanks denote, either that nothing singular occurred in those years, or that I have no account of the occurrences. Further inquiries might enable me to fill many of those blanks.

"Bills of mortality do not exhibit a complete view of epidemics, as some of the most remarkable, especially influenza, destroy but few lives; and the bills of the years when that disease alone prevailed, are remarkably low. It is often the immediate precursor, in spring, of pestilential diseases in autumn, in which cases the bills of the year are very high."

The second volume also contains remarks on the tables; on pestilential periods; influenza; on the order, connection, and progression of pestilential epidemics; on the extent of a pestilential state of air; conjectures on causes; means of prevention, &c.

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* See Foreign Literature, p. 569.

Considerations regarding Pulmonary Consumption. By THOMAS SUTTON, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician to the Forces; 8vo. pp. 120. London, Robinsons.

The leading objects of Dr. S. in this pamphlet appear to be to invalidate the common opinion respecting the cause of emaciation and death in phthisis. Observing that many patients die of this disease, when attended with very little cough or expectoration, and certainly with no marks of purulent expectoration, he concludes that the symptoms often depend on some other cause. In such cases, he thinks the cause of death "is such a decrease of the stimulating quality of the blood, as at last to render it incapable of continuing the circulation. This inference is supported by the appearance of the blood drawn, which contains a very small proportion of crassamentum."

At p. 19, Dr. S. gives the following opinion, viz. "It may not be improper, in this place, to state an opinion regarding the source of those happy feelings, high spirits, and that constant hope of a favourable termination of the disease, which have been observed to attend consumptive patients.

"Pleasant and exhilarating sensations are, I believe, common to all persons under a certain state of debility from disease unconnected with uneasy feelings. They may be occasioned by the common stimuli of intellectual exertion, of the circulation of the blood, of food, &c. upon the debilitated body; as it is evident, that the same stimulus has a greater effect upon persons debilitated by disease, where no powerful agent continues to occasion further debility, than, cæteris paribus, upon those who are in health. I have experienced such sensations after two severe fits of typhus fever, when, being very debilitated, I had the same pleasurable sensations (Dr. Darwin's expression) as if I had been in cheerful company in health, and had drunk moderately of wine. But striking instances of such effects from debility are observed by medical practitioners, in patients who have been tormented by inflammations in the bowels, which have ended in gangrene. In such cases, it has often been observed that patients are in remarkably good spirits, and cannot be readily convinced that they are in any danger. These feelings are occasioned by debility, brought on by sickness, pain, want of sleep and of food, which is acted upon by the common stimuli of intellectual exertion, of food, of the circulation of the blood, &c. and have the effect, in the way related, of producing a considerable degree of cheerfulness, though unhappily of short duration. This cheerfulness and hope is more observable in phthifical patients, because the disease is of considerable duration, and because the debility gradually increases; and the patients, at least ten hours in the day, are, during the greater part of their disease, free from uneasy sensations. But, while affected with pain, or tormented with the irritation of heat in the night, paroxysms of hectic fever, there is no more cheerfulness and resignation in them, than in people labouring under equally unpleasant sensations in other diseases."

In Section IV. the author states his own cause of phthisis, which

is,

is, *an obstruction in the mesenteric glands.* This hypothesis he supports by cases, and reasoning. We believe with Dr. S. that *tabes mesenterica* and phthisis are often combined; but we also believe that they may exist independently of each other, which he appears to doubt; for, at p. 31, he says: "Hence it appears to me, that phthisis pulmonalis is caused by a disease in the mesenteric glands, and that the tubercles in the lungs, and some other of its symptoms, are excited by sympathy."

Sect. VI. contains "General observations respecting the action of sympathy in consumption. VII. Predisposition. VIII. Cause of emaciation and debility. IX. On hectic fever;" the cause of which Dr. S. believes to be "an obstruction of the perspiratory organs arising from the defective circulation."

XIII. *On the* CURE. When Dr. Warren looked into any new medical work, which he had seldom leisure to do, he first examined the method of Cure; and if he found nothing new there, he searched no further. Our author recommends the usual remedies, though he explains their operation somewhat differently from his predecessors. Emetics seem to be his favourites, as they were of Drs. Symonds and Reid.

The pamphlet is concluded by an Appendix, containing ten Cases, examined after death, which tend to confirm the author's opinions.

Though we observe several inaccuracies, and what we deem errors, in the above work, we are nevertheless convinced that it is well calculated to improve the theory and treatment of this important disease.

A short Account of the Infectious Malignant Fever, as it appeared at Uxbridge, and its vicinity, in the Summer and Autumn of the year 1799; with a detail of the good effects of Yeast and Vital Air, in the different stages of that Disorder. By a MEDICAL PRACTITIONER. 8vo. pp. 50. price 1s. 6d.

We are sorry that the ingenious author of this pamphlet has not given his name to it; for medical facts generally require all the aid they can derive from the authentication of a name.

The disease appears to have been the cynanche maligna in its worst form, and highly contagious among the poor. The symptoms agree with those described by other writers, but in the cure the author says:

"The manner in which I have usually administered the yeast, has been, by putting a tea spoonful, or more, according as it agreed with the stomach, into a quart bottle, and filling it up with mild porter: of this the patients took a glass full, every hour, or oftener, if they were thirsty.

"I have found it particularly useful in a great number of cases; and, therefore, I cannot avoid recommending it as a most powerful antiseptic, in malignant fevers. I have generally given it from the beginning, and persisted in its use, till a restoration to health took place.

"But

" But there is another remedy, not uſually recommended in this diſorder, that I have found particularly ſerviceable, *viz.* the oxygen gas, or vital air, inhaled into the lungs; it does not appear proper at the beginning of the fever; but, when the ſymptoms of debility come on, and the eruption aſſumes a dark purple colour; then, I found a frequent exhibition of it to alter that appearance ſurpriſingly.

" When I firſt uſed the vital air, I prepared it from the black calx of manganeſe; but finding the proceſs took up more time than I could conveniently ſpare, and obſerving the difficulty there was in inducing a patient to ſit up in bed to inhale it, I make uſe of the following method, which is much more ſimple, and anſwers equally well, without occaſioning the patient any fatigue, or giving the attendants unneceſſary trouble.

" I firſt cauſe the doors and windows of the ſick perſon's chamber to be cloſed; and then, taking a chafing-diſh with ſome live coals, throw into it half an ounce of purified nitre in powder, which immediately fills the room with a thick, white cloud, that continues waſting about for a conſiderable time.

" On examining a patient, during this operation, I never fail to find that it increaſes the pulſe; and, however low it may be, does, for a time, give it a degree of vigour and energy. In a few minutes more, the difficulty of breathing diminiſhes; the blood veſſels of the cheeks and lips become of a more florid hue; and a gentle perſpiration breaks out on the ſkin.

" This proceſs I direct to be frequently repeated, in the courſe of the day, and I have ſeldom ſeen it regularly perſevered in, without producing decided benefit."

An Eſſay on the Analyſis of Mineral Waters. By RICHARD KIRWAN, Eſq. F. R. S. &c. 8vo. pp. 279. London, Bremner. Price 7s.

Such is the well earned celebrity of Mr. K. as a chemiſt, that it is ſufficient merely to announce the ſubject and the author, in order to ſecure readers.

The term *mineral waters* is ſpecially applied to ſuch waters only as are diſtinguiſhed, by a peculiar colour, taſte, ſmell, or other obvious property, from common ſpring, lake, river, or other water, fitted for economical uſes. Mineral waters thus underſtood, have long attracted the attention of mankind by their *medicinal* powers. Theſe, indeed, can properly be inferred only from their repeatedly experienced effects; yet, even with *this* reſtriction, the knowledge of their contents muſt be deemed highly important, not only for the purpoſe of imitating ſuch as are found beneficial, in countries where Nature does not afford them, but alſo for the purpoſe of diſcovering the medical powers, and mode of action, of certain ingredients taken in a certain proportion, and a given degree of dilution, with a long train of conſequences that may in time be deduced from this knowledge. There are alſo many other points of view, in which an acquaintance with the contents of mineral

neral waters must be deemed of importance; and we are convinced that the subject could not have fallen into more able hands.

The work is divided into Two Parts. In the first part is contained an account, 1. Of substances found in mineral waters. 2. Of the tests of those substances.

The second part treats of the analysis of mineral waters, viz. 1. Of the *common method*, by tests, evaporations, crystallization, solution, precipitation, &c. to each of which Mr. K. states his objections. 2. The new method, by determining the existence and quantity of elastic fluids, by estimating the solid and liquid ingredients. 3. The use of spirits of wine in the analysis of mineral waters. 4. Tables, 1, of the quantities of real acid in mineral acids; 2, of the quantities of acid absorbed by different bases; 3, of the quantity of each base absorbed by each acid; 4, of the proportion of ingredients in neutral salts; 5, of the length in feet of a column of common air at different barometrical heights and different temperatures. 5, Appendix, containing new experiments on various saline solutions.

Medical Facts and Observations, Vol. 8. pp. 240. 4s. 6d. Callow.

The public are indebted for the present, as well as the former Volumes of this useful Publication to Dr. Simmons, a gentleman long eminent for his learning and abilities. As this collection of papers holds an equal rank with the preceding, for curiosity as well as interest, it will be in the hands of every person who is anxious for the improvement of medicine and surgery; little therefore need be said in recommendation of it. This volume contains twenty-three papers, any of which might be selected for the entertainment of our readers; but we choose the following case, as it may tend to diffuse the knowledge of a remedy, for a very distressing complaint, which may be easily obtained and administered by every one.

"Ann Fuller, a single woman, aged forty-two years, has, at different times, in the course of the last five or six years, laboured under a suppression of urine; and in some of those attacks, no urine passed from the kidneys to the bladder for ten or twelve days each time; the catheter having been repeatedly introduced to determine this fact.

"In the years 1784 and 1795, she was confined to her bed seven months in a state of great agony. The pain extended across the loins, and down the course of the urethra, and was frequently attended with violent and long continued vomiting of blood. In the course of this attack, the left ureter might be felt distinctly in the groin, enlarged to the size of a hen's egg, and extremely painful when pressed. This was evidently occasioned by the pressure of calculi, which she afterwards voided in great numbers, with blood in considerable quantities, frequently half a pint at a time, without any mixture of urine.

"For her relief a variety of remedies was had recourse to, such as

as repeated bleeding and warm bathing, ſaline purgatives, emetics of different kinds, camphor and opium in large doſes, uva urſi, mephitic alkaline water, &c. To the camphor, combined with opium, which brought on a copious diaphoreſis, ſhe was more than once indebted for a mitigation of her painful ſymptoms. The mephitic alkaline water was tried repeatedly, in different forms, plain, and with additions, cold and warmed, but it conſtantly occaſioned pain of the ſtomach and vomiting.

"At length, the hæmaturia continuing, accompanied with a good deal of pain, and every remedy that had been adminiſtered having failed to relieve her effectually, Mr. Gabriel Allen, my aſſiſtant, ſuggeſted to me a trial of a decoction of peach leaves, from which he had occaſionally ſeen good effects in caſes of nephritis. He was firſt led, it ſeems, to the uſe of this remedy by a perſon, not of the medical profeſſion, who was much reſorted to by patients labouring under complaints of this kind, and who made a very ſucceſsful uſe in ſuch caſes, of an electuary, compoſed of honey, and peach leaves dried and powdered; together with a decoction or infuſion of the leaves.

"After having ſeen ſo many other remedies fail in this caſe, I was anxious to try the effect of this new medicine. I ſay *new*; for, although different writers on the materia medica mention the anthelmintic properties of the leaves, and likewiſe of the flowers, of the peach tree, I do not find that any of them have noticed their effects in affections of the urinary paſſages.

"A decoction was accordingly prepared, by boiling an ounce of dried leaves of the peach tree, (*Amygdalus Perſica* Linn.) in a quart of water, till it was reduced to a pint and a half. Of the ſtrained liquor ſhe took a pint daily, and at the end of thirty hours after ſhe began the uſe of this remedy, ſhe voided clear natural urine, and in a few days recovered.

"From that time ſhe has conſtantly kept by her a quantity of the dried leaves, and on the leaſt return of the ſymptoms has had recourſe to the decoction again. Since that period, ſhe has had ſeveral ſlight returns of gravel, and has even paſſed ſome ſmall calculi, but ſhe has had no return of the hæmaturia. Her preſent comfortable ſtate of health ſhe attributes to the uſe of the decoction of peach leaves; at any rate, it ſeems to be deſerving of a trial in ſimilar complaints. I have tried it in a variety of inſtances beſides the one which is more particularly the ſubject of the preſent letter, and I am deceived if it is not a medicine of conſiderable efficacy in complaints of this kind. Upon theſe grounds it is that I have ventured to recommend it to your notice."

Obſervations on the Effects of various Articles of the Materia Medica, in the Cure of Lues Venerea: illuſtrated with Caſes. By JOHN PEARSON, ſenior Surgeon of the Lock Hoſpital and Aſylum, and the Public Diſpenſary; Reader on the Principles and Practice of Surgery. pp. 200. 4s. 6d. Callow.

This work is extremely well calculated to calm the agitation in the minds

minds of thoſe, whoſe opinions have been unſettled on the treatment of the Venereal Diſeaſe, ſince the introduction of the new remedies. The ſituation the reſpectable author has long held, gives him full claim to the confidence of the public; and the work evidently ſhows, that it is the production of a mind well adapted for careful obſervation and ſound judgment. The author has given us a candid examination and eſtimate of the confidence to be placed in the effects of the *lignum guaiaci, radix chinæ, radix ſarſaparilla, mezereum, cinchona, opium, cicuta, ſaſſafras, juniperus, bardana, ſaponaria, dulcamara, juglans, lobelia ſyphilitica, aſtragalus exſcapus, ammonia præparata, terra ponderoſa ſalita, certain preparations of mercury, mercurial fumigations, and vitriolic, marine, and nitrous acids.* In the chapter where the author inquires into the ill effects that ſometimes attend the exhibition of mercury, we ſelect with pleaſure the following juſt and manly remarks.

"Indeed, I am ſo far from feeling alarmed or perplexed, at the examples of ill ſucceſs which occaſionally attend the exhibition of mercury, or from conſidering theſe miſadventures as reflecting diſparagement or diſgrace on that mineral, that I am rather ſurpriſed at the ſucceſs which ſo often attends the indiſcriminate uſe of it.

"There is a deſcription of men who ſcatter abroad their crudities very liberally, in compendiums and eſſays; a claſs of productions ſeldom calculated to convey information, but principally deſigned to perform the office of a midwife, by bringing their compilers into public view. With the ſpurious intelligence collected from theſe retailers of ſcraps, many people furniſh themſelves with a ſtock ſufficient to undertake the cure of their own complaints; and, not uncommonly, impart the precious commodity to others who are leſs learned than themſelves.

"That mercury, conducted by men of ſuch endowments, ſhould often fail of doing good, nay, that it ſhould frequently inflict great miſchief, would be according to the natural order of things: but, that it ſhould ever prove finally beneficial, ought certainly to redound to the credit of a medicine, whoſe ſalutary agency cannot be invariably fruſtrated by all the blunders of hardy ignorance.

"He who ſhall diſcard all general rules, becauſe they admit exceptions, ought, likewiſe, for the ſake of conſiſtency, to renounce all ſcience, becauſe human knowledge is fallible and imperfect.

"My opportunities of adminiſtering mercury have not extended to leſs than twenty thouſand caſes; and I feel myſelf fully authoriſed to aſſert, that it is a remedy always to be confided in, under every form of lues venerea; and, where we have only that one diſeaſe to contend with, that it is a certain antidote, and as ſafe in its operation as any other active medicine drawn from the vegetable or the mineral kingdom. Let me not be miſunderſtood here, as if I meant to ſay, that it is a certain and ſafe remedy in the hands of any one who undertakes to diſpenſe it. Quite the contrary:—for a multitude of indiſputable proofs might

be adduced, that ignorance and error often render it one of the moſt precarious and miſchievous medicines in uſe."

We cannot refrain quoting the following uſeful caution:

"Many perſons have taught, that during a courſe of mercurial inunction, it is unneceſſary to continue the friction until the ointment be abſorbed; and that the ſame medicinal effects will be obtained, by merely ſpreading it over the ſurface of the ſkin, as by the more laborious proceſs of rubbing it in as completely as poſſible. Nothing can be more at variance with truth than this inſtruction; nevertheleſs, a doctrine ſo peculiarly grateful to the feelings of indolent and irreſolute patients has not failed to acquire conſiderable currency. I do, however, moſt ſtrenuouſly proteſt againſt this ſlovenly and inſufficient mode of applying the ointment; a mode which muſt finally end in the injury of the patient, and the diſgrace of the ſurgeon. But I do not think it ſufficient ſimply to oppoſe ſo deluſive and dangerous an opinion, without urging it as a matter of no inconſiderable importance, that the patient himſelf ought always to perform the friction.

"There may be circumſtances indeed, under which an imperious neceſſity may conſtrain the violation of this precept; but, whenever it is infringed, it is always at the peril of the patient's ſafety, unleſs the aſſiſtant conduct it with an accuracy and dexterity which is ſeldom poſſeſſed by thoſe who undertake this diſguſting office. Many inſtances have fallen under my notice, where the ill ſucceſs of the ſurgeon could be manifeſtly traced to this ſource; and where a compliance with the advice I have now ſuggeſted has been immediately attended with the deſired effect."

At the end of the work the author has drawn up ſome general concluſions, which are too valuable to withhold from our readers.

"1. The guaiacum, ſarſaparilla, mezereum, walnuts, opium, and Peruvian bark, have often removed ſome of the primary and ſecondary ſymptoms of lues venerea, and have alleviated others. They are likewiſe each of them capable of removing certain ſequelæ of lues venerea, where the further adminiſtration of mercury would prove injurious. Yet, no ſatisfactory ſeries of evidence can be adduced, demonſtrating that any, or all of theſe vegetables, given ſingly, or combined, are competent to the eradicating of lues venerea from the animal body.

"2. It muſt be conceded, that certain indubitable ſymptoms of ſyphilis have diſappeared, during a courſe of the vegetable remedies; but the ſame ſymptoms have generally recurred, even at the very time when the patient was taking largely of the medicines which had produced this temporary benefit. Even where the patient has remained apparently well during five or ſix weeks, the diſeaſe has nevertheleſs always returned; and, what is worthy of particular attention, the ſame ſymptoms preciſely have recurred, which had been ſeemingly cured during the adminiſtration of the medicines alluded to. This fact may be conſidered as a proof, that venereal ſymptoms are not cured by them in any proper ſenſe; becauſe local appearances admit of a perfect cure by a mode of adminiſtering

adminiſtering mercury, which ſhall nevertheleſs be inſufficient to ſecure the conſtitution.

"3. The muriated barytes, and two of the mineral acids, when given to venereal patients, have the power of ſuſpending, for a limited time, the progreſs of the diſeaſe, and of removing many ſecondary ſymptoms; but they are not equal to the ſubduing of the virus, and freeing the conſtitution entirely from the effects of that deſtructive malady. They may likewiſe be employed with great advantage in thoſe phagedenic ulcers of the genitals, and of the groin, which may be claſſed among the ſequelæ of ſyphilis.

"4. The nitric and nitrous acids have removed both the primary and ſecondary ſymptoms of ſyphilis; and, in ſome inſtances, it ſeems, that the former have not recurred, nor have ſecondary ſymptoms appeared, at the period they commonly ſhow themſelves when the cure has been imperfect. But, as far as my own experience extends, and that of many reſpectable friends, who are connected with large hoſpitals, a permanent cure has never been accompliſhed by theſe acids, where ſecondary ſymptoms have been preſent.

"The ſame acids, when exhibited with the utmoſt care and attention to many patients labouring under the primary ſymptoms of the venereal diſeaſe, and where they have agreed perfectly well with the ſtomach, have been nevertheleſs, found inadequate to the cure of thoſe ſymptoms. Indeed, the failures which have occurred, both in my own practice and that of many of my ſurgical friends, have been ſo numerous, that I do not think it eligible to rely on the nitrous acid, in the treatment of any one form of the lues venerea.

"But, while I am obliged thus to detract from the ſuppoſed merits of the nitrous acid as an antidote againſt lues venerea, I would by no means wiſh to ſee it exploded as a medicine altogether uſeleſs in that diſeaſe.

"Where an impaired ſtate of the conſtitution renders the introduction of mercury into the animal ſyſtem inconvenient, or evidently improper, the nitrous acid will be found capable of reſtraining the progreſs of the diſeaſe, while, at the ſame time, it will improve the health and ſtrength of the patient. On ſome occaſions, this acid may be given in conjunction with a courſe of mercurial inunction; and it will be found to ſupport the tone of the ſtomach; to promote the appetite; to determine powerfully to the kidneys, and to counteract in no inconſiderable degree the effects of mercury on the mouth and fauces. Theſe advantages are by no means unimportant; and certainly entitle the gentlemen who have been active in promoting the introduction of this acid into general practice, to the gratitude of the public.

"I will not preſume, however, to aſſert, that we have yet learnt all that can be known, of the beſt mode of exhibiting this medicine; nor will I ſuppoſe that we have arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of its virtues. Yet, in the preſent ſtate of our information

upon this subject, it would by no means be warrantable to substitute the nitrous acid in the place of mercury, for the cure of venereal complaints; nor to permit the knowledge we have gained respecting some useful properties of the former, to seduce us to reject what a long course of experience has taught us of the certain efficacy of the latter."

FOREIGN MEDICAL LITERATURE.

AMERICAN.

We have received the New York Medical Repository up to January last, from which we extract the following Articles:

A Dissertation on the bilious malignant Fever which prevailed in the Country adjacent to Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in the Summer of 1799; by LYMAN SPALDING, M. B.

"IN the cure of this fever, some hurtful and *many* useless applications were made. It was not in the least effected by those applications which are most extolled in the fevers of our climate. Most of the practitioners had never seen it before, and those who had, from motives of prudence, were unwilling to acknowledge its identity with that of Philadelphia.

"On the first attack an emetic, administered in small doses, to operate cathartically, relieved the symptoms. The effervescing mixture given in the hot fit gave universal relief. New beer and acescent potations were highly grateful.

"Calomel, joined with other cathartics, was much used. Blistering, and mercurial unguent rubbed over the whole body, were useful.

"Cold air was highly grateful, and eagerly sought for. To establish a current of air through the room was of the first consequence: all the windows and doors were kept open, and the air put in motion by fanning. The rooms were constantly moistened with vinegar, or vinegar and water. Cleanliness was of the first consequence: the patients were frequently washed all over with vinegar and water, accompanied with friction; a solution of muriate of soda was sometimes made use of. Putrid stools were instantly removed, and the stench corrected. All unnecessary apparel and furniture were removed.

"But the most dependence was placed upon the *cold bath*, when the hot fit was on. This infallibly gave instant and astonishing relief, rendering the paroxysms shorter and milder. It was applied either generally or locally, as the urgency of the case required: this was determined by the surface that appeared unusually hot. When the heat was partial or local, a corresponding bath was used.

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"The cold bath was generally applied, by laying the patient naked upon a thick blanket, then ſprinkling him and the blanket with the coldeſt water: the wetted blanket was wrapped around him, and ſuffered to remain till it became warm; when it was thrown off, and ſprinkled a ſecond time; thus reducing the heat of the body to the ſtandard of health. The cold bath ſerved only till the criſis of the fever; afterwards it was as diſtreſſing and painful as heretofore it was invigorating and pleaſant. Many patients have been injured by a continuation of the bath after the criſis. Waſhing the hands and face in cold water was grateful.

"Bleeding did not produce that good effect which we had been taught to expect. I am ſupported in the opinion by phyſicians grown grey in the uſe of the lancet, that it was, in every inſtance, in all ſtages of the fever, *evidently injurious*. Neither was it found neceſſary to procure any ſudden evacuations; for *here* the diſeaſe ſcarcely terminated in the ſame number of weeks as hours at Philadelphia. Warm bathing was hurtful, except to the cold extremities.

"Nitre, and other refrigerants and febrifuges, had no laſting effect; opiates had not, till after the criſis, neither had bark: this was now uſed with a liberal hand. A watery diarrhœa was the moſt troubleſome and pertinacious ſymptom.

"The *chief indications* of cure, as delivered by my worthy friend Dr. Smith, in his courſe of lectures on the theory and practice of phyſic, are, to regulate the heat of the body according to the ſtandard of health, and ſupply the ſyſtem with ſuch ſubſtances as readily yield carbone."

A Caſe of Tetanus cured by Wine; by Dr. D. Hossack.

"On Tueſday, March 13, 1798, about one o'clock P. M. I was called to viſit a mulatto ſervant woman of John Harrington, Eſq. of this city. I was informed that about an hour before, while engaged in waſhing clothes, ſhe had pricked herſelf with a pin in the wriſt of her right-arm. The part at which the pin entered was upon the inſide of the wriſt, immediately over the connection of the radius with the carpus.

"The pin was inſtantly removed, and, finding no inconvenience from the accident, ſhe returned to her employment. In a ſhort time ſhe felt a great degree of ſoreneſs in the part which had been injured, with pain ſhooting occaſionally to the arm, ſhoulder and neck. Theſe ſymptoms, in a few minutes, were ſucceeded by ſtiffneſs about the throat, difficulty of ſwallowing, ſome interruption of her ſpeech, and, at length, a locked ſtate of the jaws, attended with a ſpaſmodic contraction of the muſcles at the back part of the neck, and occaſional ſubſultus tendinum, with ſome coldneſs of her extremities. In this ſituation I found her.

"She was naturally of a delicate and irritable habit of body, and had been much ſubject to hyſterical complaints and fits of fainting, which were ſometimes induced by the moſt trifling cauſes. Her irritability

ritability of habit was alſo at this time probably increaſed, having but three months before borne a child, which ſhe was then ſuckling.

"Although I have been long ſince convinced of the inſufficiency of opium in the cure of this diſeaſe, in the hurry of the moment I gave her about ſixty drops of laudanum, in a ſmall quantity of wine. Her jaws being cloſely locked, it was with great difficulty adminiſtered. In a few minutes after ſwallowing the laudanum ſhe ſickened at the ſtomach, and vomited violently, complaining at the ſame time of great pain and diſtreſs at the pit of her ſtomach. The anodyne draught was entirely rejected; but, upon a moment's reflection, I did not regret this circumſtance, as the diſeaſe aſſumed a very decided character, and I had made up my mind to rely upon the effects of wine alone, without the aſſiſtance of any other remedy: accordingly, about two o'clock, I directed a large wine glaſs full of *Madeira wine* (the glaſs containing about two ounces), to be given punctually every hour, and a cup of ſago, or panado, with wine, to be given, from time to time, as her nouriſhment. At this time another phyſician, who had alſo been called upon at the time of the accident, arrived. I related to him what had been done, and the mode of treatment which I directed for the patient. This gentleman having had frequent opportunities of ſeeing this diſeaſe, and having frequently witneſſed the failure of the ordinary mode of treatment, he at once, with great candour, acceded to the plan propoſed; and, in addition to the uſe of wine, propoſed the application of cauſtic to the part which had been wounded. Accordingly, the wound was freely pencilled with the lunar cauſtic, and afterwards covered with a poultice of bread and milk, with the view to obtain ſuppuration as ſoon as poſſible.

"The wine was adminiſtered with great fidelity by the mother of the patient, until about five o'clock the next morning. She had ſome ſlight convulſions in the courſe of the afternoon, but they were more of an hyſterical ſort, induced by her great anxiety of mind, than to be aſcribed to the diſeaſe itſelf. Generally ſpeaking, there had been a very manifeſt abatement in all her ſymptoms, and ſhe had paſſed a more comfortable night than could have been expected. At five o'clock on Wedneſday morning, her miſtreſs, alarmed at the quantity of wine ſhe had taken, deſiſted from its further uſe. From this time, appearances became more unfavourable, and at eight o'clock her jaws, which had been relaxed during the plentiful uſe of wine, again became ſtiff and cloſed. We ſaw her at nine, and immediately gave her about half a pint of wine, and ordered it to be adminiſtered as before. At one her ſymptoms were greatly changed; we found her ſitting up in bed, eating ſmall portions of roaſted oyſters, which ſhe had called for. At this time her jaws were almoſt in their natural ſtate. She had taken her wine punctually as directed, but experienced no inconvenience from it whatever, although in health ſhe had not been accuſtomed to its uſe. Her pulſes were ſtill ſmall and feeble, without any excitement from the uſe of wine. The heat of body remained at its natural ſtandard, but not at all increaſed. The pain in her hand was abated,

but

but without any appearance of suppuration. Finding this mode of treatment to agree so well with her, we directed it to be continued. We saw her again in the evening: her symptoms still continued favourable, without the smallest febrile action from the use of wine. Having had no discharge from her bowels since her illness, an injection was administered; which remedy was afterwards employed from time to time in the course of her disease, whenever the state of her bowels required it. The wine was continued through the night: she slept, altogether, about three hours in the course of the night; and took freely of her panado.

"Thursday morning at nine o'clock, her complaints appeared to be, in a great measure, subdued; insomuch that we did not think it necessary to visit her again until late in the evening, and directed the wine to be given at longer intervals, and the quantity to be lessened.

"She remained in a very comfortable condition until the afternoon—the *pain in her hand returned* with violence, extending to her arm and neck as before—her jaws were again closed—the rigidity of the muscles at the back of her neck returned—her mind became greatly agitated—she again complained of distress at the pit of her stomach—she fainted, and had several slight convulsions. Being called at that time, I gave her, with some difficulty, about half a pint of wine, and ordered a warm poultice to be immediately boiled. When prepared, I poured upon the surface of it, half an ounce of laudanum, and applied it to the wound. Her symptoms were in a short time allayed: I left her, directing the wine to be continued as before, a large wine-glass full every hour.

"We saw her again at nine in the evening. She remained tranquil—her jaws were less firmly closed, but the pain in her hand was not altogether removed. Although she had taken the wine punctually as directed, it had not produced the least apparent excitement. Having had no discharge from her bowels for the last twenty-four hours, an injection was administered. The anodyne poultice was renewed; and, in addition to this application, we directed her arm to be bathed with laudanum occasionally through the night.

"*Friday morning* we found she had passed a more comfortable night than the last; had taken her wine every hour; her jaws were perfectly relaxed; the pain in her hand had greatly abated, and she was enabled to extend her fingers at pleasure, which she could not do before. Her pulses and skin were natural; her appetite unimpaired; her mind composed, without any inconvenience from the wine. We directed her remedies to be all continued as before, fearing lest any alteration might subject her to a return of her complaints.

"In the evening we observed the wine had exhilarated her spirits; she became very talkative; her pulses became full, and free from all tension; her skin was somewhat heated, and all complaints removed except the wound at the wrist, which exhibited a healthy appearance, and was entirely free from pain, but without any sign of suppuration.

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"We directed the wine to be administered through the night, but in smaller quantities and at longer intervals, unless her complaints should return and demand a continuance of it as before.

"Saturday morning we were informed she had slept the greater part of the night, and had taken but a small quantity of wine; her symptoms being, in all respects, favourable, the wine was discontinued, except a small quantity mixed with nourishment. A dressing, of simple ointment, was applied to the wound. From that time she remained free from any return of her complaints, and has since been in perfect health.

"Upon calculating the quantity of wine which she had taken, it amounted to three gallons."

[Dr. Noehden informs us, that Dr. Stütz, of Swabia, has succeeded in curing this dreadful disease, by the use of a hot bath, impregnated with kali and a few ounces of quick-lime; and giving internally ten grains of kali, and one of opium, every two hours. We merely mention this circumstance at present, as Dr. Stütz gives us hopes that he will treat this subject more explicitly in his Miscellaneous Medical Observations, which will soon be published.]

Two Cases of the human Constitution being affected by the Contagion of Small Pox and Measles at the same Time; by P. Tracy, M. D.

"In the spring of the year 1797, being then engaged in inoculating for the small-pox, two cases fell under my care, which exhibited unequivocal evidence of the possibility of two distinct diseases arising at the same period in the human frame, and each pursuing its ordinary course as when separately existing, attended with all their usual characteristic marks; and though I am sensible that the weight of medical opinion may militate against my experience on this question, still the conclusive evidence that the facts afford, has removed every doubt that previously existed in my mind on contemplating the subject, and leads me to cheerfully submit the cases to the candour of the faculty*.

"Case 1. W. T. a young man, applied for admission into my hospital for inoculation, and mentioned, at the same time, his having been exposed, a day or two previously, to take the measles, which excited some anxiety in his mind, respecting the safety of receiving the small-pox, under the liability of being affected with the measles at the same period. Thinking this a good opportunity to determine, whether two specific contagions could operate at the same time on the human frame, and concluding no great danger would attend the experiment, I received him into the hospital, and inserted the variolous matter, from a well suppurated pustule, in the usual manner. The local inflammation, at the part inoculated, came forward at the common period, with as much activity as occurred on the other patients at the same time inoculated; which was

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* See Journal, Vol. II. p. 27.

was followed by the precursory eruptive fever on the eighth day from inoculation. The symptoms were mild, and continued to the tenth day, at which period a number of distinct pustules were visible around the place inoculated, and many were discoverable on the face and neck, just emerging from the skin: the eruptive symptoms continued still in a moderate degree. The mild form which the variolous disease at this time assumed, greatly relieved my patient from his anxiety, arising from the fearful apprehension of being jointly attacked with two so formidable diseases as the small pox and measles, at the same period. I left him in this state of tranquillity; but in about four hours after I was called to visit him, and found him labouring under severe pain in the head and loins, attended with rigors, pyrexia, &c. As he had not exposed himself to take cold, or been guilty of any marked imprudence, I immediately suspected him affected with the premonitory symptoms of measles; and, in conformity with this belief, adopted phlebotomy, with the antiphlogistic method generally. On the next day, the measley efflorescence made its appearance on the surface, attended with cough, coryza, and all the other usual marks of this disease, which progressed in the common manner to a favourable issue. During this period, from the first accession of the measley symptoms, the local inflammation at the part inoculated continued bright, and the previous pustules not only remained visible, and progressing towards maturation, but a number of additional pustules actually appeared on the lower extremities, easily distinguishable by their hardness and prominency, and which maturated in the usual manner as when separately existing, except that the suppuratory process seemed less rapid than in many other cases: thus, hand in hand, these two disorders proceeded to a favourable termination, which freed my patient from his great solicitude, and impressed me with the belief, that different sensitive principles of the animal frame may be morbidly excited, from different causes, at the same period, each equally productive of its peculiar form of disease.

"Case 2. J. S. after being exposed to the small-pox, in the natural way, was seized, at the usual period, with the symptoms of the disorder, which were followed by a pustular eruption on the surface; and, on the next day from their first appearance, was attacked with symptoms of a similar aspect to those which supervened in the former case, though in a more aggravated degree, which I treated as in the former instance, and which were followed by an universal measley eruption on the third day, with the usual concomitants. During this period, the previous pustular eruption, which was copious, remained bright and prominent, and new pustules continued to appear on the lower extremities, all of which proceeded to maturation in the usual manner; while the measles pursued their ordinary course, neither disease seeming to retard the other in its progress, but, like two friendly sojourners in separate apartments of one tenement, seemed mutually disposed to pursue their different careers, without officious interference or molestation to each other. This case, like the other, terminated happily. No room was left to

doubt the identity of the meaſles in either caſe, as neither of the ſubjects had previouſly been affected with that diſorder: both had been expoſed to take it: and a conſiderable number of my patients at the hoſpital, without having been ſenſibly expoſed to the diſeaſe in any other way but from theſe patients, were affected at the uſual time with this diſorder.

"Feeling myſelf greatly incompetent to explain the variant ſenſitive principles in the human machine, which are ſubject to be conjunctly excited from different cauſes, each productive at the ſame time of the phenomena peculiarly marking diſtinct diſorders, I ſhall avoid the attempt; but this belief is ſtrongly impreſſed on my mind, that two or more ſpecifically different diſorders may ariſe at the ſame time in the human frame, and purſue their natural courſes, notwithſtanding the zeal with which the Brunonian advocates attempt to ſupport the untenable theory of the unity and indiviſibility of their principle of excitability pervading the ſyſtem at large, and being ſuſceptible of only an individual morbid excitement at a time."

Caſe of the deleterious Effects of Opium remedied by the Excitement of Pain. By V. Seaman, M. D.

"Having ſo frequently obſerved the great quantity of opium that a perſon under acute pain will take, without having any ſoporific effects induced by it, I have long been of the mind, that pain might be uſefully excited to remove the deadly influence of a large doſe that may have been previouſly taken. This idea I intimated in my Inaugural Diſſertation, publiſhed in 1792.

"Yeſterday (July 2, 1799) I had an opportunity of putting my principles to the teſt of experiment, being called to ſee the wife of —— Head, in Water-ſtreet, who had, about two hours before, taken an ounce of laudanum, and then lay in a deadly ſtupor, from which all the efforts of her friends were inſufficient to awaken her. Attempts had been made to get ſome vinegar into her ſtomach, but, I believe, with little effect; nor did I ſucceed much better in endeavouring to give her a doſe of white vitriol. I then procured a ſmall ſwitch, and applied it pretty freely to her arms and ſhoulders, which were defended only by a thin linen covering. I alſo applied ſome ſtrokes to her legs. In the courſe of a very ſhort time, indeed almoſt immediately upon the application of this remedy, ſhe roſe up, and begged me to deſiſt. She continued for a time much confuſed, with involuntary fits of laughter. Two ſcruples of white vitriol were then adminiſtered, followed in about fifteen minutes by half a drachm of ipecacuanha; notwithſtanding which, and alſo having her throat tickled with an oiled feather, it was near an hour before ſhe could be made to puke; however, finally, ſhe puked, and by the aſſiſtance of frequent draughts of warm water her ſtomach was pretty thoroughly evacuated.

"By the aſſiſtance of her friends ſhe was kept awake, or, at leaſt, ſlept but little at a time during the night, and this morning appears entirely recovered."

GERMANY.

GERMANY.

Dr. Lentin's Obſervations on the Dolor Faciei. (Extracted from Hufeland's Practical Journal, Vol. IX. No. 1. p. 56.)

THE *Dolor Faciei*, or, as the French call it, the *Tic Douloureux*, is a diſorder which has, in general, fruſtrated all attempts of the medical art; no medicine hardly has relieved the diſeaſe, and inſtances of a permanent cure have very rarely, if ever, occurred. This terrible complaint has a peculiarity whereby it materially differs from gout and rheumatiſm, viz. that the moſt vehement pain is brought on by touching, in the lighteſt way, the affected part at the period of its furious paroxyſm. Some patients were obliged to ſubdue their appetite for a time, being fearful of indulging it by movement of the lips, by chewing, &c. Others, to procure relief, uſed to rub their cheeks, where it generally has its ſeat, in ſuch a vehement manner, that they became quite callous. In one inſtance the diſeaſe ended in madneſs; in another, the patient got a little relief, after having ſuffered above eleven years; but great indurations of the glands of the inteſtines came on, of which he died; a third perſon, that was affected in this way, got a cancer in the mouth, and on the tongue. Dr. Lentin met, in the courſe of a twenty-ſeven years practice, with fourteen patients afflicted with this horrid malady; and he candidly confeſſes that he never could boaſt of having performed a permanent cure. The remedy he found particularly efficacious, was the tinctura ſtrammonii (Datura Stramonium L.) ℞. Seminum ſtrammonii unc. ij., vin. Hiſpanici unc. viij., ſpirit. vin. unc. j.; digere per aliquot dies et filtra; doſis gutt. vj. Beſides this, ſulphureous baths, particularly that of Nendorf, in the dominions of the Landgrave of Heſſen Caſſel, proved very uſeful.

Dr. Lentin further obſerved ſome curious varieties of this evil; in one caſe the ſeat of it was in the foot, and a ſmall piece of paper falling upon it, would excite the pain for ſeveral hours. Another remarkable variety was obſerved by him in a lady, who otherwiſe enjoyed very good health: She felt a violent pain in the right ſide of her head, whenever ſhe undertook any buſineſs which required ſome attention, or a rapid tranſition from one idea to another. She could not, for ſome time, hear well with the right ear, but this defect was remedied by the application of a ſtrong magnet. She was much afflicted at the loſs of her huſband, whom ſhe tenderly loved, and, as long as the violence of her grief remained, ſhe was not at all troubled by the complaint; but her grief being diminiſhed, the pain gradually became more vehement and laſting. When her attention was engaged by a lively converſation ſhe found a ſhort relief, but afterwards the evil returned with renewed force, and with a violence greater in proportion than the alleviation ſhe had experienced. No ſymptoms of ſpaſm could ever be traced, nor were antiſpaſmodic remedies of any avail; even the tinctura ſtrammonii was uſeleſs; and, in ſhort, every poſſible remedy was given in vain. She ſeemed, however, to be in a blooming ſtate of

health. In her youth she had had ulcerated glands on both sides of the neck, of which several scars were remaining along the jugular veins, and this might be considered as a sufficient cause, by obstructing the easy reflux of the blood from the head, if the pain had not commenced long after the cicatrization of the ulcers.—The disease is not likely to be of a cancerous nature, at least in its early periods, else the patients could not rub the parts immediately affected, so vehemently, without ill consequences. The patients are much influenced by dry and wet weather.

On the Use of the Oleum Hyoscyami in Hæmoptysis. (Hufeland's Journal, Vol. IX. No. 2.)

Prof. Harles, of Erlangen, recommends the internal use of the oleum hyoscyami as one of the best, surest, and mildest remedies to stop an hæmoptysis. He distinguishes two principal species of that disease; the first originates in an excessive irritability, irritation, and more or less spasmodic action of the arteries of the lungs, which bring on an extravasation of blood into the air cells, and a rupture of the small blood vessels follows. The second consists in a diminished irritability and action of the vessels, from their debility and relaxation, by which a rupture of their membranes, and an effusion of blood, is occasioned. It is in the first the oil of hyoscyamus is indicated, as well as the extract of it, which has been much commended by other German physicians, though it has by no means so sure and quick an effect as the oil of the same plant. In most cases this has stopped hæmoptysis after a few doses have been taken; which either did not return at all, or was easily suppressed by the same remedy. Sometimes it has been necessary previously, to take a little blood from the patient. The mode of preparing the oil is to boil two ounces of fresh squeezed leaves of hyoscyamus niger, in six ounces of pure sweet oil for a little time.

One ounce of this to be mixed with two ounces of castor oil, or oil of sweet almonds, and four tea spoons full to be given as a dose four times a day.

PHARMACOLOGY.

Pharmacologiae Universae, pars I. quam in usum auditorum suorum concinnaverat F. T. Valtelen, dum in vivis esset, M. D. Med. et Chimiæ in Academ. quæ Lugdi est, Professor ordinarius. Lugduni Batavorum apud Van Thoir, 1797-8. pp. 400.

This work which made its appearance after the author's death, deserves, undoubtedly, to be ranked amongst the better productions of the kind, as it in general answers the requisites of a good practical Pharmacology. The whole of the work is divided into four heads. 1. *Indicationum Doctrina*; 2. *Universa Materia Medica, s. Pharmacologia*; 3. *Pharmacia Chemica*; 4. *Regulæ secundum quas* formulæ medicamentorum consignari et ex arte præscribi debent. The present volume contains only the first division and a part of the

the second. 1. *Indicationum doctrina*, from p. 15 to 84. Here the fundamental therapeutic principles are proposed, particularly with respect to the doctrine of indications; to which is added a division of the remedies into classes, according to their therapeutic effects, and the cases are exactly described and determined, which either require or reject the use of each class of remedies. It is not necessary to give a full account of the contents of this chapter, as it merely treats of therapeutic principles, which we must suppose to be sufficiently known to our readers; and we only wish the author had taken more notice here of the modern principles of medicine, the doctrine of the vis vitalis, &c. by which the medical art has of late undergone so many improvements. 2. *Pharmacologia Universa*. With this division begins Pharmacology, properly so called, wherein the simples and compounds are enumerated according to their qualities and uses, in a concise and easy style, and in the following order:

I. VEGETABILIA. 1. Farinosa, Mucilaginosa s. Gummosa; 2. Aquosa, Subdulcia; 3. Pinguia Oleosa Subdulcia; 4. Dulcia viscosa; 5. Acida et Acido dulcia; 6. Alcalina Vegetabilium salia; 7. Media Vegetabilium salia; 8. Austera, Adstringentia; 9. Amara et Amaricantia; 10. Fragrantia, Aromatica, Balsamica, Resinosa; 11. Acria, Caustica; 12. Acria et Amara, Emetica et Cathartica; 13. Acria virosa, Narcotica; 14. Vinum et Spiritus ardens.

II. FOSSILIA. 1. Terrae; 2. Salia Alcalina; 3. Salia Acida; 4. S. media; 5. S. terrestria; 6. Bitumina; 7. Metalla; 8. Semimetalla.

III. ANIMALIA HORUMQUE PARTES. 1. Terrestria et Terreogelatinosa; 2. Glutinosa, Pinguia, Oleosa; 3. Amara; 4. Acria Caustica; 5. Graveolentia Curationes per reliqua instrumenta.

IV. AQUA. 1. Aqua sincera fluida; 2. A. vaporosa; 3. Nix et Glacies; 4. Aqua medicata mineralis.

V. AER. 1. A. communis salutaris et noxius; 2. A. medicatus varius, a. Fumigatione, b. Odoribus; 3. Inflatio more Ægyptiorum; 4. Gas multiplex.

VI. IGNES. 1. Flamma; 2. Carbo; 3. Cauterium; 4. Electricitas.

VII. MECHANICA REMEDIA. 1. Venaesectio; 2. Scarificatio; 3. Cucurbitulae cruentae; 4. Hirudines; 5. Clysma; 6. Setacea et Fonticuli; 7. Flagellatio et Urticatio; 8. Frictio; 9. Ligatura; 10. Motus; 11. Inoculatio; 12. Magnetismus. As the remedies contained in this first volume comprehend only the first eight classes of the vegetable kingdom, we have still to expect a considerable number of volumes.

Among the great number of books we possess on Materia Medica, the present certainly obtains a very honourable place. Though it affords nothing new, or represented in a new view, yet, the accurate determination of the cases in which the different remedies are to be given, the continual quotations of the most approved practitioners, render this book very commendable to the medical student. The only thing to which we have to object is, the order which has been followed by the author, as it is by no means calculated to give a survey of the different remedies according

cording to their essential properties and original virtues, though this should be particularly attended to. For, by dividing the remedies according to the regna naturae, as has been adopted by the author, a separation of remedies, otherwise perfectly agreeing with each other, is unavoidable; and hence arises the disagreeable necessity to look for medicines, which are of the same kind, under different divisions, viz. vegetable and mineral alkalies, vegetable and animal bitters, &c.; and further, no proper place can be given to remedies composed of substances belonging to different regna naturae. Besides this, it would not have been improper to prefix to each class of remedies, a general account of their effects and properties, as this certainly facilitates the attainment of the difficult study of Pharmacology to the beginner.

BOTANY.

Lichenographiae Suecicae Prodromus. Auctor ERIK ACHARIUS, M. D. Medicus Provincialis Ostro-Gothiae, &c. Lincopiae, 1798, pp. 264, 8vo. with two coloured plates, price 7s.

The number of Lichens found in Sweden has been considerably increased since the publication of Linnæus's Flora Suecica. Mr. Acharius made them, a long time since, a particular object of his botanical study, and his merits in this family of Cryptogamic plants are already sufficiently known by his former publications. The present work is a new pledge of his knowledge in the lichens, and certainly deserves the attention of every botanist. It contains more than one might expect from a Prodromus, and is full of interesting remarks, and far from being merely a dry catalogue. The distribution of the lichens he has followed here, is according to the Linnæan, and he divides them, therefore, into three families: 1. *Crustacei*; 2. *Foliacei*; 3. *Gaulescentes*; each of them is again divided into several *tribes*, of which there are twenty-eight altogether, and a proper name is given to every tribe. The author has, besides, carefully attended to collect all synonymous terms, and every where referred to the best figures. Those lichens which are not met with in Sweden, he has enumerated at the end of each tribe. The whole work comprehends 529 species, 101 of which are new, and not yet described. The Swedish lichens amount to 345; the rest are not found in that country. A useful register concludes the work. We have purposely not given a more accurate account of this work, as we suppose it will come to the hands of every botanist who interests himself about the extensive and difficult class of lichens.

MEDICINE.

Die Neuesten Entdeckungen, &c. i. e. The latest Discoveries and Illustrations in Medicine, systematically arranged. By F. L. AUGUSTIN, M. D. Physician at Berlin, &c. vol. I. for 1798, 8vo. 564 pp. 1799. Berlin, Felisch.

The plan of the author is to collect yearly all discoveries and improvements in the medical art, and to represent them concisely and

and as faithfully as poſſible in a yearly publication. We muſt confeſs, that the author has ſhown a great deal of diligence and learning in the different branches of the medical art; and we are, moreover, convinced that this undertaking will prove very uſeful, particularly to thoſe that neither have time nor opportunity to read and ſtudy all the publications in medicine, which appear from year to year.

The work is divided into two principal parts. The firſt treats of medicine in general; of the methodology of medicine, or medical theory, according to *Roeſhlaub*, &c. The ſecond is divided again into two ſections, of which the firſt contains, from p. 13 to 174, what belongs to the ſound ſtate of the body; the ſecond, to the end of the volume, what has been ſtated of the diſeaſed ſtate of the body. At the end of this volume, all the writings are enumerated, of which the author availed himſelf in the compoſition of this book, and to which he has referred by numbers: they amount to 522, including the journals, ſingle numbers of them, ſmall pamphlets, and diſſertations. The firſt ſection has three chapters: 1. *Of the doctrine of organiſation*; 2. *Of the doctrine of vis vitalis. or phyſiology properly called*; and, 3. *Of dietetic*. The neweſt chemical and anatomical diſcoveries are mentioned here, relating to organization, Roeſhlaub's, Reil's, Huſeland's, &c. Ideas on vis vitalis and phyſiology are propoſed, with a ſtatement of the progreſs of galvaniſm and magnetiſm, according to Stumboldt, Ritter, &c. Of the diſcoveries in dietetic, he mentions Mr. Flouquet's water-bed, which conſiſts of a frame of wood, acroſs which are firſt nailed a number of ſtraps, ſufficient to ſupport a kind of linen or flannel hammock, which is to be faſtened above them; on that the perſon lies; the whole is hung on poles in a convenient part of a river. The propoſals for the diet of different ſituations of life are likewiſe related; viz. the diet of ſoldiers, according to *Blair* and *Gilbert*; of ſeamen, according to Stewart, Arthy, and Trotter; of the miners, according to Kortum; of actors, according to Stunnius. The diet for women contains every thing belonging to the obſtetric art. An Appendix is here added on Brown's diet, according to *Roeſhlaub*. The ſecond ſection comprehends, under the title of *Noſodick*, 1. *Pathology*; definitions of diſeaſe, diſtributions of diſorders, a critical review of the Brunonian principles, obſervations on organic diſeaſes, &c. 2. *Therapeutic*, which is treated in three diviſions, *Introduction*, *Materia Medica*, and *Special Therapeutic*. But we ſhall not go any further in relating the contents of this book; and only add the wiſh, that the author may find leiſure to continue his plan.

Ed. Jenner Diſquiſitio de Cauſis et Effectibus Variolarum Vaccinarum ex Anglico ſermone in Latinum converſa, ab ALOYS CARENO, M. et Ph. D. 1799. Viennere; with four mezzotinto plates.

Dr. Jenner's firſt publication, "*Inquiry, &c.*" has already been tranſlated into German, by Dr. Ballhorn, of Hanover; but the preſent

preſent Latin tranſlation contains alſo his "*further obſervations,*" and is faithfully done, though the Latin is not always the beſt. Dr. Odier's, of Geneve, experiments with the vaccine inoculation are added, and likewiſe ſome others, where the inoculation ſucceeded, and ſubſequent infections with ſmall-pox matter did not take. The plates are well executed.

PHARMACEUTICAL PROCESSES.

Citizen Fourcroy relates a new method of combining the oxygen with ſuet, to make the oxygenated pomatum. Take of purified lard as much as you like; let it melt by a gentle fire in an earthen veſſel, add to it afterwards two thirds its weight of pure nitric acid 28—30 degrees ſtrong, and ſtir the mixture with a wooden ſpoon, till it be cool; then put the whole into thirty times its weight of rain or river water, and let it boil for half an hour, and ſtir it continually, till it becomes cool. After having ſeparated the fat from the water, melt it again, and preſerve it in a glaſs or earthen veſſel. Alyon's method is ſomewhat different from this; he takes ſixteen parts of purified lard, and one part of nitric acid, 32 degrees ſtrong. When the fat is melting, he adds the acid, and ſtirs it with a glaſs tube, by which means the azote is deſtroyed during the boiling, and the oxygen only remains combined with the ſuet, and he does not put it in water to purify. The fat imbibes in this manner more oxygen, and it is therefore a queſtion which method is preferable. The lard treated after Fourcroy's preſcription contains but one-third of its weight of oxygen, and Alyon's almoſt double the quantity. Fourcroy remarks, that if the oxygenated pomatum ſhould not prove of any avail in medicine, it might be made uſe of to ſubdue quickſilver the ſooner, and to prepare the ointment of it in a fifth of the time that is uſually required. *Tromſdorf's Journal der Pharmacie, Vol. viii. No. i. p.* 162.

The ſame chemiſt lately diſcovered that the Kermes mineral and the ſulphur auratum antimonii contained ſulphurated hydrogen (gas hydrogéne ſulfuré) in their mixture. The difference between them conſiſts in the former only containing ſulphurated hydrogenous oxyd of antimony, and the latter alſo has ſulphurated oxyd of antimony. The diaphoretic and ſometimes vehement action of the Kermes mineral ſeems undoubtedly to depend upon the hydrogéne ſulphuré which is combined with it.

It would be worth while to examine, by an accurate analyſis, the proportion of the hydrogen, ſulphur, and oxyd of antimony in the Kermes, according to the different modes of preparing it, for the purpoſe of knowing whether it would not be better to prepare it by the ſimple combination of an oxyd of antimony, and of water ſaturated with gas hydrogené ſulfuré. *Ibid. p.* 106.

To preſerve extracts, particularly the bitter ones, which contain more gummy than reſinous parts, from being ſpoiled when kept for ſome time, Citizen Demachy propoſes to add the eighth part of alkohol when the extract begins to thicken, and to continue the evaporation afterwards. He is of opinion that the alkohol has that effect by being partly a mean of affinity between the gummi and reſina, partly becauſe it deſtroys the mucilaginous parts inherent to ſome reſins, and produces thereby a more ſimple ſubſtance. *Ibid. p.* 181.

Citizen De Launay propoſes an eaſier method of making mercurial ointments, viz. to rub the quickſilver with ſome old ſweet oil, which has already become a little rancid; one drachm of this is ſufficient to ſubdue a pound of mercury in a very ſhort time: the lard is afterwards added by degrees. *Ibid. No. ii. p.* 27.

Mr. Juch propoſes a new method of preparing the muriated barytes, or terra ponderoſa ſalita, worthy the attention of apothecaries and druggiſts, which is as follows: Take one part of finely pulverized barytes or heavy ſpar; after having burned it, and quenched it in water, add two parts and a half of pot-aſh. This mixture is melted, and kept on the fire for an hour and a half, in an earthen veſſel, of which thoſe fabricated in Heſſi are particularly famous among the German chemiſts. When the whole maſs is entirely fluid, pour it into a clean iron kettle, and boil it well with common water for the ſake of clearing it from the ſulphate of pot-aſh or vitriolated tartar. The barytes obtained in this manner is ſtill mixed with ſome undiſſolved ſpar. Saturate it now perfectly with muriatic acid, and let it evaporate. The remaining dry maſs of ſalt is melted again in an earthen veſſel; and being in a quiet ſtate of fluidity, pour it upon a ſtone plate; and cover it with a veſſel, to prevent any thing eſcaping, which ſometimes happens in cooling. To give this maſs a fine, regular cryſtallization, and to ſeparate it from other heterogeneous matters, it muſt be diſſolved in a ſufficient quantity of diſtilled boiling water. It is not neceſſary to pulverize it before, becauſe a greater part

remains undissolved, when pulverized, than when the whole is put into the vessel. In this solution, volatile liver of sulphur, dissolved in water, is dropped as long as any precipitation is visible; by which means it is cleared from any adherent metallic particles. The fluid is now filtered, and gently evaporated to the point of crystallization. *Tromsdorf's Journal der Pharmacie, Vol. vii. No. ii. p.* 27.

Mr. Eacard, of Bamberg, has found the following method of preparing a tinctura opii, much cheaper than laudanum liquidum, and which does not so easily precipitate as this, and wherein the quantity of opium is more accurately determined. R. opii optim. unc. ii. caryophyllorum dr. i. aqu. cinnamom. unc. viii. alcohol vini unc. iv. opii caryophyllis in pulverem tritis aqua cinnamomi cum alcohol permixta affunditur, vitrum bene clauditur. Digestione per vi dies in loco calido continuata, tinctura exprimitar clarificatur. — Ten grains of this tincture contain one grain of opium, if good opium has been employed. *Examination of the Brunonian System by Experiments, No. iii. p.* 105.

A new preparation of mercury has been invented at Petersburgh, called the Mercurial Soap, which is said to be of very great avail in obstinate venereal complaints. A solution of quicksilver in diluted nitrous acid, or aqua fortis, is mixed with a solution of white Spanish soap; whereby an oily substance rises on the surface of it, which forms with caustic alkali a soap containing mercury. Two scruples of this remedy are dissolved in two ounces of distilled water, and it is given in drops. Hufeland gave it to eighty drops twice a day, with some success. *Hufeland's Journal, Vol. v. No. iii.*

Cit. Lartique proposes a method of preparing tartar emetic by combining the cream of tartar with the grey oxyd of antimony. The preparation thus obtained, has the preference of having a certain and more equal strength than tartar emetic obtained in the common way. *Journal des Pharmaciens, No. v. p.* 122.

Mr. Grüff, at Bareuth, made several experiments to obtain sugar from different vegetable substances. All species of gramineous plants contain a considerable quantity of sugar when young. The Arundo Phragmitis Linn. gave in 16 lb. three ounces of sugar. Parsnips are also very productive of sugar. *Tromsdorf's Pharmaceutical Journal,* 1800.

Discovery

Discovery of a new Acid.

The celebrated chemist, Mr. Klaproth, of Berlin, has enriched chemistry with the discovery of a new acid, which he obtained by the analysis of the honey-stone, or mellilithus. It is not a simple mineral acid, but rather of the nature of a vegetable acid; and according to the properties it shows, it must be considered as a peculiar modification of those elements which constitute vegetable acids, and consequently as a specific vegetable acid, and an acid of its own. The properties it possesses are the following:

1. It crystallizes in small fibrous and glomerated masses, and sometimes in small and short columns. It does not appear to be able to crystallize at first, but gets the power of crystallizing by degrees, by imbibing more oxygen from the air.

2. Its taste is sweetish-sour at first, but becomes afterwards a little bitter.

3. Poured upon a heated potsherd it quickly evaporates, spreading a dark grey smoke, which, however, does but little affect the smell; a small quantity of yellowish light ashes is left, which, moistened with water, are quite tasteless, and cause no change at all in blue colours.

4. Neutralized with kali, it forms a crystalline mass of a fibrous, radiant texture.

5. Saturated with natron, or soda, it produces cubic crystallizations, partly diagonal single prisms, partly concrete in a stellated manner.

6. The neutral salt which it produces with ammonia, exhibits small hexagonal prisms, that lose their transparency when exposed to the air, and get a silver-white appearance.

7. Dissolved in water, and dropped into lime-water, into a solution of burned barytes in water, it causes a white precipitation, which disappears again by dropping to it some nitric acid.

8. A similar precipitation takes place when it is dropped into a solution of acetated barytes (acetate de baryte), that also dissolves again in nitric acid.

9. No precipitation followed with muriated barytes; but, soon after, some small needle-like crystals became visible in the mixture.

10. A solution of silver in nitric acid remained clear in mixing it with the acid of the honey-stone.

11. A solution of nitrate of mercury mixed with it, lets fall a frequent precipitation of a white colour, which was dissolved again by putting more nitric acid to the solution.

12. Iron diſſolved in nitric acid, formed a yellow precipitation with it, and was made ſoluble by the addition of muriatic acid.

13. A ſolution of the acetate of lead is much precipitated by it, but clearly diſſolved again by nitric acid.

14. With a ſolution of the acetate of copper, a verdigreaſe precipitation followed.

15. A ſolution of nitrate of copper ſuffered no change by it.

Theſe experiments ſhow, that this acid enters into a combination with ſeveral metallic calces, and that its affinity to them is greater than that of the acetous acid, though inferior to mineral acids. Similar effects are produced by its neutral ſalts, and the precipitation cauſed by them is in a great degree ſoluble.

As this acid is conſtituted by the carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, and eaſily deſtroyed by fire; and as, at the ſame time, it agrees with none of the known acids in its properties and relation, it deſerves to be placed among the vegetable acids, as an acid of its own, to which the name of *Melilithic Acid* may be given.

The honey-ſtone, or Melilithus, from which it is obtained, is a foſſil found in Saxony amongſt the ſtrata of bovey-coal (braunkohle), and was firſt deſcribed by Mr. Werner. It is of a honey-yellow colour, ſometimes darker, ſometimes lighter, and is always found in a cryſtallized octaëdrous form, but ſeldom in a perfect ſtate. Its ſurface is generally ſmooth and ſhining, but ſometimes rough and eaten. It rarely is quite clear, but generally half tranſparent only, and it is ſoft, brittle, and eaſily reduced to a yellow grey powder. Its ſpecific weight is, according to Klaproth, 1,550. Mr. Klaproth was induced to ſubject this mineral to a new analyſis, in conſequence of the different opinions of chemiſts and mineralogiſts about its nature and conſtituent particles *. Some of them took it for a kind of amber, as Mr. Born; others, for a ſort of gypſum impregnated with petroleum. The chief particles are now, according

* Prof. Lampadius, of Freyberg, in Saxony, found in 100 parts:

85½	carbon
3½	petroleum
2	ſiliceous earth
5	water of cryſtallization
96	

Mr. Abick relates its conſtituent particles as follow:

40	carbonic acid
28	water of cryſtallization
16	carbonic aluminous earth
5	benzoic aluminous earth
5½	benzoic acid
5	calx of iron
2½	reſin
100	

cording to Mr. Klaproth, a peculiar acid combined with aluminous earth; and the proportion in 100 parts of it is, 16 parts of aluminous earth and 46 of acid, besides the water of cryſtallization. *Crell's Annals, Vol. I.* 1800.

MEDICAL and PHYSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Prof. Hufeland diſtinguiſhes two ſpecies of vomition of the milk obſerved in infants. In the firſt, the milk is vomited up unaltered, a long time after it has been in the ſtomach; this is a ſymptom of weakneſs of the ſtomach, and want of digeſtion. The ſecond ſpecies is very different from the former; the child throws up the milk in a more or leſs coagulated ſtate, half an hour or a quarter of an hour after having taken it. This vomition is ſalutary, and gives proof of a ſtrong and powerful gaſtric liquor; by means of it, the ſuperabundant milk is brought up, and the reſt better aſſimilated. Againſt the former complaint, as well as againſt ſome other common affections of that infantile age, Mr. Hufeland recommends the following powder. Rx. Radic. valerian. dr. j., ireos florent. dr. jſs., liquirit. dr. ij., ſemin. aniſ. dr. jſs., croc. optimi gr. vijj., ſal. amar. dr. j. m. f. pulvis: two ſmall tea ſpoons full to be taken three times a day. When the convulſions are ſtronger, an addition of flor. zinc. or muſk, is uſeful; or ſome rhubarb, in caſe an evacuation ſhould be thought neceſſary. In a feveriſh ſtate, ſome tartarus vitriolatus, or nitre, may be added.—*Hufeland's Journal, Vol. ix. No. i. p.* 179.

Dr. Hargens of Kiel, recommends in the Macula Corneæ, the external uſe of muriated barytes or terra ponderoſa ſalita, diſſolved in aqua lauroceraſi, or diſtilled water of Prunus Lauroceralus L. The proportion is, terræ ponderoſ. ſalit. ſcrup. dimid. ſolve in aqua lauroceraſi unc. iij. Some drops of this ſolution to be dropped into the eyes as often as poſſible; every hour, &c. The patient feels ſome pain after it, which ceaſes in a few minutes. The diſtilled water of Lauroceraſus, by itſelf, is ſometimes very uſeful in chronic ophthalmics with ſlight obſcurations of the cornea. *Ibid.*

The ſame gentleman has found the external application of hydrargyrus acetatus, or mercury prepared with acetous acid or vinegar, very uſeful in chronic exanthemata, particularly in ſuch as are of the flat, dry, herpetic, or ſerpiginous kind; but the general treatment muſt not be neglected. The ſhape in which he uſes it, is an ointment of two ſcruples and a drachm of hydrargyrus acetatus, well mixed with

with one ounce of freſh butter, or ſpermaceti, or ſweet oil; or a ſolution of 10 to 12 grains of mercury in 5 ounces of roſe-water with a little mucilage of quince-ſeed. Of this more or leſs to be ſeveral times a day applied on the eruption, till it dries away and diſappears, and to continue it for ſome time after.

Two inſtances of Idioſyncraſy are mentioned by the ſame author: the one of a lady who was obliged to go to ſtool whenever ſhe happened to ſneeze repeatedly; a pinch of ſnuff had the ſame effect with her as a cathartic. The ſecond, a gentleman, who got always a diarrhœa at any great, unexpected, or ſudden noiſe from a ſhot, drum, &c. As he was often ſubject to coſtiveneſs, ſuch an accident became ſometimes very deſirable to him. *Ibid.*

Salivation from opium.—An old woman fell into a conſiderable ſalivation after every doſe of opium ſhe took, in whatever form it was given. She had medical aſſiſtance for a great many ulcerations which covered her body; and whenever occaſion required opium, or even any other narcotic medicine to be given, that effect was always produced, though in a leſs degree by the other narcotics, extract. hydrarg. nux vomica, &c. It is probable, that, as ſhe had uſed a great quantity of mercury before, from quacks, who ſuppoſed her to be venereal, a part of it might have remained latent in her body, which was freed by opium and other antiſpaſmodic medicines, and then had its uſual action. This is certainly very remarkable, as ſhe had not taken mercury for twenty-two months before. An argument favourable to this conjecture is, that the ſalivation was ſtopped by liver of ſulphur, the calx antimonis ſulphurata, alkali, by which all mercury is decompoſed. *Ibid.*

Dr. Knebel recommends the liver of ſulphur as a very uſeful remedy in ſome caſes of ſtruma combined with ſpongia uſta; beſides, a combination of ſpongia uſta with gunpowder in equal parts has had good effect. It is mixed with ten or twelve parts of dough and baked bread. Of this bread, three or four ſlices are given every morning and evening. *Materialien zur Argneywiſſenſchaft.*

Profeſſor Reiche, at Erlangen, has diſcovered a new arcanum, which he maintains to be an infallible remedy for all ſorts of fevers, when there is not a principal fault exiſting in the organization. It is founded, at the ſame time, upon a new theory of fever. He offered to the king of Pruſſia, to make this remedy known for a certain ſum of money. As Mr. Reiche is known as a man of learning and reſpectability, the king has accepted his offer, and ſent for him to Berlin, to make experiments with this new remedy, and to ſee whether it will prove ſo as profeſſor Reiche aſſerts. A committee has been named, conſiſting of the moſt celebrated phyſicians at that place, viz. Dr. Selle, Dr. Fritze, Dr. Formey, and Richter, under whoſe inſpection he is to try his practice. Of the patients who were truſted to him, ſeveral are

ſaid

ſaid to have died, others recovered. But as no particular accounts have yet appeared of the tranſaction of this buſineſs authorized by thoſe men, we think it proper to defer a relation to another time. Prof. Reiche is willing to communicate his arcanum to any phyſician for one guinea, for which he receives a paper conſiſting of half a ſheet in quarto, printed in cyphers with a written key to it: but he deſires every one to give him a bond, not to reveal the ſecret to any perſon.

Citizen Grandchamp relates two curious inſtances of preternatural oſſification; the firſt was a bony ſubſtance as big as a fiſt, ſituated between the bladder and uterus, and incloſed in a proper ſac, formed by the peritonaeum. The woman in whoſe body it was found, had during her life a habitual iſchury, from which ſhe only was relieved by a horizontal ſituation on the back. This complaint might have been eaſily miſtaken for the ſtone. The ſecond obſervation is an uncommon oſſification of the gall bladder, found in the body of a woman of ſixty-ſeven years of age. The place at the bladder was occupied by a hard maſs as big as the head of a ſix or ſeven months fœtus: the ductus cyſticus was wanting, and the ductus hepaticus joined the liver immediately with the duodenum; the maſs itſelf cohered to the liver by a ſmall place of the ſize of a ſmall coin. On opening it, a gluey ſubſtance was ſeen, ſofter in the middle, and harder the more it approached to the periphery, till it gradually became oſſified. *Hufeland's Newſte Annalen; i. e. Neweſt Annals of French Medicine and Surgery, Vol. i. No. i.*

Citizen Buniva made ſome experiments with injections into the blood-veſſels of living and dead bodies. Is is a known fact, that in ſome diſeaſes, blood enters into veſſels of the animal body, which do not receive it in a natural ſtate. This phenomenon has been aſcribed to a diſſolution and putrefaction of the blood; an opinion conſidered to be erroneous by modern pathology. However, we ſtill wanted experiments to prove its being ſo. The experiments inſtituted to that end, are the following: A mixture of calf's blood and water was injected into the veſſel of a human and animal cadaver with ſome force; it penetrated into the ſmalleſt veſſels which, during the life of the animal, contain no blood. The ſame injection was repeated in living animals, but it was impoſſible to effect the ſame phenomenon; the animal was killed at once, without the leaſt loſs of blood, by cutting through the ſpine; and the matter of injection immediately entered the ſmall veſſels. It is to be regretted, that theſe intereſting experiments have not been more circumſtantially deſcribed; many queſtions might be propoſed, which now remain unſatisfied. *Recueil Periodique de la Societé de Santé, à Paris, An. viii. Brum. p.* 110.

Citizen Vauquelin has found a new earth in the beryl from Siberia, whoſe properties are the following: 1. It produces with acids ſaccharine, gently aſtringent ſalts. 2. It is ſoluble in vitriolic acid, without

without forming alum. 3. It is ſoluble in ammonia, which ſeparates it from the acids. 4. It has an equal affinity to magneſia as to aluminous earth. It has received the name of glucine, on account of its forming ſweet ſalts with acids. *Journal de la Societé de Pharmacie de Paris.*

We have received a NOTICE from the Cow-pock Inſtitution, by which the Public are informed that genuine Cow-pock matter may always be had there, under the ſeal of the Inſtitution.

Dr. BRADLEY will commence his Summer Courſe of Lectures on the Practice of Phyſic, at the Lecture Room, No. 102, Leadenhall-ſtreet, on Monday, June 2, at ſix o'clock in the afternoon.

Dr. BATTY will begin his Summer Courſe of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery, and on the Diſeaſes of Women and Children, on Monday, June 9, at his houſe, No. 6, Great Marlborough-ſtreet, at eleven o'clock in the morning. Practical Midwifery as uſual. ——N. B. This Courſe will be the only one given during the Summer.

NEW MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS IN GERMANY.

Handbuch der Practiſchen Medicin; i. e. Manual of Practical Medicine. By J. ARNEMAN, Prof. of Medicine at the Univerſity of Göttingen, 8vo. 296 pp. 1800. Göttingen, Rugsrecht.

Syſtem der Practiſchen Heilkunde; i. e. Syſtem of the Practice of Phyſic, &c. By Dr. HUFELAND, Prof. of Jena, 8vo. 1800. Jena, Fromman.

J. S. PALLAS *Species Aſtragalorum Deſcriptae et cum Iconibus Coloratis*; illuſtratae cum Appendice, T. I. et II. fol. 1800. Lipſ. Martini.

Verſuch einer Vollſtandigen Geſchichte der Hernu. Nervenlehre; i. e. Eſſay of a Hiſtory of Neurology. By Prof. HARLES, of Erlangen, 8vo. 1800. Erlangen, Schubart.

To CORRESPONDENTS.

The queſtion propoſed by J. W. cannot be diſcuſſed or anſwered in any periodical work; but we believe that any reſpectable phyſician will give him a ſatisfactory anſwer.

An anonymous correſpondent thinks the caſe of mortification of the bladder, related in our laſt, was a retroverſion of the uterus.

Communications are received from Meſſrs. Leeſon, Hill, Kelſon, Leeſe, Sebaw, Cuſtance, and Mitchell, which ſhall be noticed in due courſe.

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