

The practical explanation of cancer in the female breast : with the method of cure and cases of illustration : with an appendix / by John Rodman, M.D. &c.;

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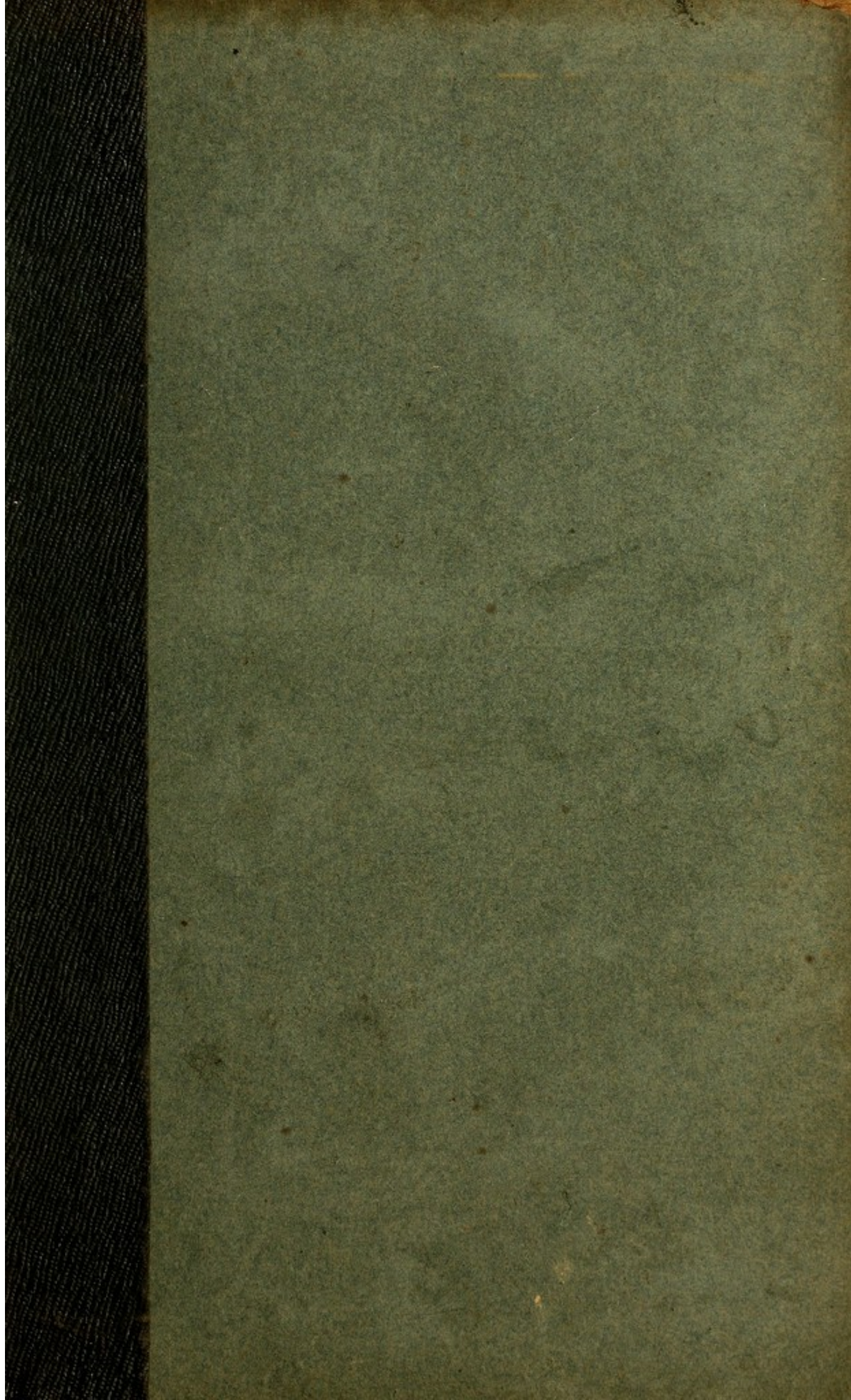
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THE
PRACTICAL EXPLANATION
OF
CANCER

BY JOHN H. DUNN, M.D.

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, AND FIRST ASSISTANT SURGEON

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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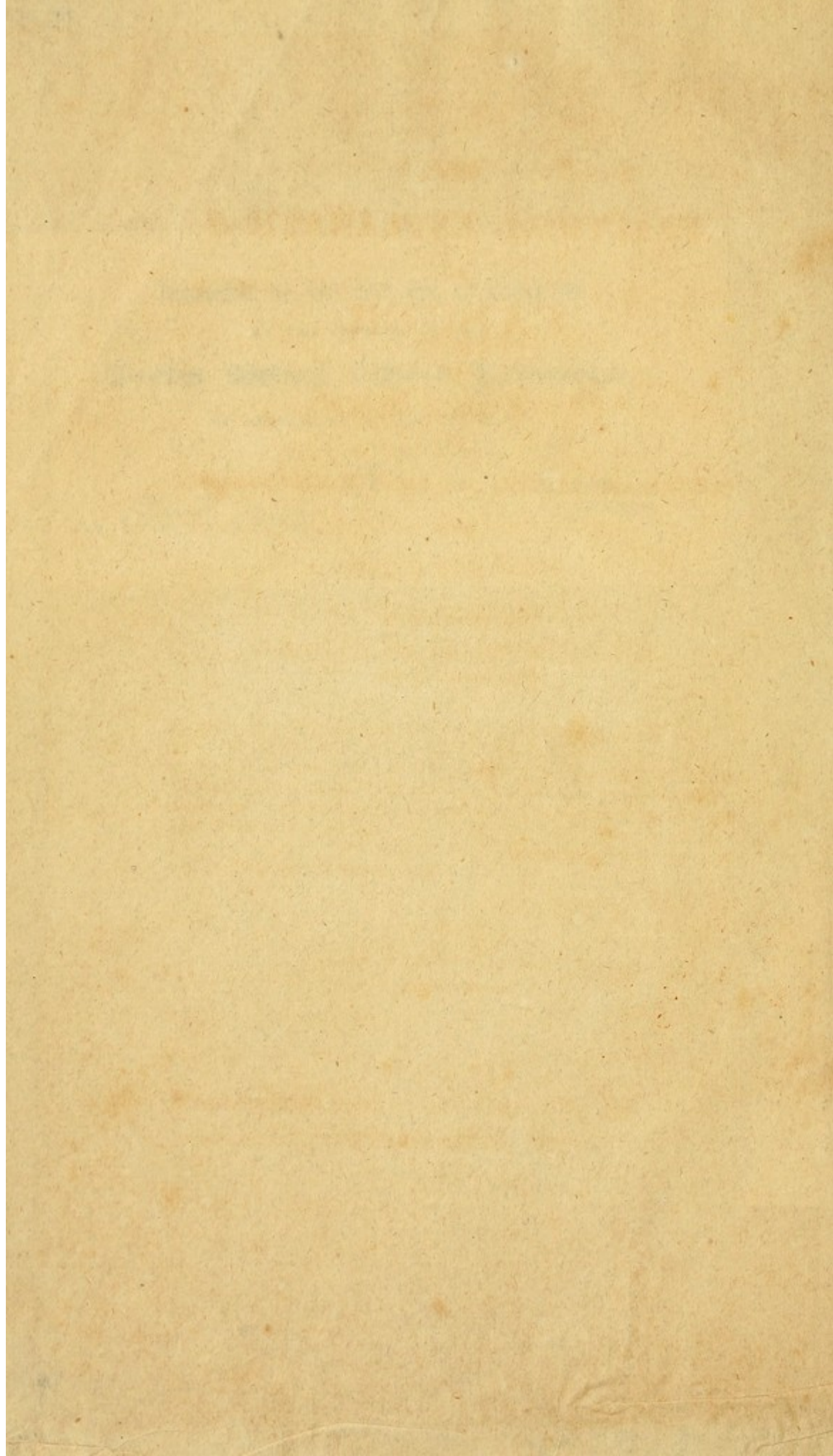
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LONDON

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25, FLEET STREET

1875



THE
PRACTICAL EXPLANATION
OF
CANCER
IN
The Female Breast,
WITH
THE METHOD OF CURE, AND CASES OF ILLUSTRATION.
WITH
AN APPENDIX.

BY JOHN RODMAN, M.D. &c.

"It is genius, and not the want of it, that adulterates philosophy, and fills it with error and false theory. A creative imagination disdains the mean offices of digging for a foundation, of removing rubbish, and carrying materials; leaving these servile employments to the drudges in science, it plans a design, and raises a fabric. Invention supplies materials where they are wanting, and fancy adds colouring, and every befitting ornament."

REID ON THE HUMAN MIND, P. 25.



SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY THOMAS AND GEORGE UNDERWOOD,
32, FLEET-STREET.

1818.

THE
PRACTICAL EXPLANATION
OF
CANCER

OF THE UTERINE DYSPLASIA

WITH

THE METHOD OF CURING AND CAUSE OF THE DYSPLASIA

WITH

AN APPENDIX

BY JOHN RODMAN, M.D.

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SECOND EDITION

LONDON:

PRINTED BY JAMES AND GEORGE ALDRIDGE

IN THE STRAND

1818.

TO
THE MANAGERS
OF THE
DISPENSARY AND HOUSE OF RECOVERY
OF PAISLEY.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING long witnessed YOUR PERSEVERING and ACTIVE ZEAL in behalf of the Dispensary and House of Recovery, I have great happiness, while I present you with this Treatise, to congratulate you on the success of your HUMANE EXERTIONS.

The generous and unwearied interest which you take in every thing that concerns the comfort and health of the Patients belonging to the Institution, demands, and has already ex-

cited the warmest gratitude. May you be long enabled to continue those efforts of Benevolence, and thereby support that Public Approbation the Charity has already acquired.

GENTLEMEN,

With respectful esteem,

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN RODMAN.

PREFACE.

THE first thing that led me in early practice to search after new information on the subject of this Treatise, was a conviction that nothing but some radical mistake, connected with the history, or with the management of the disease, could possibly occasion the contradictory opinions which were given concerning it by the most respectable of the profession. But for several years the search was unprofitable, because, like many others, I had imbibed the notion of some *cancerous* diathesis existing in the patient's constitution, which, by being either innate or accidental, could influence the system in a mysterious manner.

When that notion was weakened by a variety of occurrences, I began to regard the subject in another point of view, and to consider the cause of Cancer as only of a local nature. Yet the numerous proofs which appeared to invalidate this view, increased the embarrassment, without leading to any conclusion

which seemed satisfactory. It was then that I determined to confine my search to one species of the distemper, and strictly to observe how Cancer, in its various stages, could be seen to affect the female breast.

Having ascertained that the tumid appearances, and the painful state of indurated mammæ were generally most considerable when the females were under the influence of alarm, this pointed out the probable power of the mind, and directed to different observations on that principle. Again, from seeing how the diseased symptoms of the mammæ were brought on, and finding that it was possible to subdue these symptoms, the belief that they arose from mysterious or inherent powers, was gradually overcome by the concurrence of such facts.

Notwithstanding these facts, however, it was a considerable time before my mind was dispossessed of the ideas peculiar to the theory of contamination. It seemed highly plausible that a morbid poison, which could harden the glandular substance of the mammæ, might also harden the glands of the vicinity. But the irregular and unaccountable action of this suspected poison rendered its reality doubtful. And as

ancient authors had frequently remarked that a process of hardening was effected by inflammation, it was only necessary, in order to dispel the belief in the illusory poison, to observe how an inflammatory action was produced, and how the hardening of lymphatic glands was accomplished by it.

One step led on to another, while the conclusions were not the results of premeditated data, but the consequences of obtruding truths. So far from trusting to these at once, and soon giving them the place of authority, I was often suspicious of their deception, and alarmed at the danger of relying on them, till proof succeeded proof, and produced conviction.

Thus, during a course of considerable practice, having preserved a journal of cases and observations on the subject, this Treatise is a compilation selected from these, in obedience to the *London Society*, which was instituted for investigating the nature and cure of *Cancer*. The liberal basis of so laudable an Institution, requires no apology for my humble endeavours. And, with due submission, the following annotations are arranged in the view of answers to the respective queries, along with their connecting cases.

To Query 1st.—What are the diagnostic signs of Cancer?—The answers will be found in pages 71, 105, 179, 80, 81, 90, and 208, &c.

To Query 2d.—Does any alteration in the structure of a part take place, preceding that more obvious change which is called Cancer; and if there be an alteration, what is its nature?—Various answers are given in pages 20, 21, 79, 80, 173, and 174, &c.

To Query 3d.—Is Cancer always an original and primary disease; or may other diseases degenerate into Cancer?—Answers are given in pages 81, 57, &c. and 203, &c.

Query 4th.—Are there any proofs of Cancer being an hereditary disease? is answered in pages 61, 175, 59, 60, &c.

Query 5th.—Are there any proofs of Cancer being a contagious disease? is answered by a negative.

Query 6th.—Is there any well-marked relation between Cancer and other diseases? is answered in pages 72, 73, 89, 90, &c.

Query 7th.—May Cancer be regarded at any period, or under any circumstances, merely as a local disease? Or does the existence of Cancer in one part afford a presumption that there is a tendency to a similar morbid alteration in other parts of the animal system? Independently of other observations, this may be answered by referring to CASE XVIII;—to pages 14, 69, 80, and 87, &c.

Query 8th.—Has climate, or local situation, any influence in rendering the human constitution more or less liable to Cancer, under any form, or in any part? An answer is given to this in pages 3, 4, 109, 85, and 83, &c.

Query 9th.—Is there any particular temperament of body more liable to be affected with Cancer than others? If there be, what is the nature of that temperament? Answered in pages 11, 12, 51, 52, &c.

Query 11th.—Is there any period of life absolutely exempt from the attack of this disease? Answered in pages 106, 108, 197, &c.

Query 12th.—Are the lymphatic glands ever affected primarily in this disease? Answered in pages 92, 173, &c.

Query 13th.—Is Cancer, under any circumstances, susceptible of a natural cure? Answered in pages 181, 182, 188, &c.

In the passages to which references are here made, there is no attempt to explain what is obscure, by comparing the cancerous affections of one part of the body with those of another part. It was thought to be a better plan, since the affections of different parts vary in things of fleeting moment, to settle the important circumstances peculiar to the female breast in the first place; because these would remain as steady examples on which to rest for comparative illustration. Hence the whole of this Treatise is conducted upon that principle, both in the arrangement of the observations, and in the selection of cases which explain them.

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ON

MAMMARY CANCER.

CHAP. I.

Feeble Structure of the Female Constitution.

PREVIOUS to any history of such local affections as are intimately connected with Cancer of the Female Breast, it is important to become acquainted with that state of the system which encourages these, in the progress of the distemper. The description of symptoms peculiar to the mamma, and to the system individually, includes a statement of interesting circumstances which I shall endeavour to point out briefly, even although the task should be difficult. But, in order to comprehend them properly, it is necessary to observe certain propensities belonging to the

internal organs of the body, as well as those that belong to the functions of the mind. A variety of these propensities occasions a variation of symptoms, which ought, by practitioners, to be carefully and properly distinguished from each other; not only because they arise from distinct affections, and particular tendencies, but because they lead to the most effectual means of relief.

Certain dispositions of the mind are common in peculiar ranks of society, and to some degree observable in every condition of life, so that they can be traced to the same source, and thus the train of reasoning may be directed concerning them. Some may appear to be of little importance at first, and seem like trifling occurrences, the chance of the moment, which cannot impart information; yet they may be found, afterwards, to impart views of considerable utility.

The pursuits of life present a vast mixture of inducements by which mankind is

allured ; and the female sex display great anxiety to occupy their several departments with activity. The strength of every individual, however, is not alike suited for the continuance of this activity, and many females pine under their exertions, with marks of disease, and evidences of lingering constitutional frailty. Yet nevertheless of such disadvantages, some survive the ordinary periods of existence, under calm composure, and steady deportment, while others fall victims to premature disease, the consequence of negligence, and the result of delicacy.

But without advancing further into this subject at present, I may venture to affirm, that the female system is more complicated, and, for the most part, more delicate than that of the male, therefore more liable to derangement. From particular situations, no doubt, a few females may acquire superior degrees of firmness beyond others, but deviations this way cannot invalidate the general character, since, in polished nations, their limited pro-

vince, and domestic offices, though inbred causes were rejected, must generally maintain the inferiority of their bodily vigour to that of men.

Upon the same principles the mind of females is easier agitated, and on recollecting expressions which irritable and hysterical individuals use, with a view to explain their painful sensations, it will often occur to medical men, that part of such sensations explained by them must in a great measure be ideal. I have seen patients who, while seized with fits of hysteria, and much agitated, were greatly relieved within a short time, by gradually and unexpectedly introducing the subject to which the mind had been long directed, and with which it had always been highly pleased. Truly, occurrences of the same nature will be found under various circumstances, and it may be said that similar incapacities are met with also in the other sex; yet whenever the frame is feeble, and the mind susceptible, mental impressions have a greater

chance to be hurtful, and the constitution of females is often peculiarly liable to those impressions.

Indeed, instances are numerous wherein affections of the mind have brought on severe diseases in this way, and females have often suffered from the influence of the mind alone. It is not uncommon, when several females are in one apartment, if one be seized with convulsive motions, for others, without previous symptoms of the kind, to fall into similar motions instantly ; and it has been known that, unless those patients were removed from hearing and seeing each other, the convulsive disease could not be conquered ; also, that music, and means of a like nature, by amusing the mind, proved profitable remedies in such complaints.

The lively perceptions and quickness of fear, characteristic of a female mind, are not equally active, however, with societies of that sex, nor even with individuals of the same

families, therefore, the belief of these qualities being entailed as an inheritance, cannot be altogether correct. Possibly the cause of diversity in this respect might have remained unnoticed, were not opportunities frequently occurring to contrast how sisters are disposed, and to observe the influence of early education in the dispositions thus given to advanced years. To point out particular cases is unnecessary, for one will seem in frantic alarm, when another appears sedate and prudent, according to the proper effects produced by wise instructions.

This shews that the mind may be habituated to a state of deliberation and care, and, also, that it can be brought to a state of unsafe sensibility, by acquired habits of thinking, as well as by the force of imprudent direction given to it. The former leads into steps for preserving health; the latter into what is contrary: the one is altogether salutary; the other is constantly injurious. Deliberation is soothing to the whole frame; and

irritability of temper, by repeated agitations of mind, keeps up a general ferment. But when the last of these has become a regular habit, without any natural or serious cause of evil, the disturbance of body and mind consequent upon catamenial operations, and arising sometimes from the influence of pregnancy, adds greatly to the tendency at such times, and likewise to the current of injury. If effects be thus so bad when all is moderate, they must be seriously detrimental when an individual so disposed, is attacked with real alarm, settled grief, and unavoidable anxiety.

Without including other idiopathic or casual complaints, there is an affection with which females are afflicted, appearing next to that of an inherent or universal disease amongst them, and this is a state of the stomach whereby digestion of food is often imperfectly performed. The affection may be viewed as relaxation of fibres in the body of the stomach, or described in any light satisfactorily, and therefore receive different names to express

what is meant, but still it is a want of digestive capacity necessary to organs destined for healthy digestion ; and during such a state the bowels are usually constipated. The effects resulting from both of which occurrences, upon all the system, are indisputably hurtful.

The chyle derived from succeeding meals, after undue assimilation, will be bad or worse, and will accordingly depend not merely upon morbid affections of the alimentary organs, but likewise upon materials accumulated within them ; on which account the original affection forms a part, and careless selection of food forms another, in propagating the cause that infects the system. Thus the will is accusable, because, if the inclination for unhealthy aliment gain the superiority over the dictates of reason, it gradually acquires strength, and becomes irresistible.

Here then a scene is opened wherein we have a vast variety of occurrences descriptive

of the manner in which individuals may decline in their general health, and yet be under no acute, or remarkable distemper for a length of time. From different kinds of constitutional delicacy, various degrees of organic affections, and inclinations to gratify the sense of taste, without consulting health, arises a train of corruptive powers, sufficient to contaminate any weakly constitution, and even to shorten the period of human existence.

But, on the other hand, what takes place when rapid emotions are encouraged, and discomposing trifles are magnified in the mind? Among other things, the sickly patient becomes a prey to dejecting, angry, or afflicting passions; anxious for what is improper, unsteady in the suitable adherence to reasonable plans of treatment, and often disposed, by one way or another, to counteract the designs of medical prescriptions. I have often been led, after attending them for years in different complaints, to notice the quickness of words, looks, and actions of females;

and, on comparing these and other appearances with the character of nervous affections, or irritability of temperament, so difficult to treat advantageously, have seldom failed to trace, during the seasons of usual health, that quickness of action, and liveliness of manner were not more observable, than some faulty bias habitual to their judgement which impaired their health. Mental errors may accompany tardy motions likewise, but they are neither so quickly discoverable, nor so rapid in their effects.

Hence the unwise government of the will disposes the mind in two ways to damage a weakly stomach, and consequently the aliment it contains: First, by adopted inclinations for improper kinds and mixtures of diet; and next, by the rapid and frequent effects of temper upon the organs of digestion themselves; the one vitiating the chyle with mischievous materials, and weakening the stomach by their action on its surface; the other weakening it also by agitation, and disturbing

the organs accessory to digestion ; the whole forming a combination of circumstances materially hurtful ; for, when the chyle is unsound, the blood will partake of a similar quality.

It is obvious, after what has now been said, how a feeble frame may be tainted, and how the taint may gain ground in proportion to existing debility as well as dispositions of the mind, different degrees of both being essential, as I have found frequently, to the malignant progress of mammary cancer. But the local affections immediately connected with the mamma are yet to be considered, and some of these appear in very early stages of the disease. Before describing them, however, it will be proper to notice a few symptoms of constitutional indisposition that indicate approaching danger while scirrhus tumors are forming.

The indisposition may have subsisted for a longer or shorter period before the mammary glands be affected ; and according to that cir-

cumstance, the tainted system will be rendered the more obstinate, and individual complaints more or less afflicting. Nevertheless, in different stages of scirrhus, females repeatedly complain of irregular or deficient appetite for food, distention from flatus in the stomach, uneasy digestion after meals, and feelings of acrimony or hotness about the præcordia; with painful, or sickening, or flatulent commotions, disturbing the bowels, which are generally constipated. When these have continued long they are often succeeded with affections which arise from debility, such as fluor albus, wearied soreness of the spine, &c.; and with a symptom common to complaints of the kind, independently of scirrhus—a colour of yellowness in the face. This colour is observable from a dusky white to a strong yellow tinge, though the tinge depends upon previous complexion, as well as sickly disposition, for its striking appearance.

To complete the character of these affections, however, melancholy seems not to be

necessary ; because gloomy ideas may depend upon early habits of thinking, and on dispositions to brood over fancied dangers, although, as experience of bodily comfort is seldom enjoyed under such complaints, uneasy sensations may ultimately sour the temper, particularly if the mind has not been fortified by prudent discipline.

But further, it often happens that patients, who suffer from indigestion in the stomach, imagine the state of that organ correct, merely because they can swallow food ; while the act of eating is more the effect of custom or complacency, than the natural craving arising from emptiness. On this account, and upon several others on the same principle, want of exactness in conduct, and habits of inattentive observation, prevent patients from giving a clear and distinct detail of their feelings, unless the practitioner be able to state questions so as to draw from them what would have passed undescribed. Therefore, to relate every symptom and complaint precisely

as the medical attendant may find them, would require a previous acquaintance with individual circumstances, which cannot be possible ; for, as an eminent author says—
 “ Those self-created miseries, imaginary in the cause, but real in the suffering, will be found to form a proportion of human evils, nor inferior, either in severity or in number, to all that we endure from the unavoidable calamities of life.”

Probably, the reader, by this time, after what he has himself observed corroborative of what have been here stated, will be enabled to remove the veil and see the fallacy of the opinion that latent powers, hidden malignancy, or occult poison pervade the system in the production of mammary cancer ; and will be inclined to lay aside all the theories that are founded upon such speculations, particularly if his own observations confirm the subsequent statements, which, along with the cases, are intended to shew how local affections result as ordinary consequences. And accord-

ingly, he will observe with what facility the sickly frame is disturbed, and how readily cold acts upon it, inducing tedious disorders of the body, and urging on the disease in question, proportionally to the way it is allowed to operate upon the mammary organs.

CHAP. II.

*Disposition of Mammary Glands, and Origination of Tumors.*SECT. I. *Visible Affections.*

THE female breast is known to be very complicated from peculiarity of vascular texture; for while it is interwoven with lymphatics, lactiferous ducts, blood vessels and nerves, the glandular substance is itself divided into little masses, subdivided into still smaller portions. On this account the vessels are not only numerous, many of them are also exceedingly minute, exquisitely sensible, and easily compressed; therefore every uncommon distention of them, is apt to stretch some too much, and obstruct the circulation of fluids in others.

Even in the best of health, each gland, to a certain extent, swells and subsides frequently, from the quantity of fluids which enters the vessels at one time and leaves them at another, so that their contents are often varying in bulk. This variety of contents arises from several causes, but one is the power of uterine influence, by which, at the catamenial periods, fluids are injected into the vessels more abundantly than at the times intervening. And during such a state, it is very usual for partial obstructions to occur, and small knots to form in the body of the breast, without exciting troublesome feelings, or requiring any extraordinary attention. Knots of this kind are generally of short duration, and being customary, exist many times unnoticed.

Thus it is possible to ascertain two important occurrences, in the loading and unloading, consequently the distention and relaxation of healthy vessels belonging to the mammæ; and likewise to observe that these occurrences are effected by powers inherent

in the system, viz. The periodical revolutions common to the uterus. This knowledge affords solutions for two difficulties ; both how the vessels are apt to vary in their size, independently of external causes, and how temporary tumors or knots are formed in the body of the glands.

With these views, therefore, a natural question arises—if such alterations appear on the mammæ in a good state of the body, what is the consequence of them when the body is weakly and irritable, by means of indigestion and mental agitation as mentioned in the first chapter ? An answer is almost self-evident. The consequence then is, that the mammary vessels being acted upon by the same inherent powers, and brought under similar affections, the feelings in the glands are more uneasy, and the local symptoms are more like disease. And it may likewise be added, that this glandular affection is greater at one time than another, according as the body is more or less disordered, and as the system

is disposed at the time to febrile commotion ; so that when temporary knots are produced in the substance of the breasts by catamenial operations, the tenderness of parts around them is, for a time, considerably increased, and during the febrile state the knotty portions amidst the glands are longer of dispersing.

The account just given of operations on the female breast, lays open the periodical affections excited in it, and points out occurrences there, that give occasional trouble, yet the whole is spoken of as happening while that organ is sound ; but when the organ is itself previously diseased, the nature of those affections is very different both in the healthy and in the sickly state of body. At present it may be proper to notice two ways only by which this organ is usually brought into a diseased state : first, by long pressure, and next by sudden violence.

Mammary organs are injured by pressure of various kinds, though the most common is

by tight lacing. This acts gradually ; and as the feelings of pain from it are not severe for some time, they meet with less attention. Nevertheless such a practice commands attention after it has been long persisted in. The sensations at first are slightly perceptible, and easily relieved, by applying the hand to alter the position of the parts, or to slacken the discomposure of bandaging ; however, if the same mode of dressing be continued, frequent relief becomes more necessary, and the application of a hand for that purpose is repeated at shorter intervals. By and by the former lacing cannot be borne, because the breast grows tender, and soon swells under this treatment.

Such a circumstance might be thought sufficient to prevent the like dressing in future, after the diseased disposition has abated from lacing loosely, since common sense teaches, that whatever diseased the breast, and made it tender before, would likely have the same effect again. But in many instances

the lesson is disregarded, and the old way of lacing is resumed, till distress is brought on, and disease of a serious nature is introduced through all the organ.

This organic disease manifests itself by painful swellings, throbbings of the gland, and uneasy sensations of morbid heat and fullness over all the breast; on which account different motions and postures of the body are troublesome, particularly after forcible exercises, which are succeeded with feelings of languor and fatigue.

But this leads me to notice what I have already mentioned, that the mammary vessels, even when healthy, are naturally subject to a state of periodical plethora; a state which is afflictive only when the body is diseased and irritable. Now, if weakness and irritability of the frame, catamenial excitation, and diseased turgidity and tenderness of the breast, in consequence of pressure, be all experienced at

the same time, the individual is greatly disordered, and becomes one of those vexatious cases, wherein Mr Abernethy says "the mammary gland seems to be a nidus for carcinomatous (or cancerous) action;" for then the action may be considered as at its height. Yet the force or degree of each affection may differ in different instances, and still the action may remain in the gland, though often in a milder form.

This action referred to, which is the repeated appearance of distention, obstruction, and relaxation of vessels, is strikingly observable when one mamma has been diseased by tight lacing, and the other has not; for, in such a case, any disturbing influence arising from the system may be seen to operate on the two in a very different manner. Painful collections of swelled glands take place in the one, with tumid lymphatics into the axilla, while the affection of the sound breast is no way remarkable. Thus the con-

trast of affections in both can be traced in many instances, and traced satisfactorily in prosecuting this subject, because the one is always a mark of comparison for the other, under whatever morbid circumstances they are to be examined.

The irritable and afflictive disposition, occasioned by long and frequent pressure, resembles that which arises also in the mamma from violence, in several respects. But the chief difference is, that, in the latter case, a tumor is formed speedily at an early period, whereas, in the former, the appearance of tumors is often transitory. However, both dispositions agree in the vascular tendency to plethoric activity being easily roused, and consequently, in the revival of uneasy or painful sensations. Nevertheless, each affection is liable to modifications, according as the system recedes from, or approaches toward the state of a healthy standard, and especially according to the inconsiderate conduct, or injurious habits resumed by the individual.

Various degrees of irritability are excited, likewise, among the vessels, by the process of a tedious suppuration in the female breast; and whatever application or occurrence had generated this irritability at first, the like renews it more speedily afterward, if again repeated, although in a great measure the irritability had been thought removed. In one way or another, an irritable tendency is much experienced in the vascular structure of the *mammæ*, when delicacy prevails; and this tendency varies in the liveliness of the local sensations from mobility of temper, as well as from the unhealthfulness or frailty of the body. Hence females, who are easily agitated, complain very often of uneasy fullness and heat, and painful distention of the *mammæ*, with uncommon sensibility to the action of external substances, and frequent shooting pains through all the gland. And in this peculiar state cold acts in a very observable manner, producing swelled lymphatics, or lacteals thickened and tense like small cords, with numbers of bulky or clustered

glands dispersed over several parts in the body of the breast ; and it is principally during this affection from cold that shooting pains are felt in it, and these glands are swelled.

Thus having mentioned that condition of the mamma, during the presence of which the action of cold is so powerful, and swelled glands are frequent, I hope to be excused for introducing an extract of what is published by Mr Weldon, respecting a case he treated at Southampton. The patient's name is Elizabeth Bailey, who is said to have had a cancerous tumor in her right breast, which was observed about two years before applying to him, and had increased very rapidly within a few months of that time. At first he could discover no appearance of disease in the glands of the axilla.

She applied to a cancer doctor after this, and, under his care, the tumor became larger, was ulcerated, and attended with lancinating pains that deprived her of rest. On which ac-

count, returning again to Mr Weldon, he found thickened lymphatics running from her breast to the axilla, where he likewise discovered two inflamed glands.

It now appeared to him that the lymphatics and the glands in the axilla had been inflamed by the applications employed, but how far they were affected with the cancerous disease also, was in his opinion a point of obscurity.

Though the pliant nature of the human mind be sometimes a subject of entertainment, its proneness to persist in the direction toward that object to which it is biased, presents an urgent admonition in favour of sound principles for the early impressions. Unquestionably, had a well disposed mind, like that of Mr Weldon's, never been entangled with hypothesis, wherein ideal powers have had a supposed existence given them under the notion of hidden qualities, he would have been pretty well satisfied for a time, in

his case, with knowing what effect the applications had previously produced on the inflamed parts, in rendering them bulky and painful. But the admission of suspected agency, which cannot be recognised, affords a fuller scope to theoretical fancy, than that which reason comprehends, or senses can discriminate ; and following the beaten path of theory, he doubts what share belonged to the influence of something named occult cancer, in filling the newly plethoric vessels.

In defiance of this doubt, however, he tells next that the pain became more tolerable, and the lymphatic glands were lessened in size by the use of remedies. Hence then, latent malignancy, if it be allowed to have acted in this instance, may be considered as having been overcome by means of ordinary applications, for the new symptoms were partly done away during their employment.

The woman had her mind made up, he says, to submit to an operation ; and the pain

she suffered, added to the dread of suffering more, made her extremely importunate to have it performed ; for if it gave her a twelve-month's relief only, she would submit to it.

Does not this resemble the desires of mankind in many things of life? They eagerly wish for a change of circumstances, because the feelings of the present situation are common to them, and those of a future nature, from mistaken views, are represented to the mind as greatly more valuable, until, from sad experience, the mistake be discovered. It will be seen here, in a succeeding chapter, how this importunity would accelerate the disease, and rouse up all the painful sensations.

He proceeds to say he could feel in the axilla only two glands that were diseased, and those quite loose ; and there was some ground for a hope that they were affected with simple inflammation only, occasioned by the absorption of some acrid application, that had

been applied to the breast. It is the best way, continues he, never to remove a cancerous breast after the axillary glands are diseased.

Here I must leave the history of Mr Weldon's case for a little, and notice the assertion never to remove a cancerous breast after the axillary glands are diseased.

And, in the first place, every body knows the uncertainty which hangs over the expression, a cancerous breast, till once the symptoms become very decisive, in the latter stages of scirrhus. This, therefore, can lead to no determinate conclusion. But again, good judges, eminent in our profession, have taken a different view of the subject, and on acting upon it, have been frequently successful. In pages 39 and 40, Mr Abernethy says, I remember an instance where many of the glands (viz. Axillary glands) attained a considerable magnitude. The case was considered as cancerous, and the tumor, (of the breast) and

also some of the diseased glands (in the axilla) were removed, but several were left, and the patient did well.

But to return to the case; Mr Weldon, anxious to believe, that, if the undescribable something, named cancer, could inflame glands, it was more than probable that some of those which were inflamed, had been brought into this state by the acrid applications he knew to be sufficient for that purpose; and he agreed to perform the operation.

The whole breast was removed, a considerable portion of diseased and superfluous integuments, and almost all the surrounding adeps; he making ligatures upon the divided arteries as the operation proceeded. The incision was continued to the axilla, the lymphatics which had appeared to be diseased were dissected out, with a large portion of the adeps surrounding them. The axilla was laid open to remove the two diseased glands

which were observed there, and also, that the patient might have every possible chance, to examine if there were any more diseased glands. He had the mortification (as he expresses it) to find that the whole of the upper cluster of glands in the axilla had undergone a diseased change. [Is not inflammation a disease, and the bulk arising from it a change?] He found that though these glands were not so much enlarged as to be felt externally, they were hardened very much, and pretty firmly united together by a dense cellular membrane. They extended upwards around the blood-vessels and plexus of nerves, forming grooves, through which they passed.

I have witnessed similar operations, and have often been surprised on examining small glands, which, after removing them, because they were thought hard, were nothing more than glandular substance highly inflamed. And if the mind were not prepossessed, every medical man would expect, from the history of this case, to hear that the glands

around the mamma were less or more inflamed.

Mr. Weldon, with a good deal of trouble, partly by drawing them down with his fingers, partly by a careful dissection, removed all the bulky glands he could find, and as much of the cellular membrane as he could with safety. He then discovered a diseased gland situated under the clavicle, before the vessels of the arm, which he drew down with a blunt hook and dissected out. Examining with great care as far as his fingers would reach, he discovered another diseased gland which he could just reach with the end of his finger. It was situated high up under the clavicle in the course of the subclavian vessels, as they pass between the scaleni muscles, and was immoveable by the finger. He was convinced that, if he wished to give his patient the best possible chance of a permanent relief, it was necessary to follow the inflamed glands with resolution; and he was so near to the insertion of the trunk of the lym-

phatics into the subclavian vein, that this gland was perhaps the last which would be found. He made an incision through the integuments along the course of the clavicle, and divided so much of the pectoralis major from the clavicle as he found necessary to come at this gland without endangering the artery and vein. But now he found a couple of glands behind the subclavian muscle, adhering to each other, and the inner of them adhering to the subclavian vessels very firmly. However he removed them carefully, drawing them down with his fingers, and divided the adhesions, partly with his fingers, and partly with the scalpel.

It is little wonder though I am glad to give up the history of this operation, and to add, that no other clustered glands were discovered. But whether to congratulate the reader or not on the patient's surviving such an operation, may be thought disputable. Indeed, dexterity and resolution have been equally praise-worthy in the operator; and

although, from so much cutting, the patient's bodily sufferings during after life were perhaps as severe as those she endured previous to the operation, it is without doubt that the operator performed his duty from the best of motives.

On considering this case, and comparing it with the facts mentioned from the beginning of this chapter, in respect of the female breast, several particulars of the greatest importance are forced upon the mind. I have endeavoured to account for the peculiar condition of the mamma with which every medical man must be acquainted, and that is a disposition brought on in it, from accidental or natural causes, shewing itself in the way of inflammatory action, distinguished by the formation of temporary tumors. Now, it is well known that these tumors consist of small glandular bodies collected together, by reason of the circulating fluids overloading the vessels. What can be expected then in this state of things? Surely the

daily experience of animal functions, and the usual observations from anatomy, are good grounds of probability, that glandular bodies would be similarly affected around the base of such a breast; and even at times, that similar affections will take place to a certain extent among glands within the chest, when an inflammatory action is so considerable in the mamma. Not only so, but as the vessels belonging to the glandular structure contained in the breast, are more than ordinarily subjected to irritations of various kinds about the time of an operation, and also to the diseasing influence of cold which produces inflammatory appearances, it must be admitted that they are singularly exposed, and therefore, that a state of morbid plethora in the surrounding neighbourhood, is apt to be brought on for some time afterward.

If the idea of latent agency could be surrendered, and the intellectual powers were left freely to reasonable conclusions, Mr Weldon's history of the former and lat-

ter stages of his patient's distemper, affords a striking instance, illustrative of what I have stated above: for it is difficult to conceive the severe manner in which females are generally affected, about the time they hear the decided sentence for the extirpation of their breast, and therefore it is not easy to imagine with what rapidity the disease increases immediately after such a sentence. But in addition to this, she put herself under the management of some cancer doctor, after Mr Weldon had told her that the breast must be cut off; and the applications used by him brought on inflammation, swelling, and increased pain in the parts. For these reasons she returned again to Mr Weldon, when he expressed his new fears that it was too late for the disease to be removed by an operation. Hence every circumstance contributed to augment the local inflammation, and also, to introduce serious alarms, as mentioned in the first chapter, by which her health would degenerate. And although Mr Weldon did not begin to operate till the appearance of

active inflammation had abated in all the parts, yet a degree of this action must have still remained there, both on account of the previous affections, and the agitation of mind, which, independently of other views, could not but introduce disease. Thus, when the whole of these are considered, in conjunction with what takes place with a diseased mamma, as stated in this chapter, the discovery of inflamed and clustered glands in the neighbourhood of the breast seems no way singular; and with the cutting and tearing necessary for the removal of such glands, what could be expected under such circumstances, but something like the diseases that succeeded the operation? I find from the detail, that four months after the breast was removed, a sinus in the axilla discharged lymphatic fluid, yet I cannot ascertain how soon lymphatic glands appeared to be enlarged, forming two distinct tumors in her neck, each as large as a walnut, when the history of her case is concluded.

But it becomes necessary for me to return now to the main subject of this chapter, and as what I have already advanced upon it, is matter of fact capable of being enquired into, I expect no reader to credit my assertions till he be fully convinced of their reality.

The disposition in the mammary glands to collect occasionally into tumors, may be illustrated by another occurrence as common as it is obvious, viz. The distress which young healthy females undergo many times with accumulation of milk for two or more days after the birth of a first child. The vessels often are then distended in the mamma along with painful feelings and swellings, accompanied with symptomatic fever; and not long after these commence, clustered glands appear in the shape of tumors, while lancinating pains are experienced severely within the gland of the breast; and at those times the same diseased affections frequently extend into the axilla, and even up to the shoulder. That symptoms of this nature are occasioned by

the immoderate inclination of fluids toward the parts none will deny; yet what would be the consequences, if this inclination were believed to arise from malignant influence? Perhaps some of my readers will recollect of mistakes exactly similar. Neither is it difficult to understand how a mistake of this kind may have happened, because one breast may have been alone diseased some time previously, by suppuration, by external violence, or by accidental exposure to cold; and as this breast would have the same flow of fluids in it as that of the other, the extreme distention of tender parts would necessarily excite more pain there than in the sound breast, consequently, a number of tumors, or by their union to each other, one large tumor might form in it, which, from the lengthened continuance of such a process indurating the tumor, might rouse the customary alarms of malignancy, while the milk was only obstructing the vessels. No medical man can be ignorant, that if one mamma has been long tender, which is the case repeatedly, the distress occasioned in

it when milk is collecting at an early period, is much greater than what is felt in the other ; and likewise, that it then assumes a lumpy appearance more readily. A free suppuration relieves it, and generally removes this tenderness, but the contrary happens when the suppurative action continues long without producing proper pus ; and as certain conditions of the body are necessary to the support of this action, and proper management is equally necessary for the salutary termination of such an action, it is evident that the reverse of these will retard it, which is met with too commonly among patients.

SECT. II. *Probable Affections.*

HAVING seen that, at one time, the vessels of the mammæ are disposed to admit a much greater quantity of fluids than at another, and that these plethoric occurrences form the principal features of chronic affections spoken of by authors, as the irritability

of these organs favourable to the growth of tumors, it may not be amiss to inquire whether the vessels are, then, themselves diseased, and what the nature of the disease is.

To say that mammary vessels are always diseased when the quantity of fluid within them is greater than usual, would be a prominent error; and to believe that they are never diseased when their contents are excessive, would be an equal error: for, independently of uterine influence, it seems indisputable, that they are many times so from external causes, when no remote cause can be assigned.

Yet though the disease were spoken of as a weakness of the vessels, this mode of explanation might probably be thought doubtful, since they often appear as if they were actuated by an increased energy. But that, ultimately, they are weakened, or what is the same thing, that they lose their former power of tension and resistance, and, by yielding to the impelling force, increase in

magnitude, can scarcely be denied in the most of instances.

One thing is certain, however, that the soft parts of animals adhere more forcibly while life is active, than they do soon after death; that is, the same parts will withstand a power of distension in the former state, which, in the latter, would tear them *. For instance, a weight can be raised in or with the hand without damage, while the arm is brought to a horizontal position; and the same weight, calculated according to mechanical powers, might be sufficient to tear the arm from the dead body. Now, with respect to the living parts, this greater force of comparative adhesion which they possess, may, probably, be considered as synonymous with the greater

* By experiments undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining this fact, I have regularly found that the weight which the limbs of a living frog resisted, was more than sufficient to tear off those of a dead frog.

force of tension which the vital energy communicates to such parts ; a greater or smaller portion of which (if the expression be allowable) can be conveyed from one part of the body to another, and, by thus exciting the antagonist muscles alternately, the movements of the extremities are accomplished, &c. These are generally said to be affected by the will. But is the will, in such a sense, the alone power which imparts vigour or tension to the muscles? If this were simply so, the muscular strength of a feeble, yet ill natured person, would often be more considerable than it is. Would it not be more reasonable to allow, that the spirit of animation, the nervous influence, or whatever name is given to the immediate cause of human life, is the living principle which the will directs to those muscles? Then it would be granted that this principle is capable of becoming more plentiful in one part than another, and consequently that such parts acquire more tension ; and also, when the mammary vessels are turgid, that, by the effects of disease, a greater

degree of tension is thus communicated to adjacent vessels, which impels the fluids towards the others whose resistance is least. It is difficult to deny that a power like this is communicable, or in other words, that a power of contraction is observable in vessels, leading in some such way to the explanation of their disease.

Dr. D. M'Bride says, in his *Theory and Practice of Medicine*—"Although the Motion of the blood throughout the arteries depends, in a great measure, on the power of the heart, exerted at the centre, yet it does not entirely depend on this power; for we often observe, that the velocity of the blood shall be increased in particular sets of blood-vessels, at a distance from the heart, sometimes, in consequence of various passions, and sometimes from the application of things which have an irritating quality." Vol. I. p. 30.

And I have myself observed, while examining the web of the frog's foot, with the

assistance of a microscope, that the velocity of the blood was increased in the web, by slightly irritating it, so as scarcely to disturb the animal; likewise, that globules were occasionally interrupted within the capillary vessels, as if, for a time, the vessels had been contracted, and had again been relaxed by the addition and abstraction of an exciting power that fluctuated.

But, indeed, Professor Thomson, of Edinburgh, has favoured the profession, by publishing his Lectures on Inflammation, in which he communicates some ingenious experiments upon this subject. He found, not only, that the circulation was increased, but also, that the arterial branches contracted in the web of the frog's foot, by the application of particular fluids. In page 84, he says, "But the first, and most remarkable visible effect of the contraction of the artery from the application of ammonia, was a diminution in the velocity of the circulation in the capillary vessels, with which the contracting artery

communicates. When the contraction is complete, a temporary stagnation in the capillaries, with which the contracted artery immediately communicates, is often produced. This diminished circulation in the capillaries often informs us of the contraction which is taking place, before the contraction itself becomes perceptible. Besides this diminution in the capillary circulation, the contraction of the artery is in most instances accompanied with an obviously diminished size of the corresponding veins."

CASE I.

16th *September* 1811.—At the time I write this, M. W. is about fifty years old, without having been married, and it is more than thirteen years since she became my patient. During that period I have attended her many times for complaints, which generally bore the hysterical character, and also for an affection of her left breast, which, I have reason to believe, had been occasioned by some

slight kind of violence she has forgotten.

For several years at first the affection varied very much in its severity, but whenever it became excessive, the pains were lancinating, and always commenced at one spot on the superior margin of the breast, from which they darted like rays from a centre. At such times the breast was all swelled and tender, with strong appearances of glandular inflammation, when the painful spot was easily distinguished by a pea-like tumor formed there, which sometimes continued months successively.

Although this tumor could regularly be felt during relapses of the complaint, and sometimes much larger than at others, it often happened that tumors were also discoverable for a number of days in different parts of the breast, and even in the axilla. Yet the cause of these relapses being found out, such as cold, bruises, &c. every like cause was avoided, and

purgatives, fomenting the parts, rubbing with ung. camph. or sometimes venesection, were, beside strict attention to regulate the temperature of the body, always sufficient to subdue the complaint, and gradually to dispel the tumors. Indeed, every new attack of the disorder was either treated according to this plan, or mitigated by means of local warmth, which she knew herself to be beneficial; while her constitutional complaints were treated in the usual manner.

In this way the plethoric disposition of the vessels was overcome, and when I examined her carefully toward the end of the year 1813, some time after the menstrual operations had forsaken her, the breast was quite sound, having no tumor or any other appearance of disease in it.

CHAP. III.

The Locality of Mammary Disease, arising from Affections of the Mind.

ONE evil is very frequently the parent of others. When the mind has been trained up, practically, to disregard the concerns of health, the value of that enjoyment seems as if it were thought to be unworthy of esteem. Yet the same individuals who trifle with their own lives in such a manner, become insensible to their general conduct, and, as I have already said, ruin the salutary functions of their body for a time, imperceptibly.

Therefore, while this may be named the passive state of the mind, injurious to the œco-

nomny of the human frame, there is an active state now to be considered, which deserves particular attention, because it accelerates the apparent growth of mammary indurations more speedily perhaps, by the locality of its influence, than any other morbid cause whatever. And as the frame suffers from inattentive practices, so the mind is weakened by the same, till, on the approach of danger, the powers of reason be aroused. Then, though not till then, life seems highly precious. Privations, pains, indeed, no other thing is comparable, at such times, with the value of life. The same individual who, lately, would scarcely forego some trivial gratification for the purpose of averting danger, will now submit to the most lively tortures, that life may be purchased for another twelve months.

Hence, in proportion to the former improvident conduct of the female, so will be the tumultuous and afflictive nature of her thoughts ; which, along with peculiar degrees

of delicacy, may account for many varieties in the progressive advances of the complaint.

And it is truly astonishing, that while misguided behaviour of patients quickens the progress of mammary cancer, professional speculations, misguided by fancy, will be found as if they were directly intended to produce the same effect. Every person is aware of the different emotions produced in the mind, upon meeting an open and plainly seen foe, from that of encountering a similar enemy under darkness and obscurity. The similitude is applicable. It is not the feeling of present sufferings which alarms females so much when the mamma is affected, as the contemplation of those that are yet to be felt; and what is worse, those that are said to be occasioned by some mysterious, yet violently malignant powers, whose operations resemble the transfusable nature of an aerial agent, which cannot be seen.

In his Theory of Moral Sentiments, Dr Adam Smith exemplifies the force of mental

conceptions, by pointing out their effects on the human body, particularly wherever weakness and uncommon sensibility are observed to prevail; and an authority of this kind is gratifying, because it strengthens the truths to be brought into view, leading to experimental attention for the purpose of vindicating their veracity.

He says, page 2, &c. "As we have no immediate experience of what other men feel, we can form no idea of the manner in which they are affected, but by conceiving what we ourselves should feel in the like situation. Though our brother is upon the rack, as long as we ourselves are at our ease, our senses will never inform us of what he suffers. They never did and never can carry us beyond our own person, and it is by the imagination only that we can form any conception of what are his sensations. Neither can that faculty help us to this any other way, than by representing to us what would be our own, if we were in his case. It is the impressions of our

own senses only, not those of his, which our imaginations copy. By the imagination we place ourselves in his situation ; we conceive ourselves enduring all the same torments ; we enter as it were into his body, and become in some measure him, and thence form some idea of his sensations, and even feel something which, though weaker in degree, is not altogether unlike them. His agonies, when they are thus brought home to ourselves, when we have thus adopted and made them our own, begin at last to affect us, and we then tremble and shudder at the thought of what he feels. For as to be in pain or distress of any kind excites the most excessive sorrow, so to conceive or to imagine that we are in it, excites some degree of the same emotion, in proportion to the vivacity or dullness of the conception.

“ That this is the source of our fellow-feeling for the misery of others, that it is by changing places in fancy with the sufferer, that we come either to conceive or to be af-

fectured by what he feels, may be demonstrated by many obvious observations, if it should not be thought sufficiently evident of itself. When we see a stroke aimed, and just ready to fall upon the leg or arm of another person, we naturally shrink and draw back our own leg or our own arm; and when it does fall, we feel it in some measure, and are hurt by it as well as the sufferer. The mob, when they are gazing at a dancer on the slack rope, naturally writhe and twist and balance their own bodies, as they see him do, and as they feel that they themselves must do if in his situation. Persons of delicate fibres and a weak constitution of body, complain, that in looking on the sores and ulcers which are exposed by beggars in the streets, they are apt to feel an itching or uneasy sensation in the correspondent part of their own bodies. The horror which they conceive at the misery of those wretches affects that particular part in themselves more than any other; because that horror arises from conceiving what they themselves would suffer, if they really were

the wretches whom they are looking upon, and if that particular part in themselves was actually affected in the same miserable manner. The very force of this conception is sufficient, in their feeble frames, to produce that itching or uneasy sensation complained of. Men of the most robust make, observe, that in looking upon sore eyes they often feel a very sensible soreness in their own, which proceeds from the same reason; that organ being in the strongest man more delicate than any other part of the body is in the weakest."

Thus Dr Smith illustrates the effects of sympathy, by varieties of powerful imaginations which occasion feelings of uneasiness, and which originate wholly with the fellow-feeling that subsists amongst mankind. Yet even in this, susceptibility is found to differ in different constitutions, and also in different parts of the human fabric; the result appearing to depend upon the power of impression, and the lively manner in which the feel-

ing is conceived. And if such be the case, from reciprocal affection, few people will deny that the selfish passions are generally strong, and naturally keener, whenever painful suffering, or private danger is threatened ; consequently, that though we feel for others, the conception penetrates deeper when it refers to ourselves, and, therefore, that the painful disturbance produced by this conception becomes the greater.

There is a peculiar sympathy which reigns amongst females respecting cancer of the mammæ. Many feel afflictive sensations of concern, whenever they hear of another being distressed with a mammary tumor named cancer. They reflect upon the calamities of this distemper with feelings of horror, particularly because the extent of these calamities is unknown, and because obscurity involves every relative circumstance, while they anxiously compassionate the state of the patient. Their interest in her ailments gains upon them, and, brooding over ideal miseries,

unhinges the mind, till the frame is disturbed, and disorder commences in their own breast. Hence the lively conception of sufferings from the mammæ of others, affects these organs in themselves, by their attention resting upon them, which, in progress of time, occasions a painful plethora at a similar part.

But the case is still worse, when any of these females have a breast in which a tumor of the same kind is growing. It may often have produced fears and suspicions, when local pain was roused by new disease, and became a cause of agitation; yet as the pains abate, the fears generally subside, and the return of ease leads on to tranquillity. However, under all this, the hope of its not being really cancer, supplies consolatory support, and the mental influence ceases to disturb the gland. Whereas every consolation is speedily done away, by hearing that an acknowledged judge pronounced another tumor true cancer, known

to have had the same origin, the same symptoms, and the same appearances. There is a natural alarm excited, now, for private safety, and this alarm, sharpened by sympathy for the other female, enters the mind so forcibly that its effects may be observed in a few hours, from swelling, uneasy warmth, and uncommon tenderness of the whole breast, with lancinating pains, and an increasing fullness all round the tumor.

It is from the workings of this latent agency, the mind, that the well known fact may be explained, of mammary affections being more active in some districts of a country than in others. And practitioners have often remarked, that an unusual number of females seek after medical advices for diseased *mammæ*, about the time of a cancerous breast having been cut off in their neighbourhood. The alarm spreads quickly amongst them, and those who think they have complaints of the kind, by musing upon the agonies of an

operation, or the ravages of the disease, bring these views home to themselves, and lose all power to restrain their fears. In such a state the mamma is the object on which imagination settles, and in which it causes plethoric swelling, that soon enlarges a small tumor, hurrying the unguarded sufferer to steps of precipitation.

It need scarcely be mentioned, that, in this way, the mind is not influenced alike in every individual. As some have more strength of body, so some have more stability of mind than others. But according to the defect in one or both of these, or according to habits of indulging in fearful emotions, as already mentioned, it generally happens that the mental influence is more powerful, and the local disturbance more afflicting, so that this explanation is capable of clearing up two difficulties—the one how the disorder appears to be hereditary, and the other how darting pains may be augmented or diminished at pleasure.

What is the reason that a system which appears to be fair deductions from facts, turns out so often erroneous? Perhaps it is frequently owing to some occurrences, named facts, resulting from irregular and unknown powers, which, by being fixed upon as the foundation for general inferences, misleads the framer, inadvertently, who is averse to laborious investigation. It was easier to suppose an hereditary disposition in mammary cancer, when mothers and daughters were its victims, than to search for the way that such an event happened. But indeed any search may be rendered fruitless if its principles be false, and now the notion of something like a cancerous halitus is seen to partake of deception; for the hereditary taint may be traced in voluntary actions, since the daughter too often inherits faulty dispositions practised by the mother; both from the force of natural propensities toward imitation, and habitual feelings of pleasure derived from the free gratification of desires. Thus fretfulness

of temper, and superfluous anxiety, which sharpen the mental feelings, are not uncommon as maternal legacies.

If the daughter have long witnessed her mother's agonies before death, continuing to remember her grievous complaints with deep impressions, and, hearing of the complaint to be hereditary, becomes convinced that a similar fate must soon be her own, it cannot excite much surprise though she sink under gradual emaciation, and imagine that every pang in her breast is only a prelude to what her mother endured from cancer of the same organ. When a case of this kind occurs, there need be little difficulty in the discovery of a cause for hereditary affection, and also for lancinating pains. These pains vary both in frequency, and in severity, according to the manner in which the individual's mind is capable of being affected ; and it is well known that this capacity depends greatly upon dispositions of conduct mentioned in the first

chapter, as well as peculiarities of disease. In place of holding up that pains of this kind indicate a cancerous tendency, in affections of the mammæ, their existence in such a state of mind discovers the degree of deeply settled grief, mingled with terror, which, in many cases, can be changed for a considerable length of time, merely by gratifying the mind unexpectedly, or engaging the attention agreeably without allowing the object to be suspected.

CASE II.

AN unmarried lady took suddenly ill, and though her complaints were very irregular, she had sickness, headach, quickness of pulse, interrupted breathing, and symptoms of general agitation for some time, which seemed unaccountable; also several other ailments, occasionally, that varied much in the way of affecting her.

She continued ill for a number of months, and her health was restored at last, by sea-bathing, and agreeable society, when I obtained the following information.

Previous to the illness, a female friend, while conversing with her, had entered into a long detail about some cancerous mamma, and had told her all she knew concerning its amputation, the appearances, the sufferings, and the medical remarks ; the whole forming a history which was particularly fitted to produce feelings of horror in the female mind.

The friend was not long absent after giving this narration, when the lady began to digest the leading objects of the story, and the occurrence of darting pains had been a part of the subject which was chiefly canvassed. She brooded over all the circumstances with serious interest, and the more they occupied her attention, the distresses were the more magnified in her thoughts, till, in a few hours,

she began to feel darting pains entering into her own left breast, with a considerable degree of uneasiness through all the gland.

Though no former disease had been felt in this breast, it occurred to her, that cancer had, perhaps, been forming there without her knowledge, and that she might have been still ignorant of it, unless she had received the recent information of darting pains being particularly noticed by medical men as marks of the distemper. Her alarm went on, her stomach was soon affected, costiveness ensued, and the breast became swelled and troublesome.

Thus, while disease was growing, and she experienced an increasing frequency of mammary pains, her resolution to conceal them, and never to speak of such an affection, became the stronger; and her reason was, that she would never submit to have her breast cut off, which she thought, if a medical man were told all her sufferings,

would be his first advice, because no other thing could be done.

In this way she struggled with a series of fears and hopes, keeping the primary cause of affliction to herself. Yet although the disorder of the breast gradually abated, and ceased in about two months, the consequence was great debility of body, accompanied with such an irritability of mind, that she could not divest herself of afflicting thoughts which distempered her frame for a long time after.

CASE III.

A lady consulted me in the year 1797 for an oval tumor in her left breast, as large as an ordinary plumb, which arose from the accidental stroke of a man's elbow. She had been three months troubled with it before I was applied to, and the whole gland was exceedingly tender, with general swelling, and tense tumid lymphatics.

Her habit of body was delicate, and she was subject to sickness and indigestion, which occasioned other complaints, and generally augmented the uneasy feelings in the mamma. But whenever a temporary fever was induced by cold, the mammary disorder became painfully worse, and soon appeared as the chief morbid affection. The treatment first adopted was leeching, when local inflammation was strongly indicated, and general blood-letting, when it became necessary for other affections of the system that quickened the distemper within the breast.

If renewed inflammatory appearances afterward in the breast were moderate, chamomile fomentations and cataplasms became particularly useful. They generally reduced the swelling, and caused an abatement of painful sensations, when resorted to at the commencement of such ailments. The application of warm vinegar, camphorated spirits, and sometimes laudanum frequently proved serviceable. From time to time she likewise used medicines

for the purpose of strengthening the digestive organs, and preserving a soluble state of the bowels. Little persuasion was required in order to force attention to these means. Uncommon weakness in the stomach, or a considerable increase of costiveness soon revived the uneasiness in the mamma, and that uneasiness she carefully noticed. Other local means and plans of an invigorating nature were pursued according to circumstances. But the method mentioned conveys a general view of the mode of prescription, along with pointed care for the preservation of proper warmth in the body, and in the diseased breast, which was not neglected. Within three years the disease was so completely subdued in this way, that little evidence of a mammary tumor could be traced. The body of the gland was only somewhat delicate, and more easily disordered by injurious casualties than the other breast.

In 1809, after the mamma had been long healthy, a female whose welfare interested

the lady greatly as an intimate friend, had a breast amputated for a distemper which was pronounced inveterate cancer. Immediately upon hearing of this event, the lady recollected that there was a similarity of the two disorders about ten years back, and having seen the female not long before the operation without any thing of the kind being spoken of, her alarm was instantaneous. A sudden pain assailed her formerly diseased breast, and soon rendered her incapable of attention to assist another person in like circumstances. She busily contrasted the complaints and the result; and because of the violent pain which was fast increasing, she had no doubt of speedily suffering under the same kind of operation, and endeavoured to bring her mind into a state of submission. As was to be expected, this attempt increased the evil, and she became inconsolable. Painful swelling of the breast came on to an alarming degree, and I remarked that the other breast gave her no uneasiness even under such mental agitation.

The disturbance appeared only in the breast which continued to be the subject of her fear.

During this state of mind, the whole glandular substance of the mamma became firm and bulky. Lancinating pains were frequent and severe, returning at times with such violence, that close conversation with a stranger in company could not prevent the rapid and involuntary application of her hand upon the affected breast. In this manner the disease advanced for several days, and all my endeavours to mitigate her distress proved unavailing, until I gained an ascendancy over her perturbed imagination, and brought her to credit my protestations that there was positively no cancer in the breast. After obtaining her confidence in my assertions, composure of mind ensued, the swelling of the breast diminished, and the pains gradually abated. The remedies which she had used to little purpose when the mind was agi-

tated, were now effectual, and removed the disorder. Topical warmth was strongly recommended, as being necessary for some time after, and in a few weeks all was well.

CHAP. IV.

Indurations, or Tumors of the Female Breast.

SCIRRHUS, and *Cancer*, are terms which seem by common use to have become synonymous; and from the bewildering ambiguity of the expression, *occult cancer*, every induration of the gland in the female breast is liable to the name cancer, which is easily and very universally applied.

There are exceptions to such names, no doubt, but are these exceptions, with respect to mammary tumors, decisively communicable? They always cannot; because the ex-

ceptions are sometimes made, when there is no perceptible line of certainty between them, unless it exist indistinctly in the author's imagination. For instance, where is the mark which will regularly point out a tumor to be scrophulous at an early period of its appearance, and a similar tumor to be cancerous? Some may say this is easy, and in many cases it is so. But all will admit that very eminent men have found it extremely difficult to determine this question. Nor can it be otherwise till a positive boundary be agreed upon for detecting the connection of each disease.

But though it were granted that tumors which are formed and stationary in the breast, are malignant, if not scrophulous, in other words, are apt to be vitiated by hidden influence, if not produced by the taint of scrophula, then it might follow as a conclusion, that this taint supersedes the vitiating power; and thus a happy conclusion would be afforded to families who inherit scrophula, were the female

part convinced that a family disease is able to protect them against the attacks of such malignant powers.

However well meant the design has been at first, when the name occult cancer was given to the structure of a tumor, and open cancer to an ulcerated state of that tumor, the use of such names must, in these days, be depreciated by every reflecting mind. Had the term cancer ever been intended to denote an agent which it was possible to observe under any circumstances, the two stages of the disease would have remained plain and simple. But the cause of ulceration is as intricate as the cause of induration, while the former is said to be open, and the latter hidden. And if these names were designed to signify, that because the one state was open ulceration, the other was hidden ulceration, it is at once obvious that nothing of the kind has ever been admitted. Thus the use of such names appears to have been arbitrary. Yet it is strange how the same names have

excited credulous and extravagant notions in the minds of the two classes of mankind. The learned have spoken of cancer as a something possessing unseen, unlimited, and unnatural influence ; the unlearned speak of it as an animal, the length of whose claws is beyond the reach of man.

At one time I determined to enumerate the various opinions of deservedly esteemed authors, on the subject of mammary tumors, and, following their description of the tumors they call cancers, and those that are not allowed to be so in the early periods of the disease, to trace their own views ; then to contrast the whole together, that it might be seen how they had increased the difficulty of treating the complaint, and not advanced many steps in the view of utility for more than a hundred years. But it was not long till the value of such an attempt was seen to be nugatory. For, though it might have convinced some, that the tendency of the different speculations is strangely incoherent, since every

tumor might be accounted malignant, while every mamma is liable to the sudden formation of a tumor, the exposure of each absurdity might be lost, so long as the views of latent poisons are kept up. While views of that kind prevail, it does not appear that any mode of argument against them can be effectual.

Yet it is honourable to the present age, that the unsatisfactory flights of genius are less encouraged than they have been. The sober simplicity of experience is fast gaining upon medical practitioners ; and in place of considering mammary indurations as the consequence of morbid poisons, many find that their treatment of such indurations has become more successful, since they have regarded them in the light of diseases which arise from ordinary causes. They have seen tumors that were frequently roused to diseased action by accidental circumstances, which, from the wise and composed conduct of the patient, and the appropriated use of means, never indicated any symptom of poison in the

gland of the breast ; while they have witnessed females whose minds were unsteady, easily agitated at one time with unnecessary fears of danger, and irregularly attentive at another to the concerns of health, for whom it was difficult to propose any plan of management which could prevent symptoms from appearing like the action of poison over all their bodies.

Although the study of morbid anatomy has proved unspeakably serviceable in the detection of disease, it was thought that the real cause of cancer could not be ascertained, merely, by the examination of morbid parts, and, on that account, other plans were adopted with a view to accomplish this object. Every opportunity was eagerly embraced in order to search after the habits of life, the mental dispositions, and the length of time females had been affected, as well as to examine the internal structure of the tumors, after varieties of these circumstances, and, on comparing all together, it was striking to notice how the dissimilarity of texture, and dispo-

sition of morbid masses seemed to be connected with voluntary conduct. But why extend these remarks, when similar observations have been handed down from distant periods.

Let it be supposed that a tumor is suddenly formed in the mamma by means of violence, and that, for some time after, the breast continues to swell, and the tumor to become bulky. This will be universally allowed as the effect of an inflammatory process. In the course of two or three weeks, though no remedies be used, the tumor may disappear by care and attention, and this will be allowed to occur from the activity of the process having ceased. But if the tumor remain in the breast, every new inflammation there will add to its size, or increase its density, and in this way the vessels immediately around it will be disturbed, which is exactly the manner that such tumors are at first supported, and the surrounding parts are brought into disease. And as it is known how easily

the local inflammation may be revived by imprudent practices, and how certainly it may be diminished by proper management, the reason for blaming every kind of conduct by which the inflammatory process and the growth of such a tumor are maintained, can at once be seen. For if, for several years, a medical man were carefully attending a patient in whose breast a tumor was frequently troublesome, he would often feel the tumor larger and smaller, and yet, were he precise in his examination, he might find that the variations of size are not so much, strictly speaking, in the substance of the original tumor, as in the changes effected by the varying plethora of the neighbouring vessels.

When the substance of the gland is pressed by the fingers, round a tumor consolidated in the mamma, it is not the dimension of the tumor which is usually perceived; the glandular substance intervenes. Neither would the magnitude of a pea be readily distinguished, by grasping with the hand,

were it embodied in down. And it is perfectly evident, while the glandular vessels are uncommonly full, and partially obstructed, that the pliability of their texture must be modified by the degree of the fulness ; and the sensation of bulk, although the tumor were remaining as before, must often depend upon that modification.

And during such occurrences there is a peculiarity which deserves particular notice. The vascular parts immediately connected with the surface of the tumor may have been frequently diseased, that is, very often subject to dispositions of a turgescient nature, previous to the settled formation of the tumor, and thus the feeling of the glandular structure around the tumor will yield a very remarkable sensation while the turgescence abounds. The tumor may then be considered as the nucleus, and the structure as the diseased areola ; or these parts may be considered as a solid centre, whose morbid condensation decreases according to the magnitude

of the circumference, that which is nighest the tumor being generally the hardest.

In this way the immediate cause of consolidating the glandular substance is rendered obvious, and the process of hardening and growth is distinctly observable; because the circumference of condensed matter is always most extensive while the local inflammation, or vascular turgidity is greatest; and when such a state of inflammation is repeatedly occasioned, and carelessly encouraged after it is occasioned, the small glandular bodies around the tumor continue to harden, and, adhering to its surface, become part of its body.

Hence we need not wonder how an induration remains indolent for a considerable length of time, in the breast of one female, while, in that of another, an induration passes more speedily into a state of great disease. The morbid production depends upon the frequency, and also upon the continuance of

the inflammatory process, both for its bulk and for its figure. The hardness results, likewise, from similar causes; and as for the arrangement of fibrous texture, in the internal structure of a diseased mass, it seems to occur in consequence of various degrees of the inflammatory process, which, by taking place while the body is affected with different degrees of indisposition, may be viewed as almost sufficient to produce an endless variety.

Here are plain reasons, therefore, why the descriptions given to mark out cancerous tumors have been so frequently mistaken. Authors have endeavoured to rely on symptoms, and to describe external appearances, for the purpose of establishing marks which were to be decisive of an existence they could only conceive, while they themselves were occasionally misled by them. It is but a few years since a female breast was cut off in a public hospital, in presence of some medical men of high character, after which the surgeon told the spectators that he would

shew them the nature of a cancerous affection. But when he opened the separated mamma, a great quantity of pus was discharged, and the solid parts appeared quite sound.

CHAP. V.

The Influence of Cold.

IT is an established truth that cold will bring disease on the human fabric more certainly, soon after the body has been weakened and fatigued by exertions, than it will when all the functions of active vigour are enjoyed. It is equally true that one person will be sooner fatigued than another, according to the degrees of delicacy, and that the same person will not experience an equal reduction of strength, at all times, after the same degree of exertions.

Another truth deserves to be noticed. The share of strength in an infirm person, though soon diminished by the excess of any engagement, is, after the diminution, long before it be recruited. The length of time necessary by rest to recover what is lost, depends, in a great measure, on the force of inherent powers, and on the freedom from debilitating disease: And, therefore, a stout healthy individual recovers very soon from the fatigue brought on by violent exercise.

Facts like these direct to useful precautions, and explain with what facility the female system may thus be injured. The innate weakness of the sex, the natural indispositions, the secluded manner of life, indeed, all the circumstances belonging to constitution, and connected with situation in society, render females peculiarly liable to those diseasing affections which arise from the occasional exposure to cold. But, in order to derive advantage from such views, it may be

proper to venture a few observations, first, on some symptoms (when no very active distemper is occasioned) by which it appears that cold infects the digestive organs, and next, on other symptoms which shew how cold acts on a part of the body through the medium of the body, and a part itself abstractly considered.

Delicate females are often infected by cold when the disease introduced by it can scarcely be arranged in the order of any classification of diseases. Yet its influence in this way does not barely depend upon ordinary degrees of coldness, when the climate is moderate. Its sensible effects are chiefly hurtful on passing into changes from a higher to a lower temperature; and similar effects have sometimes been known to originate in sudden changes from a low to a high temperature. Both of these changes affect the constitution, although it is certainly of great importance to observe the particular state of the body at the time, as well as the quantity

of heat lost, while it is intended to notice how the variations of heat and cold are injurious.

The length of time the individual is acted upon is also another consideration of great interest. The detriment produced by the first sense of chilliness may be bad enough ; yet the lengthened experience of chills must undoubtedly be worse ; because the more the body is diseased, the more it must suffer while under the diseasing influence.

As the feeble nature of the female constitution is universally admitted, the observations offered here, are intended to mark the principles on which the danger rests, during the time that females are subjected to the chilling effects of cold. It has already been seen that indigestion is a very common and hurtful complaint among the sex. Every thing, therefore, which has a tendency to increase this complaint, tends, infallibly, to increase the disposition to disease. If they be overheated and fatigued,

then for some time exposed, in this state, to a current of cold air, or other cold medium, the sense of immediate injury may, perhaps, be trifling, yet sickness at stomach and an unhealthy colour of the excretions is apt to come on the following day. This shews how easily a weak stomach may be affected, for the powers of digestion will be felt in a disordered state till such effects have disappeared. Not only so, but a considerable languor of body, and an increased constipation of the bowels will often be experienced, for a day or two, after an occurrence of this kind.

The principles on which to explain how cold disturbs the powers of digestion, are much the same of those on which to observe how cold distempers the female breast; because, if the disease of the gland be such as that which is mentioned in the first section of the second chapter, cold impairs digestion according to the principles just mentioned, and infects the breast at the same time.

When the body is much cooled, either by the action on the trunk, or by the cooling process on the extremities, the sense of chilliness is stronger in the diseased breast than in any sound part. Each chill is felt in its passage, and lodges in the breast with painful sensations.

Thus cold seems to introduce local disease as certainly, if heat be abstracted by means of a small portion of the body, as by that of a greater, though the effects of the one must be more rapid than those of the other. However it does not appear that disease of the mamma arises from the abstraction of heat, simply considered, but from the quantity abstracted being more copious, in a given time, than that which is generated; for the gland is disordered whether the female be chilled by the thin covering of the mamma, or the thin covering of the body; only, if the former state be the cause of chilling sensations, while the body is better defended, it is long be-

fore the mamma recovers the local warmth which is necessary to the healthy functions of the part.

Every body knows how readily a weed occasions a tumor in the female breast, and none can be ignorant that this circumstance depends upon the action of cold during a peculiarly susceptible condition of the body. But when the breast is previously in a tender and diseased state, the susceptibility is chiefly in the gland itself. And when a tumor originates in the breast, in consequence of cold, it need not be difficult to ascertain the augmentation of one in that organ, after the disturbing influence of cold has been repeatedly acting on the part.

We have seen in a former chapter that the mental influence soon swells the mammary vessels, and produces symptoms of active inflammation among them. We have likewise seen in the preceding chapter, that the glandular substance gradually condenses

during these appearances of inflammation. And though the inflammatory process be thus considered as the immediate cause, cold is one of the most powerful of the remote causes which excites the inflammation and hardens the gland; for it acts not only upon the vessels of the breast, but it acts also upon all the vascular system.

It is in this way that cold rouses the feeling of darting pains, and occasions so much injury in the breast. Hence, if the gland have been diseased by tight lacing, or any other hurtful cause; if the individual be accustomed to neglect the necessary defence from, and the necessary cautions to avoid cold, and, at the same time, her mind has been previously trained to admit the force of alarm, with violent emotions, nothing can be more evident, under such circumstances, than the chance of severe disease like what takes place in many cases, when the pains and the disturbance in the mamma become excessive.

I cannot omit a remark in this place which I have often made, and which Mr Home notices with great clearness. Darting pains have been so much relied on by practitioners, that it is little wonder though females are terrified whenever they feel them. But when a new and distressing disease attacks females, such as severe inflammation of the lungs, or any other dangerous complaint which may have originated in cold, the painful sufferings common to complaints of that kind, and the speedy danger attending them, carry the mind from fears about cancer, and darting pains are seldom mentioned. In this state the alarm for cancer is moderated, though the breast be still diseased. The patient often regrets having given herself so much uneasiness for the disorder which is now the mildest. With such occurrences, the influence of the mind may be clearly distinguished as one of the chief sources of darting pains.

Much difficulty has been experienced in trying to account how poison, when generat-

ed in the gland of the female breast, can be taken up by absorbent vessels, yet appear to affect only some few individuals at remote parts. This difficulty would be removed, were practitioners closely attentive to the effects of cold in mammary affections. A breast which has been long diseased, renders the vessels around it very tender, and the action of cold disturbs them, causing little tumors to appear as if they were contaminated. From this cause swelled glands arise in the axilla, and in this way they appear in the neighbourhood of the breast. A recent tumor will be generated in the axilla and the increase of a tumor in the mamma will be so great, by the influence of cold in one night's negligence, that months will sometimes be required to dispel, what have, thus, been the diseased productions of a few hours. No doubt, other means produce similar effects, and it was with a view to these occurrences I was led to introduce Mr Weldon's case so early in this book.

CASE IV.

Mrs. H. aged 30, mother of three children. She enjoyed good health till her family were lodged in a damp house, wherein she began to experience rheumatism in her shoulders, shifting pains through different parts of her body, declining strength, and depression of spirits. In consequence of observing that damp had occasioned these complaints, the family removed to another lodging, yet the removal had but barely taken place when she engaged in the washing of body clothes. The fatigue and perspiration brought on by the washing, and the chills occasioned by exposures to cold, rendered her extremely uneasy till night approached; and, on the following morning, she discovered a tumor in the right breast which was swelled and painful.

At this time she began by using popular

remedies, and continued to treat the complaint herself (with instructions from her neighbours) for about six weeks. But as the tumor got no better, and a female had a breast newly amputated for a disease of the same nature, she took the alarm, and consulted medical practitioners. They found the character of cancer to be distinct; the tumor was hard, the mamma was swelled, and the darting pains were strong, consequently the usual advices were given.

But she was very unwilling to lose her breast, and lingered over for weeks without being able to fix upon any resolution, till I was consulted in June 1810, three months after the commencement of the tumor.

Upon examining the part, the tumor was found to be oval, and nearly three inches in length. All the breast was swelled and tender, containing a number of distinct tumors scattered over different portions of the gland.

Numbers of the lymphatic vessels were tight and bulky, three axillary glands were very large, and the surrounding substance was tumid, lumpy, and painful. She complained greatly of rheumatic pains in the shoulder of the same side, which, by passing into the breast, and down into the arm, rendered the motion of that limb difficult, and occasioned a sense of numbness through its whole extent. The left breast was sound, and she had no complaint of rheumatism in the left shoulder. Her mind was greatly agitated, and her alarm for cancer was very distressing.

June 17th.—Let twelve ounces of blood from the arm.

R. Sulph. magnes. drach. sex.

Pulv. rhei. gran. duodec.

Carb. magnes. drach. un. M.

Sig.—The whole to be taken in three gills of warm water.

R. Flor. chamomil. unc. un.

Extract. hyos. drach. un.

Aq. fervid. lib. sex. Sig.—Being infused for a few hours, the breast and shoulder are to be fomented occasionally with the liquor warmed; after which these parts are to be dried and covered with wool.

—— 18th.—The purgative is to be repeated, and the fomentation used as yesterday.

—— 19th.—Take twelve ounces of blood as on the 17th.

Apply a warm poultice of chamomile flowers over the breast.

—— 20th.—Repeat the purgative—continue the fomentation.

—— 21st.—Swelling and tenderness of the mamma much abated—lancinating pains

seldom, and mild. The relief from pain and uneasiness has had a happy effect in soothing the mind.

The fomentations were resorted to once or twice a-day for a week longer, according as any soreness threatened to return, and the poultices were only applied for a few nights.

Mild laxatives were prescribed—the breast and shoulder were rubbed with Ung. Camph. and both were strictly covered with additional pieces of flannel.

In the course of three months there was neither tumor nor induration in the mamma, nor swelled gland in the axilla, and twelve months afterward, there was no return of the complaint.

CASE V.

August 16th, 1814.—Mrs. ——— came from a considerable distance to be under my

care. She has had six children, and is beyond 54 years of age. It is 20 years since her left breast was swelled and indurated in consequence of a weed; but no suppuration took place, and after the swelling had subsided, a tumor was left in the gland about the size of a small plum.

She suckled four children after this period, though they seemed often to dislike the left breast. When the milk was much accumulated in that gland, it was regularly more painful, then, than the other, and, in that state, the children would scarcely take it.

She was in good health, and had little to complain of till March 1814, when the breast became painful, and she discovered a bulky axillary gland which was very sore. On account of these circumstances she applied to a variety of medical men. The first said that the disease had all the symptoms of cancer, and advised her to the use of mercury. The second thought that it was not yet can-

cer, but would soon be cancer. The third had no hesitation in saying it was cancer, and was sorry to add that there was no remedy, for though the breast were cut, the disease would return; yet as she had been advised to the use of mercury, she might try it, for she could be no worse than her present state. The opinion of a fourth was simliar.

Though she had taken a little mercury irregularly before this time, she began to use it, now, with diligence. But, gradually, the pain in the arm-pit increased, and the tumor there enlarged, with swelling all around it. Her health sunk rapidly under the use of the mercury, and as the local disease became worse at the same time, the power of contamination was thought to be advancing speedily. On these accounts, her state was viewed as desperate, since the rapidity of the contaminating effects left no room for hope, particularly, when no relief was obtained from the topical application of medicinal liquors—liquors which diminish inflammatory action in general.

Having learned all these circumstances, it immediately occurred to me that the same thing had taken place which I had formerly witnessed in similar instances, viz. That the diseased vessels had been rendered extremely sensible, both by the previous affection and by the use of the mercury, and therefore, that the coldness of the liquors applied, and the way they were applied, had extended the local disorder; while the agonizing state of the mind, and the enfeebled condition of her body had contributed to augment the malady. With this persuasion, I engaged to relieve her in a few weeks.

The left breast was exceedingly firm and bulky—the general swelling passed into the arm-pit, where was a moveable tumor the size of a large plum, resting upon a longitudinal base of induration at least five inches long. Voluntary motion of the arm was almost impracticable, and every movement occasioned by another person produced extreme distress. The state of her mind was such, from the

pain she suffered, as well as from the sufferings she fancied were yet approaching, that she had not slept for several nights, and, while she was sitting, her body continued in constant motion from side to side.

Aug. 17th.—As her bowels are much constipated—R. Sulph. magnes. drach. tres.

Pulv. rhei. gran. duodec.

Carb. magnes. drach. un.—

M. Sig.—The whole to be taken immediately in a considerable quantity of warm water.

R. Extract. hyosc. nig. drach. un. cum dimid.

Muriat. ammon. drach. un.

Aq. font. libras duas. M. Sig.—A poultice prepared with chamomile flowers, lint-seed meal, and this liquor is to be applied to all the diseased parts; but in order to keep it warm, she is to lie regularly in bed.

Aug. 20th.—The swelling and pains are greatly abated. The poultice is only to be

applied during the hours of sleep, and in the day-time all the parts are to be occasionally rubbed with the Tinct. Saponac. and covered with cotton wool, after being washed with warm soft water and dried.

R. Pil. rhei. comp. Sig.—Two to be taken every night.

— 25th.—The same plans of treatment continued—the diminution of the swelling is great.

— 29th.—Treatment the same—the relief from pain has produced a strong effect upon her mind. She feels a confidence that the complaint is giving way, and, as her hopes are more cheering, she rises and walks about the room. Apply the poultice once in two nights only, and use the liniment and pills as before.

Sept. 6th.—R. Ol. terebinth. semunciam.

— Olivar. unc. et dimid.

Acid. sulphur. gutt. quad.

ragint. M. Sig.—The breast and arm-pit to be rubbed three times a-day with a small quantity of this, in place of the former, and to be covered as usual. No more poultices.

— 10th.—She continues better, and has been walking about different parts of the town for some days back. I cannot discover the moveable tumor in her arm-pit which was formerly there, though a small part of the longitudinal induration remains. It is gradually subsiding—the breast is greatly reduced in size, and all the parts which were painful and stiff are soft and pliable, so that she can use her arm pretty freely.

There is no necessity for her remaining longer in town. The pains are gone, and the tumor in the mamma (which could not be felt at first) is no cause of trouble since the diseased tendency of the parts has been removed; and this tumor being as large as a plum, will require a long time to produce much change upon it.

The directions to her are, to use mild laxatives, that costiveness may be prevented—to rub the shoulder and breast once or twice a-day with the mixture of oils, and to wash these parts every second day with soap and warm water—to keep them pointedly covered with warm wool, and to wear flannel next her body. As she is advanced in life, and has been greatly weakened by the use of mercury, and the other occurrences, she is likewise to take half a drachm of the Pulv. Cinchon. once or twice a-day, and to use gentle and regular exercise in the open air.

CHAP. VI.

Recapitulation of the foregoing Chapters.

IT is true that, in general, diseases have a sort of regularity and order, a series of causes and events, by which they are known and distinguished; yet the infection of tumors in the mamma, named cancers, or scirrhus of that organ, is oddly irregular. And, as the nature of these tumors, or any local injury accompanying them, can never be properly understood, without being acquainted with all the deviations from the healthy state of which the female system is susceptible, it is the more necessary that these deviations should be strictly investigated. A short account of some of

them has, in the foregoing chapters, been attempted. But the subject is extensive. It comprehends the natural tendencies of the female constitution, and the structure, and functions of the female breast—the view of chronic diseases which are often met with in that gland, with peculiarities in the action of diseasing causes; and the mental disposition of individuals, either in frequently allowing the operation of these causes, or trying carefully to avoid such causes.

The common observation that mammary tumors begin to be more depraved than formerly, about the time when the periodical flux of catamenia ceases to flow, confirms the opinion that those tumors are much injured by the effects of dyspeptic diseases. The complaints known by the name of dyspepsia, prevail strongly at such times—the powers of digestion are easily disordered while these complaints exist; and the increasing debility makes the patient a ready prey to every hurtful occurrence. But constipation of the

bowels, which is very usual in that state, is excessively injurious.

The state of the nutritious fluid, says Dr. Cullen, may be varied by the quantity and quality of the aliment taken in; by the powers of concoction and assimilation; by the circumstances of application and concretion, or by certain preternatural matters carried along with it.—Physiol. p. 18.

Thus Dr. Cullen accounts, in a few words, for variations in the state of the nutritious fluid, referring to the organic capacity, and also to the voluntary actions for the results; and it is clear that the functions of the body must be changed in their power of resisting hurtful causes in consequence of these results.

It does not always happen that mammary tumors become vitiated at the period of menstrual cessation, which shews that although this change in the state of the con-

stitution may be the radical cause, yet, that other circumstances operate along with it as assisting causes. Let it be allowed that the conduct of some individuals is destructive of health in early life, it will likewise be allowed that the habits of that conduct may be deeply rooted in advanced life. The body, then, is more infirm—the habits more powerful; and if, when the digestive powers were in their greatest vigour, they were unable to counteract the effects of heedless practices, they will be less able to counteract those practices when all the body is naturally enfeebled.

In order to be convinced that languid actions, in a part of the body, are more easily disordered by cold than those that are vigorous, we have only to recollect the disease named frost-biting, which generally attacks the parts remote from the heart; parts wherein the powers of life are believed to be, comparatively, very feeble. The state of the diseased mamma during the chronic affections that have been mentioned, may be consider-

ed in the same light ; and this state is still made worse by any cause which continues to debilitate the system.

Females who dress thinly, seem by their practices as if they were inclined to invite the cancerous affections of the mammæ. Their body is often greatly disordered by cold, and when the same cause is allowed repeatedly to operate, under circumstances of increasing susceptibility, morbid operations are successively encouraged in the progress toward some severe distemper. Chill succeeds to chill, and the inflammatory tenderness of the breast is kept up. Indisposition of the system accumulates, and the roots of the inflammatory disease are deeply planted before the individual is aware of the cause. Those who neglect that they are delicate, and continue to imitate others who appear to be robust—dress like them, and persevere in fatiguing exertions along with them, must necessarily expect to suffer, if mammary disease have previously been introduced ; and it has already been

seen how easily this disease may be introduced. Every new chill is like another seed of the distemper sown in the gland. The stationary tumors are built up, and new tumors are frequently formed. Events like these may be prevented for a few years, by the occasional attention which the mammary uneasiness may oblige the individual to bestow. But the tenderness of the gland is apt to remain, when such carefulness is only temporary, and, at a time least expected, cold will renew the painful feelings with alarming violence.

A sense of tenderness in the head is experienced by many people, and, with this tenderness, the painful sensations produced in it by cold. These pains begin whether the cold be applied to the head itself, or to the other parts of the body, and they begin most readily when the body is fatigued. Painful feelings are produced in the same manner in the female breast, without exciting symptoms of extraordinary disease. Yet, at times, the

symptoms arising from the more powerful effects of cold, are strongly marked, by swelling, inflammation, and uncommon hotness of the whole gland.

The general character of indolent tumors of the female breast is, that they are slow in their progress, and not necessarily attended with inflammation. However, the slowness of their progress should not be given as the character of such tumors themselves, but as the character depending greatly upon the inclinations of the patient. One female will have a mammary tumor which is slow, and another female will have a tumor in every respect similar, which is rapid in its progress. The same female will have a tumor slow at one time and rapid at another, according as she is more or less careful to avoid the causes that disorder her. To say that such tumors are not necessarily attended with inflammation, gives a feeble idea of the disease; for, in proportion as the causes of inflammation are allowed to operate on the body, tumors,

and the vessels around them, are subjected to various degrees of the inflammatory process. If the word inflammation be meant to express the appearances which take place in phlegmon, the character may partly answer; but if it be intended to signify a morbid plethora of the organ, there are different efficacies of that plethora which tend to the same results. Although a process of the inflammatory nature arises in the mammary organ, from agitation of the mind, from the periodical influence of the uterus, and from different affections by cold, the force of local activity varies, from the action of these powers, like the connecting shades of a colour.

CASE VI.

February 23d, 1810.—A female about 20 years of age consulted me to-day for a tumor in her left breast. The pains in the breast are not very severe, yet they are frequently of a darting nature. The tumor is as large as

an ordinary sized plum, and has been lodged in the gland for a long time. She seems naturally to possess a calmness of mind, and although it is evident that she is alarmed, in some degree, for the disease, because she was told it was cancer, there is a considerable appearance of composure in her countenance.

She informed me of a soreness in the left arm-pit, and, having examined it, I found two bulky glands there, but could find neither disease nor swelling in the right breast or arm-pit; at the same time, I observed a scar on her neck, the cicatrice of an old scrophulous ulcer.

She belongs to the West Highlands, and has been accustomed to subsist on very meagre diet. Her employment is sedentary, (at which she is confined from twelve to sixteen of the twenty-four hours) and her complexion is very unhealthy.

I advised her to the use of food more

nourishing than what she had been accustomed to take; and pointed out the benefit she would derive, from engaging in some occupation which might require moderate activity, and less confinement. She spoke of an opportunity she had of this kind, in the neighbourhood of a medicinal well, and I recommended that she should go there speedily, stating the advantages of proper clothing, and the necessity to preserve the diseased breast in a regular state of warmth.

April 21st, 1812.—An intimate friend of hers called, by desire, to tell me that she pursued the advices respecting exercise, diet, and local warmth, and, in a few months, the mammary tumor vanished, as well as the tumors in the arm-pit. It appears that she is, now, strong and healthy, seeming altogether like a different person from what she was at the time of consultation.

REMARKS.

This case affords an instance of tumor in the female breast, while a scrophulous affection might be said to exist in the system ; yet she knew of no such disease in her family, and it was in very early life that she had the ulcer in her neck. At any rate, no disease of this kind was spoken of by others who had examined her, and I might have remained ignorant of it also, had not a chance circumstance occurred by which I noticed the scar.

CASE VII.

Nov. 23d, 1809.—A servant girl, 18 years of age, desired my advice for a tumor in the left breast.

She was struck accidentally upon the breast about a year ago, and it continued painful for a week or two ; after which she

discovered a tumor in the gland the size of a hazel-nut, though, till lately, she could not complain of having experienced much trouble from it.

It is three weeks since she was overheated and fatigued, when the breast became uneasy; and, while in this state, she heard of a woman whose breast was cut off for a complaint of the same nature. As soon as possible, after hearing of this, she went to the surgeon who had operated in the woman's case, and was told, that the tumor was not the worst kind of cancer, yet, as it was doubtful how long it might remain so, her safety would be secured by allowing the operation to be performed pretty early.

She had no idea that a business of this kind was to take place so soon, for the pains in the gland were very moderate. Nevertheless they increased after this advice, and, now, although six days since the advice was

given her, she is evidently disturbed in her mind.

Upon examining the breast which is swelled, but not greatly, I find the tumor in the substance of the gland, immediately above the nipple. When I press the gland laterally, the tumor feels bulky, by the interposition of glandular substance, but by pressing directly down upon it, the size is trifling, only the substance around it is firmer than usual. There is no other affection that deserves to be noticed.

From the good state of her health, I had every reason to assure her that she had no danger to fear, providing she covered the breast with one or two folds of flannel, and took care to bathe it frequently with warm vinegar. These advices she readily engaged to follow, and seemed determined, carefully, to avoid every chance of injury either by pressure or otherwise.

Dec. 18th.—Her breast is quite free from pains, and the glandular swelling is gone—the firmness of the glandular substance is greatly dispersed, and the site of what was thought to be a tumor is perceived with difficulty. Fifteen months after this time, she had no complaint of the kind.

CASE VIII.

Mrs. ——— has been twelve months in a state of nervous weakness, with fluor albus, general debility, frequent uneasiness about the region of the stomach, and little appetite for food. Her circumstances in life have been adverse, and her spirits are usually depressed. It is six months since she discovered a painful tumor in her left breast, for the treatment of which a surgeon has attended her, occasionally, during a great part of that time. But, on finding that no remedy proved effectual, and that the mammary disease was still increasing, he seemed alarmed at the na-

ture of her complaints, and proposed to save her by the amputation of her breast. She applied to me, on July 5th, 1813.

The tumor is lodged in the upper part of the gland—it is felt like a knobbed body, but can be separated into distinct portions by careful examination. All the substance of the breast is firmer than natural, and there are two bulky glands in the axilla, though I do not think them very hard. The breast is swelled, painful, and tender—the pains are often excessively severe and darting. Her mental feelings appear as if they approached more to a melancholy, than to a hurry of alarm. The other breast is firmer in some parts of its texture, than that which is common in a state of health, and it might be thought to contain a number of tumors. The menses are expected in a few days—she is very costive, and feels the effects of cold in the left side of her body, in a very particular manner.

R. Ol. ricini semunciam. Sig.—The whole to be taken in the afternoon.

R. Sulph. magnes. unc. duas.

Pulv. rhei drach. un.

Carb. magnes. drach. duas.

Aq. pur. libras duas. M. Sig.—
A wine glassful to be taken on the second nights.

The breast to be fomented daily with a decoction of chamomile flowers, and covered attentively with cotton wool.

August 9th.—She has had a nervous fever since last report, and went a few days to the country, after recovering from it. The disease of her breast is mild, and the pains are greatly abated. The same treatment of the breast to be continued.

R. Carbon. ferri drach. duas.

Sacch. alb. drach. un. M. et in doses duodec. divide. Sig.—One to be taken

at night, and another in the forenoon. The bowels to be kept open as before.

Sept. 4th.—The swelling and general painfulness of the breast increased—numbers of bulky glands to be felt through its substance—sickness and languor of the whole body. She fatigued herself too much for three days last week, and since that, her feelings have been of a feverish nature, and her breast has been more uneasy.

Take half a drachm of the Pulv. Cinchon. twice a-day, and two of the Pil. Rhei Comp. each night.

R. Tinct. Sapon. cum Opio. Sig.—The breast is to be rubbed with this, and covered as usual.

— 25th.—Greatly better. The substance of the breast loose and soft, without pain—the hardened glands dispersed—the original tumor diminished in size.

Oct. 18th.—Is still better, and has been taking sometimes the Barks, and sometimes the steel-powders. No swelled gland to be felt in the arm-pit, and, as for the mamma, there is no disease in it which deserves the name of a tumor.

She is still to treat the breast carefully, whenever it becomes more painful, at any time, or bulkier than ordinary.

CASE IX.

Aug. 28th, 1812.—A farmer's wife has a tumor in the arm-side of her right breast, which formed there sixteen years ago, after that part of the gland had suppurated. Its surface is very irregular, and the glandular substance around it is diseased, that is, the vessels are very turgid; on which account the bulk of the tumor cannot properly be ascertained. For a long time, at first, it continued about the size of a small pea. But, of late, it

has been growing very observably, and now it feels like a large nut. No axillary tumors.

She has been greatly distressed in her mind by the different advices given her. Though all the surgeons she applied to, agreed in saying that the disease was cancer, yet some would cut out the tumor, and others would cut off the breast. She has taken a variety of medicines, been salivated with mercury, &c. Yet still the disease became worse.

Her appearance is very unhealthy—an unnatural colour of a yellowish tinge is evident in her eyes and face—she has several dyspeptic symptoms, and is troubled with costiveness. Her history of the lancinating pains in the breast is pitiable. Aetatis 34.

Her breast is to be rubbed with Oleum Camphoratum, washed occasionally with warm water and soap, and regularly covered with warm fur. She is to take a drachm and half of Cinchona powder, at different times

of the day, and two laxative pills at night. Her residence is ten miles distant from this, and she is to return in about two weeks.

Sept. 11th.—The condensed substance round the tumor is softening—the lancinating pains continue severe. She is less terrified about the complaint than when I first saw her, but the influence of apprehension, though weakened, is still powerful. It is necessary, from the anxiety she discovers, to speak very determinately about the disease, for her mind catches at every appearance of hesitation; at the same time, nothing must be promised her which she will not be able to realize, otherwise her fears will become more hurtful.

Continue to use the *Ol. Camphoratum*, with the addition of *Aq. Ammoniae* one drachm to two ounces. Let her have a drachm of the *pulv. Colomb.* and half a drachm of the *carb. ferri*, at separate periods of the day, till next consultation, and the pills as before. She is neither to shew her breast, nor

to speak about the disease to any person, whether male or female, till I see her.

Nov. 14th.—The diseased action of the mammary vessels is so much overcome, that the disorder of the gland is merely trifling, and she seldom feels any pain in the breast which is worth noticing. The nucleus of the tumor can be perceived, plainly, and it is but small. The softness of the glandular substance is natural, and, as her mind is at ease, her customary cheerfulness is returning. The only particular uneasiness she feels at a chance time in the breast, happens, when sensibly affected by cold.

She thought the state of her stomach was good when I first asked her concerning it, but, now, she feels much more comfortable after taking a meal, than she then felt. Her menses have become regular, which were very uncertain during the distempered state of her body. She enjoys more strength, and her appearance

is greatly altered to the better. The yellow tinge of her face has disappeared.

Dec. 17th.—There is an obvious improvement of health, and the breast is continuing easy.

R. Olei Olivæ uncias duas

---- Terebinthinæ unc. un.

Acidi vitriolici gutt. triginta. M.

Sig.—To rub upon the breast once in the two or three days, and the fur is to be kept over it for a long time to come.

Aug. 2d, 1813.—She has been at the sea-bathing this summer, and she is stout and lively. She shewed her breast a few weeks ago, to one of the surgeons who thought it should have been amputated, and he confessed that, truly, there was no need for such an operation now.

REMARKS.

The state of this patient's mind was particularly troublesome, for the positive assertions of some individuals, previous to my seeing her, that nothing would prove useful to the complaint, but immediate cutting, affected her strongly, and, for some time, made her extremely unhappy. She could not keep from remarking the last time I saw her, how foolish she had been, in the way she had allowed alarm to prevent the use of her reason.

CASE X.

Jan. 22d, 1810.—A female aged 20—fair ruddy complexion. It is two years since she felt a hardened tumor in the left breast, and unusual pains and swellings of the gland, without being aware of any thing which could occasion these.

A quantity of brownish black matter was discharged from the nipple some time lately, after an uncommon uneasiness of the breast, which abated when the discharge ceased. But the pains have been again renewed, and her body has been greatly disordered ever since a circumstance occurred by which she experienced a particular affection from cold. And, in addition to this, she is deeply impressed about her companion's mother, who died a few months after having a breast amputated for cancer.

Her breast contains a longitudinal induration below the base of the nipple—the swelling is particularly in the side of the gland next the arm, in which are many moveable tumors. From this part the vessels are tight and bulky into the axilla, where three glands are considerably enlarged. The lancinating pains are often excessively distressing, at other times they are much easier, but the breast is always very tender, particularly at the cata-

menial periods, or some time after affections by cold. She is frequently afflicted with the complaint known by the name, nettle-rash. It commences with warm flushing, and ends with a feeling of coldness and chills, which are succeeded by red spots on the cuticle—and at these times the tender breast is regularly affected. Her stomach is very delicate, and costiveness of the bowels has been long habitual.

She is first to have a purgative of rhubarb and Epsom salt, then to take one scruple of Cinchona powder three times a-day, and steadily to use laxative pills for some time after the purgative. The superior parts of the body are to be clothed with flannel. The diseased breast is to be fomented with a decoction of chamomile, anointed with camphorated oil, and covered with additional pieces of flannel.

Feb. 17th.—Feels better in every respect, though the uncommon sensibility to the action of cold is not gone. She is accustomed to

confine herself within the house for weeks, because she thinks her breast worse by going out; and the pains are often roused in the breast, with a soreness brought on in the shoulder by being out.

In addition to the former prescriptions, she is to take regular and gentle exercise in the open air each day, while every kind of fatigue, and wetness from rain are to be avoided. The walks at first are to be short, and entered upon at fixed times; they are gradually to be lengthened, but the distance is always to be moderate.

March 13th.—Diseased breast very firm, and more swelled than before. The right breast is slightly affected, also, with swelling, but the pain rests in the other. She had been so circumstanced a few days ago, as to suffer unavoidably from cold shiverings, and ever since, her left shoulder has become more painful, as well as the breast. She is to have another dose of Epsom salt, and to have eight ounces

of blood taken from her arm—Chamom cataplasms to be applied over this breast for three nights successively, then the breast treated agreeably to the first directions.

March 22d.—The pains and swelling of the breast have continued gradually less since last report—But the nettle-rash complaint is very troublesome, the stomach weak, and a tendency to perspire readily induced. Ten grains of the Carbonas ferri to be taken three times a-day, and two of the Pilulæ Rhei Compositæ every night. Short walks in the open air are yet to be attempted.

April 20th.—It was necessary to let blood last week, again, in consequence of a relapse, when she complained of great burning in the indurated breast—but that went off soon after the blood-letting. Her general health, though better these few days back, is very unfirm, and she is to go to the country; taking care to treat the breast according to the plans al-

ready mentioned, and with the same kind of remedies which have already been used.

May 19th.—She returned from the country to-day, with a much better state of health than at last report. She has felt no burning pain in the breast since the blood-letting—the induration is reduced one half in its size, and the swelled glands of the axilla have disappeared—she has no complaint of pain in the shoulder.

It sometimes happened that, while in the country, she forgot to apply the additional piece of flannel which covered the breast, and she soon experienced the painful effects occasioned by the want of that flannel. There is still a disposition to costiveness—use the pills, and begin the cinchona as at first—persevere in walking to a short distance in the fields every day—let these remedies be employed for two or three weeks—anooint the breast occasionally, and keep it covered with flannel for some time longer.

Feb. 12th, 1811.—I examined her to-day, in order to know the state of her former complaints. Her health is perfectly restored—she has no uneasiness in the breast, unless when, by some neglect, a little tenderness of the gland is brought on in consequence of cold. There is neither tumor nor induration.

REMARKS.

It was extremely difficult to pacify this patient's mind—the fear of cancer operated upon her strongly—she was often inclined to converse with females on the subject, and in this way the mammary disorder was roused repeatedly. It was a considerable time before I got her persuaded to give up such a practice.

CASE 11.

Dec. 19th, 1809.—Mrs ——— tells me that a portion of the gland of the left breast has been

indurated and painful for two years. The child she was suckling seven months ago died at that time, and it was not long after this when the breast suppurated. Though matter was discharged from time to time for some weeks, the induration remained, and the size increasing, it gradually assumed the appearance of an insulated and oval tumor.

At present, the mammary organ is very firm in the whole of its texture; and the oval shape, and bulkiness of the hard tumor are felt distinctly in the inferior substance of the breast, though the surrounding substance is greatly diseased. The gland contains several tumors in different parts, and the axilla is affected in the same manner with swelling and enlarged glands. The soft parts before and behind the shoulder are painful, and every movement of the arm is very uneasy. The state of the other breast is natural.

She complains chiefly of a burning in the tumor, and of the distress she has suffered

from shooting pains, which pass through the mamma into the axilla, and up to the shoulder. She has been persuaded that the disease is cancer, and says, that although she could endure all she has yet suffered, the fear of what she must undergo when it is worse alarms her.

R. Tincturæ Saponis—Sig.—The breast is frequently to be rubbed with this, and covered with folds of flannel.

She has long been habitually costive, and though her health be moderately good, the costiveness has been neglected, and it has become very troublesome.

R. Ol. Ricini drachmas sex. Sig.—The same quantity to be taken for a few days, and half as much each day till I again see her.

Dec. 24th.—The castor oil has proved very useful; but as she dislikes it, let her procure a gentle motion or two daily, by the

Pilulæ Aloeticæ, or by means of Sulphas Magnesiae combined with rhubarb.

Jan. 18th, 1810.—The bowels are more easily moved, and she feels a firmness of bodily strength which she had not experienced for a long time. The breast is smaller, and the pains in it less acute. Rubbing with the soap tincture, and the topical application of flannel, are to be continued attentively. Every kind of pressure which causes a feeling of uneasiness in the breast must be avoided, and laxatives must still be used.

March 3d.—The diseased swelling round the breast, and the shooting pains are gone—The indurated tumor is scarcely half of its former size—The firmness of the glandular texture is not to be perceived. She never speaks of her fears about cancer—her countenance is more lively, and her general appearance more healthy. But, though these changes are all favourable, the diligent attention to the treatment of the breast is not to

be given up till every appearance of disease in it be removed.

July 1st.—I examined her, and found little appearance of disease in the breast. The indurated tumor has completely been dispersed, and, in the arm-pit, there is no diseased gland whatever. Nevertheless, my advice to her was, that she be careful of that breast, because it will be tender for a considerable time, and, though not very painful, it will be proper to rub it once or twice a-week, and keep it particularly warm for months to come; likewise to use such means as may be found necessary in diet or otherwise, for preventing the return of costiveness.

CASE XII.

March 12th, 1810.—Mrs. ——— aged forty years. She received a stroke upon the right breast two years since, which occasioned great pain at the time, and began a tumor in

that part of the gland where the pain was chiefly seated.

The tumor is felt about the size of an ordinary plum, in the side of the breast next the arm. It is moveable, hard, and irregular on the surface; and the circumjacent substance is tumified. This tumified state of the glandular substance connected with the tumor, explains what she mentions, that the tumor has been growing quickly the last few weeks; for, according as this substance was distended by the local plethora, the magnitude of the tumor would be thought to increase.

She is in the fourth month of pregnancy, and, hearing that a woman's breast was lately cut off for a tumor, she has suffered from alarm ever since. This is another instance wherein the influence of the mind upon the diseased breast is strongly marked. The darting pains have become violent since the alarm took place, and the diseased swelling of the

Breast has all the appearances which are common to the effects of alarm on such a delicate organ. Indeed she is sensible that the shooting pains, and the unusual bulkiness of the breast, came on soon after she was told of what had taken place with the woman. And it is well known how easily the mind is affected in the early months of pregnancy.

Her bowels have been for a long time constipated, and the constipation has become distressing. She feels a disagreeable sensation of coldness very readily, upon what she thinks is a change of temperature which did not formerly produce that effect.

Her complaints seem to indicate three views of treatment which promise to be useful—to appease the mind—to obviate costiveness—and to propose such plans as will keep up a steady degree of moderate warmth, both in the body, and in the diseased breast. For these purposes she is to wear flannel under her body-cloths; her breast is to be covered

with a mild gum plaster, prepared with the addition of a little lead; and two or three stools are to be brought on each day for a week or more, by the alternate use of castor oil, rhubarb, and senna, mixed up in different ways to render them palatable. She is to avoid every kind of exercise, likewise, which brings on fatigue.

March 27th.—Her bowels are easily kept open with the occasional assistance of gentle laxatives—her sense of uneasiness from the action of cold air is less acute—the mammary tumor feels smaller and softer—the general bulk of the breast is less, and the glandular substance is greatly softened. Her mind is relieved from the fears of cancer, and the darting pains are forgotten. Formerly she could not suffer the breast to be examined without great softness, but now the pressure of ordinary examination occasions no uneasiness. Her health is greatly better.

I visited her in February, 1811, when

she was nursing a fine child without any mammary ailment; and in April, 1812, I was much pleased to find her in the same happy circumstances with respect to her former complaints.

REMARKS.

Cases of this kind demonstrate what unhappy notions are united with the unmeaning and unsuitable name, *Cancer*. As far as I could ever discover from interrogating patients, their fears did not arise from the thoughts of approaching death, when they imagined themselves to be affected with cancer, but from the apprehension of some unaccountable tortures which that name conveyed to their imaginations. I have seen individuals who appeared in a state of distraction at the belief that cancer had attacked them, yet calm and composed while they were labouring under very painful disease. The treatment in this patient's case was simple, and costiveness has always been known to operate strongly in

such affections. But it is unnecessary to depict what sufferings might have ensued, had the ideas about cancer been allowed to engross her thoughts, for cases of a similar nature have too frequently been witnessed. What a pity that unprofitable reveries, or fanciful speculations concerning any distemper, should be so framed, that they can lead to such destructive consequences, when they ought to be regulated for the alleviation of the miseries of mankind.

CASE XIII.

Dr. John White has kindly permitted the publication of the following case, and has obligingly assisted me, in searching after the exact statement of occurrences which will be related. He has been engaged in extensive medical practice in this town, for a period little short of forty years; and I know, from what I witnessed during my apprenticeship, which I served with him, that he has treated

a great variety of mammary ailments, commonly named cancer.

With respect to the dates in the history, there may be some want of accuracy, not having the use of a journal to copy; yet the principal circumstances are sanctioned by Dr. White who attended, and by the woman herself who was his patient for the most of her illness.

Early in the year 1800, Mrs ——— began to complain of rheumatic pains in the inferior extremities; and though, at times, they were moderate, at others they were very distressing, especially when she was exposed to cold in such a manner as to have her body disordered by it.

But thinking them greatly relieved, she engaged with a washing of body-cloths, some months after these complaints had attacked her. She continued at that employment all the day, (being frequently in a state of per-

spiration) and, in the evening, when much fatigued, exposed herself, thoughtlessly, before two open windows, while thinly clothed. She did not remain long in such a situation, neither did she experience any disagreeable effects from it at the time, but wakened at midnight with tormenting pains, both in the mammae, and in the shoulders. Upon feeling the mammae, she was struck with the unnatural size to which they had grown from the time she went to bed. Each gland, according to her own account, resembled a bag tightly filled with larger and smaller plums. And, when Dr. White was sent for to see her, which was only a short time after this circumstance happened, the glandular tumors exhibited diseased masses collected together in a singular manner. She could not suffer her breasts to be examined, they were so painful and tender.—The lacteals and lymphatics were greatly enlarged, and the arm-pits were crowded with bulky glands, as well as the parts about the scapulæ, and up to the clavicles.

Various remedies were used, and different plans were adopted for her relief. But on several occasions, she derived the greatest sense of benefit from leeching. Indeed, she felt so much advantage from the application of leeches to the *mammæ*, that, for a long time afterward, she applied them, occasionally, without any medical advice. And, feeling that the mammary pains were mitigated by local warmth, she was also led to employ warm substances for that purpose.

Thus the force of the disease was lessened, and her recovery was gradually accomplished. Though the *mammæ* could scarcely be said, for the first ten months, to be altogether without some swelling and knottiness, the formation of any thing like glandular tumors, was only of a temporary nature. Sometimes she perceived small tumors in the armpits, and sometimes none; and the uneasy feelings were simply what arose from a tender soreness, unless, at particular times, when she

observed the circumstances which occasioned new pains, and carefully shunned them.

Nevertheless of this recovery, however, an instantaneous change took place in her state, toward the end of 1801, nearly two years from the beginning of her illness. She heard of two women with whom she had been acquainted—the one died some months after her breast was amputated for a tumor named cancer—the other had newly submitted to a similar operation for a disease of the same kind. Terror seized her immediately. Having known these unfortunate females, she remembered the history of their complaints, and soon persuaded herself that cancer would also affect her own breasts. Views of this nature engrossed her attention, and nothing but active measures could satisfy her mind. Though Dr. White pointed out how much she had profited by former applications, and recommended that they should be resumed, the alarm was too powerful, and the apparent

good effects of such directions were soon lost. The quick removal of the unknown danger threatened by cancer, seemed chiefly to occupy her thoughts.

She consulted a variety of medical men after this, unknown to Dr. White, and, not being satisfied, went to Glasgow for the same purpose. The opinions she received were sometimes contrary ; but the belief that the disease was malignant appeared to prevail. Those who were forward in their decisions, insisted upon immediate amputation of both breasts ; holding up this step as the only security she had against cancer, and adding that, if any surgeon objected to the operation, he could only do so from ignorance, because her disease would soon be beyond the power of an operation, or any other remedy. In this way a great abundance of alarming objects were stored up in her mind, yet, without telling how she had thus acted, she placed herself once more under Dr. White's care.

She was desirous, after employing him, to lay aside all her apprehensions, and to rely entirely upon whatever treatment he might think proper to pursue. But her exertions to abandon anxiety proved abortive. The seat of the distemper was not in the *mammæ*, now, it had taken deep root in the mind. Her reason was unable to overcome the forebodings on every side. The danger predicted unless the surgical operations were performed without loss of time; and next, the chance that cancer might even succeed the operations, were thoughts of such a formidable nature, that she could not support them—she sunk into melancholy—and then into delirium.

She considered herself, while the delirium continued, exactly in circumstances like those of a condemned criminal; mourning over her fate, persuaded that evils of the greatest magnitude were approaching; and evils of which she could form no conception, except by confused notions of something frightful to

the sight, and tormenting to the feelings. In this state, Dr. White found it necessary to use such different means as her varying affections required; but chiefly to direct the conduct of her family, that the disturbance of her mind might, by degrees, be abated. As the impression of fear, (operating so long on her mind) had reduced her body to great weakness, as well as her intellect, and become very powerful in agitating all her frame, palpitation of the heart was a cause of constant distress; and it was not till six months after the delirium had begun that he got her brought to think with composure. He accomplished this however, and prevailed upon her, to enter into, and mix with society—to meditate less about cancer, and to engage with short journeys that her thoughts might be taken up by new objects.

I examined her on the first of March 1810, and took the following statement.

It is two years since the menses have ceased, and while the change in consequence of that disposition was going on in the system, her health was very bad, and the mammary complaint troublesome. But when the change was effected, and her health began to recruit, the uneasiness of her breasts diminished. She kept them warm—spoke and thought as little as possible of their affection—avoided fatigues, exposures to cold, and indeed every thing by which she found them pained—and experience taught her, that for this purpose, she should examine her breasts but seldom herself, and allow no other person to examine them. During this management the indurations dissolved gradually, and the pains abated, till now she feels only a little tenderness of the organs on account of which they are easily injured. I can perceive no indurations in them. When I grasp the glandular substance, a fleshy firmness can be felt in the centre of each breast, but nothing like a settled tumor; and the arm-pits are

none diseased. I visited her on the 25th of May 1812, and the 3d of October 1814, and, at both visits, found her still in better health, and less troubled with complaints in consequence of any mammary disorders. Many women have had occasion to rejoice that, by her earnest advices, they were prevented from allowing their breasts to be amputated, after being decisively consigned to that fate.

Dr. White has been occasionally consulted by ladies, more than 30 years ago, who, when they were engaged in seeking after medical opinions for indurations and tumors of the *mammæ*; were taking *Cicuta*, and other medicines prescribed for dissolving them, and eagerly embracing new opinions for that purpose, were seldom free from painful feelings in the glands. Yet upon giving up such practices they became better, and at a period so distant as this, he knows that they are well.

CASE XIV.

Mrs. ——— aged 45, a tradesman's wife, and mother of nine children.

The first time she felt declining health, sensibly, was fourteen years ago, when she had the misfortune to lose a favourite daughter, whose death was occasioned by an accident. It was not long after this till she began to feel aching pains in her neck and shoulders, and became subject to weeds, in a way that had never formerly disturbed her, nor excited such feelings. As the weeds seized her often about the time of lying in, and during the time of nursing, the left breast was affected, and proceeded twice to suppuration.

The last suppuration was tedious, and it is five years since that took place. It was attended with an uncommon swelling of all the

gland, and, though long in the swelled state, the discharge of matter was very scanty. Hence the effects were, that a considerable portion of the gland was left in a state of painful hardness, and her body, by the additional sufferings, was greatly weakened. Besides, from this time, onward, some degree of the glandular hardness continued. Sometimes it was treated carefully; sometimes inattentively. And, not being guided by any medical attendant in the way she should have treated the complaint, the diseased gland was much neglected, and her treatment very imperfect.

A Surgeon was employed in 1810, from whom she had a variety of medicines, and by whose advice, leeches were frequently applied to the breast. Yet the disease went on, and it was not long till a glandular induration was discovered, also, in the other breast. Therefore, as the repeated application of leeches, brought on a great degree of bodily weakness, (because it seemed necessary to apply

them on both breasts,) while the leeching afforded only a temporary relief, without removing the mammary affections, she determined to leech no more.

On account of this determination, and the apparent ungovernable nature of the disorder, a consultation of several Practitioners was fixed upon, whose opinions distressed her seriously, and added to her alarm.— Other Practitioners were again consulted, and her alarm was still increased. At last she was informed, that the medical profession could see no chance for her recovery, except by the amputation of both of her breasts; and unless she consented to submit immediately, her destruction by the disease would soon become irretrievable.

When this sentence was pronounced, the shock was so instantaneous, and made such an impression upon her senses, that she thought, to use her own phrase, her heart had instantly burst, and, from this moment, the palpitation

of her heart became distressing. She remained in this distressing state for a few days, and consulted me on June 7th 1810, when I began the journal of her case.

There is an oblong induration in the inferior substance of the left breast, which, in a great measure, occupies the breadth of the gland, and she says it has been very bulky for twelve months back. All the breast is greatly swelled.—The right breast is likewise swelled, containing a tumor which has been settled in it for some months. Both arm-pits include painful and tumid glands, as well as the surrounding soft parts on each side of the chest. The sense of distension within the mammæ is very uneasy, along with feelings of burning heat, particularly in the left mamma. Her affliction with darting pains is great. They commence in the neck and shoulders, pass into the breasts and arm-pits, spread on the chest and sides, and enter into the arms. All these parts are tender to the touch.

With respect to her general symptoms, the pulse is quick, feeble, and irregular; she feels exceedingly weak, and the palpitation is very afflictive; a sense of faintishness is seldom long absent, and her sensibility is so remarkably acute, that trifling noise, which is uncommon, loud speaking, or rapid conversation, startle her, agitate her whole frame, and, for a time, confuse her intellect as if danger were at hand. Indeed, her countenance exhibits a kind of pensive wildness, like one absorbed with thoughts of despair.

She has been afflicted for a long time with an uneasiness in her stomach, and rarely knows what it is to have an appetite for food, unless for a few minutes at chance times, when feelings of hunger are succeeded with sickness. The powers of digestion are very feeble, and the act of eating is rather a trouble. The bowels are usually costive, and have been greatly so for some time back.

Being disposed to view the condition of

her mind as a sufficient cause of speedy destruction, I considered it necessary to soften her fears, and to lead her thoughts into a train of comfortable prospects; for there was no doubt of being able to subdue the mammary disturbance, providing a composure of mind could be accomplished. And, in addition to these attempts, she was ordered to drink an aqueous solution of sulphurated iron,—to take easy purgatives of Epsom salt and rhubarb—to cover the shoulders with mild adhesive plasters—to rub the breasts with soap-tincture, and to cover them with cotton wool.

June 16th.—General state more settled and easy—mammæ less bulky—mental agitation subsiding. The same plans to be pursued, the same remedies to be continued, and two glasses of port-wine to be taken daily.

—— 20.—Fewer bodily complaints—breasts softer and less swelled—pains abated.

June 22.—Swelling of breasts considerably increased—the indurations of both feel larger—painful sensations returning. Her body feels stiff and sore since yesterday, when she had engaged with exertions which were too laborious, and caused her, at times, to perspire—pulse feverish—fleeting pains of the back and extremities.

R. Sulphat. Magnesiae unciam unam.—
Sig. To be taken immediately—eight ounces of blood to be taken from the arm in the afternoon.

— 23.—Fewer pains—less sickness—little feverishness.

— 29. Breasts very bulky, tense, and painful—soreness in shoulders returned—aching of left shoulder benumbs the left arm. But she has had no stool for three days.

R. Ol. ricini unciam unam.—Sig. The whole to be taken as soon as possible.

June 30. Oil operated well—is better in every respect, and walks with less fatigue than she has done for several days. Strong injunctions for her to prevent such torpor of the bowels, by the regular use of laxatives.

July 5th.—Is greatly better ; yet, although she might appear as one in sound health, to a superficial observer, she is very infirm, and is therefore to go to the sea-side, a distance of twenty miles.

While there, she is to take from two to four drachms of the Cinchona tincture each day—to rub and cover the breasts as before—to use laxatives attentively—to bathe occasionally in the sea, and to walk about moderately.

— 23d.—Returned to town ; and, though but a short time at the sea-side, her health, strength, and spirits are quite renewed. The diseased bulk and firmness of her breasts have given way to that of an almost natural

softness—the indurations are sensibly softer—the darting pains gone, and the aching of her shoulders trifling and momentary. She felt a soothing sensation in her shoulders, and in the centre of each breast, on coming out of the sea from bathing, which was succeeded every time with a pleasant glow, and an agreeable sense of easiness. My attendance has become unnecessary.—She is to manage her complaints according to former instructions, taking the powder of Bark, now and then, in place of the tincture, along with a little magnesia.

August 26th.—Health still better—strength firmer—takes her food with appetite—walks more in the open air than she was accustomed to do in former times. Mammary uneasiness almost forgotten, except when it is roused by some neglect of conduct, such as damp feet, want of proper body-dress, and the like, which she is studious to avoid. Pains are readily brought on in the mammæ,

still, by any thing of that kind, or by temporary costiveness.

When I grasp the gland of each breast, a little firmness of the substance is to be felt internally, resembling that which may be traced in the breasts of many females who have suckled a number of children ; but there is nothing like an indurated tumor, in the way it could be perceived the first week I saw her. The firmness increases occasionally, however, yet it does not remain above a day or two till it begins to go off. She travelled six miles on foot yesterday, without being wearied ; and, while she shudders at the thought of what operations were proposed to her, she seems like one unable to express the feelings of gratitude for the happy change effected in the state of her disease.

Oct. 12th, 1811.—I have attended her for three separate illnesses, since the time the last report was written ; and although these did not proceed from any affection of her breasts, I

often noticed that the breasts were knotted at one time, and soft at another. Her complaints at the times referred to, were chiefly owing to family-occurrences which occasioned distress of mind; yet this mental disorder also affected the breasts; but, luckily, no alarm about cancer existed, and there were no darting pains.

At present she has no swelled glands in the axillae. Those which I felt in them at first have been long dispersed. In the left breast, the site of the large induration requires careful examination to discover it, and in the right one, there is no such thing as a stationary tumor.

CASE XV.

A practitioner allows me to state that, for a number of years, he was surgeon to a numerous family, the mother of which lost the use of her left breast while nursing the first

child. The breast suppurated at this time, and a portion of the gland being left in a diseased and hardened state, none of the following children were prevailed upon to take that breast, except at chance moments, when farther attempts were soon given up.

Her constitution had been originally good, and her appearance was more vigorous than that of the most of females. However, in consequence of sixteen births, and suckling twelve children on the right breast, by the time she was 43 years old, as well as by night watchings on individuals of her family, for severe and frequent sicknesses, her constitution was seriously reduced. She also suffered from such floodings with some of her births, that her life was more than once in eminent danger. These occurrences contributed to introduce hysterical complaints, and consequently, to bring her into frequent ailments. But weeds were the most troublesome, and, as her health declined, she became the more subject to weeds. Every new weed acted more or

or less upon both breasts, causing repeated inflammation and swellings of these organs; and although her body, ultimately, was very infirm, she was still incautious, forgetting to prevent intervening circumstances by which the weeds were occasioned.

Every practitioner is aware of the advantages to be gained from minute statements; both for knowing the nature of a patient's uneasy feelings, and discovering the causes which excite diseased appearances; especially when these causes arise from habitual misconduct. By forgetfulness, the left breast, though often recovered, was repeatedly affected; and, thus, the size of the induration was changeable. At length, after suppurations of both breasts, the induration disappeared so considerably, that it became difficult for her to point out where it had once been.

Yet a glandular affection being again produced as before, three tumors arose—one within the gland of the same breast—another be-

twixt this and the axilla, and a third in the axilla itself. Nevertheless, the bulk of these tumors varied as the induration had done, and varied from the recurrence of similar causes.

In short, she arrived at the age of 43, without being seriously caught by what may be termed the *cancerous alarm*, or power of despair; and then, when her body was greatly reduced in strength, and her mind easily agitated, the alarm brought on the full effect. She applied for advices from those with whom her previous habits and ailments were unknown.

The appearance of three tumors, the swelling of the organ, and the existence of darting pains, (which last are regularly the consequences of this alarm,) were necessarily sufficient for determining the nature of the disease—it was pronounced cancer, and extirpation of the breast took place.

She was nursing a child at the time this

was proposed, which she weaned a few days before-hand; and had another weed on the day immediately preceding the operation. The internal substance of the amputated mamma had the appearance of high inflammation—small glandular bodies contained a milky fluid—and the mammary tumor discharged both milk and pus. The glands composing the body of the breast seemed like granulated substances strongly injected—some as if distended with milk, and others with blood and pus.

The incision was lengthened beyond the axilla, and all the bulky glands were removed which could be seized with the fingers. Yet after all, they appeared alike—red and puffy. Some were thought hard; and therefore the evidence of contamination was considered as complete.

But the operation had only been over for six or eight weeks, (during which the patient suffered greatly) when affections came on in the cut parts which were different from those

that are thought to arise from *latent malignancy*—affections which are generally named scrophulous. Tumors were formed time after time—those tumors suppurated—sinuses were produced—matter was discharged in great abundance, and sometimes by seven ulcerations at once; and a large induration arose under the clavicle toward the sixth month of her confinement.

However, the ideas respecting the existence of malignant poison were now seen to be incorrect, for although bulky glands started up, no attempt to remove them, because they were poisoned, was considered necessary—proper surgical management was adopted in opening sinuses, &c. and as soon as the large induration began to soften, the views concerning cancer were happily lost.

A free discharge of matter was kept up—the sores were dressed in the usual way—strict attention given to the plans for recovering and preserving health—and, in two years

from the operation, the tumors and induration had almost vanished, while the diseased and ulcerated parts were in a state nearly healed, after which a complete cure was accomplished.

CASE XVI.

An unmarried Lady consulted me for a swelling of the left breast, brought on, two years previously, by the violence of a bruise. The breast was evidently in a state of chronic inflammation at the time, and, in the inferior substance of the gland, toward the arm, a slight hardness could be perceived resembling that of a temporary tumor. The affection was easily removed by leeching, and by the usual remedies which are applied for reducing inflammatory complaints externally. But although removed, such an affection could not be prevented from the possibility of returning, because the tenderness which had been induced in that part of the gland, made the part be readily inflamed whenever any ex-

citing cause of inflammation was allowed to operate.

Her disposition was lively, feeling, and sanguine—she had a strong propensity to dress thinly, and, from habits of activity, seemed none averse to endanger her health, either by engaging with excessive exertions, or sustaining sudden transitions from heat to cold.

With individuals of this description, a mammary affection is never long easy; for the thinness of dress exposes the person in every state of the body, and the diseasing effects of cold, though not always alike powerful, are always hurtful; occurrences which were plainly illustrated in this lady's case. When she benefited by leeching, fomentations, &c. so that the pains and the swelling were done away, another circumstance would occur in a few months, by cold or otherwise, which revived the pains, and introduced new swelling of the breast. In other words—though the glandular substance somewhat condensed by

the original affection, had been softened after using means that diminished the new plethora, and the bulk of the diseased part had been reduced by the use of those means, the bulk was brought back, and the condensation renewed, by different degrees of the morbid plethora again excited.

In consequence of what has been just now mentioned, both respecting the diseased tendency of the mamma, and the dispositions of the patient, the affected part was formed like a small tumor at one time, while, at others, nothing could be felt but a trifling firmness in the place of the tumor. These changes were chiefly observable for the first ten months after I began to prescribe for the ailment; previous to the end of which, the appearances like temporary tumors were recurring very rarely. By two years, the complaint was seldom noticed; and for eight years more, it was little cause of trouble; but a rapid change of events took place in 1809, the period of ten years.

In the months of October and November of this year, her attention became deeply engaged with cares and anxieties arising from adverse circumstances, and, while her mind was seriously embarrassed, her body was subjected to uncommon fatigue. As her exertions were, thus, oppressive, and her comforts abridged, she felt these trials severely, and the appearance of bad health was evidently approaching by the beginning of November. The old uneasiness of her breast came on about the same time; a time which, to her, was peculiarly qualified for nourishing every feeling of alarm. And as her female friends had never heard of the complaint till now, they were instantly roused with such fears, that nothing would satisfy them but a variety of medical opinions, and a consultation was soon effected. Here it may be useful to pause a little, and reconsider the connecting circumstances in the history of this patient's case.

Independently of the mammary disease, her body was much exhausted, her mind perplexed, and her health declining—she possessed a lively imagination, and her mind was easily agitated. Her habits of dressing thinly were hurtful, and, for some time, she had been exposed to vicissitudes of heat and cold to an uncommon degree, along with frequent fatigue.

I have never failed to observe, that the diseased breast of a female, under such circumstances, is singularly prone to the occurrence of swelled glandular bodies from cold; and if the alarm for cancer come on at the same time, the swelling becomes general, both in the breast, and in the neighbouring parts, additionally to the effects of the cold; while, if costiveness prevail, these diseased symptoms are greatly aggravated.

All of these were united in her state at the time of the consultation—the breast was bulky, swelled glands were discovered in

the axilla, and the pains were darting. An operation was therefore fixed upon, and performed on the beginning of December, when all the bulky glands were removed, at which the knife or fingers could reach.

REMARKS.

By presenting this and the preceding case, it is intended to shew, in a still stronger light, how the lymphatic glands may be swelled and diseased during the existence of such a complaint; for, in both cases, these glands were affected several times previous to amputation. The former case explains itself from the history given of the results, and points out that the weeds disordered and swelled the glands, particularly while the body was in a bad or unhealthy state; as also, that there could be no local poison before the operation, since there was none after it, and the affections before and after were similar. The remark is well known, that cold

shiverings experienced in weeds, come on readily when the body is fatigued, and act chiefly by inflaming the part which is particularly tender, causing this part to sustain the greatest degree of injury.

The latter case is a convincing instance of the same fact. At first, the gland of the breast was inflamed by the bruise—the inflammation was not removed, then, by proper treatment—and a tenderness of the breast was the consequence. This tenderness was often revived, and increased by cold chills or shiverings.—The effects of these were unimportant, when the body was healthy, and the mind easy, but, when the contrary happened, cold shiverings were very powerful in swelling the lymphatic glands.

The state of mind was also powerful in swelling them. The alarm brought on a turgid and inflamed appearance of the mamma, and weakened the body at a time when the strength was already sinking. Though

the medical gentlemen acted prudently in saying little to her concerning what they thought of her state, they were free in telling her friends, and these friends were anxious to communicate the information; which is often the worst way of communicating this. They gave her such views of danger because the axillary glands were swelled, that a kind of delirium succeeded for several days. She has been considered well for almost five years, yet her bodily strength is not to be compared with that which she possessed in former times.

CASE XVII.

Jan. 30th, 1810.—Consulted by M. C. aged 19, whose mother had the right breast amputated for a cancerous tumor, two years ago, and died from the subsequent affections. She has been much troubled with a painful uneasiness, and disorder in the right breast, and can refer to no cause, unless it

was injured, as she suspects, while lifting and guiding her mother.

All the gland is swelled and tense—the lacteal and lymphatic vessels are uncommonly bulky, corded, and painful; running from the body of the breast, into the axilla in this state, and up to the clavicle. Numbers of swelled glands are to be felt at these two places, of a harder and softer texture, and they are exceedingly tender. The mammary substance is crowded with tumors of various shapes and sizes, yet all of them moveable. She complains chiefly of severe darting pains, and an uneasy distension of the breast, which increase at the approach of catamenial influence.

Her mind has been distressed for a long time about the complaint; yet her alarm is not impetuous, but attended with a gloom of melancholy. She feeds imagination, by pondering on the remembrance of her mother's sufferings; fancying that her own will soon

be similar, and appearing averse from views of comfort. When such views are offered, she is ready to produce some proof to the contrary, either from what she has seen, or from what she has heard respecting the distemper; and it appears that she has been careful to notice the words, and preserve the observations of medical men during her mother's illness.

The state of her bowels has been quite neglected, and she is very costive—let her have two purgatives the first two days, and laxative pills regularly afterward.

The breast is to be fomented two or three times a-day with warm vinegar in which acetis plumbi is dissolved, covered attentively with double folds of flannel, and rubbed at night with camphorated axunge.

Feb. 8th.—Beginning to see that she was too much alarmed, and to hope that she will

yet recover. Swelling of the breast, and pains abated—prescriptions as before.

15th. Improvement going on—countenance, words, and actions more animated—tumors, and swelled glands diminished in size, and fewer in number—parts still tender, but pains wearing away.

She was married soon after this—The breast suppurated when beginning to nurse in 1811, and left a longitudinal induration—but the induration was dispersed, and the breast got well.

CHAP. VII.

Mode of Cure.

THE present observations respecting the cure of cancer, apply only to those tumors or indurations of the female breast, which practitioners in general call by this name. However, the description of hardness, magnitude, or figure of these cannot be limited; and the idea of their contaminating and poisoning other parts by direct communication, or through the medium of the absorbents, is a deception, and therefore can give no notion of their real character. But the absorbents, and the neighbouring vessels, are brought into a diseased state, by the same exciting causes which nourish those cancers in their growth, and, thus, small tumors of

their own nature are occasioned ; so that such neighbouring tumors, by depending upon the frequent action and application of like causes for their origin, are also uncertain in the time or manner of their appearance. Besides, the nature of the pain which attends those cancerous tumors of the mamma, though it may be said to be lancinating, marks nothing more than an inflammatory operation brought on in that organ, or a plethoric distention of the part arising from the affection of the mind. The word cancer is a name, likewise, without any kind of true meaning ; for whatever it may be thought to imply, it leads into nothing but error. Hence it will be proper to give up names and speculations which are incompatible with practice.

Viewing these points of themselves as decisive, it is necessary, now, to describe the disease for which a cure is to be proposed. Let it be spoken of as a hardening tumor, an induration, or a bulky gland in the female breast, accompanied with vascular irritability.

and painful turgescence of the part; and several requisites will be found useful in forwarding the cure.

In the first place, remedies will prove more efficacious, if professional men give up unreasonable, and hypothetical fancies concerning the complaint. The ingenious suggestions, which comprehend probabilities relating to different modes of infection, supposed to result from cancerous poison, latent malignancy, unrestrained influence, and concealed agency, are all as if they had been contrived to excite alarm, and invade the most vulnerable points in the constitution of the human mind. Hence, by abandoning such reveries, practitioners will find the recovery of their female patients, to be a matter of less difficulty: for, as the alarm, by its secret influence over the human frame, when excited, and continued in force, enfeebles and disorders the stomach, reduces the strength of body, and increases the painful swelling of the mamma, every endeavour to support that

baneful alarm, and at the same time, to alleviate its ruinous effects, appears at once contradictory.

Again, it may be recommended, that the use of hazardous medicines should be avoided in this disease. The laudable zeal after specifics, has led to the employment of medicines which cannot but accelerate the fatal termination, in many instances; and among these medicines, mercury, and arsenic, may justly be mentioned. Should the data for warranting such conclusions be questioned, it is clear that, if the tendency of any powerful medicine be to destroy the functions of life, and a medicine of this kind be given for a mammary disease by mistake, while it neither supplants, nor arrests the disease, the patient will be subjected to two destructive powers, the one proceeding from the disease, the other from the medicine, and the actions of both of these must quicken the result. It may be true, indeed, that particular patients have profited by powerful medicines unexpectedly. But to

give one instance, mercury is still prescribed for recent indurations; and although few or no instances can be properly authenticated, wherein mercury has been found to cure indurated cancer, the advice to bring on salivation continues to be given for it.—What then can be the reason for continuing to use mercury in such cases?

It often happens, that mammary tumors are surrounded with tumefaction, and attended with pains, when no bodily disease can be traced except the sickness and general distress proceeding from the mental affliction. And when such a case occurs, laxatives or purgatives are the only medicines required internally. But then, judicious instructions to relieve, and prudent management to overcome the disturbance of the mind must accompany the laxatives; for, if the practitioner is unable to accomplish these objects, his prescriptions will be of little avail, and mercury, or deleterious medicines will only add to the devastation. Here, therefore, is a task for

which all practitioners may not be alike competent. And, perhaps, an instance of this kind proves how necessary it is, for every medical man to study the dispositions, powers, and combined effects of the human mind.

It is not meant here, in the observations just made, that mercury, or any other powerful medicine, must necessarily prove mischievous, when females with indurations of the breast are treated with them; because the disease of the system may require such medicines, though the local affection does not.

Nervous disorders, such as hysteria, dyspepsia, &c. often exist when an induration is troublesome, so that bitters, purgatives, &c. become particularly useful; and the induration must be managed according to the active degree of the local affection, during the continuance of these disorders.

Theoretical objections may be started to this view of treatment; but the proof of its

soundness rests upon experience; and it is well known, unless the general disorder of the system be corrected, that attempts to cure a diseased part have often been fruitless. It therefore follows as a consequence, if the disorder of the system be inveterate, that the treatment of a diseased part will be proportionally difficult; as likewise, if the temper and inclinations of the patient be constantly injuring the system, that the treatment will be equally difficult, so long as these hurtful dispositions prevail; which will even render the complaint sometimes incurable, or renew it when it seems to have been eradicated.

But the idea of infectious powers which mammary tumors are said to possess over the female frame is particularly striking; for, if inflammation come on in the lungs, the power of the tumors, under the idea of cancerous influence, is readily impeached, and the treatment which is known to counteract inflammation, is omitted. Such opinions, by which the state of patients is endangered, from the

want of proper treatment, would readily deceive the profession, were it not ascertained that the symptoms of peripneumony are obviously relieved by general blood-letting, at the very time these tumors are painful. They, and the glandular substance around them, are inflamed by the effects of fatigue and cold, as well as the lungs, and blood-letting, &c. in such cases is highly necessary, otherwise the internal inflammation, and the external affection may both increase.

By attending to the explanation given in the fourth chapter, it will be seen that the turgescient dispositions, and the vascular irritability of the mamma, are the symptoms for which the curative means ought to be applied. It is the disorder indicated by these symptoms, which occasions both the density and the additional bulk of mammary tumors. Hence the causes of such symptoms ought as much as possible to be prevented. Instead of adopting views like these, however, an opposite plan has been pursued, from a notion

that seems to have been gratifying, of the tumors growing by a power peculiar to themselves, or a power of their own vitality. On this and other accounts it has been thought that tumors of the mamma should be reduced in size by stimulating the absorbents, and by corroding applications, the irritating nature of both of which plans is calculated to rouse the vascular activity and make the tumors larger. Whereas if this activity be checked, the growth of the tumors is also checked, and the reduction of size is effected by local warmth especially, by sea-bathing, and by asswaging remedies.

In addition to leeching, venesection, and purging, which ought to be prescribed according to circumstances, (as may be seen in the detail of the cases) there is often a necessity to order fomentations, poultices, anodyne lotions, and ointments for topical applications. Yet it is impossible to state exactly, when, or how long any of these remedies should be used, since that knowledge must be left to the penetration of the practitioner; only, as the

symptoms of inflammatory action may often be more or less urgent, it is often advantageous to apply such remedies by turns. Warm poultices, composed of chamomile, and those of other bitter herbs, prove highly serviceable in many cases, after bleeding and purging. The poultices can be prepared with saturnine solutions, with infusions of black henbane, &c. and the lotions and fomentations in the same manner. The fomentations are frequently useful, when aqueous infusions of *nicotiana tabacum* or opium are employed. Camphor can be applied by means of simple, or in the way of compound mixture, and still the effect is a lessening of the glandular irritability. Some authors may assert that fomentations, and the like with simple waters, answer the same general purposes as those do which are combined with medicinal ingredients; but such an assertion can safely be left to the test of experience, without confutation.

Nevertheless, there is one important point which cannot be overlooked. In many in-

stances, the disease of the mamma continues to increase, when a sedative application is used in a cold state; whereas, if moderately warmed, the disease gives way. This happens to be the case particularly with the use of liquids; and thus, the same remedies may be rendered useful or hurtful at pleasure. Different men may give different opinions to explain the effects brought on, in this way, by cold and warm applications; yet the fact is convincing, though the opinions should vary. Whenever a cold application is brought into contact with the breast of some delicate females, an universal uneasiness is instantly produced, with occasional rigours while the application remains; and similar effects are produced, in some cases, by the application of folded linen wetted with lotions, by which a continual evaporation and constant abstraction of heat are kept up from the surface of the skin. The principle appears to be the same as those noticed in the fifth chapter; because, if the diseased breast be too much cooled, while the system is delicate, the generation of necessary

heat is tedious, and the sensations of cold disorder both.

In this diseased irritability of the mamma, the loss of blood is beneficial under a number of circumstances; especially when aching pains are complained of in the shoulders; and perhaps from the cold induced, leeching is often unprofitable: but not to occasion too much loss at once is of great importance. Six ounces of blood will be found salutary, when twelve, taken at one time, will add to all the uneasy feelings.

CHAP. VIII.

Opinions for Extirpating the Mamma con- sidered.

THERE is no part of practice about which less has been satisfactorily established, than the extirpation of the mamma when it contains an induration. The professional enemies to the operation are numerous, and so are the friends; and each one affirms that his opinion is the result of practice. How is it possible that such contradictory opinions have prevailed so long amongst men of high character? The truth is, the reasons on both sides may be upright. A surgeon who amputates the breasts of a great many females, for moveable tumors, of a moderate size, has

many chances to be successful when there is no other danger to fear for some time but the irritation and fever occasioned by the operation. And while he is inclined to extirpate all he meets with, he has little opportunity, from his own experience, to witness how many cures can be effected without the knife, or to know how remedies can be used for that purpose. His opinion, therefore, will be decidedly in favour of amputation. Whereas the surgeon who carefully watches all the circumstances, sees the ruinous consequences of such operations on the female constitution, and observes that the number of diseased females is greater who survive without cutting, will speak according to the dictates of his experience. In this way the opinion of both surgeons may proceed from the most upright intentions; yet the former approving from practice, and disapproving from ignorance, and the latter approving and disapproving from the conviction impressed by observation, while neither of the parties possesses clear or distinct ideas on the subject.

But it might be said that such a state of things could not continue long, since one of the two opinions must soon prevail. And this would certainly happen, were not mankind fonder of premature induction, than of wary and persevering investigation. Though each party claims the superiority of his opinion, both submit to the decision of inconclusive arguments, by supporting the mistakes which render every opinion, comprehended in the current theory of cancer, disputable.

Though an author state that surgeons are warranted, from past experience, in removing the mamma with a scirrhus tumor, which is moveable and distinctly circumscribed, the term scirrhus renders it difficult to know what is here intended. If the meaning of the term were simple, and understood to signify a great degree of hardness, a tumor of this nature would readily be ascertained. But the term is complicated, and includes the notions attached to specula-

tions on the powers of cancer. These are therefore supposititious ; the hardness is often imaginary ; various tumors may be suspected ; and an operation is left to the choice and prudence of the practitioner, without any determinate mark of controul.

It deserves to be remarked, that a considerate surgeon is usually more averse, after he is advanced in life and in the knowledge produced by practice, to advise extirpation for a recent tumor of the mamma, than in early life with less experience. This circumstance would almost prove that practical observations, in the treatment of such tumors, occasion fewer fears, than those that are roused from the speculative notions entertained at first ; consequently that the fears are the most powerful which proceed from the speculative notions, and mislead the surgeon as well as his female patient. When his mind is impressed with them, he is very apt to consider every bulky absorbent gland, whether swelled by cold, or

enlarged by common inflammation, as infected by some unknown but deadly agent. Hence the patient is liable to undergo a painful operation, for the cutting out of all these enlarged glands; or may be doomed to a state of fatal misery, from hearing that the distemper is pronounced incurable, which leaves her without hope, and subjects her to the destructive influence of despondency. Yet the absorbent glands, as may be seen from the cases, are often swelled in a few hours, and, with proper management, the swelling can be subdued in an ordinary space of time.

The want of success in removing mam-mæ for recent tumors, when the prospects were flattering, has deterred many surgeons from performing the operation. And others have been so successful that they have not hesitated, by means of an operation, to arrest the progress of the disease at a very advanced period. The inconsistency of these occurrences has led to a conclusion that the opera-

tion is, probably, the safest practice, provided it can be performed before the gland is poisoned. But what are the indications of this suspected poison? They are feverish symptoms, swelling, pain, confusion of intellect, and urgency of conduct; symptoms pointed out in these writings, which arise from the combined effects of cold, costiveness, and despair. Therefore, as these may come on at any period, from the negligencies of the patient and the temporary dispositions of her mind, they are necessarily uncertain, and can afford no certain criterion for knowing the proper time when an operation should be performed. Hence it is obvious how mistakes have happened, both with respect to the kind of tumors, and the time for operating.

But further, from what has now been mentioned, it plainly appears how amputation may have failed, in some instances, to complete the cure, and preserve the patient from the disease for which it was performed. If

the active symptoms of disorder in the mamma proceed from careless habits, and agitation of the mind, the operation, by increasing the constitutional frailty, can only accelerate the danger of a future relapse, whenever the same habits are resumed, and the diseasing causes are again allowed to operate as before. This is the reasonable view which shews how some females have been thought to benefit by amputation, in defiance of unfavourable appearances, when, in consequence of it, the disease has returned upon others with increasing celerity, whose state seemed less precarious. Painful experience, and greater frailty of body, are lessons by which some females may profit, and become attentive to whatever preserves the health; and others may disregard these feelings, or views, whenever opportunity and ability relieve them from disagreeable restraints.

Thus the opinions would be correct which are favourable to the extirpation of a recently

diseased mamma, were the diseasing influence confined to the mamma alone ; but while this influence is the production of unguarded conduct, a faultiness of mind turns out to be an accessory source of future occurrences.

CHAP. IX.

The Ulcer of the Mammary Induration, commonly called Open Cancer.

THIS ulcer is capable of being brought to assume a great variety of diseased appearances. If, as has been explained in the foregoing chapters, and proved in the peculiarities to be found in the cases, the incorrect habits of the patient be such as to keep the glandular disorder alive, and the diseased magnitude and hardness of the tumor be in that way hastened, while the healthy functions of the system are destroyed in consequence both of these habits, and the desultory use of prejudicial medicaments, the local

affection is always greatly vitiated, and the constitutional dispositions are necessarily corrupted by persevering in that line of conduct.

Actuated by the joint influence of such occurrences as these, the protracted inflammation on the surface of the tumor brings on a thin and tender condition of the integuments, which induces the gradual distension of the cuticular vessels. And as the process of friction on the tender state of such an irritable surface is obviously injurious, by exciting the local inflammation, particularly with the hardness of the morbid substance immediately below it, the cuticle soon attaches itself to this substance, and, from continual rubbing, occasioned by tight dressing, it loses by degrees its power of vital adhesion.

It is then, when the whole of the system is distempered, and the gland of the breast is so highly diseased, that the ulceration commences; and if the recent sore be irritated

by mismanagement, or by the effects of improper applications, a combination of evils speedily accumulates. Every chance of the healing process is thus prevented, and, as the hurtful habits may, partly, be still continued, the delicate cuticle, from the action of the inflammatory stimulus falls off, the ulceration extends, the local disease becomes more general, and the bodily indisposition gains ground imperceptibly.

It is in such a situation as this that the temper is often soured, and that the want of hope produces a want of steadiness in the mind. And if the mamma was easily disordered by cold, &c. before, when the induration, and the vascular irritability were the only troublesome causes of complaint, it increases more than ever, now, in the susceptibility for disordering influences, while there is less vigour of mind in the patient to correct any errors of judgment. Thence the edges of the ulcer begin to appear in a swelled and inflamed state, by which they ultimately harden.

They become ragged and unequal; painful, and reversed in contrary ways; when risings and excavations may be seen on the surface of the sore, unless a very careful and rational mode of conduct and treatment be pursued.

The matter discharged by an ulcer of this kind is naturally thin, and often very copious. Yet the quantity and quality of the discharge depends materially on the treatment. Stimulating and caustic applications thicken the matter, or increase the discharge for a given time, according to the peculiarity of languid disease in the gland, or the unhealthy dispositions in the system; but the continuance of these applications changes the sore from a lower to that of a higher and feeble inflammation, which renders the parts red, flabby, and growthy. In this way the diseased vessels appear as if they were weakened by extra exertion.

But this is not all. The over-abundance of matter causes a greater proportion to be settled, and to adhere upon the surface, where, by the activity of the putrefactive process, to which this ulceration is disposed, encouraged by the power of animal heat, and the septic application used, it soon corrupts. The corruption increases the acrimony of this matter, and that again the diseased action, until the general health, and in some instances the bones be seriously infected.

For, if in this state of things, the materials which are applied should corrode any portions of the old substance, there is no incarnating or healing disposition in the contiguous parts to replace them, and what is thus removed, is generally supplied by a soft and very unhealthy substance, on which the acrid discharge becomes particularly mischievous; or by the acrid matter lodging in certain cavities, these become deeper in consequence of the same kind of action, and form recesses for this putrified and acrimonious matter.

Thus the matter becomes dark-coloured, and fetid ; and, in the advanced stages of the distemper, the blood-vessels are frequently eroded. The patient complains of a burning heat over the ulcerated surface, which is mentioned as the most tormenting symptom that attends the disorder. And it is no wonder that this is the case, when the acrimony of the matter is encouraged, and is permitted to operate on such an irritable and sensible surface. The shooting lancinating pains are spoken of as turning more severe at the same time, which is quite consistent with all the catalogue of errors ; because the feelings of pain and irritation will rivet the alarmed attention on the mamma, which occasions a morbid plethora of that organ, already tender, irritated, and inflamed.

It is not only with a mamma which contains an induration that these miserable affections take place. The same succession of mismanagement happens in cases where an ulcer is brought on in the site of an amputat-

ed breast. The cuticle of the scar is generally tender, and readily inflamed; and particular affections from cold, cause red pustules, or pea-like tumors to grow in the course of the seam, or in the vicinity. These are easily fretted. The skin falls off them, and may be frequently replaced. But by and by they begin to canker, and to ulcerate, when the ensuing misery proceeds in the same progress with that which has been just now mentioned, and goes on with a rapidity proportionably to the sickness and infirmity of the female's constitution.

When a female patient is pale and emaciated, and the ulcerated breast has become very fetid, the foetor is not to be overcome by ordinary washing, but by the careful use of antiseptic cataplasms. The putrefactive process which is the cause of this foetor, is promoted by different degrees of bad health. It is also aided by the application of any substance, such as bread poultices, which has a tendency to corruption. But this may gene-

rally be checked by cleansing the sore with tepid infusions of gentian, columba, or chamomile. A poultice of chamomile flowers, when properly stewed and softened, is peculiarly efficacious. The state of such a patient is greatly improved by drinking a sufficient quantity of port-wine, and using a poultice of this kind at the same time. It should be made to surround the breast, and ought to be removed and replaced every six or eight hours till the foetor is subdued, washing the ulceration at each removal with some of the bitter infusions, by means of a syringe. During this, however, it is necessary to preserve an agreeable degree of bodily warmth, and to keep the bowels in a state of easy openness. A current of air on the body of a patient in such circumstances, will often occasion chills which, although scarcely noticed, are particularly hurtful, and on that account the regular heat of bed is generally preferable.

In the course of a few weeks, the continued use of chamomile poultices can, in ge-

neral, be dispensed with, when they only become now and then necessary. And the design of keeping down the foetor, and carrying off the irritation, is often accomplished by covering the ulcerated surface in the intervals, when the poultices are laid aside, with some kinds of antiseptic powders, such as cinchona, and several bitter roots, washing the parts as before. It is in this way that chalybeate powders may be employed many times with great advantage. They can be applied in a simple state, or can be mixed so as to answer the purpose of tonics, antiseptics, and absorbents; and by using them in this manner, they become, in particular cases, of far greater service than fatty or oily applications, which, by soon becoming rancid, advance the putrefactive process, and add to the acrimony and foetor of the matter.

This treatment with herbaceous poultices of an antiseptic nature, and then the use of various powders of the same nature, accord-

ing to the cursory view just given, proves what was stated at the beginning of this chapter, that the ulcer of a mammary induration is capable of being made to assume different diseased appearances; for by following such a course of treatment steadily, even for an ulcer of an indurated mamma which is very large, and which appears to answer the character of great malignancy, it will check the noted growth of the edges, and also that of the other superficial protuberances. In carrying off the foetor and dirty colour of the matter, it diminishes the burning heat, abates the inflammatory soreness, prevents the formation of new cavities, relieves the mind, and overcomes the darting pains, without the blood-vessels being eroded.

Thus it appears that these occurrences, which are called the only symptoms of true cancer, are signs which are occasioned either by the carelessness of the patients, or by the mismanagement of the practitioner. Accordingly, as the degree or extent of such

errors cannot but differ greatly in different individuals, the appearances of this ulcer, (which every writer considers irregular) it is easy to conceive, must likewise differ. The length of time the ulcer has been in this way vitiated, will also affect it materially, in causing more or fewer symptoms, of what is denominated true cancer, to come on. Hence the cause of jarring.—One will fix his character of true cancer on the appearances brought on by great mismanagement; another on those brought on by less: one will treat this ulcer at an early period; another will deny that it is an ulcer of the malignant kind, because, by not having had sufficient time to spoil, the effects on its surface, and the sufferings of the patient are not so bad as those which take place a short time before death, when the want of hope relaxes every nerve of exertion.

But, by shifting the scene, it is gratifying to think that a view more cheering can be pre-

sented, where prudence averts the calamitous results of negligence, and the practice of rational experience appears superior to the pretensions of fancied ingenuity.

Of the vast number of females who, although they have tumors and indurations in their breasts, are averse to apply for surgical aid, it is impossible to form a conjecture. This complaint is more universal amongst females than most medical men are apt to imagine. Yet, in a great many instances, such females rely, advantageously, on their own experience for the management of the disorder, feeling the sensible benefit of warmth, and the good effects of careful attention in avoiding the common errors of society.

If it happen, however, that females of this description enter into some temporary mistakes of conduct, which, in the way already mentioned, inflame the cuticular surface of an induration, and occasion an ulcer at the place, their attentive and careful

habits render the treatment simple, and the cure of the ulcer easy. Dr. Carmichael's plan of using preparations of iron is successful, when many of the medicines in common use increase the complaint. The constitution of some patients may be weakened by mercury, and the ulcer will spread; or the ulcer may be inflamed by arsenical lotions, so that the same thing will happen. But for the females described above it is only necessary to prescribe whatever medicines will improve the general health, to treat the part with remedies which prevent irritation, to keep the sore clean, and to defend it from the diseasing effects of cold and friction. Change of air, and sea-bathing, are often successful when these means appear to be failing. But of all the plans for benefit, local heat is of the first importance, because it thickens the discharge, and removes its ichorous quality, while it saves the neighbouring glands, diminishes the size of the induration, and prevents the rounded swelling of the edges so common to the ulcer. Thus a sore of this

kind can be cured without allowing the symptoms of what is called true cancer to come on, and yet by improper management, these symptoms would become complete.

CASE XVIII.

On the 16th of November 1799, in the 36th year of her age, Mrs. W. was attacked with internal pains of the chest, and great uneasiness of the left breast, in consequence of laborious exercises by which she had been excessively fatigued the preceding day. Though the pains in the chest had abated by the time I saw her, she had a troublesome cough, and the breast was considerably swelled. It was turgid and tender, having an appearance like the formation of a small tumor beginning in the upper part of the gland, which place she spoke of as the centre of severe darting pains. However, all these complaints were overcome by moderate blood-lettings, by purgatives, and by rubbing the breast with camphorated ointment.

She continued well till the 31st of September 1803, at which time she began to be severely affected with paroxysms of hysteria; and although no tumor had yet been formed in the breast, it was often bruised during the paroxysms, and thus a greater degree of tenderness was occasioned. Her habit of body was spare, her complexion dark-coloured, and her temper peculiarly irritable.

The attacks of hysteria were pretty frequent for a long time. But recovering during the use of bitters, chalybeates, and purgatives, she came at last to enjoy a good state of health. Whenever the attacks were approaching, it regularly happened that the breast was the object of her greatest concern, crying out repeatedly that it would soon become cancer, and take her life. Yet when her health began to improve, the breast recovered along with her body, and was seldom the cause of trouble, except when the pains were revived by some new injury, for which the ointment was again employed.

Nothing occurred that was worth remarking till December 1807, the month in which her husband died. As long as her health was good, and she treated the breast with attention to proper warmth, there was neither alarm for cancer, nor any cause for weighty complaint. But the disquietude of mind, consequent on her husband's death, preyed upon her spirits, and disturbed her whole frame. The digestive capacity of her stomach had been weak for a long time, yet now she lost all relish for food, felt sickly, became languid, and fell off in the usual appearance of her person.

In consequence of these circumstances, the relapse of hysteria produced the most unfavourable tempers; for she was either under the influence of melancholy, on account of her terror for cancer, which assisted the dyspeptic tendency of her constitution, or she despaired of the success of every plan, and became regardless of whatever should happen. Thus the breast was often neglected,

or treated carelessly. For as yet no tumor had formed in it. But the place in the upper part of the gland, where the diseased affection first came on, began to consolidate. The consolidation commenced at a point, and gradually extended; increasing both in hardness and circumference, in proportion to the length and severity of the paroxysms.

About this time she again contracted a tedious and obstinate cough, while the menses were beginning to leave her, and to appear at very irregular and distant periods; so that every thing in her condition concurred to counteract the effects of such means as could be employed for the purpose of restoring her to health. However, the cough was relieved, and she was brought by persuasion, when the catamenial dispositions had ceased, and by the use of invigorating remedies, to enjoy a tolerable competency of ease and comfort. Yet, from the unhappy temper of her mind, during such a variety of morbid affections, she had often exposed

herself inconsiderately to cold, and in that way occasioned a sense of stiffness, and feelings of pains in her neck and shoulders, which, by the end of the year 1809, were excessively troublesome.

As it happened that her frame was often agitated by the influence of irritating passions, new ailments were frequently occurring. The impulse of anger disposed her to temporary excesses of bodily efforts, and consequently, to the diseasing effects of cold; while that of grief was generally accompanied with extravagant alarms. The cough, the pains of the neck and shoulders, and the mammary disorder were regularly revived by the former, and obstinate costiveness, with twisting pains of the abdomen, were as regularly the attendants of the latter passion. In this way the time passed on, and the glandular substance of the breast continued to harden, nevertheless of her health being repeatedly brought, by the use of various remedies, to a good condition, when the painful feelings would be

gone for several months in succession. But whenever a new cough came on, which she knew to arise from the affection of some recent exposure to cold, it was very common to hear that the disordered state of the gland was greatly worse at the same time.

The next unfortunate occurrence happened in the spring of 1810, when her sister was affected with a serious illness, on whom she was obliged to attend night and day for more than a week. Her strength was not only exhausted during this attendance, but both of her breasts were frequently bruised, and thus the right breast was brought into the same diseased state as the left.

Fits of sickness, constipation of the bowels, indigestion, and all the usual train of nervous complaints attending general debility were now awakened, for which she used cinchona, laxatives, chalybeates, and again recovered; yet as she did not desist from laborious occupations, the axillary glands of the

left side became bulky, and frequent fatigues, together with the consequent friction, inflamed the cuticle of the left induration, which soon became firmly attached to it, and began to pucker. The inflammation increased, and it was not long till an ulcer formed.

This ulcer was healed three times, but reproduced as often by the same causes that began it, though at distant periods; and in the course of the time taken up with healing the new formed ulcers, the axillary glands became larger and smaller according to the regular or irregular degree of warmth which was kept up in the diseased parts. The remedies used externally for the healing of the ulcer were saturnine ointment, and chamomile poultices. However these would have often been ineffective, had she not taken quantities of port-wine, at particular times, in proportion to the apparent necessities, as well as medicines for supporting her strength, by assisting the powers of digestion, and regulating the state of her bowels.

By the end of March 1811, the size of the indurated tumor of the left breast was five inches in circumference ; at which time the surface of its apex was almost wholly exposed, and had been hollowed by a new ulceration. Foreseeing, therefore, the difficulty in any attempts to heal this sore, after the hardened matter in the centre of the tumor had begun to corrupt, I determined to cut out the tumor. Accordingly, on the 4th of the following month, with the assistance of Dr. White and several of my medical brethren, I cut away all the indurated substance of the gland, with the nipple, and a small portion of the surrounding cuticle which constituted the swollen edges of the ulcer, leaving as much as possible for the purpose of cicatrizing the parts that were thus deprived of any covering of skin.

On bringing the parts of the wound together, there was a considerable deficiency of integuments, in consequence of the loss from ulceration, and that which was occasioned by

the knife ; yet the whole was cicatrized, and completely cured in seven weeks from the time of the operation. However, it is necessary to mention what took place in the progress of her recovery, and also what appeared to be intimately connected with the cure.

For some time at first the wound was dressed with cerate ointment, or covered with bread poultices ; then the dressings were changed, by adding cicuta, and sometimes acetis plumbi to the cerate, according as the parts appeared less or more inclined to an inflammatory action ; after which, in consequence of uneasy swellings that came on, it became necessary to apply chamomile poultices at particular times. Yet the small portion that remained of the mammary gland supplicated twice during the use of these applications, and the large gland of the axilla came also to suppurate, when the diseased bulk there disappeared.

While using these remedies, the state of her body required to be treated with attention. She had a certain proportion of port-wine allowed her daily; and prescriptions sometimes of pulv. cinchon. and sometimes of carb. ferri, along with the necessary laxatives.

It happened, however, when the wound was almost closed, that I was eight days absent from the town, and by the time I returned, a fleshy substance like a small lead pencil was growing out from the cicatrice, and still increasing in size notwithstanding the caustic that had been applied to it. Upon inquiry I found that the usual quantity of wine, and the doses of carb. ferri had been omitted; but by again regulating the quantities of these, and dressing the wound with simple cerate free from every irritating addition, without applying any caustic, this protuberance subsided, and the sore healed up.

About this time, she was able to sit up half an hour out of bed at mid-day ; and as the weather was very hot, and the bed-room confined, the window was directed to be opened three or four minutes occasionally, without allowing it to be longer open at once. On the third evening, however, the window was opened, and forgotten all night ; in consequence of the cold air from which, I found her very feverish next day, and complaining grievously of darting pains in the mamma, which, when examined, was studded over with prominently circular and hard tumors about the size of peas, arranged wherever the skin was thin and tender that had been regenerated, and along the course of the cicatrice. Three to four ounces of blood were immediately taken from her arm ; and the diseased symptoms and new feelings were done away by causing the parts to be covered with cotton wool. Some of the tumors ulcerated the following week ; but they were treated as the wound had been, and in that way healed.

Her convalescence continued gradually to advance, although the surface of the tumor in the right breast, from the bodily activity of renovated vigour, was soon fretted by the bandage that bound her chest, and an unhealthy ulcer on the part distinguished by the name cancer, was the consequence. She went to the sea-bathing in the course of the summer, and, after staying there beyond a month, returned with new appearances of vigorous health, and the ulcer nearly healed.

Such was the steadiness of her health after this summer, that, from observing how much she profited by exercise in the open air, she walked about for that purpose very frequently, and escaped a number of troublesome feelings which attended her nervous complaints. Indeed the powers of digestion, and the strength of her body increased considerably ; and, except an occasional cough, every thing else went on well till the middle of the ensuing summer.

Few patients could be more desirous than she to obey what advices were given her for the preservation of her health. But, in May, 1812, she forgot her resolutions for a few hours, and, after the heat and fatigue brought on by too active exertions, sat down to cool her body in a current of air. Next day she was in a highly inflammatory fever, with severe cough, harassing stitches, and spitting of blood.

She was recovered from the violence of this new disease, by means of small blood-lettings, digitalis, blisterings, and pectoral medicines. Nevertheless, on account of the frailty of her constitution, and the effect which this fever produced upon it, a great degree of general weakness succeeded. The cough was seldom long easy—the fits of hysteria returned—in some of these fits a kind of temporary delirium came on—and when at the worst, in two or three instances, she tore and rubbed her breasts with the fury of insensibility. Thus a new ulcer was formed,

by more than an inch of the tender skin being rubbed off the left breast in one day, which, along with the ulcer of the right breast, required continual attention till the 6th of July 1813, that she died.

About a month previous to her death, she often expressed her regret for the alarming fears she had so unnecessarily cherished respecting the fate of her breasts. Her regret was the greater, because they had given her little trouble for a long time beyond that of the attention to dressing. The ulcers were managed so carefully, as neither to become fetid, nor, although the edges threatened sometimes to thicken, was that symptom, or the burning, or the other severe pains spoken of by authors, ever allowed to come on. The treatment was according to the view given in this chapter.

Sixteen hours after death the body was inspected by three medical men and myself. The ulcer of the left breast had diminished

in size toward the end of her illness, and its utmost extent was only one inch by two, on the part where the new skin had grown. The surface was neither marked by hardened edges, risings, nor excavations. The ulcer was more extensive on the induration of the right breast, and it was scarcely so regular as that of the left. But no erosion of blood-vessels had occurred; nor was there any peculiarity of smell. The right axilla had no diseased glands; and the left had two that seemed to have been swelled, though the size from disease was very trifling. The ribs, and the muscular substance directly below the ulcers, presented nothing worth remarking, more than the unhealthy colour peculiar to cases of great emaciation. None of the depredations mentioned by authors as the consequence of cancerous ulceration was to be seen.

The lungs were greatly diseased; but the right lung was more so than the left. Both contained tubercles; and in some few

of these, minute quantities of pus appeared upon dividing them. The pericardium was distended with water, and firmly connected with all the parts around it ; while the different surfaces within the chest were almost all attached to each other by the inflammatory adhesion. The liver, also, was preternaturally bulky.

It is evident that this patient was anxious to recover and preserve her health ; yet the unhappy dispositions of her mind were frequently the remote causes of new disease. They protracted the complaints of indigestion, and weakened her body to such a degree that, in times of thoughtlessness, it was easily infected. The alarming ideas connected with the name cancer as the consequences of erroneous management, were extremely hurtful to her irritable mind ; and she could not divest herself wholly of these ideas, till she was strongly convinced of her mistake, by feeling the progress of another disease, without having experienced the miseries, which, because

they were considered unavoidable in the public opinion, she had always believed to be drawing near.

CASE XIX.

When she was 60 years of age, a farmer's widow consulted me for a small circular tumor in the gland of the right breast, which arose without her knowing how, and was then of a recent date. It gave her little or no pain until she was alarmed by hearing of the misery which she was told it would yet occasion, and, on that account, she allowed a surgeon to cut it out, along with the greater part of the mamma.

Her figure was robust; and having no experience of disease, she had long been inured to incautious habits, and efforts of strength that were rather of a masculine nature, regardless of the danger to which she thus exposed a female constitution.

When the symptomatic fever was over, and the wound was closed, she soon began to act as if safety had been secured because the tumor was extirpated. In the resumption of her former habits, her behaviour resembled that of many others whose errors occasion such distempers, not aware of the complaint originating in thoughtless conduct, which may bring it on again, though removed for a time. Her frame was weakened by the operation, and fatigue, and the effects of cold were therefore the more easily induced. Thus a new tumor grew at the same place, and I was consulted for it once more.

Common experience, if guided by the simplest reason, teaches that cold will act more powerfully on the tender parts of an old wound or sore, than upon another part of the body which is sound ; and in this way it is the cause of many diseases. The former tumor was small, and probably arose from some neglected bruise. But this second tumor was large. The vessels of the part were more deli-

cate, her system more debilitated, and consequently every injury from cold was greater. It was literally like a great collection of tumors adhering together, and forming one diseased mass. The contortion of the cuticular vessels was remarkable, and they were greatly distended. She was hoarse, and had a cough at the same time ; but she spoke of these affections as trifling, saying she had become very subject to them, and though she lately got a severe cold, it would gradually wear off as the others had done.

She was now informed that unless she endeavoured to avoid these colds, they would certainly become her ruin ; and also that the size of the vessels would increase each time a cough was brought upon her in the same manner ; as likewise, that the number and bulk of the tumors would become greater, while the darting pains would come on violently from the same cause. All of these circumstances she readily believed, because they corresponded exactly with what she had

both felt and observed ; yet, although she recollected that the pains were stronger, and the vessels larger since the cough began, she did not think that cold would thus affect her breast.

She promised to be attentive in pursuing the directions given her, and for three months it was striking to observe what changes to the better were effected. When she was careful, the vessels were smaller, and the bulky mass was softened ; when less careful, these affections were quite the contrary.

Twelve months after this I was desired to visit her, when she was applying powders and preparations of arsenic, which were corroding the parts, and causing unnecessary pain ; and in this way all the morbid mass was hollowed by ulcerations that reached considerably into the axilla. The general state, characterizing what is said to be cancer, was truly complete. But the state of her temper was pitiable. Naturally peevish and irresolute, the incres-

sant pain had roused the angry passions, and rendered her extremely discontented. While the different things that had been applied for dressing the breast were occasioning this pain, they were deepening the sore, eating away the soft parts, adding to the excessive foetor, and infecting the diseased system rapidly.

The acrimonious dressings were given up, the antiseptic treatment already mentioned was instantly adopted, and, at next visit, I found her in a much happier situation. Comparatively, she was mild and affable. The pains were moderate, and the foetor was gone. The surface of the wound was less irregular, and, surviving fourteen months, she died beyond the age of seventy.

CASE XX.

Sept. 1814.—An aged Lady came to Paisley to be under my care, for the treatment of her left breast which was twice the

bulk of the other. All the gland was condensed, and firmly attached to the surrounding parts, so that its body was immovable, and its substance very solid. The projecting growths upon the whole external surface gave it a peculiarly knobbed appearance, and the indurated mass inclined toward the axilla, where two hardened glands were very bulky. It was five years since she had first observed a pea-like tumor in the breast, and she knew of nothing that had occasioned it. Her health had been regularly good, and she had never experienced much uneasiness or pain from the affection. Possessing a remarkable steadiness and composure of mind, the agitation of alarm had at no time seized her; and, though the darting pains were sometimes smart, they were neither violent, at any time, nor lasting.

The nipple was eaten away by an ulcer larger than a shilling, and the skin around it was very tender. Yet for one advanced to near the age of seventy, she still retained a

good constitution. But the unavoidable frailty of that age had attacked her; and being accustomed to clothe herself thinly, and to cover her breasts still more so, the declining frame was not defended in proportion to the want of natural heat and vigour which was evidently considerable.

Knowing that these circumstances were perfectly sufficient to keep up and increase the mammary distemper, the treatment was easy, and the ointment I used for the ulcer was simple. She was desired to drink small quantities of port-wine diluted with water, to cover the breast with fur or cotton wool, and to add to the warmth of her clothing. The ulcer was dressed twice a-day, and sometimes the powder of galls, sometimes the powder of charcoal, was added to the ointment. The breast was rubbed once or twice a-day with soap-tincture; and at each dressing it was well soaked with tepid water.

In this way the sore was covered over with skin in less than four weeks, and the diseased structure of the breast was completely changed. From a large mass of compacted induration, the unnatural bulk gradually decreased, till, by the end of that time, the arm side, and the inferior portion of the gland had acquired the original softness. Though the tumors in the arm-pit were not dispersed, they were lessened, and resolving to continue the same mode of treatment, she left the town with expressions of gratitude.

Few patients enjoy the sedateness and regularity of temper which this lady manifested; and none could appear to be less disturbed with the pains so common to her complaint. When questioned upon what she felt, she generally declared that the pains were trifling, and that although they sometimes passed through like a dart, every feeling of the kind was short, and only came on at distant periods. She was several days in town without feeling any of these pains. But being

formerly accustomed to the open air, she was allowed to walk abroad, and thus her body was affected one day by the weather becoming wet. The first appearance of this affection was a tendency to the eruption of florid pimples on the diseased breast, while there was nothing of the kind to be seen on the sound one ; and the darting pains commenced in the one that was so affected on the following night. However they left her in the course of the day, and did not return till an occurrence of the same kind again took place.

This case affords another instance in proof, that the mammary pains are moderate when the mind is habitually calm, that affections from cold are powerful in the production of darting pains, and that the diseased breast is easily disordered by cold, when the bodily sensations are scarcely altered.

CASE XXI.

Widow ——— had her right breast bruised by the sudden stroke of a man's elbow, in the year 1806, which introduced a tedious soreness of the gland, and occasioned a tumor toward the clavicle. As the soreness kept up a tender state, every new affection of the breast encouraged the disposition to plethora, and added to the growth of the tumor.

She was good natured, the frame of her mind was calm, and she felt none of the painful sensations that arise from alarm. But she had a sister of an opposite temper, who sought after opinions, and urged her early in 1813 to obtain consultations in Glasgow. The result of these was, that although amputation had been too long delayed, it was the only alternative for life, and ought to be performed immediately.

They applied to me in the following July, when her age was 44. All the breast was swollen, and the glandular substance was unnaturally firm—the induration was flat and angular, measuring two by two inches—it was more than an inch in thickness, with the cuticle attached to its surface, and considerably puckered—no axillary affection.

Since the treatment may be seen as detailed at length in the preceding cases, it is the less necessary to mention every particular in this. The acute sense of what produced cold feelings in the breast had been neglected; and from the deficiency of coverings required to defend it, a burning heat was frequently occasioned. The means for preserving a regular degree of warmth, and protecting from any sudden impressions of cold were adopted—the breast was poulticed occasionally with flowers of chamomile, and rubbed with various mixtures prepared with camphor, oils, and soap. She took medicines to increase the

digestive functions, and to remove the constipation of her bowels.—In the space of ten months this breast was soft and easy, and the induration was reduced to less than one half of its former size.

Three months after this, however, when the induration had become quite thin, the indurated surface became excessively inflamed; and notwithstanding the use of various applications, the veins got more and more distended, till the surface broke out into an ichorous sore.

Ointments and powders were applied without effect, for the sore was extending, the edges were thickening, and the watery discharge was beginning to excoriate the parts around it. But from the commencement of these affections she had been frequently employed at an exercise in which her arms were moved with a swinging motion, and thus the diseased surface was subjected to such a degree of friction as to run it to ruin.

For, on giving up this exercise, applying the powder of cinchona again to the sore, dressing it as before with saturnine ointments of different strengths, and surrounding the breast with a greater quantity of cotton wool, the cure of the part was soon effected, and the inflammatory appearances were done away,

I have heard that this patient was removed to some distance, in twelve months after the publication of this case. It appears that she had fallen into a degree of adversity which had exposed her to unavoidable hardships, and that open cancer of the breast had returned with such violence, during these hardships, that she died by the end of 1817. This event is in perfect unison with what is contained in this treatise. The reason for attaching selected cases to particular chapters, was in order, therefore, as in this instance, that the cases might throw a clearer light upon the subject of each than seemed practicable by extending the observations.

APPENDIX.

SINCE the first edition of this volume was published, the author has had the pleasure of receiving many useful observations and valuable suggestions from epistolary correspondence; both from medical practitioners and from other literary gentlemen, on the subject of the preceding pages; some extracts from which the reader will no doubt be glad to find in the form of an appendix to a second edition. And while a very brief account of these extracts can only be given at this time, for others to improve upon them, it is proper to mention that the soundness, accuracy, and candour of the correspondence have been gratefully accepted. It brings the observations of a few meritorious and enlightened

characters into view, who are fully awakened, and who feel strongly alive to heedless delusions, arising from those forms of language, which disclose the sources of practical error in speculations on cancer—speculations now discovered as the creatures of misguided fancy, which have long enough involved the history of the disease in impenetrable darkness—and without which, it clearly appears that the knowledge of cancer might have been as fairly comprehended by attentive experience, in earlier times, as the knowledge of other diseases.

In consequence of what is now seen by them as the result of such forms of language, when these practitioners are treating female patients for cancer of the breast, their time and experience are not lost by seeking after self-active and invisible agencies, according to the tenor of the language, and the spirit of the opinions of many upon that disease—they employ themselves usefully, in observing the sensible operations which arise from occasional causes,

according as these appear in all the symptoms of the disease. They mark the irregularities observable in the leading conduct of each patient, along with her peculiar infirmities of health, which bring on, and influence the symptoms, attending to the particular effects of every remedy ; and in all of these they carefully observe what is hurtful, or what is useful, without willingly suffering themselves to prescribe, or to venture decisions upon doubtful principles. Thus, as every sensible reader will see, they walk on surer grounds for profitable treatment, than if they regulated all in their minds, that come under these views, by the reasonings of preconceived notions, which have for such a length of time been built upon superstitious and fanciful foundations. Thus also, as the human mind is known to improve in strength and accuracy, for the clear and steady apprehension of subjects on which it is much engaged, so they have been gradually freed from fears and perplexing thoughts arising from groundless conjectures, and have acquired a power of dis-

crimination in finding out the palpable causes of cancer, as well as the useful means of treating it, to which others, who have not been accustomed to view the disease in the same manner cannot but feel themselves utter strangers.

The reader therefore will readily believe that these practitioners are nowise allured by the specious reasonings on cancer, which cannot be supported by clear and rational principles ; and likewise, that they give little ear to arguments which actuate the mind on any of the principles prematurely, and which arise from opinions naturally associated with the careless or credulous use of technical phrases. And willing in this way to possess a prudent degree of independent judgment, they are not ignorant of the many errors into which the human mind has fallen, when governed by the power of superstition and credulity, whose influence seems to have been very strong on the minds of our ancestors, at the time superstitious language was introduced, when they founded their opinions of

the complaint, and called such an affection of the breast cancer ; as well as on the minds of many moderns, whose opinions of cancer, and disputations upon that subject, have been so numerous and unsatisfactory in our own days.

Few professional men can be ignorant that the name of cancer arose at first from the name of the animal, called the crab-fish, along with all the notions of poisonous qualities, belonging to superstitious times of antiquity, which have been continued as belonging to the complaint so named, on the false fears common to these ages of that animal's venomous nature, even held out by authors of modern times. And yet we are unwilling to think modern authors can be unacquainted with the fact, when writing on cancer, that the habit of applying those unguarded terms usually employed by superstition on the subject, for keeping up the indistinct conceptions of poisonous qualities, is not only apt to lead the mind from attending to practical facts,

by preserving and associating in it, the kindred and superstitious ideas of venomous influence, but also, that the continuance of this habit will render the substitution of any new or rational name for the disease of no avail. On this account it has been urged as a thing highly needful to point out the misapplication of many words and expressions used by writers on cancer, for reviving such conceptions as these are ; but leaving the task to those who have more time and ability for it, the only thing intended just now of the kind, by way of example, is to offer a few suggestions on the prevailing use and delusive influence of two words—NATURE and MALIGNANCY.

And in order to observe the delusive influence of these words, we must premise what is customary to notice as a fundamental truth—that ideas excited by words, are the images and representatives of things conceived in the mind, which, when they are often combined in thought by the repeti-

tion of the same words, are always ready to follow each other in consequence of the habit brought on by this repetition—a consequence well known in society, by the frequent repetition of words, with indeterminate and dissimilar meanings, forming a habit of misapplying and thinking in one person very different from another, and becoming in many instances the creative source of errors and imaginary difficulties. In like manner, numbers have lamented to see the prevailing mistakes from the use of the word *nature*, by writers on the subject of cancer, who neglect the definition of its intended meaning, or think that definition unnecessary.

Every one allows that nature is a word, which signifies either the visible signs of material objects, or the invisible and immaterial law, by which these signs are regulated ; and none will deny that signs are thus the effects, and the law the regulating cause which only operates upon the human frame by means. This law then can be as clearly understood by

the signs which are made to appear from the action of known means as if it were seen. In a seed for instance, there is a law for extruding its peculiar plant by the means of cultivation. Some call the law the agency, some call it the essence.—And in chemical operations, a variety of laws are discovered from signs produced by a variety of mixtures, the modes or means of eliciting these signs. No body therefore can expect to have any other visible evidences for the knowledge of nature, than what are discoverable by the signs which lead to the knowledge of the law, and the means by which the law is actuated.

Yet strange as it must appear to every reflecting mind, nature is often used as a word whose meaning is intended to express something altogether different from any of these senses, when applied to the disease called cancer. We meet with professional authors who blame medical practitioners for mistaking the characteristic signs of cancer, and at the same time they openly avow that they are them-

selves ignorant of the nature of cancer. Now what can they mean by using the word nature in this way? If their meaning be the signs or symptoms of the disease, they ought not to be ignorant of those characteristics, for the ignorance of which they blame others. If it be the law or agency, which can only be known by the signs, why do they not rather speak of the means by which this law is brought into action—for the conception of a self-active law in disease, which medicine they think may be able to subdue, is what every wise man will say is nothing but the conception of a fictitious existence. If, therefore, they mean at one time, the signs, at another the law; or if they mean any unintelligible conceptions of their own at other times, when they speak of the nature of cancer, and if those before them have written under similar impressions, it is no wonder that the more they wrote in this manner on the disease, the more they revived distracting ideas in the minds of practitioners, and led them from attending usefully either to the discrimination

of symptoms and remedies, or to think of those injurious means which are so easily observable in the course of experience.

But again we are to notice malignancy as another word much used by authors in reference to cancer of the breast. And when we consider the rational meaning of this word, what more could we wish to make of it than a severe degree of aggravation, which all allow to be what it really signifies. If this meaning be then admitted, we find, next, that authors always describe cancer as much milder in some states than it is in others. Unless it be affirmed, therefore, that every way of treatment, both by patients and practitioners, turns out equally beneficial for the disease ; and consequently that no individual however illiterate, and inattentive, can treat the breast disadvantageously, under any state of cancer, which few will likely take upon themselves to do, it follows, as an unavoidable conclusion, that the aggravations of this affection must often be the results of bad treatment and impro-

per management. In place of writers following up this view of things, and describing the kind of conduct and treatment which aggravate the disease, what is more common than to find them speaking of all the aggravations as produced by the other power alone, which they seem to think connected with the use of the term malignancy? If by the patient or others a cancerous breast happen to be mismanaged in such a manner as attentive practitioners well know would bring a sound breast into disease—if the patient will heedlessly persist in the breathing of impure and confined air, by which the system is deeply diseased, and the disease of the breast is obviously aggravated—if the want of cleanliness, and the want of proper attention to diet, from bad habits, or defective circumstances, be clearly aggravating the cancerous affection—in short, if any, or several of these occurrences were happening, in the case of a cancerous patient, with a variety of other occurrences, equally hurtful, that are met with in the dispositions and practices of society—were

some of these aggravating the disease openly before the eyes of spectators, and still the medical attendant would not allow that any impropriety could be hurtful, because he believed all the aggravations arose merely from one cause, the power of a bad constitutional law, which he named malignancy, it is easy to conceive what a prudent spectator, without pretensions to medical knowledge, would think of the tendency of such a pernicious opinion.

These remarks are intended, therefore, as nothing more than a beginning exposition of that sophistical language so long used in this way, without proper reflection, which is now deservedly rejected from the style of writing upon cancer, because it has created difficulties without leading to the ways of practical usefulness. Its mode of reasoning is clearly seen to have rested upon wrong grounds; and, as the weak is sometimes able to inform the strong how he may apply his strength to advantage, what is shortly presented here

respecting it, gives a hurried examination for the purpose of rousing the attention and remarks of better observers.

Were writers to be literally understood in what they are accustomed to say about cancer, the reader would naturally imagine there was nothing but what they had all distinctly perceived in the true history and perfect knowledge of the disease. They seem to have no difficulty of accounting for the appearance of serious symptoms, when they tell that these have come on at one time from the efficacy of nature, and at another time from that of malignancy, to whose action they venture thus to ascribe the formation of symptoms. Hence, the thinking reader would reasonably expect, on being told with such appearing confidence, what this efficacy proceeds from, that the writer will be well acquainted both with its real existence and with its properties. But, on looking over a great variety of cancerous cases detailed by these writers, and on seeing, among other instances, that the sud-

den and serious injury of a patient's breast at a dancing assembly, is likewise attributed to the efficacy of one or other of these nominal powers, nature or malignancy, without inquiring into the injurious circumstances as they occurred with the lady at the assembly, or allowing that any thing there could be hurtful, he is led to suspect the principles of this language, and to doubt the premises. The next thing he wishes to know, is how these powers and their properties have been discovered, and to his surprise he finds authors telling that they are not yet discovered. Even although nature and malignancy be resolvable into one meaning, as was found above, the former signifying the signs and means, and the latter the aggravations and ostensible causes, he sees that properties have been assigned to these names before knowing how to explain the existences the names are meant to represent.

We would think more favourably of any reader, than to believe him able for seeing

the bad effects of such a style of language upon the human mind, in medical practice, and still to use it. By this style, which all acknowledge is destitute of philosophical accuracy, the introduction of errors into the opinions so formed, is daily lamented. Not but that the mind may be amused by it, and consequently, that, under certain circumstances, some good may result from it; but because it leads to a kind of confident satisfaction, which ought to come from observation alone, before practice and observation have opened the eyes to perceive its danger. A poet may personify a fanciful existence by giving it a name, and assign to it all the active properties for extravagant feats he can contrive by the fervency of a vivid imagination; but for an author to adopt the same style in writing the history of cancer, is somewhat unaccountable. The history of diseased symptoms, as they occur from peculiarities of constitution, from affections of the mind, and from other circumstances common to mistakes in society, will be allow-

ed by every practitioner of intelligence and experience to form a surer basis for treating the disease profitably, as well as what will be considered still better, for preventing the disease at its commencement, than any reasoning that can be invented in this manner.

It is upon these grounds of explaining cancer, that this volume has met with approbation from such a variety of sources. Intelligent females, even on seeing the exact description of what they themselves had experienced from mistaken conduct, have valued its observations. But the volume is far from being perfect. Neither is it thought every reader will speedily acquiesce with all it brings before him—for acquiescence of this kind was never experienced by others. Yet there is one thing which cannot be hidden—it contains a history and statement of practical facts, (among all its other imperfections,) not to be found in other books, on which future writers may place implicit confidence. And it may help to fortify the reader's mind to know, that, within the

period of the last three years, many females have been restored to health who had been greatly wasted, and who were in much agony with disease and tumors called cancer of the breast ; and also, while some practitioners of medicine could not credit the efficiency of such a simple mode of practice, that other practitioners accomplished these cures satisfactorily by embracing the same principles, and pursuing the same plans of treatment which have been presented in the preceding cases and observations. But it is proper to mention more than this.—On the same plans and principles, and within the same period of time, open cancer has been cured under the inspection of medical gentlemen of undoubted and valuable abilities, who could not believe a cure in that or any other way possible till they witnessed the salutary effects.

Yet, as a great revolution of sentiment is in progress on the subject of cancer, it is thought better not to publish the particulars of more cases than what this volume contains,

for some time. And for this reason, little need be said of the happy effects now experienced by those females who have been made to feel so comfortably even in the most afflictive and most alarming stages of open cancer. When little countenance is given to the errors of ancient opinions, and still less to the errors of deceptive speculations, there will be but little power of prejudice to oppose, in giving the simple statements of plain truths with cases of that kind. If any one think, however, that no time should be lost in publishing the particulars of all such cases, it may appear sufficient for the present, to consider the influence of female patients on giving private testimonies of the benefit they have themselves experienced; and, in this way, how extensively they may become useful to society by making known such truths in the most effective manner.

In short, the time is arrived wherein I think it indispensibly necessary to apprise every female of the real state of truths as now discovered. Of itself, and at its commencement,

the disease called cancer of the breast is a tumor clearly ascertained of a simple nature. It is only by negligence, and by mismanagement, that this tumor, in the progress of time, enlarges and hardens; and it is only because the size, appearances, and hardness of the tumor differ in different patients, from different degrees of their own carefulness and prudence, that such an unlimited variety of opinions on the subject have at all been sanctioned; and because, while the tumor is mismanaged, and the body of the female is seriously afflicted by other occurrences which usually induce the common diseases, that this affection of the breast becomes inveterate, and that erroneous and alarming speculations respecting its being the alone cause of existing disease, are consequently fabricated. The same tumor which once was mild and trivial, (not deserving the foolish name of cancer, so absurdly applied from superstitious notions anciently entertained of the cancer, or crabfish) and which might have then been easily dispersed, may, in the way of insecure conduct

be so much damaged, from time to time, as to make it ultimately assume all the diseased marks and symptoms called true cancer.

These statements are not the matters of mere opinion—they are demonstrable and incontrovertible facts, which have been thoroughly investigated. Why, then, will females continue to brood over the alarms of mistaken fancy, and harrow up their best sensibilities for their own destruction, as if the mind ought still to be infatuated with something like the dread fanaticism of antiquated witchcraft? If the breast of any female be affected, let her cautiously abstain from everything she knows and feels of an hurtful nature, and let her carefully apply herself to the use of means which the dictates of sound policy point out as rational and pacifying; and, to her happy experience, she shall in time attain the secure conviction, that nothing whatever, of any extraordinary or alarming result, should at any time be anticipated.

FINIS.

