

**Reports on the diseases of London, and the state of the weather, from 1804 to 1816 ; including practical remarks on the causes and treatment of the former ; and preceded by a historical view of the state of health and disease in the Metropolis in past times ; ... / By Thomas Bateman.**

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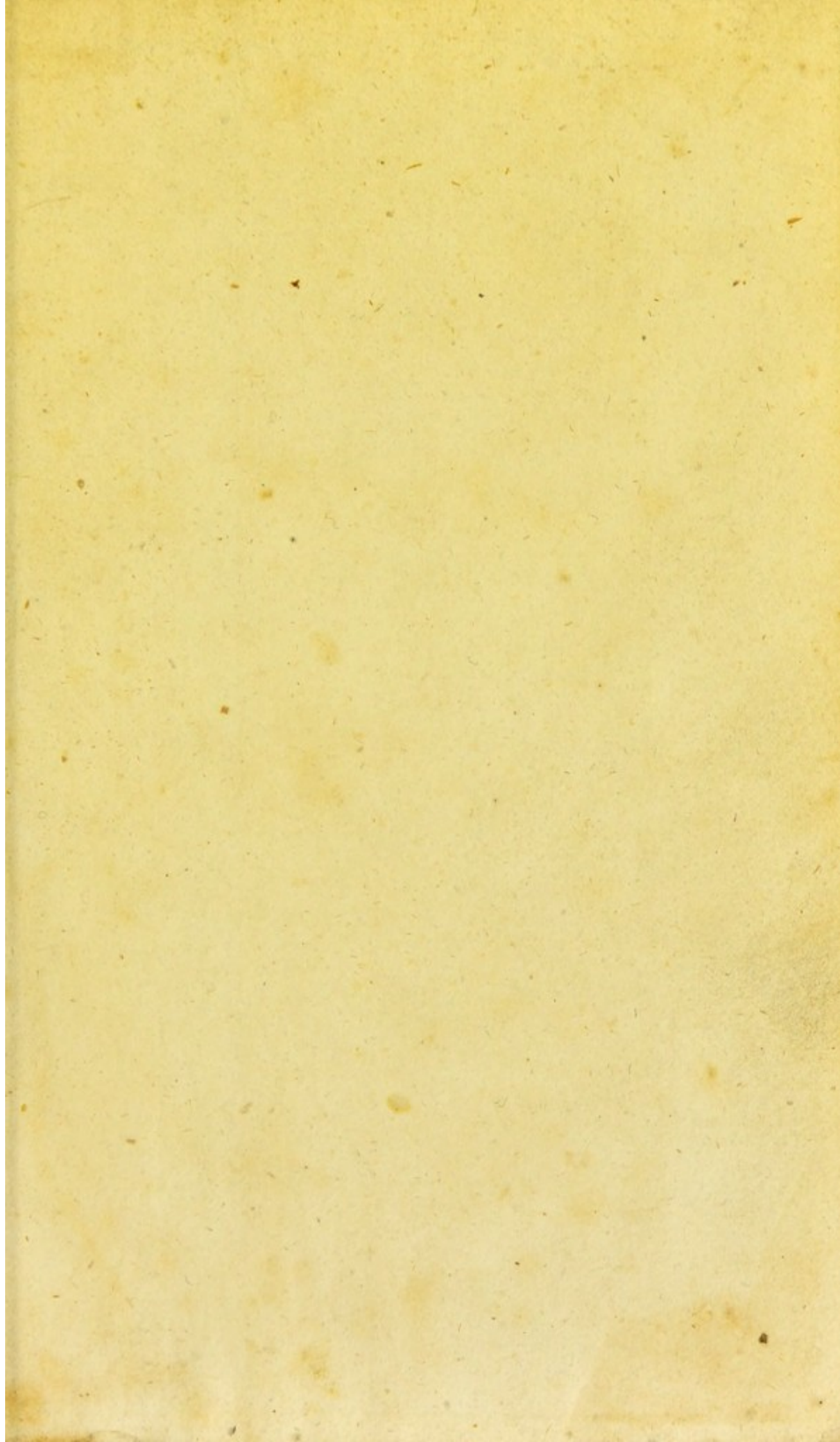


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# REPORTS

## ON THE DISEASES OF LONDON.



THE  
HISTORICAL  
REPORTS  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
IN  
RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION  
PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
IN 1841

THE STATE OF HEALTH AND DISEASE IN THE  
TROPICS IN PAST TIMES  
IN WHICH THE PROGRESS OF THE  
DISEASES HAS UNDERGONE THE  
CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE  
THE SEASONS IN THIS RESPECT AND THE CAUSES OF THEM  
ARE TRACED DOWN TO THE PRESENT PERIOD

BY THOMAS BATMAN, M.D. F.R.S. &c.  
PHYSICIAN TO THE TROPICAL DISPENSARY AND CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE  
TROPICAL HOSPITAL IN LONDON

LONDON  
PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, REES, GREEN, & CO.  
BROWN, PATERNOSTER-ROW

1842



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ON THE  
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AND  
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INCLUDING  
PRACTICAL REMARKS  
ON  
THE CAUSES AND TREATMENT OF THE FORMER;  
AND PRECEDED BY  
A HISTORICAL VIEW  
OF  
THE STATE OF HEALTH AND DISEASE IN THE METRO-  
TROPOLIS IN PAST TIMES;

In which the Progress of the extraordinary Improvement in Salubrity,  
which it has undergone, the Changes in the Character of  
the Seasons in this respect, and the Causes of these,  
are traced down to the present Period.

By THOMAS BATEMAN, M.D. F.L.S. &c.

PHYSICIAN IN THE PUBLIC DISPENSARY AND CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE  
FEVER INSTITUTION IN LONDON.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND  
BROWN, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

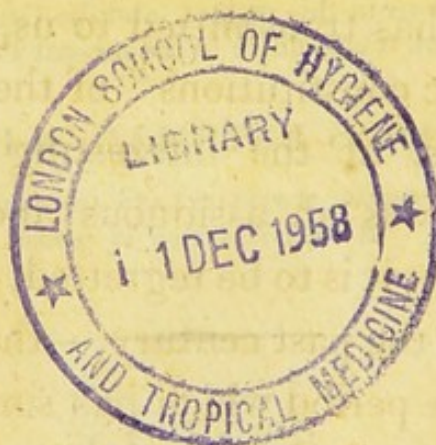
1819.



"It is needless in this place to point out to physicians the benefit that would most probably accrue to the science they are conversant in, from faithful histories of the air, and the most obvious mutations in respect to its qualities, together with correct accounts of the several diseases, &c. &c.

"What instruction would not something of this kind have afforded, had it commenced a century ago, and been regularly continued to the present time?"

FOTHERGILL.





## P R E F A C E.

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TO trace the connection of the diseases prevalent in particular situations, as well as of their various changes and fluctuations, with the state of the seasons, soil, and other physical influences, has ever been an object of zealous pursuit among physicians; and has, in fact, occupied the attention of most of the active improvers of our art from Hippocrates downwards. To our distinguished countryman Sydenham we are much indebted for the luminous details which he has transmitted to us, of the varying "epidemic constitutions" of the seasons, in this metropolis, at the interesting period during which he was an assiduous and extensive observer. But it is to be regretted, that down to the middle of the past century,—that is, during one half of the period which has since elapsed,—no distinct record of the epidemic seasons, or of the predominant diseases, has been left us by any physician. The bills of mortality, drawn up from



the reports of old women, and containing no reference to the state of the seasons, are the only substitute for such records. Imperfect as they confessedly are, however, some gratifying information, respecting the improving salubrity of this great city, is deducible from them, as is shown in the historical survey prefixed to these Reports.

In the year 1751, another eminent benefactor of medical science, Dr. John Fothergill, commenced a series of monthly records of the state of the weather and diseases of London, in the Gentleman's Magazine, which were continued for three years. These, though the observations relative to the diseases are brief, are valuable documents; and were subsequently collected, and republished among his works.

From that period to the close of the century, no further publication of similar notices, I believe, took place, till the late Dr. Willan, whose services to medical science are universally acknowledged, began another series in the Monthly Magazine. They commenced in the year 1796 and terminated in 1800; soon after which he collected and reprinted them in a separate volume. This little work is highly valuable, as it contains not only lists of the diseases which



occurred under his own observation at the period in question, at a large public institution and in his private practice; but also several original descriptions of varieties of disease, not sufficiently discriminated by ordinary observers, and many excellent practical instructions. Indeed, on perusing such catalogues of diseases, and the comments upon them, one cannot but regret that such documents have not been left us of the actual state of disease in earlier times.

Under this impression, and with the view of contributing my slender assistance towards supplying such a deficiency for the future, I have been induced first to draw up, and now to collect and republish the following Reports. They include a much longer period than the Reports of the distinguished writers whose example I have been ambitious to emulate; they contain much more copious details, both of the state of the weather and of the diseases, than those of Dr. Fothergill; and, I flatter myself, are not far behind those of my much respected friend and predecessor Dr. Willan, in the number of original delineations and practical suggestions. They, moreover, concur most pointedly with the documents of both, in demonstrating the



great source of disease and mortality in this city and island, at present, in opposition to the popular belief, and therefore the means of security which ought to be pursued.

Indeed, independently of a wish to leave a record of the state of salubrity of this metropolis in the early portion of the nineteenth century, I am desirous of bringing these Reports before the public in this form, because the facts which they contain appear to me calculated strongly to remove a dangerous and fatal impression, which philosophers have sanctioned and proverbial adages confirmed,—of the salubrity of cold, and the benefits of braving its influences. For the perusal of them will prove, that, with the exception of a small number of diseases occasioned by unwholesome occupations, and by the contagions, the great mass of human malady in this metropolis is referable to the climate or state of the seasons, and to intemperance; but that of these two causes, the vicissitudes of the weather, and especially its cold, are by far the most prolific source of the mischief. It is not a little extraordinary, therefore, that opinions so diametrically the reverse of truth—as the wholesomeness of frost, and the fatality of mild weather,—should not



only be generally prevalent, but even supported by the proverbial authority, that "an open winter makes a fat church-yard." Dr. Fothergill has stated more than once, in the Reports above alluded to, the contradiction, which both his own experience and the bills of mortality compelled him to give to this opinion. More recently the present Dr. Heberden, in a paper published by the Royal Society, has adduced the most decided refutation of this notion, in a comparison of the bills of mortality of the years 1794 and 1795, the winter of one being the mildest, and that of the other one of the most severe on record; from which it appeared that the mortality of the cold was nearly double that of the open winter. And it will be seen, by reference to the following Reports, that in the winter commencing 1814, in which the frost continued three months, the number of patients at the Public Dispensary exceeded 700, the ordinary average of the same period in other years not much exceeding 500. The bills of mortality exhibited a corresponding increase at that time; and an attentive observer could not fail to remark during the whole spring of that year, how much the gaiety of that season was chequered by the numerous funerals which daily



passed along the streets\*. Such is the "*bracing*" and "*wholesome*" influence of frost!

The origin of this erroneous doctrine, which is so palpably contradicted by facts, may probably be traced to the sensations of alertness and the disposition to activity, and the consequent glow of the circulation experienced by the *vigorous* and *healthy* in a clear and moderately cold atmosphere. But such persons forget how much the weak and infirm, the aged and the invalid, suffer under such circumstances; and do not reflect on the multiplying brood of pulmonary, rheumatic, dysenteric, and other inflammatory maladies, with consumption at their head, (destroying alone more than one fifth of all that perish annually in this metropolis,) from which even the most robust are not exempt.

The practical inference then, is, that in this chill and precarious climate, our principal security from some of the most dangerous and fatal diseases, consists in warm clothing, and the avoiding of all careless or wilful exposure to cold and humidity, which few constitutions can long brave with impunity. With respect to in-

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\* Most of the monarchs and heroes of Europe were assembled in London early in that spring.



infants and children, indeed, by the persevering efforts of our profession, this salutary mode of management is now pretty generally adopted. Instead of that fatal system of "hardening," which no less an authority than that of Mr. Locke had contributed to establish, the practice of warm clothing and of exclusion from the contact of cold air, till the child is capable of counteracting its impression by the actual use of its own limbs in exercise, is now well understood to be the most effectual mode of invigorating the infantine body: and it can scarcely be doubted that this change in the management of young children has contributed, perhaps as much as vaccination itself, to occasion that great diminution in the proportionate mortality of children under two years of age, which is so remarkable in the bills of mortality of the last thirty years\*. But much improvement remains to be made in

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\* This diminution, in fact, amounts to one fourth of the whole number. Thus in the year 1760 the total deaths were 19,830:—those under two years 6838; or about 1 in  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .—In 1789, total 20,749: under two years 6933, or about 1 in 3. But from the year 1800 downwards, only one fourth of the whole number of deaths has occurred under two years of age. Thus in 1810, total 19,893: under two years, 5,853. And in 1818, total 19,705: under two years 5,381. So that at least 1000 infants are now annually saved by the salutary measures above noticed.



the general conduct of adults on these points, although more rational views with respect to them are doubtless gradually prevailing.

It must be observed, that the influence of the weather in the human frame is not to be estimated merely by the thermometrical changes in the atmosphere. An east wind with the thermometer at  $50^{\circ}$  will impress the body with a more chilling effect, than a south-west wind when that instrument indicates a temperature ten degrees lower; and a foggy atmosphere, in like manner, much more injuriously than a clear one of equal cold:—indeed, there is no condition of the air so invariably pernicious, so chilling, and oppressive to the organs of respiration, as that frequent combination in this metropolis of frost with fog. The sudden vicissitudes of the weather too, especially from heat to cold, or the succession of rains to heat, are among the most active causes of disease both in the chest and the alvine organs. Whence, in the following Reports, I have preferred brief descriptions of the seasons, noting especially their remarkable variations, to regular thermometrical or hygrometrical registers. Indeed, it is sufficient to inspect the registers commonly published, and to observe their extraordinary discrepancy,



to be satisfied how little such records are to be depended upon.

With respect to the nomenclature of the diseases enumerated in the quarterly lists, it was not easy, in framing such catalogues, to follow implicitly the language of any one nosological writer. In order to exhibit a distinct view of all the modifications of disease which present themselves, many varieties must be specified, which the more rigid rules of nosology would comprise under the same generic term. This at least is the case with respect to the system adopted by Dr. Cullen. That proposed by Sauvages, which designates as *genera* many instances of what Dr. Cullen considered but as leading symptoms, is better adapted to the practical discrimination of diseases: his nomenclature, therefore, I have chiefly followed; occasionally, however, employing without scruple an arbitrary term, whenever any novel or interesting variety of disease was to be especially pointed out. In the arrangement of the individual diseases in the lists, however, no nosological method has been followed; but generally, though not strictly, after the great division into acute and chronic, a series from the head downwards, to the organs of the chest and abdomen,



grouping the disorders of the digestive, intestinal, urinary, and generative organs together; proceeding then to the more general diseases of the nervous system; and concluding with the affections of the skin.

The lapse of fifteen years must almost necessarily have led to the modification, abandonment, or confirmation of early opinions; otherwise experience would be of no value. Under any of these circumstances, where explanation appeared requisite, I have deemed it advisable to append to the Reports a brief comment or confirmatory statement, rather than to encumber the volume with notes. But I may observe here, that the principal points on which I should be disposed to modify some of the expressions, are the use of the lancet in the inflammatory diseases of the inhabitants of London, and of cordials in the management of fevers; points on which I have recently expressed myself more fully in another work\*.

With the view of facilitating reference to the miscellaneous facts and opinions comprised in these Reports, as well as to exhibit a general sketch of their contents, I have prepared a

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\* A Succinct Account of the Contagious Fever of this Country, &c. 1818.



copious Index, which is inserted at the close of the volume; and as this work may possibly be consulted by some unprofessional readers, I have added a glossary of the technical appellations employed in the catalogues of diseases.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that these Reports were originally printed quarterly in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, one of the most valuable periodical works of our time, which commenced at the same period, and is still conducted by the learned and indefatigable professor with whom it originated.

14, Bloomsbury Square,  
July 1, 1819.



1797 amounted only to 17,014: and when we take into consideration the great increase of the population of the Out-parishes at the latter period, the comparative healthiness of London will appear in very strong colours. But the healthy condition of the metropolis seems to have been more particularly produced within the last fifty years\*, during which period it has most rapidly increased in extent and population. Until nearly the middle of the eighteenth century, the mortality kept pace, in some measure, with the advancing population: the average number of deaths annually, from the year 1720 to 1730, was 27,492; and the average number from the latter year to 1740 was 26,492; but so late as the year 1746 the annual number of deaths was 28,157†.

The other point, to which I have alluded, as particularly worthy of remark, relates to the catalogue of the diseases, that were prevalent in the age of Willis and Sydenham. Some of the most formidable and fatal of these maladies are now become altogether extinct, or they are rarely seen, and so much mitigated in severity, as to claim no place in the bills of mortality. At the head of these stands the Plague, of which the above-mentioned physicians witnessed the last instance in England, in 1665. Within the century preceding this plague, four dreadful visitations of the same

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\* Willan, Reports on the Diseases in London, p. 331.

† "The annual mortality," Dr. Heberden observes, "appears, by the parish clerks' returns, to have increased from the beginning of the (eighteenth) century to the year 1720; to have been at its greatest height from 1720 to 1750; and from that time to have gradually decreased." See *Observations on the Increase and Decrease of different Diseases*, by W. Heberden, jun. 1801, p. 30.



calamity had occurred to the inhabitants of London, namely, in the years 1593, 1603, 1625, and 1636; and, besides these examples of extensive epidemic pestilence, the limited appearance of the disease is frequently noticed in the bills of mortality within the same period: in fact, there are few annual bills within that period, in which some instances of death from the plague are not enumerated, and in the two preceding centuries pestilence was still more frequent. Next to the plague, malignant and spotted, remittent and intermittent, fevers frequently prevailed to a great and fatal extent, especially in the autumnal season. The spotted fevers are stated to have been often the forerunners of the plague. With respect to intermittents, Dr. Short remarks, that, early in the seventeenth century, viz. between 1629 and 1636, "one of 40 of the whole that died of fevers, died of agues;" whereas "now (1750) scarce one of 1,100 that die of fevers, die of this" disease\*. And Burnet, in his History of the Reformation, says, that in the last year of Queen Mary's reign "intermitting fevers were so universal and contagious, that they raged like a plague"†. Both Sydenham and Morton have left us ample evidence of the frequent occurrence of remittent fevers, which the latter affirms to have been extremely destructive for several years before the great plague, viz. from the year 1658 to 1664. He states, that Oliver Cromwell died of this fever in 1658; and that his own father, who was himself an experienced physician, also died of it; and his whole

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\* See New Observations, Natural, Moral, &c. on Bills of Mortality, 1750, p. 208.

† Quoted by Dr. Heberden, *loc. cit.*



family, including himself, were infected\*. Even so late as from 1720 to 1729, according to Dr. Short, "they (intermittents) and remittents afflicted the whole nation grievously"†. Sometimes together, and sometimes alternating, with those autumnal fevers, the Dysentery was a frequent epidemic during the times to which I allude, and was often attended with considerable fatality. The connexion of the Dysentery with the remittent fever, was remarked by the physicians, as well as by the people, and was supposed to be the endemic of the season "turned in upon the bowels ‡:" in the bills of mortality it was sometimes called "the plague in the guts"§. For five-and-twenty years successively, from 1667 to 1692, the bills of mortality show the sum of deaths under the titles of "bloody flux" and "gripping in the guts," which must both be considered as dysentery, to have amounted every year to 2,000. (Heberden.)

Among the chronic diseases of the periods alluded

\* Morton, Pyretologia, Append. ad Exercit. II. "Insuper, postquam conspexeram matrem meam pientissimam, fratres, et sorores, servos, ancillas, nutrices conductitias, quotquot erant intra eosdem nobiscum parietes, ac fere omnes ejusdem, ac vicinorum pagorum incolas hoc veneno infectos et decumbentes," &c.

† *Loc. citat.* p. 208.

‡ See Sydenham Obs. Med. sec. i. cap. ii. p. 45. (Edit. Lugd. 1726.) "Et sane *Dysenteria* de qua agitur, ipsissima illa febris est, hoc tantum discrimine, quod introvertatur, et in intestina se exonerans per eadem viam sibi faciat." Compare sec. iv. cap. iii. p. 182, also Morton. Pyretol. exercit. i. cap. iv. The connexion of these diseases with one another, when epidemic, was likewise observed by Sir Clifton Winteringham, at York; see his *Commentarius Nosologicus*, Ann. 1722.

§ See Major Graunt's Natural and Political Obs. on the Bills of Mortality, p. 114, Edit. 5th.



to, which are almost unknown, or no longer fatal, in the metropolis, are the Rickets, once a most prevailing and mortal disease, and the Scurvy. The rickets, although occasionally occurring at present, among the children of the poor, has no longer a place in the bills of mortality, as a cause of death: it is said to have originated in the west of England about the year 1540\*; but is first noticed in the bills of London in the year 1634†, when the total number of deaths, under this head, were only 14. It appears, however, to have increased rapidly, but irregularly; for, in 1649, the deaths from rickets amounted to 190;—in 1650, to 260;—in the following year, to 329;—and in 1660, 521 persons died of the disease; at the commencement of the eighteenth century (A. D. 1700), the mortality from this disorder was 393; and it has since been on the decrease, as we find the number of deaths in the year 1750 to be only 21, and at the end of the century (1799) the deaths from “evil and rickets” conjoined do not exceed 7.

With regard to the scurvy, although two deaths under that title are recorded in the bill of the past year, I believe, with Dr. Heberden, that the disease, properly so called, is “now unknown in London, or nearly so:” but many authorities might be quoted, and several are adduced by the writer just mentioned, in proof of the frequency of its occurrence in the seventeenth century, and earlier. Willis, who wrote expressly upon this subject, gives an ample description of its characteristic symptoms, and remarks, that it is “*ægritudo mul-*

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\* Sauvages, Nosol. Method. class. x. gen. 18.

† Graunt, *loc. cit.* p. 34.



tis in locis endemia, et ubique fere sporadica"\*. And Hentzner, in his Travels at the time of Queen Elizabeth, observes, that the English "are often molested with the scurvy." Dr. Claremont, a physician of Lorraine, who practised in England about the time of Willis, has this observation: "Ad scorbutum quod attinet, maxime in Anglia grassatur†".—And in still more decided terms, he says, "Sed omnium morborum longe funestissima est pulmonum tabes, et totius corporis fœda miserabilisque corruptio, cui *Scorbuto* nomen fecere." Inasmuch as this observation, however, respecting the extreme fatality of scurvy, applies to London, the bills of mortality completely disprove its truth, although this elegant and intelligent writer appears to have been, on the whole, an accurate observer: for the twenty bills, namely, from the year 1657 to 1677, give an average of 60 deaths every year, under the head of scurvy; and since the beginning of the eighteenth century the annual number has scarcely exceeded 5 or 6. With respect to this article, indeed, Dr. Heberden remarks, that the bills of mortality are confessedly liable to great inaccuracy: but it is most probable, I apprehend, that the inaccuracy would consist in exaggerating the number of scorbutic diseases, and not in under-rating it. For among many other errors of our ancestors, which Dr. Claremont detected, we find him animadverting on the indiscriminate application of the terms *consumptive* and *scorbutic* to every person who is heard to cough, and is seen

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\* Tractat. de Scorbuto, cap. i.

† Claromontius, de Aëre, Locis, et Aquis Terræ Angliæ, p. 44.



pale and short-breathed\*. Accordingly, we find no less an author than Morton asserting his belief that *chlorosis* is a species of scurvy†. We need not wonder, therefore, that a more obscure writer, in a treatise entitled “*Scelera Aquarum*”‡, relating to the “London, Parisian, and Amsterdam *Scorbute*,” should consider *rickets* and scurvy as the same disease, differing only in its seat, being in the legs in the former, and in the mouth in the latter: or that Maynwaringe should denominate the scurvy “*morbus polymorphæus*,” and speak of “*scorbutic consumptions, scorbutic pox, scorbutic dropsies, fevers, palsies, gouts, convulsions, asthmas* §,” &c. But the more accurate Sydenham has justly condemned this confusion of language; and although he does not deny the occurrence of scurvy in these northern climates, yet he asserts, that it is much more rare than it is vulgarly believed to be, and that almost all valetudinary conditions of the body, which have not yet assumed any decided type, as well as the chronic remains of other diseases, are confounded under that title||. It is certain, therefore, that whether we

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\* *Loc. cit.* p. 44. “*Quanquam in eo maxime errare mihi videtur vulgus medicorum, quod non satis accuratè morbos discernunt, statimque ut aliquem aut extussientem audiverint, aut anhelantem subpallidumque conspexerint, statim consumptivum, aut scorbuticum pronunciant.*”

† *Pyretologia, prolegom.* p. 30. “*Idem dictum sit de Scorbuto et Chlorosi (quam ego jamdiu speciem esse scorbuti particularem existimavi),*” &c.

‡ Published in 1701. See p. 17, &c.

§ *A Treatise of the Scurvy*, p. 24, edit. 4th, 1672. He agrees also with Riverius in considering hypochondriasis as a scorbutic affection; p. 16.

|| “*Qui quidem (scil. dolores rheumatici) minus cauti nullo negotio imponunt, et pro Scorbuti symptomatis vulgo habentur. Hic enim obi-*



refer to the bills of mortality, or to the writings of medical men, in regard to the disease in question, we obtain no satisfactory evidence as to the comparative extent of the prevalence of scurvy in the seventeenth century, in London. It is probable, however, that it actually occurred to a considerable extent, since we know, from unquestionable authority, that it was formerly endemic in particular situations and circumstances, as in cold and damp climates, in our fleets, under their former management, and the use of certain substances in diet, &c. and that under the modern system of life, it has decreased in spite of climate and cold, and has almost disappeared from among our seamen, of which Dr. Heberden has stated some evidence.

Such being the facts, it is extremely interesting to the medical inquirer, to trace the obvious circumstances in the condition of this great city, and in the changes of the mode of life of its inhabitants, which have given rise to that great degree of health and longevity, to which our ancestors were strangers, and that freedom from some of the most fatal scourges of the human race, with which they were at intervals afflicted.

The great comparative healthiness of London indeed, at present, notwithstanding the great augmentation of

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ter, sed et libere tamen dicam, quod, licet nullus dubito, quin *Scorbutus* in his plagis Borecalibus revera inveniat, tamen eum morbum non tam frequentem, quam fert vulgi opinio, occurrere persuasum mihi habeo; multos autem ex iis adfectibus (ne plurimos dicam quorum nomine) *Scorbutum* incusamus, vel morborum *fientium*, nondum vero *factorum*, quique nullum adhuc certum induerunt typum, effecta esse; vel etiam infelices *reliquias* morbi alicujus nondum penitus devicti," &c. Sect. vi. cap. 5. See also Sect. i. cap. 4. p. 67, edit. Lugd. 1727.



its buildings and population, within the bills of mortality, is not less manifest from a view of the annual births and burials, than of the diseases, as just stated. Even during the greater part of the eighteenth century, the metropolis was a great vortex, in which several thousands of emigrants from the country annually perished; for the number of deaths, in general, greatly exceeded the number of births. Thus, the average excess of the deaths above the births, in the first ten years of the century, (according to the table drawn up by Dr. Heberden,) is 5,738; the annual average of the excess in the second decade, is 6,798; in the 4th, 9,662; the actual number both of births and deaths being then considerably increased: but in the last ten years of the century, the average excess of the burials above the births is only 926, and since the commencement of the present century, the excess has been actually on the other side, and in an increasing ratio. Thus in the first decade (from 1801 to 1810 inclusive) the annual average of births is 19,989, and that of the burials 18,567; making the annual average in favour of the births 1,412: and in the seven subsequent years to 1817 inclusive, the births have exceeded the deaths by an annual average of 2,952. It is evident, therefore, that the comparative mortality in London is greatly diminished within the last half century; a fact which might, indeed, have been inferred from the statement already made, of the decrease of the absolute mortality, notwithstanding the extraordinary increase of the population.

It will be easy, we apprehend, to show, in the first place, that the circumstances, to which the diseases and mortality of the seventeenth century were attri-



buted, by the writers of those times, were not the real source of the mischief; and, secondly, that others, which were then almost entirely overlooked, were in reality the efficient causes of all the prevailing maladies.

The coldness and vicissitudes of weather, and the humid and thick air, which were ascribed partly to our insular situation, and partly to the extensive use of sea-coal as fuel, are the chief circumstances to which writers have referred the origin of so much disease. Now, with respect to the first point, although we may question the truth of the opinion, that our climate has of late years become more ungenial, we have no reason to believe that our seasons have become milder, or are in any way improved. With respect to the inclemency of our spring, we may quote Claremont, who wrote in 1652: "Ac mihi nunc ista mense Maio scribenti," he says, "videntur brumales dies; usque adeo denso et caliginoso aëre circumfundor\*"; an observation applicable to the same month for several years back. And I shall presently attempt to show, that the sickliness of the autumnal season did not arise from the difference in the season itself, but of the circumstances of the metropolis at the period alluded to.

The contamination of the atmosphere of London by the smoke from coal fires, appears to have been generally considered, both by natives and foreigners, as a leading cause of the unhealthiness of the town. "I am inclined to believe," says Major Graunt, "that London now (1662) is more unhealthful than heretofore; partly for that it is more populous, but *chiefly* because I have heard, that sixty years ago few sea-

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\* *Loc. cit.* p. 18.



coals were burnt in London, which are now universally used. For I have heard, that Newcastle is more unhealthful than other places, and that many people cannot at all endure the smoak of London, not only for its unpleasantness, but for the suffocations which it causes\*". Evelyn, who published a pamphlet, entitled "*Fumifugium*," in the year 1661, exclaims very feelingly upon this subject, "that this glorious and ancient city, which from wood might be rendered brick, and (like another Rome) from brick made stone and marble; which commands the proud ocean to the Indies, and reaches to the farthest Antipodes, should wrap her stately head in clouds of smoak and sulphur, so full of stink and darkness, I deplore with just indignation." And he states a curious fact, respecting the temporary disuse of coals as influencing vegetable life, from which its effects on animal life are to be inferred†. In refutation of these notions, however, it is sufficient to observe, that the supposed effects have ceased, while the cause has been augmented to an incalculable degree. And a similar observation will serve to refute an opinion, generally advanced by foreigners in particular, that most of the diseases of England are to be ascribed to the use of animal food, and malt-

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\* *Loc. cit.* p. 95.

† In the year 1644, when Newcastle was besieged, and coals not to be procured in London, he affirms, that "divers gardens and orchards, planted in the very heart of London, (as in particular my Lord Marquise of Hertford's, in the Strand, and my Lord Bridgewater's, and some others, about Barbican,) were observed to bear such plentiful and infinite quantities of fruits, as they never produced the like, either before or since, to their great astonishment."



liquors, especially taken to repletion, as was then the custom in this country, if we credit their report\*.

But the real sources of the unhealthiness of London, at the period when Willis and Sydenham wrote, eluded the observation of those sagacious inquirers, and remained for developement by the gradual experience of a more enlightened and scientific age; although, perhaps, that experience has been, in a great measure, the unforeseen result of the necessities of increasing commerce, and of the contrivances of increasing wealth and civilization. This subject may be illustrated by a reference to the condition of an army in camp. The diseases, by which London, in common with all large towns, was almost constantly infested, during and previous to the 17th century, were, as we have seen, the plague, malignant, intermittent, and remittent fevers, and dysentery. Now these very diseases, according to the concurring testimony of all military physicians, are the regular endemics of camps, especially in the autumnal season, if they continue for a short time stationary, or are situated on damp or swampy ground.

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\* It is matter of curious remark, at what an early period the English had obtained the character of being greater eaters than their neighbours. We not only find Claremont speaking of the "*cibi crassi ac fæculentæ turbidæque potiones*" of our ancestors, in the seventeenth century, and asserting that this diet was "*non tam qualitate quam copia et quantitate insalubre*," and that *repletion* was, in his opinion, the cause of all the diseases of the English; (see pp. 49, 51, 53;) but so early as the latter end of the fifteenth century, that opinion existed abroad. For Cogan, in his "*Haven of Health*," published in 1605, quotes Hadrianus Barlandus; who, in a dialogue between an innkeeper and a traveller, speaks of a rich and copious repast, as being "after the English fashion." See his prefatory address "to the gentle reader."



These diseases are obviously occasioned by the miasmata arising from a soil naturally wet, or rendered so by the accumulating filth of an army, such as the urine and excrements, the remains of victuals, the water used in cookery or in washing, &c. which is necessarily impregnated with animal and vegetable matter, and from all of which, those morbid effluvia arise, in consequence of the putrefaction and more ready evaporation produced by the heats of autumn. This is not now a matter of speculation; for experience has amply proved, that by draining a small marsh, by removing a camp even a few hundred yards from the station which it previously occupied, by burying the excrements, and forming proper receptacles underground for the urine, the water employed for culinary and other purposes, the remnants of victuals, &c. those endemic diseases have been removed, or altogether avoided\*.

Now a large town is but an extensive camp, so constructed as to be destitute of the means of changing its situation, and therefore liable to be infested with the same diseases, as are endemic in camps, unless the precautions just alluded to be fully adopted. Hence the necessity for the construction of privies, drains, and common sewers, and the advantages of a flowing stream, by which all impurities may be carried off, as well as of an abundant supply of water, for the purposes of cleanliness, and of a hard and regular pavement, preserved in a cleanly condition by proper scavengers, &c. in every crowded town. Wherever these

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\* Obs. on the Diseases of the Army in Jamaica, by Dr. John Hunter, Appendix, 3d edit.



precautions are neglected, intermittent and remittent fevers, and dysentery, will not fail to appear, especially in or after wet and hot seasons\*: for, in the wet seasons, collections of filth accumulate, and, in great heats, they more readily putrify and evaporate. Dr. Hunter expresses a strong suspicion, that the fatal endemic fever of Philadelphia, in 1793, was the result of neglect with regard to those precautions, as well as the subsequent endemics of New York†.

It will not, however, be difficult, we apprehend, to prove, from documents in our possession, that those precautions of cleanliness, which alone are adequate to the removal of the sources of the miasms, that excite endemic diseases, were not sufficiently attended to in London, before the great fire in 1666, nor till upwards of half a century subsequent to that calamitous, though ultimately beneficial event. And, what is not less convincing, as a proof of the pernicious consequences of such inattention, we shall find the health of the inhabitants improving, *pari passu*, and exactly in proportion as these causes of their unhealthiness were removed, while the damps and clouds of spring returned as heretofore, and the rains and heats of autumn continued.

The accumulation of filth and moisture in the streets, especially the narrow ones, for a considerable period after the great fire, was aided by various circumstances; bad and ill-repaired pavements, obstruction to the free current of air, water from the spouts, the habit of

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\* Obs. on the Diseases of the Army, by Sir John Pringle, Part II. chap. i.

† Dr. Hunter, *loc. cit.*



throwing all the refuse of victuals, &c. into the streets, of feeding animals, such as goats, hogs, and poultry, in them\*, &c. Northouck† affirms, that no considerable reformation had taken place in the pavement, since the fire of London, when the improvements were commenced about 60 years ago in Westminster. The high streets had indeed flat pavements on each side for foot passengers, but these were very negligently repaired. Projecting spouts in narrow old streets still poured their collected rain from the roofs of the houses, impetuously upon the dripping passengers‡; while in all the streets, large sign-boards hung across by irons fixed to the fronts of the houses§, which, in proportion to the abilities of shopkeepers, were carried to extravagant degrees of ostentation, and not only obstructed the view, but also the free circulation of the air: grating the ear with most discordant creaking, as they

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\* These facts are proved by the nature of the royal orders, issued after the great fire, forbidding the continuance of such nuisances. See Maitland's *History of London*.

† *History of London*.

‡ This source of damp was general previously to the fire, as we are told by Evelyn, who, in continuation of the lamentation before quoted, says "That the buildings should be composed of such a congestion of mishapen and extravagant houses, that the streets should be so narrow and incommodious, in the very centre and busiest places of intercourse; that there should be so ill and uneasie a form of paving under foot, so troublesome and malicious a disposure of the spouts and gutters, are particulars worthy of reproof and reformation; because it is hereby rendered a labyrinth in its principal passages, and a continual wet day after the storm is over."

§ Previous to the fire, these signs hung from beams carried entirely across the street; but, by order of the king, they were directed to be "fixed against the balconies, or some other convenient part of the house," when the city was rebuilding.



swung to and fro in windy weather. The middle of the streets were paved with large pebbles, of all sizes and shapes, rough to the horse and uneasy to the rider, which, continually worn by carriages into dangerous holes, the mud lay in too great quantities to suffer the streets to be called clean, except in extreme dry weather, when the dust was as troublesome as the dirt, while wet." Many of the narrower streets continued altogether unpaved, until after the occurrence of the fire; the sewers, at the same time, were in a very neglected state, and the drains all ran above ground\*. And although the water of the Thames had been partially conveyed to the city, so early as 1582, by a machine erected in one of the arches of London Bridge, by a German engineer, and that important acquisition the New River had been brought to the metropolis in 1613; yet the supply of that great necessary of life, which is now conveyed into every house, continued to be but scantily obtained for many years subsequent to those periods. But if in these general and external circumstances, the metropolis was in a condition to generate the miasmata, which, whether in camps or towns, are the exciting causes of endemic diseases; the internal economy of the dwellings was calculated at once to give efficiency to those causes, and to aggravate the diseases which they produced. Indeed, when we compare the domestic habits of our ancestors, with those of our contemporaries, and consider their respective notions in regard to the importance of cleanliness, ventilation, and the close or open situa-

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\* Stated by Dr. Heberden from Maitland's History.



tion of their houses\*, we can no longer be surprised, that the former suffered almost constantly from some endemic or epidemic disease, and that in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries, (to say nothing of the 17th,) few years elapsed, without the occurrence of a considerable pestilence. Erasmus, in a letter to the physician of Cardinal Wolsey, ascribes the Sweating Sickness, and the frequent plagues with which the English were infested, to the slovenly habits of the people, and their filthiness both without doors and within. "The floors," he says, "are commonly of clay, strewed with rushes, which are occasionally renewed, but underneath lies unmolested an ancient collection of beer, grease, fragments of fish, spittle, the excrements of dogs and cats, and every thing that is nasty†." In what a comparative condition of filth (if a degree of comparison lower than this can now be conceived) must the poor have lived in those times;—the poor, who now occupy, in separate apartments, the very houses in the courts and alleys of London, which were formerly inhabited by the rich; even by the Comptrollers of the King's household!

After the contemplation of such facts, not a doubt can remain, it is presumed, of the existence of those

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\* Hume remarks, that "we may form a notion of the mean way of living in the 16th century from one circumstance: a man, of no less rank than the Comptroller to Edward VI.'s household, paid only *thirty shillings* a year for a house in *Channel Row*; yet labour and provisions, and consequently houses, were only about a third below the present price." *Hist. of England*.

† Hume, *loc. cit.*—Millar *On the Prevailing Diseases of Britain*.—Dr. Heberden states, from Hentzner, that even the floor of the presence-chamber of Queen Elizabeth, in Greenwich palace, "was covered with hay, after the English fashion."



causes, which the experience of physicians, in camps and hospitals, in ships and prisons, has proved to be adequate to the production, and actually to accompany or precede the appearance of the acute diseases in question, viz. the plague\*, the various forms of malignant, intermittent, and remittent fevers, and dysentery; and, still farther, to aggravate other epidemic disorders, such as small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, &c. and even to render virulent and contagious, those febrile diseases which are naturally destitute of malignancy.

The gradual and happy amelioration of the health of the metropolis, which has been synchronous with the changes of the circumstances above described, (and this not only here, but in every large town in Europe,) amounts to a demonstration of the truth of the preced-

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\* Dr. Heberden has collected the most ample and satisfactory evidence of the connexion of the plague, and of the malignant contagious fever, which generally precedes and accompanies it, (if indeed they be not modifications of the same disease,) with the filth of crowded, ill-constructed, large cities, in all ages and countries: upon that subject, therefore, I shall content myself with referring to his work. It has always originated and maintained its "head quarters" in the filthiest parts of those cities; as in St. Giles's, in London, in 1665, and in Whitechapel, in 1626 and 1636: and in those cities of Europe, which, from natural or political causes, have been backward in adopting the improvements of modern times; the picture of former manners is not exhibited in more lively colours, than that of former diseases. The plague visited Denmark in 1764; it raged at Moscow in 1771; and at Cracow still later. The last mentioned town, Mr. Wraxall says, "was not wholly paved till within the last two years; and nothing can be so execrable as the present paving, which scarcely deserves the name. There is not a single lamp in the place. No precautions are used to cleanse the streets; which, of course, become infectious in summer, and almost impassable in winter." For the detail of facts, see Dr. Heberden's *Observations*, p. 62 to the end. See also Sir J. Pringle, *loc. cit.* Part III. cap. vii.



ing observations\*. The plague, which was not yet subdued when the fire that laid the city in ashes commenced its ravages, appeared no more after the rise of the more commodious city which soon occupied its site; but the intermittent and remittent fevers, and the dysentery, continued to recur, sometimes to a considerable extent, during half a century. It was not until the year 1762, that the light of a rational knowledge upon the subject of the public health, which had dawned from the time of the rebuilding of the city, shone forth among the inhabitants of Westminster, who then set the example of reform, with the sanction of parliament; and were followed by those of the city in the adoption of similar measures, in 1766. Fleet ditch was then first covered in; the streets were paved with large squared stones; the ranges of posts, which took up the space of a line of passengers on each side, were removed; the signs, gates, and bars, were taken down, and a free ventilation admitted; the sewers and drains were improved; openings were made in the incommodious parts of the streets; and cleanliness still farther promoted by the more active employment of scavengers, the increased supply of water, &c.; which system has been pursued, and is still continued, to the great ornament of the town, as well as to the substan-

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\* For direct proofs of the efficacy of cleanliness, and ventilation, in preventing and circumscribing the progress of contagious, epidemic, and endemic diseases, I may refer to the Writings of Dr. Lind, the Voyages of Captain Cook and of Lord Anson, the Works of Drs. Haygarth, Ferriar, Currie, and Clarke, the Reports of the different Fever-Institutions of England and Ireland, and those of the Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor.



tial benefit of its inhabitants. The construction of the houses, too, which have been astonishingly multiplied since that period, being calculated in every way for the promotion of internal ventilation and cleanliness, and the general attention at present paid to these circumstances in domestic economy, add to the causes of the great salubrity of the metropolis during several years past.

With respect to the two chronic diseases, Scurvy and Rickets, (the former of which has been asserted, and the latter is known, to have been extremely fatal,) we cannot trace them so satisfactorily to the obvious condition of the metropolis, as the acute diseases, already discussed. This remark applies more especially to the rickets, which originated, increased, and declined, under no observable change of circumstances with which it could be connected. But the prevalence of scurvy has been clearly ascertained, in modern times, to concur with some of the causes of the acute diseases before mentioned; viz. impure air, crowded places, and want of cleanliness; particularly if the food be, at the same time, indigestible, or not sufficiently nutritive, the air cold and damp, and if exercise in the open air be avoided, and a regular and sufficient sleep be not enjoyed\*. Most of these circumstances,

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\* Our great navigator's name (Capt. Cook) deserves immortality, not less for his rational and successful prevention of diseases, particularly of scurvy, which, before his time, was most destructive to seamen on long voyages, than for his numerous discoveries in geography. See Lind *On the Scurvy*. See also *An Account of the Attempts to winter in high northern Latitudes*, by Dr. Aikin, in the *Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester*, vol. i. in which it is shown, that all



it is evident, existed among the poor inhabitants of London in the seventeenth century, and probably to an extent sufficient to account for the origin of the scurvy, properly so called, which, as we have already remarked, was not so generally prevalent as the majority of writers of that age have asserted.

Amid the general diminution of mortality, which has gradually accompanied the improvements in the condition of London and in the mode of living, a few diseases may be observed, in perusing the annual Bills, to have increased in number and fatality. But these appear to be less dependent on the physical than on the moral and political changes, which the country has undergone; and are to be attributed chiefly to the increase of manufactures, and consequently of the number of sedentary and otherwise unwholesome occupations;—to the augmentation of the national wealth, and, with it, of luxury and high-feeding;—and to the fluctuations in the conditions of life, attendant on the spirit of commercial speculation. To the first of these sources we may probably, in part, ascribe the regular increase of Consumption during the last century;—to the second, the more inconsiderable but scarcely less regular increase of Apoplexy, Palsy, and sudden Deaths, as well as of the Gout;—and to the last, the more frequent occurrence of Insanity in its different

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those who were left in Greenland with a stock of provisions, and who therefore confined themselves to their huts, perished with scurvy; while those who were left accidentally, and without the means of subsistence, escaped the disease, and survived, being compelled to go out in pursuit of food. These facts evince at once the salubrity of exercise and light food, and the pernicious effects of unresisted cold, close apartments, salted food, and inactivity, combined, in exciting scurvy.



forms\*: and the increase of intemperance and vice, in a large and populous city, doubtless contributes much to the augmentation of all these diseases.

The article Consumption, in the bills of mortality, is probably the most incorrect in the list. Major Graunt stated, above a century ago, that, under this term, "the old-woman searchers, after the mist of a cup of ale, and the bribe of a two-groat fee," reported those that died of the venereal disease, and other emaciating complaints, as having died of consumption. And there can be no doubt, that as the people in general still denominate every disorder a *decline*, or consumption, in which great debility and emaciation, from any chronic disease whatever, precede death, so the searchers (who are even now ignorant old women, and are said to take the report of the friends of the deceased, without examination, if a small douceur be given them, and who are unable to discriminate, if they do examine the body,) fall into the same error in giving their report to the clerks.

Hence it cannot be questioned, that the article consumption comprehends a great number of chronic dis-

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\* Dr. Heberden states the proportion of these three diseases, or rather classes of diseases, at the beginning, middle, and end of the eighteenth century, to have been as follows:

	Begin.	Middle.	End.	If we compare the mortality from consumption at those three periods, with the total mortality, we find, that in 1669 the deaths from consumption were to the whole, as 1 to about 6.2 in 1749 — 1 — 5.5 — 1799 — 1 — 3.8 — 1808 — 1 — 3.6 and 1818 — 1 — 4.2
Consumption . . . .	3,000	4,000	5,000	
Palsy, Apoplexy, &c.	157	280	300	
Lunatic . . . . .	27	75	70	



eases, in addition to those of true phthisis pulmonalis: such as the marasmus, mesenteric affections, the sequelæ of hooping cough, small pox, and of other acute disorders, in children;—diseases of the viscera, and many cases of diabetes, dysentery, syphilis, &c. in adults. The effects, then, of various employments, and of the intemperance and vices of a great city, in multiplying the diseases to which the appellation of consumption (or more popularly decline) is applied, must be obvious;—not to mention the various occupations which directly injure the lungs, and induce and aggravate true phthisis\*; the stomach, bowels, and viscera, are disordered by a number of sedentary employments, especially when carried on in confined air and close situations, which it is unnecessary to instance; by those which expose the persons to great heat, as among the sugar-bakers, &c.; and by those in which a deleterious substance is used, as by the poison of lead among house-painters, plumbers, white-lead manufacturers, glass-cutters, &c. It must not be omitted, however, that the reports of consumption, in other parts of the island, correspond in a great degree with the accounts of its prevalence in London, and therefore tend to render our speculations, relative to its causes and origin, less satisfactory. Even

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\* Dr. Willan states, that “hair-dressers, bakers, masons, bricklayers’ labourers, laboratory-men, coal-heavers, and chimney-sweepers, are liable to be affected with obstinate pulmonic diseases; as are also, in an equal degree, the dressers of flax and feathers, and the workmen in the warehouses of leather-sellers. Many persons thus engaged struggle with a constant hard cough, until it terminate in consumption; whereas, by a timely removal into purer air, and a suitable regimen, they might soon have been restored to health.” *Reports*, p. 301.



in the south of Devonshire, at Plymouth, as it appears from the statement of Dr. Woolcombe, consumption is prevalent to an extent scarcely less than in the metropolis, among the poor who apply to the dispensary there.

The gout, if not a disease of the rich exclusively, seldom or never occurs, however strong hereditary predisposition to it may be, except under circumstances where indolence and what is called good living can be indulged in. It is not a disease of the poor and laborious class of people, and scarcely ever appears at the institutions for medical charity, except in the lazy and pampered butlers and footmen of the wealthy\*. Its increase, therefore, necessarily goes hand in hand with the increase of wealth, and its attendant, luxury.

In regard to apoplexy and palsy, the public newspapers afford ample evidence of the connexion of the disease with repletion, in the article of food and drink. Most of the sudden deaths which are announced, are stated to have followed the enjoyment of a hearty dinner or supper, and a cheerful glass; and the persons thus seized in the midst of high health, are generally of a gross corporeal habit; which evinces their previous custom of yielding to such indulgencies.

Insanity does not seem to have greatly increased within the last half century. The number of patients

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\* We remember to have heard an observation of Dr. Gregory, of Edinburgh, that, in the course of twenty-three years, he had superintended the treatment of *two thousand* patients, in the clinical wards of the Royal Infirmary there, only *two* of whom had the gout. But this proportion is much too large, if applied to the whole number of patients admitted into that hospital. We know that in some extensive charities in London, not *one* case of gout occurs in *six thousand* patients.



in the public hospitals for the reception of lunatics, continues nearly uniform: and the twenty-five private houses, licensed for the same purpose, in and near London, are said to contain also a tolerably uniform number\*. The erection of St. Luke's Hospital may perhaps have diminished the number of deaths, from this disease, recorded in the bills of mortality, which do not commonly include the burials of those who die in hospitals. With respect to the commercial causes of insanity, we shall state, upon the authority of Dr. Willan, that "those of the superior order, whom their friends consign to these mansions of security, are not the victims of disappointed ambition, or of inordinate affections; not dissipated females sunk to ruin by their extravagance, nor men who have lost their all in the whirlpools of St. James's Street: but residents nearer the Royal Exchange; some of them shattered by unhealthy climates, some by overstraining the faculties, both of body and mind, in the acquisition of wealth; some ruined by deceiving, and, perhaps, self-deceived projectors; others by the most daring commercial speculations; and a few, whose understanding has been overset by mistaken views of religion †".

On the whole, then, the causes of the happy decrease

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\* Dr. Willan states, that the total amount of lunatics confined in these public and private receptacles is generally about two thousand, six hundred of them being in Bethlem and St. Luke's. p. 327.

† *Loc. cit.* p. 327.—Mr. Haslam, whose authority must be deemed paramount on this question, states the number of lunatics from this last mentioned cause in a much higher proportion. See his *Observations on Madness and Melancholy*. We can add our testimony on this point, that most of the cases of insanity, which have occurred among the poor and ignorant, under our observation, in London, have arisen from this source.



of some of the most fatal and epidemic diseases, and the diminution of the fatality of others, as well as the increase of a few disorders, most of them of infinitely less importance to the community, may be in a great measure ascribed to the evident changes in the physical and moral condition of the metropolis, during the last two centuries; more particularly to the changes which it has undergone, from a state of perpetual filth and nastiness, to the open, airy, well-paved, and comparatively cleanly condition in which it now is; and to the alterations in our domestic economy, in regard to situation, ventilation, and cleanliness. The first of these changes has contributed to free us from the endemic and epidemic diseases of camps, viz. intermittent and remittent fevers, dysentery, and the plague; and the latter have concurred to banish the contagious diseases of hospitals, jails, and other crowded and close situations, viz. malignant typhous fevers as well as to lessen the ravages of other contagious diseases, which were formerly most destructively epidemic and fatal, such as the Scarlet-fever, Measles, &c.\*

Perhaps we may be allowed to add, that, among the salutary changes to which the diminution of the fatality of many diseases is justly ascribed, the discoveries and improvements in the sciences connected with medicine, which have greatly extended our knowledge of the human constitution, and consequently augmented the certainty and accuracy of the medical art, are entitled to no mean consideration.

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\* The fatal ravages which the scarlet-fever occasioned throughout Europe, for several successive ages, under a variety of appellations, have been traced with an acute and discriminating eye by Dr. Willan. See his *Treatise on Cutaneous Diseases*, Part III. p. 289—334.



Before I conclude this introductory sketch, I shall observe, by way of corollary from the preceding remarks, that the comparative health of the different seasons of the year respectively has undergone a very considerable alteration, since the period of the last plague. The seasons themselves, we have every reason to believe, have suffered no material change: the change has taken place in the condition of the ground, and consists in the removal from its surface of those collections of filth, upon which the influence of the seasons (especially the hot ones) chiefly operated, in forming and raising from them those poisonous miasms, from which the endemics of summer and autumn were wont to originate\*. Hence, we cannot doubt the correctness of the statement of the comparative healthiness of the seasons, in ancient times, and a southern climate, which Celsus has left us. “Igitur saluberrimum ver est; proxime deinde ab hoc, hiems; periculosior æstas; autumnus longe periculosissimus†.” This statement accords pretty nearly with the modern in-

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\* The conjecture of Sydenham, therefore, relative to the origin of these endemics, was not far from the truth: having ascertained, by observation, that they were not the result of any particular sensible changes of the atmosphere, he ascribed them to exhalations from the (bowels, not the surface of the) earth. “Quod cum serio animadvertim, opinari mihi subiit, prout à me alias dictum fuit, Constitutiones mutationem à secreta aliqua, abditaque alteratione in terræ visceribus, atmosphæram omnem pervadente, &c. maxime pendere.” See his *Schedula Monit. de nov. feb. ingressu*.

† *De Medicina*, lib. ii. cap. i.—Sir John Pringle observes, that, “the ancient maxim that held ‘the summer and autumn to be the most sickly seasons,’ is not only verified with respect to the warmer climates, but also to a camp.” *Dis. of the Army*, p. 75. This forms another point of resemblance between the condition of a camp, and of a city,



fluence of the seasons at Montpellier\* ; where the most healthy quarter of the year consists of March, April, and May; the next in salubrity is the winter quarter, December, January, and February;—then June, and July, and November; and the most sickly, the three autumnal months, August, September, and October. In the five months from July to November, inclusive, the mortality equals, or nearly so, that of the other seven. Major Graunt observed, that in his time, in London, “the unhealthful season is the autumn†.” It was in that season, especially in the months of August and September, that the plague, remittent fevers, small-pox, &c. were always most prevalent and fatal. But since those important changes, which we have before detailed, were effected, the healthiness and sickness of the seasons have been almost reversed. Even in the middle of the last century this alteration had already taken place. For Dr. Short‡ states the quarters to be most healthy in the following succession: first, the summer, June, July, and August;—second, the autumn, September, October, and November;—third, the winter, December, January, and February; and, lastly, as most sickly, the spring, including March, April, and May. Similar observations have been collected by Dr. Percival§, in respect to Manchester,

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under the circumstances which existed in London in the seventeenth century, and earlier.

\* Quoted from the *Mem. de la Soc. Roy. de Medecine*, ann. 1777 and 1781, by Dr. Heberden. See the next page.

† *Loc. citat.* p. 56.

‡ *Observations, &c.* p. 166.

§ *Medical Essays*, p. 32.



and seven other towns in the north of England; by Dr. Price\*, in relation to Edinburgh, Paris, &c.; and by Dr. Currie, as to the seasons of sickness among the poor of Liverpool†. The sickness of the individual months, beginning with the most *unhealthy*, may be thus compared,

MONTPELLIER.	LONDON †.	YORK §.	LIVERPOOL.
August.	January.	January.	March.
September.	March.	March.	April.
October.	February.	December.	January.
November.	May.	February.	October.
July.	November.	April.	May.
December.	December.	June.	December.
January.	September.	May.	November.
February.	October.	October.	February.
June.	April.	August.	June.
April.	August.	November.	September.
March.	June.	September.	July.
May.	July.	July.	August.

From which it will be seen, that March stands near the bottom of the list at Montpellier (*saluberrimum ver*), and August at the top (*longe periculosissimus*); whereas in England, in the eighteenth century, March stands at the top, among the most sickly, and July and August at the bottom, as the most healthy.

The evidence, afforded by the following Reports, tends to the establishment of the same fact. For on examining the number of patients in the respective

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\* *On Reversionary Payments*, vol. ii. p. 271.

† *Reports on the Effects of Water*, &c. vol. i. p. 228, 2d edit.

‡ From Dr. Short's Eleventh Table, p. 176, on an average of fifteen years, 1732—1746 inclusive.

According to a Table published by Dr. White, and quoted by Dr. Heberden, p. 49.



quarters, it will be found that they stand in degree of salubrity in the following progression, namely, autumn, summer, winter, and spring, *i. e.* exactly in a series contrary to that of former times, and of insalubrious situations at present. The total number of patients attended by my colleague and myself in the 12 years included by the Reports, is 26,651, exclusive of those under the care of the surgeon, and of these the number of applicants in the four seasons respectively, stands as follows, viz.

September to November inclusive - - -	} - 6,290
June to August - - -	- 6,663
December to February - -	- 6,833
March to May - - -	- 6,865.

Or, if we take an average of these numbers, the comparative salubrity of the seasons will stand thus,

Autumn.	Summer.	Winter.	Spring.
524.	555.	569.	572.

The observation of the Roman becomes strictly applicable to our own seasons by reversing the epithets: *Periculosissimum ver*; proxime deinde ab hoc hiems; *salubrior æstas*; autumnus longè *saluberrimus*.

This important change, indeed, which the seasons have undergone, in point of comparative salubrity, within the space of little more than half a century, affords of itself the most satisfactory evidence of the higher degree of healthiness, and the greater freedom from disease, which we now enjoy in comparison with our ancestors. For in what does this change consist? Not in the transference of disease from one season to another: not even in the multiplication of the maladies of the *saluberrimum ver*, and the subtraction of



the dangers of autumn, so as to make the balance even: but, in fact, it consists in the removal of the evils of the unhealthy periods, without the addition of any new sources of mischief to the others. In a word, the most healthy season enjoyed by our ancestors constitutes the worst which we have to encounter. How great, then, must be the general amelioration!

But another inference from this change in the salubrious character of the seasons occurs for our consideration. By our system of domestic polity, we have freed ourselves from the diseases of summer and autumn, the diseases generated of morbid effluvia, the plague, pestilential fevers, remittent and intermittent fevers, and dysentery: there remain to us only, as far as the seasons are concerned, the diseases of winter and spring, the products of cold and humidity. The following Reports contain ample evidence of the mischievous influence of these two agents, against which, therefore, in this climate it should be our principal care to guard ourselves: for although unwholesome occupations, and general habits of excess and intemperance, bring with them a considerable portion of the train of diseases here noticed, yet the most marked general fluctuations in the quantity of disease, will be found to concur with simultaneous variations in the cold and humidity of our atmosphere\*.

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\* The preceding observations, in general, are applicable not only to the other great towns of England, but to the country at large, in which similar changes, in the mode of life, in cleanliness, in the removal of the sources of noxious miasmata, by the operations of agriculture, &c. have produced similar alterations in respect to health and disease. See Dr. Percival's *Essays*.







# REPORTS OF DISEASES

## AT THE PUBLIC DISPENSARY.

### REPORT I.

*From September 1 to November 30, 1804.*

#### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Typhus	..	..	6	Variola	..	..	2
Synochus	..	..	13	Rubeola	..	..	3
Tertiana	..	..	2	Rheumatismus acutus			2
Quotidiana	..	..	1	Cholera	..	..	8
Scarlatina	..	..	5	Abortus	..	..	2
Pneumonia	..	..	9	Pertussis	..	..	3
Catarrhus	..	..	40				

#### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Chronic Hydrocephalus	1	Dysuria	..	..	6		
Cephalæa	..	..	12	Hemiplegia	..	..	4
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	36	Paraplegia	..	..	2		
Chronic Catarrh & } Dyspnœa	..	32	Epilepsia	..	..	1	
Dyspepsia	..	..	42	Rheumatismus chronicus	34		
Diarrhœa	..	..	31	Lumbago	..	..	5
Dysentery	..	..	16	Melancholia	..	..	2
Colica	..	..	2	Asthenia	..	..	30
Colica Pictonum	..	6	Hydrops	..	..	12	
Menorrhagia	..	..	4	Impetigo	..	..	7
Amenorrhœa	..	..	11	Psoriasis	..	..	3
Hysteria	..	..	4	Lichen	..	..	2
Leucorrhœa	..	..	4	Prurigo	..	..	3
				Porrigo	..	..	2



DURING the three months comprehended by the preceding list, the metropolis has been, on the whole, very free from disease; and the applications to this Dispensary have been fewer than for a considerable time past within the same period. In the month of September, the weather was uniformly hot; and, on several days in the third week, the thermometer in the shade was as high as  $77^{\circ}$  or  $78^{\circ}$ , even about sunset. In October and November the temperature was variable, the vicissitudes were great, and there were frequent and heavy rains.

Until the middle of October, the usual complaints of the alimentary canal were prevalent to a considerable degree. The most predominant form was diarrhœa, which yielded in general to anodynes and diluents, and in some cases was relieved by laxatives. In October they more generally assumed the dysenteric type, and, in several instances, were attended with severe hæmorrhagy; those which had been neglected in the beginning proving extremely difficult of cure. Cholera was much less prevalent than is usual in the hot months.

But the present season, extremely healthy on the whole, has been remarkable for the general absence of contagious fever. For several months not one patient in typhus applied to the Dispensary; and, in other districts, the disease was equally unknown. (See the different Monthly Reports.) But during the same period of former years this disease was generally very prevalent, as is testified, with respect to this district, by the valuable Reports of Dr. Willan ('On the Diseases in London'), and of Dr. Murray (Brit. Mag. 1800). No plausible cause has yet been assigned for



the absence or prevalence of epidemic febrile diseases. Meteorological observations have thrown no light upon the subject; and chemistry has not detected any change in the condition of the air, by which it might be explained. Sydenham referred the appearance of epidemics to the operation of effluvia arising from the earth: "Quippe qui animadverto," he says, "annos, quoad manifestam aëris temperiem sibi planè consentientes, dispari admodum morborum agmine infestari, et vice versa." But until we ascertain some fact, we gain no knowledge by assuming an hypothesis.

Some of the names in the foregoing list are adopted from Sauvages, as being more applicable to a practical discrimination of diseases, than some which might be borrowed from Dr. Cullen. The titles of the last diseases in the catalogue, viz. the cutaneous eruptions, are those which Dr Willan has used in his treatise on that subject. Hitherto the writings of medical men, on this extensive class of diseases, have abounded with no small degree of confusion and obscurity; the terms *leprous*, *herpetic*, and *scorbutic*, being used vaguely and indefinitely; and few authors agreeing in a common acceptance of any of them. It is much to be wished, therefore, that a nomenclature, founded not upon an hypothetical classification, but on an arrangement of similar appearances, should be adopted as a standard by all authors, who communicate to the public any information respecting this obscure tribe of diseases.



## REPORT II.

*From November 30th, 1804, to February 28th, 1805.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Tertiana	..	..	1	Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	8
Scarlatina	..	..	1	Rheumatismus	..	..	3
Variola	..	..	1	Podagra	..	..	1
Ophthalmia	..	..	7	Pertussis	..	..	1
Hydrocephalus	..	..	2	Hysteritis (post partum)	..	..	3
Pneumonia	..	..	10	Febris Infantum	..	..	5
Catarrhus	..	..	86				

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Hemicrania	..	..	3	Hysteria	..	..	3
Cephalæa	..	..	5	Hæmatemesis	..	..	1
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	..	..	36	Epilepsia	..	..	1
Chronic Catarrh & Dyspnœa	..	}	69	Hemiplegia	..	..	2
Asthma	..	..	8	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	..	37
Dyspepsia	..	..	39	Lumbago	..	..	8
Asthénia	..	..	16	Anasarca	..	..	2
Icterus	..	..	1	Hydrothorax	..	..	3
Hepatitis chronica	..	..	3	Ascites	..	..	3
Enterodynia	..	..	4	Tympanites	..	..	1
Verminalio	..	..	16	Scrofula	..	..	2
Diarrhœa	..	..	8	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	6
Dysenteria	..	..	1	Impetigo	..	..	7
Nephralgia	..	..	3	Scabies	..	..	7
Dysuria calculosa	..	..	2	Psoriasis	..	..	3
Catarrhus Vesicæ	..	..	1	Lichen	..	..	2
Amenorrhœa	..	..	10	Intertrigo	..	..	1
Menorrhagia	..	..	6	Porrigo	..	..	2
Leucorrhœa	..	..	5	Aphthæ	..	..	4

DURING the latter part of December, and a great part of January, the weather was exceedingly cold,



with a constant north-east wind, except that there were two sudden vicissitudes, accompanied with rain and a transient thaw. From that time to the middle of February, the temperature was moderately cold, the nights only being frosty. At present it is regular and mild.

At the time of the second thaw, the catarrhal complaints increased considerably; and almost all the instances of pneumonia occurred in January. These chiefly assumed the character of peripneumonia, and were attended with symptoms of debility, rather than of acute inflammatory excitement. In some cases, delirium was one of the first symptoms; and the patient complained more of head-ach, general uneasiness, and pains in the back and limbs, than of the cough. As the disease advanced, the cough became troublesome, the respiration difficult, an obtuse wandering pain was felt in the chest, and the voice was much impaired; the tongue was brown, and much furred; the pulse above 100, and feeble; but the strength was not severely depressed, as in typhus. In one case, the patient died on the 4th day, with the symptoms just enumerated; and, on examination after death, both lobes of the lungs were found of a dark purple colour, especially at the upper and back part, and resembled the appearance of the liver, rather than of the healthy lungs; the bronchial cells being filled with effused blood. In general, the disease yielded to blisters, with diaphoretics. Bloodletting on the one hand, and a cordial treatment on the other, were contraindicated by the two opposite sets of symptoms; but, in these unfortunate combinations, experience rather warrants an approximation to the cordial treatment of typhus, than to the debilitating remedies of pneumonia.



Most of the other modifications of catarrh showed a tendency to debility; and there were few instances of high excitement. A comparatively small number of cases of acute rheumatism have occurred; but several of the mild febrile catarrhs were attended with great general pains of the back and limbs, which, however, were removed in a few days by slight anodynes, together with diaphoretics and diluents.

It is remarkable, that scarcely an instance of any contagious disease is at present to be found in this district. No case of typhus has occurred, and only one of small-pox, of scarlet-fever, and of whooping-cough; though this is the season in which all these diseases are usually prevalent.

Ophthalmia has been to a certain degree epidemic, though it has not come very frequently under the notice of Dispensaries. It has been remarked to make its attack suddenly, as if a mote had fallen into the eye; the inflammation rapidly increasing, and the palpebræ becoming much swelled. In many cases it has almost as suddenly subsided, with little or no remedy; and, in several, it has at the same time attacked the other eye. It has, in many instances, subsided so rapidly, that no remedy was sought for. Whether this rapidity of its progress is the cause of its being little seen at public institutions, or whether the lower classes have been nearly exempt from it, I have not been able to ascertain.

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The impression in favour of the cordial treatment of Typhus, even when complicated with pulmonic inflammation, indicated in the preceding Report, was



the result of the doctrines, which were then and for some years subsequently prevalent in medical schools, and steadily maintained by my much respected senior and colleague, the late Dr. Willan. Observation and experience have satisfied me of the fallacy of this doctrine, as well as the most intelligent of my contemporaries: and I have attempted to show, in a work recently published on the subject of the Contagious Fever of this country, the danger of cordials and stimulants, and the safety and necessity of resorting to moderate evacuations, in these combinations of inflammation with low fever. The same doctrines, indeed, have been promulgated by many other writers, especially Drs. Percival, Armstrong, Mills, &c. The liverlike appearance, however, which is peculiar to typhoid inflammations of the lungs, indicates its congestive, rather than acute inflammatory character; and the improbability of equal success from bloodletting, which, though necessary, must be moderate.

### REPORT III.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1805.*

#### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Tertiana ..	..	..	7	Pneumonia ..	..	..	12
Quotidiana ..	..	..	1	Pertussis ..	..	..	5
Ophthalmia ..	..	..	3	Urticaria ..	..	..	1
Phrenitis ..	..	..	1	Herpes (Shingles) ..	..	..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	..	..	9	Erysipelas ..	..	..	1
———— parotidæa ..	..	..	1	Rheumatismus acutus ..	..	..	2
Catarrhus ..	..	..	54	Febris Infantum ..	..	..	6



## CHRONIC DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Cephalæa	..	14	Menorrhagia	..	5
Catarrhus	..	52	Amenorrhœa	..	5
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	..	29	Leucorrhœa	..	3
Asthma	..	3	Scirrhus Uteri	..	4
Dyspnœa	..	5	Prolapsus Uteri	..	1
Dyspepsia	..	40	Hysteria	..	8
Dysphagia	..	1	Epilepsia	..	2
Asthénia	..	29	Paralysis	..	10
Colica Pictonum	..	1	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	30
Verminatio	..	21	Lumbago	..	4
Diarrhœa	..	5	Anasarca	..	6
Dysenteria	..	5	Hydrothorax	..	3
Tabes mesenterica	..	3	Ascites	..	2
Enterodynia	..	8	Physconia	..	1
Hæmorrhoids	..	6	Scrofula	..	3
Prolapsus Ani	..	1	Purpura, or Petechiæ	}	1
Icterus	..	1	sine febre		
Hepatitis chronica	..	2	Impetigo (running Tetter)	..	5
Nephralgia	..	2	Ecthyma (ulcerated Tetter)	..	1
Dysuria	..	2	Scabies (Itch)	..	13
Enuresis	..	1	Porrigio (Scald-head)	..	1

THE continuance of cold weather, with almost constant north-east winds, has protracted the season of catarrhal and rheumatic complaints beyond the usual period. With the exception of these, however, and the disorders of the stomach, which are constantly induced by the moral and physical circumstances peculiar to crowded cities, no class of diseases has been prevalent to any extent. The remarkable diminution, or rather absence, of acute contagious diseases, which was noticed in the last Report, still continues to be observed: a few cases of hooping-cough being the only instances which have required our attention in this district.



The majority of the intermittent fevers, which we occasionally see in London, is brought from the marshy parts of the country: but instances sometimes occur, which cannot be traced to the miasmata of marshes, nor even to unwholesome exhalations from damp and uncleanly situations of any kind. One of the patients in the preceding list had not been absent from London for many years, and has lived, during the last eight months, in a court between Holborn and the north side of Lincoln's-Inn Fields; yet he was attacked with a very obstinate tertian. From similar facts, it has been inferred, that intermittents occasionally occur, independent of the operation of marsh miasmata\*. But, in attempting to ascertain the origin of intermittents, one circumstance requires attention; viz. the period during which the influence of miasmata may lie dormant in the constitution, or the time which may intervene between the exposure of the person and the commencement of the disease. An inattention to this circumstance tends very much to invalidate the conclusion which might be drawn from the cases of Dr. Beddoes. The first case which appeared at the Dispensary commenced in March; the patient had resided in London since the beginning of December, at which time he returned from Essex. About the same time, two patients, attacked with ague, who had also returned to town from Kent or Essex early in December, applied to a medical friend in the city. In these in-

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\*Two cases which were produced in persons who constantly resided in the most healthy parts of the metropolis, are mentioned by Dr. Willan. See *Reports on Dis. in London*, p. 48. And three which occurred at Bristol during a hard frost in February are related by Dr. Beddoes. *Med. Facts and Obs.* vol. vii.



stances, a period of three months had elapsed between the infection (if the term may be used) by miasmata, and the appearance of the consequent ague.

Another patient in the above list, after residing several months at Sheerness, returned to London in November last, and in the beginning of the present month was seized with tertian, having lived, during an interval of nearly half a year, in Liquor-pond Street, Gray's-Inn Lane. From these facts, it would appear that the latent period of intermittents is very indefinite; probably greater and more irregular than that of continued fever, according even to the extensive limits allowed by Dr. Haygarth.

The case of herpes, or shingles (*zona herpetica*, *zona ignea*, *zoster*, and *ignis sacer* of different authors), is placed among the acute diseases, because, except that it is not contagious, and probably may occur more than once in the same individual, it has every affinity with the febrile exanthemata. There is considerable confusion in the descriptions and characters of the disease described by different writers under these names. Some include an acute, others a chronic disease, some a pustular, others a vesicular eruption, and some an ulcerous affection, under the same denomination. Hoffmann\* considers the *zona ignea* as a species of erysipelas, and the *ignis sacer* of Celsus† as synonymous with the herpes exedens. But Burserius‡ treats of the *zona*, the disease in question, under the title of *ignis sacer*; distinct from the erysipelas, but

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\* *Opera*, tom. iv. p. 1. cap. xiii. § 6.

† *De Med.* lib. v. cap. xxviii. § 4. "Sacer quoque ignis malis ulceribus annumerari debet," &c.

‡ *Inst. Med. Pract.* tom. ii. cap. 3.



in the same class of febrile exanthemata. Much of this disagreement has probably arisen from inattention in the use of the word *pustule*, which is applied indiscriminately to the *pustule* properly so called, and to the *vesicle* or *phlyctæna*. The disease is not of very frequent occurrence; but in the few cases which I have seen, its course and symptoms have been tolerably uniform. The patients have complained of a sense of heat, and of shooting pains through the chest or epigastric region, attended with slight febrile symptoms, for three or four days; a few patches of papulæ then appeared about the breast or shoulders, with a circumscribed efflorescence around them; these put on speedily a vesicular appearance, and in two or three days formed a circular or oval cluster of transparent vesicles, whilst other patches of papulæ continued to appear with a certain degree of regularity, nearly in a line extending from the sternum to the spine on one side, sometimes like half a sash round the waist, sometimes like a sword-belt across the shoulder. “*Hac tamen perpetua lege, ut ab anteriore parte nunquam lineam albam, nunquam a postica spinam transcendere*\*.” The vesicles, which first appeared, having become large and confluent, lost their transparency, acquired a blue or livid colour, and sunk into a brown scab. Those patches which appeared later went through the same course; and, in ten or twelve days,

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\* De Haen *de Divois. Febr.* p. 112. a case quoted by Burserius. There is a notion, as old as Pliny, that if it completely surrounds the body, it is fatal. “*Zoster appellatur, et enecat, si cinxerit.*” *Nat. Hist.* lib. xxvi. cap. 11.



nothing but the thin brown scabs remained. Slight febrile symptoms continued during the whole progress; but the most distressing part of the disease was an intense darting pain, which came on at the close, and which was scarcely to be allayed by the power of opium. This accords with the observation of Hoffman: "Inde quidem symptomata remiserunt, excepto exquisito ardente dolore, qui tantus erat, ut nec somnum capere, nec locum affectum contingere posset\*." The complaint is generally mild, and I believe harmless; and slight debility ensues. Gentle laxatives and diaphoretics, with occasional anodynes, seem to be the only medicines requisite to alleviate the symptoms during its course.

Professor Callisen † has given the following description of the disease with his usual terseness: "Zona, cingulum, zoster, vocatur species herpetis, quæ sub forma vesicularum flavescentium, livescentium, juxta truncum corporis prorumpit; rare artus occupat, rarissime medium corpus tanquam cingulum circumdat ac amplectitur totum, gravi dolore urente ac febre stipata --- solis remediis internis purificantibus, demulcentibus, lenibus diaphoreticis tractandus --- Graviora symptomata interdum methodum poscant antiphlogisticam."

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\* *Opera*, tom. iv. cap. xiii. § 6.

† *Syst. Chirurg. Hodiern.* tom. i. p. 424.



## REPORT IV.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1805.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Typhus .. .. .	3	Ophthalmia .. .. .	2
Quotidiana .. .. .	4	Catarrhus .. .. .	41
Tertiana .. .. .	2	Pneumonia .. .. .	11
Scarlatina anginosa .. .. .	2	Pertussis .. .. .	5
Rubeola .. .. .	2	Enteritis .. .. .	2
Variola .. .. .	7	Cholera .. .. .	5
Erysipelas .. .. .	3	Hysteritis .. .. .	1
Cynanche tonsillaris .. .. .	3	Febris Infantum .. .. .	4
———— parotidæa .. .. .	2	Rheumatismus .. .. .	11

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. .. .	21	Tænia .. .. .	1
Hemicrania .. .. .	2	Hæmorrhoids .. .. .	8
Vertigo .. .. .	1	Hæmaturia .. .. .	2
Otalgia .. .. .	1	Dysuria .. .. .	8
Catarrhus chronicus & } Dyspnœa .. .. .	27	Nephralgia .. .. .	1
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	29	Menorrhagia .. .. .	12
Asthma .. .. .	2	Amenorrhœa .. .. .	6
Aneurysma arter. carot.	1	Chlorosis .. .. .	4
Pleurodyne .. .. .	1	Leucorrhœa .. .. .	7
Dyspepsia .. .. .	47	Prolapsus Uteri .. .. .	1
Asthenia .. .. .	27	Hysteria .. .. .	5
Icterus .. .. .	2	Epilepsia .. .. .	1
Hepatitis chronica .. .. .	2	Melancholia .. .. .	1
Colica .. .. .	2	Hemiplegia .. .. .	3
Colica Pictorum .. .. .	7	Paralysis Saturnina .. .. .	2
Diarrhœa .. .. .	6	Paralysis rheumatica .. .. .	1
Dysenteria .. .. .	6	Rheumatismus chronicus	47
Enterodynia .. .. .	9	Lumbago & Sciatica .. .. .	7
Tabes mesenterica .. .. .	2	Siphylis .. .. .	2
Verminatio .. .. .	20	Gonorrhœa .. .. .	3
		Scirrhus Uteri .. .. .	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Ascites	..	..	8	Urticaria	..	..	3
Hydrothorax	..	..	2	Impetigo (running Tetter)	..	..	6
Anasarca	..	..	9	Scabies (Itch)	..	..	7
Tympanites	..	..	2	Prurigo	..	..	3
Scrofula	..	..	4	Lichen	..	..	6
Rachitis	..	..	1	Purpura	..	..	1
Aphthæ	..	..	2	Psoriasis (scaly Tetter)	..	..	2
Porrigo (Scald-head)	..	..	3				

ON perusing the preceding catalogue, the reader would be almost led to suppose that it contained a register of the diseases of the spring or winter; since rheumatisms and catarrhal disorders are among the most numerous in the list, and the usual complaints of the alimentary canal, peculiar to the summer months, are few. During the months of June and July, the temperature was generally cold, the vicissitudes frequent, and there was much rain. The catarrhal complaints chiefly occurred during those months; and the few cases of cholera which have appeared, happened during the last fortnight. Sydenham considered the cholera as a disease of August almost exclusively, and seems to attribute it chiefly to the use of fruit. Seasons such as the last and the present summer, however, afford a sufficient refutation of these observations of that great physician, and prove that cholera and bilious diarrhœa occur most frequently in whatever month the heat is greatest. They were considerably more frequent during the hot month of September 1804, than in the preceding August, although the summer fruits are considerably more plentiful in the latter. We have no evidence, indeed, that the use of fruits has any tendency to increase the biliary secretion, upon which the diseases in question immediately depend;



but in hot climates the bile is generally exuberant, and those diseases abound. They are most frequent too, we believe, in those who indulge in animal food, or in vinous and spirituous liquors; so that fruit and vegetables would rather seem to be a preventive than a cause of exuberance of bile. Dr. Cullen, therefore, was without doubt correct in attributing the disease solely to external heat.

A few cases of typhus, scarlet fever, and measles have occurred during the present month; but there appears to be no virulence of contagion connected with them, and they do not readily spread. The only disease which can be considered as epidemic at present is the small-pox. It is lamentable that the prejudiced and illiberal attacks that have lately been made against the cow-pock, founded upon the most unsubstantial evidence, and specious only to those who are ignorant of the difficulty and the caution required to establish a medical truth, should have materially retarded the progress of that salutary preventive. Some of the cases of small-pox in the list were of a malignant species, and proved fatal; and a considerable number has fallen under our observation, besides those who applied to the Dispensary for assistance.

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In this and the preceding Reports, the term *Verminatio* is used to denote those affections, which are usually ascribed to the presence of worms in the alimentary canal. The symptoms commonly referred to the irritation occasioned by these animals in children, are, a variable appetite, sometimes deficient,



and sometimes amounting to an inordinate craving; considerable irregularity of the bowels; which are often relaxed, and sometimes costive alternately, the evacuations being commonly of a morbid aspect, and always more offensive in odour; the belly rather tumid; the sleep somewhat disturbed, with grinding of the teeth, and picking of the nose; a pallid complexion, and flabbiness of the muscles, with some emaciation; which, if the disorder continues, becomes considerable. Very little experience, however, is sufficient to demonstrate the error of ascribing these symptoms to worms; they constantly occur, in fact, where no worms are present; they do not necessarily accompany the existence either of ascarides or lumbrici; and are obviously the result of every irritation in the alvine canal, whether produced by morbid secretions, or unwholesome diet. In the subsequent Reports, therefore, the term *Verminatio* disappears; and this congeries of symptoms (independently of the existence of ascarides and lumbrici, which are separately noticed) is denoted by the term *Marasmus*, or, when more severe, by that of *Tabes mesenterica*.



## REPORT V.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1805.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Quotidiana	..	..	1	Rubeola	..	..	2
Ephamera	..	..	2	Variola	..	..	7
Synochus	..	..	5	Varicella	..	..	2
Typhus	..	..	1	Scarlatina	..	..	1
Ophthalmia	..	..	1	Erysipelas	..	..	2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	7	Pertussis	..	..	5
Pneumonia	..	..	10	Catarrhus	..	..	71
Peripneumonia notha	..	..	5	Dysenteria	..	..	10
Gastritis	..	..	1	Cholera	..	..	3
Enteritis	..	..	1	Febris (post partum)	..	..	2
Rheumatismus	..	..	7	— Infantum	..	..	4

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	9	Pyuria	..	..	1
Hemicrania	..	..	3	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	4
Vertigo	..	..	2	Prolapsus Uteri	..	..	2
Asthma & Dyspnœa	..	..	8	Menorrhagia	..	..	3
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	47	Leucorrhœa	..	..	7
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	..	..	13	Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	1
Asthénia	..	..	28	Amenorrhœa	..	..	6
Dyspepsia	..	..	41	Hæmatemesis	..	..	1
Hepatitis chronica	..	..	2	Hysteria	..	..	4
Icterus	..	..	2	Melancholia	..	..	2
Enterodynia	..	..	8	Epilepsia	..	..	2
Colica saturnina	..	..	2	Hemiplegia	..	..	5
Tænia	..	..	1	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	..	29
Ascarides & Lumbrici	..	..	7	Pleurodyne	..	..	3
Tabes mesenterica	..	..	3	Lumbago	..	..	5
Diarrhœa	..	..	6	Hydrothorax	..	..	3
Physconia	..	..	1	Ascites	..	..	4
Nephralgia	..	..	2	Anasarca	..	..	8
Dysuria	..	..	4	Tympanites	..	..	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Rachitis .. ..	1	Psoriasis .. ..	2				
Scrofula .. ..	2	Porrigo .. ..	1				
Siphylis .. ..	4	Impetigo .. ..	7				
Strophulus .. ..	2	Scabies .. ..	5				
Aphthæ .. ..	1	Herpes chronica .. ..	1				
Prurigo .. ..	3	Ecthyma .. ..	3				
Lichen .. ..	3						

THE weather during the month of September was regular, dry, and warm; in October it became moderately cold, with an almost constant north-east wind, but with little rain; and during the present month there have been frequent thick fogs, together with occasional frost, and some heavy rains.

The small-pox is still very prevalent, but does not appear to be increasing. It will probably follow its usual course, and gradually become less general as the winter approaches\*. It is chiefly the very severe cases which apply to a public institution, and the majority of those in the foregoing list were of a very unfavourable sort: the eruptions on the face were small and numerous, and attended with a diffuse erythematic redness; but on the body and extremities they were few in number, small, acuminate, and never fully maturing; the extremities were generally cold, and the patients exceedingly restless and uneasy. In one of the cases, several large purple spots were intermixed with the scattered and imperfect pustules on the third day of the eruption; hemorrhagies from the mouth and bowels succeeded, and the patient died on the 8th day.

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\* See Sydenham on the Epidemic Constitution of 1661. &c. Willan's Reports of Diseases in London, 1801.



The instances of cholera and bilious diarrhœa were but few; a circumstance which (cool as the season has been) may be considered as tending to confirm the observation, that these complaints do not originate from the use of the summer fruits; but that the *heat* is the common source of the fruit and the bilious diseases.

Of nearly 470 cases which the preceding list comprehends, about 200, or somewhat more than 2-5ths, are diseases of the lungs. Catarrhal coughs, indeed, have prevailed through the greater part of the year; but during the month of November, and especially in the third week, when there occurred some severe frosts, accompanied by thick fogs during the day, the number of these complaints suddenly and rapidly increased. In that week almost all the asthmatics, who have been for some years annual applicants at the Dispensary, appeared at once; and their complaints seemed to be more severe than usual. The cases of pulmonary inflammation were not of the acute pleuritic species; and instances of what has been called *peripneumonia notha* have been more numerous than is usual at the beginning of winter. In one case the latter disease was rapidly fatal; the rest yielded to blisters (with the internal use of antimonials and squills), without the use of the lancet. This disease, in fact, as it now appears in London, will not bear blood-letting; those on whom it is employed almost invariably die. Such, indeed, is the general state of the human constitution in this metropolis, that diseases of a high inflammatory type are comparatively rare, and powerfully debilitating remedies are inadmissible in any complaints, in the same degree in which they are most advantageously adopted in the country.



It may be collected from the observations of Sydenham, that in the autumn, or towards its close, a continued or remittent fever frequently appeared among the diseases of that season. He gives no name to this fever, but considered it as allied to, and deriving its character from some previous or more prominent epidemic, such as the dysentery, tertian or quartan intermittent, &c. It was at this season that the dreadful plague of 1665 occurred, and in September destroyed 8,000 persons in a week\*. Dr. Fothergill has also noticed the presence of a continued or remittent fever about the same period of those years to which his observations are directed†. And, according to the later observations of Dr. Willan, the synochus, or mild fever of the summer months, was usually succeeded by a typhus, which prevailed to a considerable extent. For example, during the period comprehended by our present Report, and in the same district, he noticed in 1798, about 40 cases of malignant fever; in 1799, no less than 54 cases; and in 1800, above 80. The almost total absence of fever of this description, in the autumnal months of the last and of the present year, is therefore the more remarkable, and the circumstances to which this diminution of so great an evil can be attributed become interesting objects of inquiry.

It is usual, in the discussion of these topics, to hear a great deal assigned to some occult and undiscoverable qualities of the atmosphere, which are supposed to exist at certain intervals, and to produce all epide-

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\* Sydenham, *ibid.*

† Observations on the Weather and Diseases, 1751, &c.



mics, whether contagious or not. These qualities, however, are purely imaginary, and beyond the cognisance of our senses; and it would, perhaps, be more rational to endeavour to trace a connexion between the existence of the epidemic diseases, and the *obvious* conditions of the atmosphere, upon which much unquestionably depends. Perhaps it may be affirmed, without hazard of contradiction, that those years in which the temperature never continues long in extreme heat or extreme cold, in which it is generally moderate throughout every season, and in which vicissitudes are frequent, but not great, are most favoured in this island with general good health, and most free from all epidemics. The few records of the seasons, and the diseases connected with them, which we possess, seem to afford results, on the whole, tolerably uniform. That a hot and drougthy summer is productive of numerous and dangerous diseases is well known to physicians; and that a continued frost through the winter is also extremely detrimental to health (contrary to the popular opinion), and even excites the most malignant fevers, has been shown by Dr. Heberden from indubitable evidence\*. And it may be observed that the winter preceding the great plague before mentioned was distinguished by a frost of remarkable intensity. The coincidence of the state of the seasons in 1751 and 1752, as described by Dr. Fothergill, with that of the years 1804 and 1805, is extremely great as to every variety of the condition of the atmosphere: and a similar absence of epidemic diseases, and a general prevalence of good health, is also particularly recorded.

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\* Philos. Trans. for 1796.



It was not so, however, in the hot and drougthy summer which succeeded in 1754, when diseases of the stomach and bowels prevailed to a great extent, and in the autumn a dangerous remittent fever was also very prevalent. A register of the weather and diseases, continued with unremitting attention for some years, would be the only means of elucidating this important subject.

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Subsequent experience would induce me to modify the expressions, in this Report, relative to the invariable injury of blood-letting in the peripneumonia notha of London, and the general inability of its inhabitants to bear that evacuation; though these ideas were strongly impressed upon me by my experienced colleague, Dr. Willan. The diseases of the poor in this crowded metropolis certainly assume a less acute inflammatory character than those of the inhabitants of the country. But the result of my own observation has been a conviction that the diseases, in which blood-letting is indicated in the country, demand its use here; but that a much smaller evacuation is efficacious and successful. If patients bear less detraction of blood, from the same cause they require less for their cure.



## REPORT VI.

*From November 30, 1805, to February 28, 1806.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Typhus .. ..	1	Variola conferta ..	1				
Ephemera .. ..	3	Pertussis .. ..	6				
Quotidiana .. ..	1	Rheumatismus .. ..	11				
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	9	Podagra .. ..	2				
———— parotidæa ..	1	Arthritis rheumatica *	10				
Hemicrania .. ..	2	Dysenteria .. ..	10				
Hydrocephalus .. ..	2	Peritonitis Puerperarum	1				
Epistaxis .. ..	1	Inflammatio Pudendi ..	1				
Catarrhus .. ..	73	Febris (post partum) ..	1				
Pneumonia .. ..	10	Erysipelas .. ..	2				
Peripneumonia notha ..	8	Febris Infantum .. ..	3				

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	15	Chlorosis .. ..	1
Vertigo .. ..	2	Hysteria .. ..	8
Catarrhus chronicus ..	67	Hypochondriasis .. ..	1
Asthma & Dyspnœa ..	16	Epilepsia .. ..	3
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	20	Paralysis .. ..	4
Asthénia .. ..	22	Amaurosis .. ..	1
Dyspepsia .. ..	29	Rheumatismus chronicus	34
Icterus .. ..	2	Lumbago .. ..	5
Constipatio .. ..	3	Pleurodyne .. ..	2
Hæmorrhœis .. ..	5	Dysphagia .. ..	1
Tabes mesenterica ..	7	Blenorrhœa .. ..	1
Vermes .. ..	6	Ascites .. ..	2
Enterodynia .. ..	9	Anasarca .. ..	7
Diarrhœa .. ..	12	Rachitis .. ..	1
Nephralgia .. ..	2	Prolapsus Uteri .. ..	1
Dysuria .. ..	7	Prurigo .. ..	3
Ischuria .. ..	2	Scrofula .. ..	3
Hæmaturia .. ..	1	Impetigo .. ..	6
Menorrhagia .. ..	4	Purpura .. ..	1
Leucorrhœa .. ..	4	Scabies .. ..	12
Amenorrhœa .. ..	11		

\* Sauvages, Nosol. Chap. VII. Ord. I. Spec. 3.



THE season has been, on the whole, extremely mild, and the rains much more frequent than is usual at this period of the year. The first ten days of December were moderate in temperature, with the wind from S.W. to N.W.; a frost of six or seven days ensued; and the remainder of the month was wet, with some gales from the S.W. This weather continued to the end of January, with the exception of the 10th and 11th, on which a slight frost and a heavy hail-storm occurred. February was ushered in by a few days of moderate frost; but, since the first week, the temperature of the air has been mild, with occasional showers and light gales of wind.

The metropolis still continues, in an extraordinary degree, free from epidemic and contagious diseases. One case of typhous fever, and one case of confluent small-pox, both of which occurred in December, are the only instances of contagious disease which have fallen under our notice, with the exception of a few cases of hooping-cough among children. The prevalence of the small-pox has diminished greatly since our last Report, and has been considerably less fatal.

The catarrhal complaints have been, as usual, numerous; and asthmatics have suffered very severely. In the former part of the period comprehended by this Report, the instances of pneumonia continued to be connected with symptoms of great debility, and in several cases proved fatal from effusion, and consequent suffocation. But, during the present month, cases of peripneumonia notha have been less frequent.

The most common form of the stomach complaints which appear at the Dispensary is the gastrodynia, or stomach-colic. This is a severe burning or stabbing pain about the region of the stomach, generally re-



turning at intervals, but frequently, without any complete intermission; and is accompanied with a loathing of food, occasionally with vomiting, and often with that peculiar discharge of a clear watery fluid from the stomach which has been considered by Dr. Cullen as a distinct genus of disease, under the title of pyrosis, or water-brash. There is generally also a tendency to constipation. In one of the instances, in which this pain was accompanied with extreme irritability of stomach, which rejected almost every thing for several days, and for many weeks bore very little, a numbness and debility of the fingers, first of one hand, and afterwards of the other, resembling the partial paralysis from lead, took place; this gradually increased, till the whole of both arms became absolutely paralytic, accompanied with great pains in the limbs and back. I must make my acknowledgements to Dr. Hamilton\* for the relief which I have been able to afford this patient. The bowels were not greatly constipated; the stools, however, were black, offensive, and of unhealthy consistence; and by frequent exhibitions of doses of about gr. iii. of calomel alone (for she bore this when every other medicine was rejected), the stomach was gradually brought to considerable strength, the pains have ceased, and the elbows and wrists have greatly recovered their motion; the fingers, however, remain considerably paralysed. Whenever she neglected her bowels for two or three days, the irritability of stomach threatened to return, her pains increased, and her limbs became obviously more use-

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\* The author of a late, excellent, and truly philosophical treatise "On the use of purgative medicines," which has contributed to throw much new light on some obscure diseases.



less. It may be observed, that she has had electric sparks and slight shocks passed through the arms repeatedly of late, but without the smallest effect on the paralysis. The patient is a weak and delicate married woman, who has long laboured under considerable anxiety of mind. Her complexion is sallow, and her pulse generally small and frequent.

I have adopted the term *arthritis rheumatica* from Sauvages, to express a modification of rheumatism, which is not accurately expressed by the terms acute or chronic rheumatism; it is, in common language, called rheumatic gout. It is more properly an acute but partial attack of rheumatism, marked by a swelling, pain, and tension of the soft parts surrounding one or more of the larger joints, accompanied with a bright and shining redness of the skin, as in gout; not however, like the latter disease, occurring periodically, or connected with disorders of the digestive organs, or terminating by the deposition of concretions of urate of soda. I mention it more particularly with a view to the remedy which I have successfully employed; I mean the external application of *cold water*. This expedient has been lately adopted, in every instance which has come under my care, invariably with temporary relief, generally with speedy and permanent benefit, and never with any appearance of untoward consequences. A lotion of water and vinegar, or of equal portions of water and aqua ammoniæ acetatæ, has generally been used. This modification of local inflammation, being unconnected with the stomach, seemed to be without any probable danger of *retrogression*, and the event has hitherto accorded with this anticipation.



# REPORT VII.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1806.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Synochus .. ..	4	Erysipelas .. ..	1
Ophthalmia .. ..	3	Herpes Zoster (Shingles) ..	2
Epistaxis .. ..	2	Peritonitis Puerperarum ..	1
Apoplexia .. ..	1	Rheumatismus acutus ..	12
Pneumonia .. ..	1	Arthritis rheumatica ..	3
Peripneumonia notha ..	5	Gonorrhœa .. ..	3
Catarrhus .. ..	91	Ischuria .. ..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	5	Cystitis traumatica ..	1
———— parotidæa ..	1	Dysenteria .. ..	7
Pertussis .. ..	2	Convulsio .. ..	2
Rubeola .. ..	5	Dentitio .. ..	2
Scarlatina .. ..	1		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	17	Tænia .. ..	2
Hemicrania .. ..	2	Marasmus .. ..	9
Catarrhus chronicus ..	9	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	4
Pleurodyne .. ..	34	Nephralgia .. ..	6
Asthma & Dyspnœa ..	8	Dysuria .. ..	5
Hæmoptysis .. ..	10	Eneuresis .. ..	1
Phthisis .. ..	10	Exulceratio Pudendi ..	2
Dyspepsia .. ..	15	Hydrops .. ..	5
Gastrodynia .. ..	25	Tympanites .. ..	2
Dolores hepatici ..	4	Leucorrhœa .. ..	10
Icterus .. ..	3	Memorrhagia .. ..	10
Constipatio .. ..	2	Amenorrhœa & Chlorosis ..	9
Enterodynia .. ..	9	Hysteria .. ..	9
Colica spasmodica ..	1	Chorea .. ..	1
———— Pictonum ..	1	Epilepsia .. ..	2
Diarrhœa .. ..	14	Hemiplegia .. ..	3
Ascarides .. ..	7	Amaurosis .. ..	1
Lumbricus .. ..	1	Asthenia .. ..	29



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Melancholia	..	2	Rachitis	..	2
Dysecœa	..	1	Scrofula	..	3
Cancer Uteri	..	1	Siphylis	..	4
Abscessus Abdom. post	}	1	Impetigo	..	4
partum			Prurigo	..	1
Dolores post partum	..	2	Aphthæ	..	2
Rheumatismus chronicus	35		Ecthyma	..	3
Lumbago	..	3	Scabies	..	4
Sciatica	..	2	Psoriasis (of washerwomen)	1	
Aneurisma Aortæ	..	1	Lichen	..	2
Dysphagia	..	1			

THE month of March was ushered in by cool, moist, and variable weather; from the 9th to the 13th it was exceedingly cold and sleety, and there were two heavy falls of snow; the 14th, 16th, 17th, and 18th were rainy days; and the remainder of the month, with the exception of three or four days, was damp and cold. With two similar exceptions, the month of April was cold and damp, with a general prevalence of east and north-east winds, as in March, and on the 12th and 13th much snow fell. May commenced with two days of extremely mild and clear weather, with a south-west wind, succeeded by two of cold and wet, with a return of the N.E.; which has continued to blow through the month, except from the 6th to the 9th, when the heat was considerable, with a westerly breeze, and on the 14th, when a heavy rain fell, with the wind S.W. During the whole month, there have been frequent alternations of warm and cool days, and the mornings and evenings have been frequently cold.

The number of catarrhal complaints has been considerably greater than during any three months since these reports were commenced. They were not only



very prevalent in the severe month of March, but continue to prevail at present; without exhibiting those symptoms of debility, however, which were their frequent concomitants in the early part of the winter. The different forms of catarrh constitute about 150 of the 500 cases comprehended in the preceding catalogue.

Two of the cases of acute rheumatism terminated fatally at an early period; the one on the 6th day from the attack, the other a few days later. These are the only instances of the fatality of this disease that have ever fallen under my observation; and I should have considered them rather as anomalies, had not several similar cases been lately recorded by Dr. Haygarth. Dr. H. justly remarks, that the common observation of physicians, that the acute rheumatism is seldom or never a fatal disease, is true, while it remains in its proper seat, the muscles and joints, and when it is not combined with other mortal maladies. "But," he adds, "out of 170 cases, I have found 12 which had a fatal termination, either by a translation of the inflammation to the brain, lungs, kidneys, stomach or some other vital part, or as being found in combination with other diseases\*." Seven of the 12 were combined with *phrenitis*; and in one, where the pain and swelling receded from the joints, the patient was attacked with shortness of breath, cough, and spitting of blood, which soon terminated fatally. The two cases above mentioned occurred in strong muscular men, of about 40 years of age. In the one,

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\* See a Clinical History of Diseases, part I. p. 61.



the pain and swelling of the knees and ancles, after having continued a few days, with little benefit from sudorifics and laxatives, became less troublesome, but did not altogether cease, and the patient complained of a severe pain, returning at short intervals, at the pit of the stomach, and greatly impeding his breathing. He had no cough. The pulse was frequent, but extremely soft and compressible; and there was a considerable tremor of the hands. Opium, with other stimulants, produced a temporary relief; a blister was also applied, but ineffectually; and, the pain and difficulty of breathing rapidly increasing, the patient died. The second, a remarkably stout and heretofore healthy man, was exposed to the rain of the 2d of May, and was seized the same evening with shivering and great pains in all his joints. On the 4th I saw him. He complained severely of the pains in all the large joints; the knees and ancles were slightly swelled. He had also a slight dry cough, and some pain in the chest. The pulse was frequent, full, and strong. Although experience seems to have decided against the propriety of blood-letting, at least in London, in rheumatic fever, yet the congeries of symptoms in this instance, and especially the combination of the slight pulmonic affection, led me to order about 12 ounces of blood to be taken away; a sudorific was given at bed-time, and ordered to be repeated in the morning. But he felt himself restless and uncomfortable, and I found him out of bed, with the symptoms apparently more favourable. The next day (6th May), the difficulty of breathing was considerably increased, and he complained little of pain in any part. The pulse was more



frequent, but less full and strong. A large blister was applied, but removed in the night, and not replaced till morning. The difficulty of breathing and cough had rapidly increased; there was obviously already a great effusion in the lungs, and he was unable to lie in the horizontal posture. At my next visit, (May 8th), he was dead. It is probable that a more liberal use of the lancet might have been beneficial in this instance; in the former it may be doubted whether it was admissible. These cases tend to confirm the remark of Dr. Haygarth, and the still more pointed observation of Professor Callisen: "*Rheumatismus externas partes occupans, fixus, periculo carere solet; vagus, internas nobiliores partes petens, maximas sanitati ac vitæ insidias struit* \*."

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\* Systema Chirurg. Hodiern. tom. I. p. 228.



## REPORT VIII.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1806.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Hydrocephalus acutus	2	Rubeola .. ..	3
Phrenitis .. ..	1	Scarlatina .. ..	7
Typhus .. ..	1	Urticaria .. ..	2
Synochus .. ..	13	Herpes Zoster .. ..	1
Quartana .. ..	1	Cholera .. ..	4
Febris Infantum .. ..	4	Dysenteria .. ..	12
Ophthalmia .. ..	3	Enteritis .. ..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris .. ..	5	Nephritis .. ..	1
———— parotidæa .. ..	1	Hysteritis .. ..	1
Pneumonia .. ..	4	Ischuria renalis .. ..	1
Peripneumonia notha .. ..	7	Pertussis .. ..	3
Hæmoptysis .. ..	8	Dentitio .. ..	4
Catarrhus .. ..	57	Apoplexia .. ..	1
Tussis post rubeolam .. ..	2	Rheumatismus acutus .. ..	13
Erysipelas .. ..	5	Arthritis rheumatica .. ..	6
Variola .. ..	2	Hectica Adolescentum .. ..	2

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	14	Nephralgia .. ..	12
Tussis chronica .. ..	17	Hæmaturia .. ..	2
Gastrodynia .. ..	14	Catarrhus Vesicæ .. ..	1
Dyspepsia .. ..	13	Dysuria .. ..	3
Hepatitis chron. .. ..	2	Phthisis .. ..	13
Enterodynia .. ..	10	Asthma .. ..	4
Diarrhœa .. ..	13	Pleurodyne .. ..	3
Constipatio .. ..	1	Rheumatismus chronicus .. ..	34
Verminatio .. ..	2	Lumbago & Sciatica .. ..	7
Tænia .. ..	1	Epilepsia .. ..	5
Tabes mesenterica & Marasmus .. ..	7	Hysteria .. ..	2
Tympanites .. ..	2	Chorea .. ..	1
Hæmorrhoids .. ..	1	Chlorosis & Amenorrhœa .. ..	13
		Dysmenorrhœa .. ..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Menorrhagia .. ..	17		Aneurysma Aortæ .. ..	1	
Leucorrhœa .. ..	8		Varicæ Cruris .. ..	1	
Prolapsus Uteri .. ..	1		Plethora .. ..	2	
Cancer Uteri .. ..	3		Lichen .. ..	1	
Aphthæ .. ..	2		Prurigo .. ..	5	
Ascites .. ..	3		Psoriasis .. ..	4	
Anasarca .. ..	2		Pityriasis .. ..	1	
Hydrothorax .. ..	2		Impetigo .. ..	13	
Scrofula .. ..	4		Porrigo .. ..	3	
Paralysis .. ..	3		Scabies .. ..	8	
——— saturnina .. ..	1		Ecthyma .. ..	2	
Asthenia .. ..	45				

THE temperature of the air has been moderate during the last six or eight weeks; there have been several heavy rains, and three or four unusually severe thunder storms. Hence, probably, we may account for the small number of disorders of the biliary system and alimentary canal, and for the multitude of catarrhal and rheumatic affections. The month of June was almost uniformly warm and dry; on the 10th and 14th the thermometer in the shade arose to  $82\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ .

The Synochus, or summer fever, seems to be on the increase in this district: it occurs in a mild form, is accompanied with more or less abdominal pain and tension, and is relieved considerably by purgatives. The single case of Typhus succeeded to, and appeared to be, the effect of an over-dose of a hot terebinthinate medicine, which is sold under the name of "Dutch drops." The man had swallowed fifteen times the quantity prescribed, and was seized soon after with headach, delirium, and fever, which assumed the form, and went through the common course, of pure typhus.

For the Gastrodynia, which is extremely prevalent



among the poor at all seasons, the oxide of bismuth, which was recommended by Dr. Odier of Geneva, has been employed both by my colleague Dr. Laird and myself, with considerable success. It has, in some cases, produced a permanent relief, after the usual tonics and stimulants had been taken with a trifling, and but temporary, advantage. In a dose of about ten grains it sits easy on the stomach, and seems to be generally efficacious. For a minute account of the medicine, and the proper mode of preparing it, the reader may refer to an excellent paper on the subject, in the 6th volume of the *Memoirs of the Medical Society of London*, by Dr. Marcet.

Two of the cases of jaundice, in the Report of last quarter, were those of middle-aged women, who have before applied to the Dispensary, for the cure of the same complaint. The disease appeared to arise, in both, from the presence of gall-stones, or inspissated bile, in the biliary ducts, as it was accompanied with frequent attacks of acute pain in that region. It was relieved, for a time, by opium, and calomel as a purgative; but in both, the most marked and essential benefit was derived from the use of the nitric acid. In one of the instances, the jaundice was speedily removed three or four successive times by this medicine, having returned when it was omitted for a short time: and, in the other, not only the jaundice, but slight and frequent pains in the region of the liver were invariably removed by recurring to its use. I have employed this remedy in a few other cases with similar advantage, as well as in some instances of chronic pains, referred to the region of the liver; in some of which, perhaps, it may have acted merely as a tonic



to the stomach. The hypothesis of oxygenation, with which the practice was coupled, when it was transmitted from the East Indies, has probably contributed to throw discredit on a medicine, which, in some modifications of disease in the biliary organs, possesses, beyond a doubt, considerable remedial powers.

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I could adduce many instances in addition to those mentioned in this Report, of the remedial effects of the nitric acid in jaundice. The influence of this medicine on the secretion of the liver appears to me, therefore, unquestionable, when taken internally. Its agency, when used externally, by immersion, in the manner recommended by Dr. Scott, is in such direct opposition to physiological principle and direct experiment, which prove the non-absorbing power of the skin except by the aid of strong friction, that it is surprising that it should have received the countenance of any of the cultivated members of the profession. The credulity of the public, in matters concerning their health, and the facility with which their corporeal frame is influenced through the medium of their imagination, have been amply exemplified in our own times by the history of the metallic tractors; the fate of which, it is easy to foresee, awaits this nitro-muriatic bath, and the same good fortune, no doubt, its lucky inventor.



## REPORT IX.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1806.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Synochus	..	26	Erysipelas	..	2
Rheumatismus acutus	..	7	Dysenteria	..	13
Hydrocephalus	..	1	Cholera	..	7
Arthritis rheumatica	..	6	Hepatitis	..	1
Catarrhus	..	38	Peritonitis	..	1
Peripneumonia	..	9	Phlegmasia dolens	..	1
— notha	..	1	Abortus	..	1
Hæmoptysis	..	7	Ophthalmia	..	1
Variola	..	2	Pertussis	..	1
Rubeola	..	6	Febris Infantum	..	8
Scarlatina anginosa	..	4	Dentitio	..	2
Herpes Zoster	..	2	Cynanche tonsillaris	..	4
Urticaria	..	4	— parotidæa	..	1

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo	..	8	Catarrhus chronicus	..	58
Cephalæa	..	10	Asthma	..	1
Asthénia	..	27	Phthisis pulmonalis	..	16
Syncope	..	1	Pleurodyne	..	2
Hemicrania	..	1	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	35
Dyspepsia	..	9	Lumbago & Sciatica	..	5
Gastrodynia	..	21	Nephralgia	..	2
Hæmatemesis	..	1	Leucorrhœa	..	12
Icterus	..	1	Menorrhagia	..	6
Dolores hepatici	..	1	Amenorrhœa & Chlorosis	..	7
Enterodynia	..	8	Dysmenorrhœa	..	1
Diarrhœa	..	25	Hysteria	..	1
Verminatio	..	3	Epilepsia	..	3
Marasmus	..	6	Paralysis	..	3
Tabes mesenterica	..	1	Hydrops	..	11
Tympanites	..	2	Scrofula	..	1
Hæmorrhœis	..	4	Scabies	..	4



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Pityriasis	..	..	1	Prurigo	..	..	6
Psoriasis	..	..	4	Impetigo	..	..	6
Lichen	..	..	1				

DURING the month of September, and the greater part of October, the temperature of the atmosphere was mild, and tolerably uniform; and there was little rain till towards the end of the latter month. From that time to the middle of November the weather was more variable, though, on the whole, mild; and the latter part of the month was wet, but the fogs have been more rare, and less intense, than is usual at this season in London.

A very large proportion of the catarrhal and rheumatic complaints have occurred within the last three weeks; the former have been chiefly severe among children, in whom they assumed the form of peripneumonia. The breath became rapidly short and difficult, the heat of the skin greatly increased, and the pulse much hurried; the cough was frequent, short, and attended with a rattling noise. These symptoms, however, were much more alarming than fatal; they generally yielded speedily to blisters.

The number of diseases of the alimentary canal has been nearly in the same small proportion, as in the two former autumnal quarters, since the commencement of these Reports, the season having been mild in a similar degree. Other disorders, however, connected with the derangement of the biliary system and bowels, have occurred more frequently than the mildness of the season would have led us to anticipate; especially the summer fever, headach, vertigo,



&c. The summer fever, or synochus, has prevailed to a considerable extent, but its symptoms have not followed the precise course described by Galen, and Sauvages\*, under the titles of Synochus *biliosa* and *S. ardens*, nor of that which Dr. Willan has described; neither has it changed its type, during October and November, to a more typhoid or malignant form, according to the usual course of the bilious fever of autumn, as mentioned by Drs. Sydenham, Fothergill†, and Willan‡. The first attack was, in some instances, commenced by a sudden headach and vertigo, which were followed by pains in the limbs and loins, thirst, and moderate heat of skin, with little preceding shivering. The tongue was generally covered with an uniform white fur, which sometimes inclined to a brown colour in the course of the disease. The bowels were usually rather costive in the beginning, and there was, in several cases, a slight tension and tenderness of the abdomen, especially about the umbilicus. The pulse was from 90 to 120, sometimes with a slight sharpness in its beat, but more frequently feeble, and almost always small. In a very few instances, a slight degree of delirium was observed. In those who were seen within three or four days from the attack, a moderate dose of calomel and rhubarb gave speedy relief to the symptoms, and the fever proved of short duration. But in those in whom the fever had already continued for six or eight days, who had been making a

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\* Nosol. Method. Cl. II. Gen. III. Spec. 6.

† Observations on the Weather and Diseases,

‡ Report on Diseases in London,



free use of wine and other stimulants, or in whom the evacuation of the alimentary canal had been neglected, it proved generally obstinate; purgatives, though emptying the bowels, occasioned no diminution of the febrile symptoms; and diaphoretics, and cordial medicines, were equally inert; the pulse continued frequent and irritable, the tongue furred, the skin rather hot, and the limbs very feeble and languid, till, by imperceptible degrees, the patient found himself in a state of recovery. Children, who have been attacked with this disease, were generally very quickly relieved by gentle evacuations of the bowels.

Headach and vertigo have occurred in several instances, obviously in connexion with the state of the stomach and bowels, and readily removed by the use of gentle laxatives and absorbents. A vertigo, which may be termed *biliosa*, appeared in some cases, without any headach, coming on suddenly, at intervals, in an extreme degree; so that even sitting, the patient with difficulty supported himself. The digestive powers were greatly enfeebled, and sickness occasionally ensued after taking food. The bowels were slightly constipated; the tongue white; but the pulse natural, or even slower than natural; and the skin cool. Moderate doses of magnesia vitriolata, with magnesia itself, in some cordial distilled water, aided, if necessary, by a small dose of calomel, were soon followed by a return of health.

The term *Phlegmatia dolens*, has been appropriated by Dr. Hull of Manchester, to the swelling of the lower extremity in puerperal women, which was first described by Mr. White of the same place, and after-



wards more clearly elucidated by Dr. C. B. Trye, of Gloucester. This is a painful anasarca, generally of one leg only, commencing at the top of the thigh, and extending downwards, with extreme pain and tenderness of the limb. Notwithstanding the various recent discussions on the subject, the nature of the disease seems to require further elucidation. The application of leeches to the groin, and of cold to the limb, and the repeated use of laxatives and diaphoretics, removed the complaint in the course of a fortnight. The reduction of the swelled limb was aided by a gentle friction, after the pain and tenderness had gone off. The whole limb had been fomented, before I saw the patient, apparently with the effect of increasing the soreness of the limb, and without diminishing the severity of the pain. The disease is somewhat rare; it is described as frequently running a course of 12 or 14 weeks. Three cases, which I have seen, yielded in less than a month; two of them within a fortnight,



## REPORT X.

*From November 30th, 1806, to February 28th, 1807.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.	
Quartana .. ..	1	Urticaria .. ..	2
Synochus .. ..	22	Erysipelas .. ..	3
Typhus .. ..	7	Herpes Zoster .. ..	1
Febris puerperalis .. ..	1	Rheumatismus .. ..	10
Febris Infantum .. ..	4	Arthritis rheumatica .. ..	7
Ophthalmia .. ..	1	Apoplexia .. ..	2
Catarrhus .. ..	85	Hydrocephalus .. ..	1
Peripneumonia .. ..	11	Dentitio .. ..	2
—————notha .. ..	5	Pertussis .. ..	6
Cynanche tonsillaris .. ..	6	Dysenteria .. ..	15
Scarlatina anginosa .. ..	1		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	23	Chorea .. ..	1
Asthenia .. ..	22	Hysteria .. ..	3
Dyspepsia .. ..	12	Epilepsia .. ..	3
Gastrodynia .. ..	11	Paralysis saturnina .. ..	1
Hæmatemesis .. ..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus	18
Hypochondriasis .. ..	1	Lumbago .. ..	7
Icterus .. ..	2	Pleurodyne .. ..	5
Dolores hepatici .. ..	5	Palpitatio .. ..	2
Enterodynia .. ..	5	Hemiplegia .. ..	1
Diarrhœa .. ..	11	Hydrops .. ..	6
Ascarides .. ..	3	Ascites .. ..	3
Lumbricus .. ..	1	Anasarca .. ..	2
Constipatio .. ..	3	Amenorrhœa .. ..	6
Marasmus .. ..	12	Menorrhagia .. ..	4
Hæmorrhoids .. ..	1	Leucorrhœa .. ..	11
Catarrhus chronicus .. ..	85	Dolores Uteri .. ..	6
Asthma .. ..	2	Cancer Uteri .. ..	2
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	25	Nephralgia .. ..	9
Hectica Adolescentum	1	Dysuria calculosa .. ..	4



No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Catarrhus Vesicæ	..	1		Psoriasis	..	..	2
Ischuria vesicalis	..	1		Impetigo	..	..	9
Scrofula	..	..	3	Prurigo	..	..	5
Contusa	..	..	1	Porrigo	..	..	3
Scabies	..	..	7	Gutta rosea	..	..	2
Lepra	..	..	1				

THE same state of the weather, which prevailed during the latter half of November, continued, with scarcely any variation, through the whole of December, viz. a constant south-west wind; the temperature about  $50^{\circ}$  during the day, and not once descending, even in the night, to the freezing point; and there were only six or seven days of the month without rain. The new year commenced with eight days of moderate frost; but through the months of January and February, the weather, though subject to some great vicissitudes, has been above the medium temperature of winter. Frost and snow occurred three or four times, but did not continue above two days. On the 13th of January, in the evening, the thermometer stood at  $13^{\circ}$ , and some snow fell; on the 14th it rose to  $47^{\circ}$ ; and on several days there has been a variation of 18 degrees in the 24 hours. The prevailing winds have been westerly, with some heavy gales.

The number of applicants at the Dispensary, during the last quarter, has been great, amounting to 547. It is worthy of remark, that during the uniformly mild and wet weather of December, only 142 of this number were put on the books, although observations on the *unwholesomeness* of the season were heard universally. During the vicissitudes of January, the number of applicants amounted to 217; and in February to 188; and this increase was chiefly owing to the



increase of catarrhal and pulmonic affections. For the cases of pulmonic disease, treated in December, were 42; in January 100; and in February 68 in number. These facts correspond with the observations of all intelligent physicians who have written on the subject, although diametrically opposed to the vulgar opinion. "No weather," Dr. Fothergill has remarked, "is, in common, so little productive of acute and fatal diseases, as the *warm* and the *moist*, nor any so dangerous, in these respects, as the opposite\*."

The metropolis continues almost entirely free from contagious diseases. A slight fever, of short duration, has prevailed, especially among young people, which I have noticed under the title of Synochus. Slight headach and shivering, followed by a moderate increase of heat in the skin, and pains in the loins and limbs, the pulse being increased to 90 or 100, the tongue considerably furred, sometimes with a brown line down the middle, the bowels invariably disposed to constipation, and, in many cases, a slight tenderness of the abdomen on pressure, have been the symptoms which occurred in this complaint. In the majority of cases, one or two gentle doses of calomel completely removed the disorder in three or four days. In a few, it has continued for two or three weeks; and in one or two instances, without putting on the typhoid appearance, it extended to two, three, or more, individuals in a family. Four of the cases, denominated typhus, were nearly of this sort in the beginning; and occurred in four children, two of whom were attacked about three weeks after the other two.

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\* Observations on the Weather and Diseases, Dec. 1757.



A fifth case of typhus was apparently the consequence of a gangrenous ulcer on the leg. It is extremely difficult to decide on the probability of any case of fever extending itself by contagion; since this tendency is not proportionate to the malignity of its symptoms. I have several times had occasion to observe sporadic cases of typhus, which have terminated fatally, from which no second individual suffered, even in a close apartment; while in others, in which the sensorium was never affected, nor the tongue foul, the disease has spread through a whole family in succession.

The smart frosts, short as their duration was, proved fatal to some of those who are subject to returns of pulmonic complaints in the winter. After suffering a few days under their usual cough and dyspnœa, by accidental exposure, or by a sudden change of the atmospheric temperature, a low inflammation is induced, which speedily goes on to an effusion into the cells of the lungs. The breathing becomes necessarily short and laborious, and is performed with great heaving of the ribs and shoulders, from an endeavour to enlarge the chest in all its dimensions. The countenance, which is sometimes slightly flushed, but commonly of a dirty, leaden hue, is expressive of extreme anxiety and distress. The pulse is rapid, small, and oppressed. The skin is cold, and slightly damp. The patient complains chiefly of a sense of suffocation and stricture in the chest, and sometimes of severe headach; but is, in some cases, unable to refer his sufferings to any particular part of the body, a circumstance which affords a very unfavourable omen. He labours much with his cough; but the expectoration affords him little relief. If the symptoms are not speedily relieved,



the disease terminates fatally, sometimes within forty-eight hours from the commencement of the inflammatory action. A large blister, early applied, frequently stops the progress of the complaint; but in the latter stage of it, the skin is not easily acted upon by the stimulus of cantharides; in a great number of instances which I have seen, under these circumstances, blisters have failed in their operation, or only produced a vesication after a second or third has been applied. As general blood-letting is prohibited by experience in such cases, the failure of a blister is always unfavourable; partly because time is lost, and partly, because it implies an advancement of the disease to an unmanageable condition.

A considerable number of cases have occurred, in which a pain of the head was the most distressing symptom. In the majority of these cases, the headach was connected with a derangement of the stomach or the bowels; as costiveness, indigestion, gastrodynia, &c. The pain, in these cases, is generally fixed in the forehead, or at the occiput; sometimes relieved, and sometimes aggravated, by taking food; but is generally worst in the morning; and often continues, with slight irregular remissions, during the day. It is generally relieved by cardiac medicines, combined with a neutral salt, or aided by calomel. In some instances, the pain was obviously a rheumatic affection of the integuments of the head, or the pericranium. The pain is more generally diffused in these cases, affecting every part of the head, or the whole of one side of it; the integuments are usually tender, and the action of combing is painful. This headach is often increased in the night, and frequently con-



nected with pains in other parts of the body. In one instance, when the pain was removed from the head, a similar pain attacked the pectoral and intercostal muscles, which, like the former, was removed by the ordinary remedies of rheumatism. Another species of headach accompanies that state of nervous languor in the constitution, which is termed *asthenia*. The pain, in such cases, is often a throbbing or shooting pain, and is accompanied, or alternates, with vertigo, tremors, and faintness, with a sense of sinking at the *præcordia*, low-spirits, and cold perspirations. Volatile medicines, with cordials and bitters, are the most efficacious remedies. A headach of this sort is a frequent concomitant of *chlorosis*.

At the beginning of the year, a general alarm spread through the metropolis, in consequence of reports that a number of people had been bitten by mad dogs. The alarm was probably not altogether destitute of foundation; but, as is usual in such cases, the reports were monstrously exaggerated. Only one authenticated case of *hydrophobia* in the human subject has come to my knowledge; an account of which was drawn up by the apothecary who attended, and transmitted to the Medical and Chirurgical Society by Mr. Hatchett, who also saw the patient. The case occurred in a girl at Hammersmith, about six weeks after the bite, and proved fatal on the third or fourth day.

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Throughout these Reports I have used the term, *Synochus*, after Dr. Willan and others, to express the



milder forms of fever, but without any intention of indicating a diversity of species. Particular instances of this fever were constantly observed to assume more or less of a typhoid character, under certain circumstances in the same season and situation, demonstrating the identity of their nature. But as I have recently expressed my opinion on this subject in another work \*, it is unnecessary to enlarge upon it at present.

## REPORT XI.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1807.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Tertiana .. ..	3	Enteritis .. ..	1				
Synochus .. ..	14	Dysentery .. ..	12				
Typhus .. ..	4	Rubeola .. ..	3				
Febris (post partum) ..	1	Scarlatina .. ..	1				
Peritonitis Puerperarum	1	Miliaria .. ..	1				
Febris Infantum ..	3	Urticaria .. ..	2				
Ophthalmia .. ..	2	Erysipelas .. ..	2				
Catarrhus .. ..	105	Rheumatismus .. ..	17				
Pneumonia .. ..	17	Arthritis rheumatica ..	10				
Peripneumonia notha	8	Apoplexia .. ..	1				
Pertussis .. ..	3	Odontalgia .. ..	1				
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	6	Dentitio .. ..	1				
Hepatitis .. ..	1	Abortus .. ..	1				

\* See my "Succinct Account of the Contagious Fever of this Country, &c." 8vo, 1818.



## CHRONIC DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Cephalæa	..	12	Chorea	..	1
Hemicrania	..	1	Epilepsia	..	1
Vertigo	..	2	Hysteria	..	1
Asthenia	..	17	Melancholia	..	3
Dyspepsia	..	16	Hypochondriasis	..	1
Gastrodynia	..	15	Amenorrhœa	..	7
Hæmatemesis	..	1	Chlorosis	..	1
Dolores hepatici	..	1	Menorrhagia	..	6
Icterus	..	1	Leucorrhœa	..	15
Enterodynia	..	7	Cancer Uteri	..	3
Colica	..	2	Nephralgia	..	1
—— Pictonum	..	3	Dysuria calculosa	..	2
Tænia	..	2	Hydrops	..	8
Ascarides	..	2	Anasarca	..	4
Constipatio	..	4	Rheumatismus chronicus	28	
Diarrhœa	..	11	Nodositas	..	1
Hæmorrhœis	..	5	Paralysis	..	4
Marasmus	..	9	Scrofula	..	1
Catarrhus chronicus	..	68	Lichen	..	1
Asthma	..	2	Scabies	..	2
Dyspnœa	..	4	Porrigo	..	1
Pleurodyne	..	2	Impetigo	..	7
Hectica Adolescentum	1		Prurigo	..	5
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	22		Intertrigo	..	1
Palpitatio	..	2			

THE month of March was cold and cloudy; the wind being generally from the north and north-east, and the medium temperature about  $37^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit. Snow fell occasionally in small quantities; and on the 31st of that month, and the 2d of April, the fall of snow was very great. From that time, to the commencement of May, the wind was variable; the mean temperature about  $51^{\circ}$ , with little rain. On the 3d, 4th, and 5th, and again on the 30th of May, the



rains were heavy; and in the intervening period, the temperature was unusually hot for a few days, the thermometer being upwards of  $80^{\circ}$ .

The cold weather of March was productive of a numerous brood of catarrhal affections, nearly one half of those in the preceding list having occurred in that month. The combination of catarrh with rheumatism was very frequent, so that the number of these diseases was greater than it appears to be from the list, as the most urgent of the two is only mentioned. Catarrhal symptoms were also frequently united with those of dysentery. The variable state of the atmosphere, especially the alternations of heat with heavy rains, during April and May, continued to give rise to catarrh, and particularly to its combination with disorders of the bowels.

The inflammatory diseases did not assume a very acute form; and generally yielded to moderate evacuates, and the antiphlogistic regimen. The lower classes of the people, indeed, in this metropolis living in confined atmospheres, occupied in unwholesome employments, and subsisting frequently on a diet at once scanty and affording a defective nutriment, rarely attain a highly inflammatory temperament. Corpulency, or a florid complexion, is seldom seen among those who apply, when sick, to a dispensary. Hence their diseases are seldom accompanied by a high phlogistic diathesis; they seldom require blood-letting, and will not bear any considerable evacuation in that way: and hence, when the symptoms are sufficiently violent to demand that evacuation, the relief is, in general, speedy and complete, and the repetition of the remedy is very seldom necessary. Occasionally, in-



deed, (as happened in one of the cases of pneumonia in a female, which was attended with a most acute pain of the side, and a sharp though not strong pulse,) one blood-letting, to the extent of 10 or 12 ounces, not only subdues the inflammation, but produces a great general depression of the system. The only exceptions to these observations, have occurred in men of unusually athletic constitution, who have lately come from the country, or who are employed in labour which requires a constant muscular exercise. Even during the period of illness, the circumstances which attend the patient, confined air, dirt, noise, bad nursing, &c. have a direct tendency to depress the system, and to lower the type of the disease. Accordingly, in fever, we have frequently observed, that cordials appeared to be required, and were administered with decided benefit, at a period of the disease, and under appearances of the tongue, &c. which, had the patient been in a more favourable situation, as in a ward of the House of Recovery, would have utterly forbid the use of such remedies. We have often been surprised too, after having seen a patient in the low muttering delirium of fever, in his own habitation, to find him with clear intellect, and invigorated system, after he had passed a night in the House of Recovery, although no medicine whatever had been given. The absurdity of prescribing for the name of a disease, without a minute attention to the nature of the symptoms, has often been pointed out; and it is equally obvious, that the situation and external circumstances of the patient require the consideration of the practitioner.

The two cases under the head of Palpitatio, were



organic diseases of the heart, probably enlargements of the ventricles, in the treatment of which, the directions of the physician can be merely negative. The patients were a man and woman, both about the age of 25. The symptoms were a constant preternatural frequency and force of the motion of the heart; (in the man, who suffered more severely, the motion was so strong, as to be visible to the by-standers, by the shaking of his coat, and the starting of his neckcloth at each contraction of the heart,) occasional fits of severe palpitation; a sudden acute pain at the pit of the stomach, shooting to the spine, on taking exercise, which compelled the patient to stop; a burning heat about the præcordia; an occasional tingling and numbness of the integuments of the chest. The heart felt as if more obtuse and broader under the hand applied to the side; and, in the man, the beating was as strong and distinct at the pit of the stomach, as under the proper ribs, and almost as strong at the top of the sternum. In some cases, a continued use of digitalis, by diminishing the irritability of the system, and of the heart in particular, has contributed to relieve the symptoms materially; and rest, a constant free state of the bowels, and avoiding all irritations, conduce to the same purpose. But in the two instances just alluded to, no benefit was obtained by these measures, during the short time in which they were employed.

Before I conclude this Report, I cannot forbear mentioning the marked success, which followed the application of tepid, or nearly cold water, to the abdomen, in the case of peritoneal inflammation. The patient was a very delicate woman, 22 years of age,



in the third week after delivery of her first child. The pain of the abdomen was extremely acute, and the tenderness so great, as to render the weight of the bed-clothes distressing; pulse above 120, sharp and hard, but small; tongue dry, and covered with a cream-coloured fur; the heat of the integuments of the belly was higher, and more pungent to the hand, than in the most violent scarlet fever that I have seen; the bowels rather costive; leeches were not to be procured; and cupping would not have been tolerable. The abdomen was, therefore, repeatedly sponged with water lukewarm, for a few minutes, with the effect of completely removing the pain, which again recurred, less violently, and was repeatedly removed by the same application, and became gradually less severe, until she was altogether free from it. About the sixth day of the disease, when the peritoneal inflammation was gone, a troublesome tenesmus, with slimy stools, came on; but was removed by two doses of calomel and opium. The only medicine which she took, during the painful state of the disease, was a mixture of magnesia vitriolata, in mint water, as a laxative. Satisfied as I am, that a diminution of the preternatural temperature in external inflammation, as well as in general fever, is the most effectual mode which we possess of alleviating both, and that the rules of Dr. Currie are founded upon the most sound induction from experience; and having seen many instances of its efficacy, without one untoward result, I regret that prejudices should be so deeply rooted in the public, as to render it a matter of difficulty to introduce so beneficial a practice.

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In the alleviation of the distressing palpitations connected with organic derangements about the heart, the hyoscyamus affords a much more powerful aid than the digitalis, given in doses of five or more grains of the extract, or half a drachm of the tincture two or three times a day: it has occasionally allayed the irritability of that organ so decidedly, as to allow the patient to use considerable exertion with ease and comfort.

## REPORT XII.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1807.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Typhus	..	..	1	Peripneumonia notha	..	..	1
Synochus	..	..	41	Rheumatismus acutus	..	..	8
Tertiana	..	..	2	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	7
Quartana	..	..	1	Podagra	..	..	2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	10	Dysenteria	..	..	9
———— parotidæa	..	..	1	Cholera	..	..	16
Scarlatina anginosa	..	..	5	Enteritis	..	..	2
Rubeola	..	..	5	Hepatitis	..	..	1
Urticaria	..	..	2	Febris Infantum	..	..	10
Erysipelas	..	..	2	Hydrocephalus acutus	..	..	1
Herpes	..	..	1	Apoplexia	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	34	Pertussis	..	..	6
Pneumonia	..	..	9	Abortus	..	..	1

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	13	Palpitatio	..	..	1
Hemicrania	..	..	2	Dyspepsia	..	..	11
Vertigo	..	..	3	Gastrodynia	..	..	23
Dyspnœa trachealis	..	..	1	Pyrosis	..	..	3
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	23	Vomitus biliosus	..	..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Icterus .. ..	1			Hectica Adolescentum	1		
Dolor Hepatis .. ..	1			Dysuria .. ..	1		
Hæmatemesis .. ..	1			Hæmaturia .. ..	1		
Constipatio .. ..	2			Nephralgia .. ..	14		
Diarrhœa .. ..	15			Scirrhus Uteri .. ..	4		
Enterodynia .. ..	16			Dolor .. ..	2		
Colica .. ..	1			Menorrhagia .. ..	11		
— Pictonum .. ..	1			Amenorrhœa .. ..	18		
Tænia .. ..	1			Leucorrhœa .. ..	5		
Ascarides .. ..	5			Ascites .. ..	6		
Marasmus .. ..	3			Hydrothorax .. ..	3		
Asthenia .. ..	36			Anasarca .. ..	3		
Melancholia .. ..	1			Hydrops totius Corporis	3		
Hysteria .. ..	3			Scrofula .. ..	1		
Epilepsia .. ..	4			Scabies .. ..	3		
Paralysis .. ..	6			Lichen .. ..	2		
Lumbago & Sciatica ..	5			Psoriasis .. ..	6		
Pleurodyne .. ..	3			Impetigo .. ..	7		
Rheumatismus chronicus	23			Erythema .. ..	1		
Phthisis & Hæmoptysis	23			Prurigo .. ..	1		

THE summer has been remarkably dry and warm. From June the 6th to July 30th, there was no rain, and during the remainder of the period there have been two or three heavy showers. The thermometer was generally near 80° at its maximum, during July and August; and once as high as 88°. The winds were variable, but prevailing, on the whole, from the west and south-west.

The principal observation which suggests itself, on comparing the preceding list of diseases, with those enumerated in the Report for the three months of spring, is, that the disorders of the lungs are considerably less numerous, while those of the alimentary canal occupy a larger share of the column. With the latter, we must also include the cases of synochus or bilious fe-



ver of summer, which appears to originate in, or to be intimately connected with, a morbid condition of the canal, and of the biliary secretion. In the month of June, these fevers were obstinate; the symptoms continued almost without variation for ten days or a fortnight; and the convalescence was slow. The heat of the skin was great, and the patients complained much of pain of the head, which was aggravated by the least admission of light to the eyes; but no delirium occurred. The appetite was extremely reduced; but the tongue remained white, or with a cream-coloured tinge, and generally moist. None of the cases terminated fatally. Lately, synochus has been less frequent, very mild in its symptoms, and short in its duration.

It may be remarked, that no case of cholera was observed, till near the end of July; and 12 of those, in the list, occurred within the present month; nearly the whole number of instances of diarrhoea were likewise registered during the month of August. This may probably be owing to the occasional rains which have occurred on and since the 30th of July; since rains in the course of a hot season have frequently been found to multiply cases of cholera. Within the same period, all the cases of inflammation of the throat have appeared; probably originating in the same cause.

The hot weather has contributed greatly to the increase of nervous disorders, which are included under the term *asthenia*. The symptoms of which patients under this state complain, are chiefly, great languor of the whole frame, accompanied with pains of the



back and limbs, resembling those arising from fatigue; depression of spirits; a sensation of faintness, or "sinking," as they usually term it, accompanied with a fluttering in the region of the stomach; vertigo, and general tremors of the limbs;—frequent cold sweats; and flatulence, heartburn, and other occasional symptoms of dyspepsia. The pulse is feeble, small, and increased in frequency. These symptoms most commonly occur in middle-aged women. In addition to the ordinary causes, such as impure air, sedentary life, the fatigues and anxieties of a family, insufficient nourishment, &c. the hot weather contributes greatly to induce the asthenic state, especially in the close and dirty apartments of the poor. Their unventilated rooms are heated by a burning sun, in addition to a fire for the family purposes; so that no one, who has not visited them, can conceive the stifling situation in which the poor toil through a hot season in London. General tonics and volatile medicines conduce to relieve the symptoms.



## REPORT XIII.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1807.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Synochus	..	..	21	Hepatitis	..	..	1
Typhus	..	..	2	Peritonitis	..	..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	4	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	5
———— pharyngea	..	..	1	Enteritis	..	..	1
Variola	..	..	9	Rheumatismus	..	..	3
Rubeola	..	..	32	Cholera	..	..	2
Scarlatina	..	..	20	Apoplexia	..	..	1
Urticaria	..	..	4	Hydrocephalus acutus	..	..	3
Herpes Zoster	..	..	2	Ophthalmia	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	1	Odontalgia	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	43	Pertussis	..	..	3
Dysenteria	..	..	11	Febris Infantum	..	..	3
Pneumonia	..	..	9	Abortus	..	..	1
Peripneumonia notha	..	..	6	Mania	..	..	1

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	9	Phthisis & Hæmoptysis	..	..	21
Dyspepsia	..	..	7	Pleurodyne	..	..	3
Gastrodynia	..	..	14	Lumbago	..	..	5
Pyrosis	..	..	1	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	..	18
Icterus	..	..	6	Nephralgia	..	..	1
Morbi hepatici	..	..	2	Catarrhus Vesicæ	..	..	1
Hæmatemesis	..	..	3	Enuresis	..	..	1
Enterodynia	..	..	11	Dysuria	..	..	1
Verminatio	..	..	4	Cancer Uteri	..	..	1
Tabes mesenterica	..	..	4	Menorrhagia	..	..	9
Hæmorrhoids	..	..	5	Leucorrhœa	..	..	6
Diarrhœa	..	..	11	Amenorrhœa	..	..	6
Hypochondriasis	..	..	1	Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	3
Asthénia	..	..	23	Chlorosis	..	..	1
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	22	Hysteria	..	..	4
Asthma & Dyspnœa	..	..	3	Epilepsia	..	..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Paralysis	..	..	3	Porrigo	..	..	3
Hydrothorax	..	..	3	Prurigo	..	..	1
Anasarca	..	..	4	Impetigo	..	..	2
Hydrops tot. Corp.	..	..	7	Scabies	..	..	1
Tympanites	..	..	1	Erythema Cruris	..	..	2
Struma	..	..	1	Ecthyma	..	..	2
Aphtha	..	..	1				

THE long period of warm weather was suddenly terminated early in September, wind N. W.; about the 20th the wind again blew from the south-west, and rain fell on several days towards the close of the month. The wind continued to blow from the same mild quarter, with a moderate temperature, to the third week in October, when several wet and stormy days ensued. November has been, on the whole, cold, wet, and stormy, with some smart frosts near the end of it, accompanied with fog.

The autumnal season appears to have been, generally speaking, healthy. The number of diseases, in the preceding list, is considerably smaller than is usual within the same period. The most prominent acute disorders have been eruptive fevers, and particularly the measles, which, during the months of October and November, have been very prevalent, and, when occurring in young children, have proved very fatal, by terminating in violent inflammation of the organs of respiration. In some cases this inflammation destroyed the patient in two days, notwithstanding a pretty active evacuation of blood; in others effusion appeared to take place, and a difficult, wheezing, and quick respiration, with expansion of the nostrils, and constant coughing, continued for many days, not in the least degree affected by local or general blood-letting,



blisters, nauseating or emetic doses of antimony and ipecacuanha, nor by any other expedient. And the majority of patients, whose strength enabled them to surmount the disease, have, in general, suffered severely in the same way.

Two instances have occurred in which the measles interrupted the progress of other diseases. In one case the hooping-cough, which had continued above six weeks, was suspended by the occurrence of the measles, but returned on the decline of the latter. It was not in the inflammatory state, as Dr. Adams\* supposes those cases always to be which are thus superseded. Another child, about thirteen months old, had suffered, almost from its birth, a singular spasmodic affection of the larynx or trachea, insomuch, that it never awoke from sleep, or cried, or was startled, but respiration became immediately impeded, and was performed with a crowing noise, somewhat resembling that of croup, for many minutes. Medicine had no effect upon this complaint; but, on the occurrence of measles, the spasmodic attacks ceased, and they have not returned since the child's recovery.

The scarlatina was generally mild, presenting the eruption, accompanied with a slight sore throat. In one family it occurred under different forms; the father was found dying of the malignant sore throat, having had no eruption when application was first made to the Dispensary; the rest of the family went through the disease, exhibiting the eruption more or less. The early use of emetics, according to the recommenda-

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\* Observations on Morbid Poisons.



tion of Dr. Withering, appeared to render the disease milder, and abbreviate its course.

Of the small-pox a few of the virulent cases only are to be found on our list; but it has been lately very prevalent and fatal: a circumstance much to be lamented, especially since a national testimony, as it were, of the existence of a safe preventive has been laid before the public. They who circulate the poison seem to forget or to disregard the mischief of partial inoculation, and the numbers which they weekly contribute to swell the bills of mortality. Whenever the poison is introduced among the habitations of the poor, it never fails to multiply its victims. We lately learnt that, in a court adjoining Shoe Lane, in the course of one month, *twenty-eight* persons had died of small-pox! The general interference of Government, in our domiciliary concerns, is doubtless to be deprecated; but, while we submit our sea-faring men to the outlawry of the quarantine, (for its severity almost warrants that title,) we can see no possible objection, on the grounds of despotic interference, to compelling those who *will* receive the variolous contagion, to confine its sphere to their own houses, and to restraining public institutions from communicating the poison to any one, unless they receive the inoculated into their wards, and dismiss them after the danger of infecting others is over.

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Since these observations were written, it has been decided by the Court of King's Bench, that this is, in fact, the common law of the land; the fundamental



principle of which is, "*Sic utere tuo, ut alienum non lædas.*" In the case alluded to, a medical practitioner was sentenced to fine and imprisonment, for having neglected to exclude the persons whom he had inoculated, from communication with others, to whom it was proved that the disease had been thus given. The law permits inoculation; but the act of carrying infection about, and inflicting disease on others, is punishable as a misdemeanour.

## REPORT XIV.

*From November 30, 1807, to February 29, 1808.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.	
Typhus .. .. .	1	Febris Infantum remittens	13
Synochus & Ephemera	9	Variola .. .. .	4
Quotidiana .. .. .	2	Scarlatina .. .. .	6
Quartana .. .. .	1	Rubeola .. .. .	6
Ophthalmia .. .. .	2	Erysipelas .. .. .	2
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	8	Rheumatismus .. .. .	7
———— trachealis ..	1	Arthritis rheumatica ..	3
Pleuritis .. .. .	1	Hepatitis .. .. .	1
Peripneumonia .. .. .	8	Cholera .. .. .	1
———— notha .. .. .	12	Hysteritis .. .. .	1
Pertussis .. .. .	5	Odontalgia .. .. .	1
Catarrhus .. .. .	91	Peritonitis .. .. .	1
Dysenteria .. .. .	16	———— Puerperarum	1

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. .. .	6	Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	15
Vertigo .. .. .	3	Asthenia .. .. .	15
Catarrhus chronicus ..	75	Gastrodynia .. .. .	10
Asthma & Dyspnœa ..	6	Dyspepsia .. .. .	18



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Pyrosis	..	1	Dysmenorrhœa	..	2
Hæmatemesis	..	1	Cancer Uteri	..	3
Vomitus biliosus	..	1	Dolor Uteri	..	3
Vermínio	..	3	Leucorrhœa	..	6
Marasmus	..	3	Menorrhagia	..	11
Diarrhœa	..	9	Hæmaturia	..	1
Colica	..	1	Ischuria	..	1
—— Pictonum	..	1	Dysuria calculosa	..	1
Constipatio	..	5	Nephralgia	..	5
Hæmorrhoides	..	2	Hydrops tot. Corporis		3
Rheumatismus chronicus	24		Hydrothorax	..	3
Pleurodyne	..	6	Anasarca	..	7
Lumbago & Sciatica	..	8	Torpor & Livor Manuum		1
Paralysis	..	4	Psoriasis	..	2
—— saturnina	..	1	Ecthyma	..	1
Epilepsia	..	3	Erythema Cruris	..	2
Hysteria	..	3	Scabies	..	6
Palpitatio	..	1	Impetigo	..	3
Hypochondriasis	..	1	Porrigo	..	2
Chlorosis	..	1	Lichen	..	1
Amenorrhœa	..	6	Prurigo	..	5

THE month of December was cold and frosty, on the whole, and the atmosphere generally turbid, and almost constantly depositing moisture, during the day; but it was calm until the end. The air was more generally clear in January, but still frosty; the frost alternating, however, with frequent thaws. The same state of weather has continued through the month of February; but it appears to be changing, as the temperature is at present milder. The period, from the last days of December to the middle of February, has been marked by several tempestuous gales; the last of these, on the 10th of February, being accompanied by an extraordinary fall of snow. There was also a heavy fall of snow on the 8th of December, and slighter



showers of it on the 11th of the same month, as well as on the 20th and 21st of January. On the latter day the thermometer descended to  $12^{\circ}$ ; and its *minimum* was at the freezing point or under, on a majority of the days in each month. Its medium has been about  $36^{\circ}$ .

From the prevalence of severe and changeable weather, catarrhal and other affections of the lungs have been very general, among all ranks of the people, and in many of the instances, which came before us at the Dispensary, they were combined with other disorders, which originated from the same common source, exposure to cold; namely, in some with diarrhœa; in others with chronic rheumatism, dysentery, ophthalmia, sore-throat, &c. It will be observed, in perusing the foregoing list, that, of twenty-one cases of pulmonic inflammation, only one appeared in the acute form, which is denominated pleurisy. In the other instances, the pulse was never full, strong, nor hard; a sense of load, tightness, and stuffing, rather than actual pain, was complained of; the fur of the tongue was of considerable thickness, and of a brownish colour; the skin moist, and its temperature scarcely increased. In the old or infirm, and particularly in those who were subject to habitual catarrh, still more decided marks of debility occurred; and these oppressing symptoms continued their course for several weeks; the effusion or secretion in the lungs gradually extinguishing life, or as gradually diminishing, leaving the organs of breathing for a considerable time unable to perform their functions well. On the whole, those who were bled, either before or after they came to the



Dispensary, seemed not to do so well, as those from whom that evacuation was not made.

The measles have continued to prevail through the winter; but as they have latterly not been so severe, nor followed by such frequent and severe pulmonary attacks, the number of applications to the Dispensary has been less. Besides those in the list, however, under the title Rubeola, two of the cases of catarrh, and one of dysentery, were sequelæ of measles.

Two of the cases of anasarca were sequelæ of scarlatina. In one of these an unusual circumstance occurred, which appears worthy to be noticed. The fever had left the patient (a boy of 12 years) five weeks before I saw him. He was in a state of debility, with slight anasarca of the lower limbs, and some accumulation of water in the scrotum. Three or four days afterwards, I found these anasarca symptoms had altogether disappeared; he complained of some slight headach, the pulse was about 90, and the skin a little warmer than before; a dull appearance of the eyes led me to examine them, and I found that, although the pupils were not greatly dilated, and contracted on the approach of a candle, yet he was totally insensible to its light, when within three inches of his face: In short, he was quite blind. A blister was immediately put over the scalp, and some mercurial pill, with digitalis, was given. It may be remarked, that he had not taken the latter medicine before. His sight was partially restored on the next day, and perfectly on the day following. The use of these medicines was not pursued, and he speedily recovered his health, without any return of the anasarca symptoms, un-



der the use of tonics. Whether a sort of metastasis had actually taken place, it might not be easy to decide; nor is it more evident, whether the operation of the blister contributed to remove the disease.

Besides those deplorable cases of uterine disease, which medicine can scarcely even mitigate, (the scirrhus and cancer of the uterus,) instances of pain referred to that organ, and its appendages, are not unfrequent among the poor. These pains sometimes come on a few weeks after delivery in married women, and are often referred to the last childbirth; they are most commonly accompanied by some irregularity in the menstrual discharge, generally by an increase of it, or by alternations of a bloody, with a thinner, less coloured, and offensive evacuation, according to the accounts of the patients. The symptoms vary a little, apparently according as the uterus itself, or its particular appendages, are disordered. In general, the patient complains of pain in the loins, extending round the margin of the pelvis to the groin, on both sides, and shooting down the thigh to the knee, or, in more severe cases, even to the foot. Sometimes the pain is more strictly referred to the uterus itself or its neck, and the loins are scarcely affected; and sometimes it is fixed in one side, above the ilium, as if seated in the ovarium. The stomach is frequently disordered by sympathy, and the patient complains of nausea, flatulence, and other dyspeptic symptoms. Some degree of febrile action occasionally attends these complaints. They are in some instances, without doubt, the signs of incipient scirrhus; but in others they seem to be connected with a degree of chronic inflammation, and diseased secretion, consequent on the irritations



of childbirth, or produced by causes suddenly interrupting or deranging the menstrual discharge. In one case the slow inflammation, which appeared to be confined to the ovarium and ligaments of the left side, was the consequence of recent marriage. The round ligament appeared to be particularly affected, as the part through which it passes to the pubes was extremely tender. It was relieved by the application of leeches to the groin, and laxatives of neutral salts; but it continued from one period of menstruation to the next. Among the narcotic medicines, which, like all that have been used, occasionally give relief in uterine diseases when others have failed, the tincture of the hop, or *humulus lupulus* of Linnæus, is not one of the least efficacious. There are no medicines, however, which exert any peculiar action on the uterus; and in the diseases of this organ, just alluded to, we often succeed by employing general constitutional remedies; such as laxatives and diaphoretics, when there is fever on the one hand; or cordials and tonics, when weakness on the other; soothing the pain, in the meantime, by *cicuta*, opium, *humulus*, and other anodynes.

A case of severe bilious vomiting occurred on the 15th of February, when the weather was excessively cold, and smart vomiting of bile took place in another patient about the same time.

The small-pox has been, on the whole, less prevalent and less severe than in the autumnal season; it would probably have disappeared during the cold season, according to its usual course, had not the poison been extensively circulated by inoculation.



# REPORT XV.

*From February 29 to May 31, 1808.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.			No. of Cases.		
Tertiana	..	3	Arthritis rheumatica	..	5
Synochus	..	17	Peritonitis	..	1
Ophthalmia	..	1	Hysteritis	..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	2	Urticaria	..	1
Pleuritis	..	2	Herpes	..	1
Peripneumonia	..	16	Abortus	..	2
notha	..	4	Apoplexia	..	3
Catarrhus	..	98	Pertussis	..	4
Dysenteria	..	17	Convulsio	..	3
Scarlatina	..	8	Dentitio	..	1
Rubeola	..	11	Febris Infantum	..	8
Rheumatismus	..	7			

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	16	Prolapsus Ani	..	2
Vertigo	..	3	Hæmorrhoids	..	2
Hemicrania	..	1	Hydrops tot. Corporis		7
Catarrhus chronicus	..	54	Ascites	..	4
Asthma & Dyspnœa		3	Anasarca	..	3
Hæmoptysis & Phthisis		31	Amenorrhœa & Chlorosis		12
Asthénia	..	37	Leucorrhœa	..	7
Dyspepsia	..	16	Menorrhagia	..	4
Gastrodynia	..	10	Dolor Uteri	..	3
Icterus	..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus		33
Enterodynia	..	9	Pleurodyne	..	3
Vermes	..	4	Lumbago & Sciatica	..	4
Colica	..	1	Dysuria	..	2
Marasmus	..	5	Hæmaturia	..	1
Peritonitis chronica	..	2	Nephralgia	..	5
Hepatitis chronica	..	1	Paralysis	..	6
Diarrhœa	..	9	Hysteria	..	4
Constipatio	..	6	Epilepsia	..	6



		No. of Cases.			No. of Cases.
Syncope anginosa	..	1	Impetigo	..	2
Hypochondriasis	..	1	Prurigo	..	5
Aphthæ	.. ..	1	Scabies	..	2
Lichen	.. ..	2	Erythema	..	1
Psoriasis	.. ..	3	Purpura	..	1

WITH the exception of a day or two of mild weather at the commencement of March, the spring has been cold, and the wind blew from the east during that month, and the greater part of April; so that there was scarcely any appearance of advancing vegetation until the first of May. The early and middle parts of May were extremely hot, and the month has been on the whole warm, with several moderate rains, insomuch that vegetation has advanced rapidly and luxuriantly. The maximum of the thermometer, in the shade, was  $80^{\circ}$  on the 4th, and on the 15th it was  $83^{\circ}$ : the minimum on the former day was  $44^{\circ}$ , making a difference of  $36^{\circ}$  in the course of the same day.

The long continuance of cold weather multiplied, as usual, the cases of catarrh and rheumatism, in all their forms; and, in the latter disease more especially, greatly counteracted the operation of medicines, which, under a more favourable state of the atmosphere, seldom fail to give more speedy relief. Several of the rheumatic cases were unusually obstinate. The occasional rains, however, and considerable vicissitudes of temperature, even during the present month, have produced a good deal of illness, not only rheumatic and pulmonary, but also disorders in the bowels; so that two hundred of the patients on the list were admitted during May.

In four of the cases of dysentery, a considerable discharge of blood by stool took place, so as to occa-



sion a speedy depression of the patient's strength. The experience of all our best writers on this subject coincides, in establishing the necessity of a free evacuation of the intestinal canal by purgative medicines, in all degrees of this disorder, in the early stages. But the irritation, which the stimulus of a cathartic medicine excites, in that tender condition of the canal, must be obviated: and this object is best attained by combining an opiate with the cathartic. These cases illustrate that principle in a satisfactory manner; for the patients were all restored to health in a few days, by taking a pill of opium and calomel on two or three alternate nights, and in the day time a solution of magnesia vitriolata with laudanum. The operation of the purgative is not impeded by this combination, but is rendered mild and unirritating; the bowels are emptied without tenesmus, and the natural secretion of the canal is restored. The irritation, occasioned by a cathartic medicine, is not so completely removed by an opiate, given *after* its operation is finished, as is commonly recommended, and the dysenteric symptoms, suspended by this practice, are much more liable to recur.

From the commencement of these Reports, we have had occasion to remark the continued freedom from contagious fever, which the metropolis enjoys. Since the year 1802, indeed, the contagion of typhus has not shown itself to any extent. Yet the seasons have occurred under every variety of temperature, and accompanied with various degrees and vicissitudes of dryness and moisture. In truth, from the days of Sydenham downwards, no medical observer has been able to connect any particular epidemic with a specific



condition of the atmosphere. Dr. Willan has lately thrown out a suggestion, which, if carefully pursued, may perhaps contribute to elucidate this subject. It appears that the "sweating sickness," and certain other epidemic diseases, were probably connected with the use of damaged corn, analogous to the disease produced by the *ergot* in rye, when this grain was used as food \*. In scarce seasons, corn is very generally damaged; and it must be recollected, that typhous fever was most widely diffused through the metropolis, during, and for a short time subsequent to, the years of scarcity, 1797-1799, &c. since which period, the produce of the seasons has been abundant.

The measles and scarlet fever continue to prevail to a moderate extent, the former being much less fatal than in the early part of the winter. We have not seen a case of small-pox lately. Happily, the managers of the Small-pox Hospital have interdicted the inoculation of out-patients with small-pox, so that the most prolific source of variolous contagion is annihilated.

In one of the cases, perhaps improperly placed under the head of Constipation, there was no evacuation from the bowels during the space of thirty-five days, medicine having been omitted during the greater part of that period. The patient was a man, reduced in circumstances, who had been many weeks affected with great constipation, loss of strength and flesh, with an exceedingly dry skin, and total loss of appetite. He complained much of an extreme heat of the sto-

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\* On Cutaneous Diseases, Part IV. p. 499. *et seq.*



mach, and a general febrile state, induced by the smallest quantity of any substance taken into the stomach even in a liquid form; so that the non-evacuation of the intestines depended chiefly, perhaps, on the deficiency of ingesta. Trifling evacuations were produced by glysters before he died. The passage of the pylorus was probably nearly closed by scirrhus; but I regret that no opportunity of examination was given after death.

## REPORT XVI.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1808.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Typhus	..	..	1	Odontalgia	..	..	1
Tertiana	..	..	1	Catarrhus	..	..	33
Quartana	..	..	1	Pneumonia	..	..	7
Synochus	..	..	38	Pertussis	..	..	6
Rubeola	..	..	14	Hepatitis	..	..	3
Scarlatina	..	..	17	Cholera	..	..	6
Erysipelas	..	..	2	Hæmorrhagia intestin.			1
Miliaria	..	..	2	Vomitus biliosus	..		1
Urticaria	..	..	2	Febris Infantum	..		11
Herpes Zoster	..	..	3	Rheumatismus			2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..		6	Hydrocephalus	..		1
————— maligna	..		1	Abortus	..	..	1

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	10	Gastrodynia	..	..	11
Vertigo	..	..	3	Dyspepsia	..	..	16
Catarrhus chronicus	..		24	Hæmatemesis	..	..	2
Phthisis & Hæmoptysis			22	Icterus	..	..	3
Asthma & Dyspncea	..		6	Enterodynia	..	..	16



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Constipatio	.. ..	3	Nephralgia	.. ..	10
Diarrhœa	.. ..	16	Hydrops tot. Corporis	.. ..	4
Dysenteria	.. ..	15	Ascites	.. ..	4
Marasmus	.. ..	6	Hydrothorax	.. ..	1
Colica Pictonum	.. ..	2	Anasarca	.. ..	10
Tænia	.. ..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus	.. ..	23
Verminatio	.. ..	6	Lumbago	.. ..	6
Asthénia	.. ..	48	Pleurodyne	.. ..	1
Chlorosis & Amenorrhœa	.. ..	7	Mania	.. ..	1
Hysteria	.. ..	6	Lichen	.. ..	1
Epilepsia	.. ..	3	Psoriasis	.. ..	2
Paralysis	.. ..	5	Prurigo	.. ..	4
Apoplexia	.. ..	1	Porrigo	.. ..	1
Leucorrhœa	.. ..	10	Scabies	.. ..	7
Menorrhagia	.. ..	15	Impetigo	.. ..	2
Dolor Uteri	.. ..	4	Purpura	.. ..	2
Ischuria	.. ..	1	Ecthyma	.. ..	1
Enuresis	.. ..	1	Scrofula	.. ..	2

THE summer months have been, on the whole, dry and temperate, particularly June and August. In the middle of July, a few days of unusual heat occurred; the thermometer in the shade having reached the altitude of  $92^{\circ}$  on the 13th, and  $89^{\circ}$  on the 14th of that month; and, towards the end, some heavy rains fell.

The number of bilious diseases, which are commonly multiplied by continued hot weather, has, in consequence of the general mildness, been comparatively small. The cases of cholera occurred in July. Those of synochus and diarrhœa were most numerous in August, probably in consequence of the rains that fell in the beginning of this month and the end of July; about which time also, the cases of pneumonia, which assumed the acute form of pleuritis, appeared.



The febrile diseases have put on a mild form. The synochus, or summer fever, has not, in general, shown any untoward symptoms, nor been protracted to any considerable length. Measles and scarlet-fever have been prevalent, but the former have disappeared without leaving behind the severe pneumonic symptoms, which usually ensue at a more unfavourable season of the year; and the scarlet fever has been either unattended with sore throat, or with a mild degree of it, except in one or two cases, in which a considerable tumefaction of the uvula, tonsils, and tongue took place, resembling rather the inflammatory cynanche, than the common concomitant of scarlatina. None of the cases terminated fatally.

The case of intestinal hæmorrhage occurred in a girl of eight years of age, in consequence of having swallowed a great number of cherry-stones. These substances occasioned severe pain, and a considerable discharge of blood per anum, which were soon removed by the use of purgatives and glysters; and no other ill consequence ensued.

The salutary effects of the interdiction of variolous inoculation by the governors of the small-pox hospital, are now conspicuous. Although the summer is the season of the usual prevalence of small-pox, no case has appeared at the Dispensary during the last three months.



## REPORT XVII.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1808.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Tertiana .. ..	2	Pleuritis .. ..	2
Quartana .. ..	2	Peripneumonia .. ..	7
Typhus .. ..	3	Catarrhus .. ..	43
Synochus .. ..	20	Pertussis .. ..	4
Scarlatina anginosa .. ..	36	Enteritis .. ..	1
Rubeola .. ..	4	Peritonitis .. ..	2
Variola .. ..	5	Cholera .. ..	3
Varicella .. ..	1	Rheumatismus .. ..	3
Urticaria febrilis .. ..	2	Arthritis rheumatica .. ..	6
Herpes .. ..	1	Odontalgia .. ..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris .. ..	12	Febris Infantum .. ..	10
———— parotidæa .. ..	1	Dysenteria .. ..	20

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	11	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	1
Vertigo .. ..	1	Tympanites .. ..	1
Catarrhus chronicus .. ..	20	Ascites .. ..	1
Asthma .. ..	3	Hydrothorax .. ..	1
Hæmoptysis .. ..	5	Anasarca .. ..	6
Phthisis .. ..	15	———— post Scarlatinam	5
Dyspepsia .. ..	11	Hydrops tot. Corporis	6
Gastrodynia .. ..	14	Asthenia .. ..	25
Pyrosis .. ..	2	Chorea .. ..	2
Icterus .. ..	5	Hysteria .. ..	5
Enterodynia .. ..	6	Epilepsia .. ..	2
Colica .. ..	1	Hypochondriasis .. ..	1
———— Pictonum .. ..	5	Paralysis .. ..	3
Constipatio .. ..	2	Convulsio .. ..	1
Diarrhœa .. ..	9	Rheumatismus chronicus	24
Tenesmus .. ..	1	Pleurodyne .. ..	3
Verminatio .. ..	2	Lumbago .. ..	3
Tabes & Marasmus .. ..	7	Sciatica .. ..	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Menorrhagia .. ..	9		Dysuria .. ..	1	
— post Abortum	2		Nephralgia .. ..	5	
Leucorrhœa .. ..	11		Psoriasis .. ..	3	
Amenorrhœa .. ..	9		Prurigo .. ..	1	
Hysteralgia .. ..	2		Porrigo .. ..	3	
Cancer Uteri .. ..	2		Impetigo .. ..	7	
Prolapsus Uteri .. ..	1		Ecthyma .. ..	1	
Catarrhus Vesicæ .. ..	1		Phymata .. ..	1	
Enuresis .. ..	1		Erythema .. ..	2	
Diabetes mellitus .. ..	1				

THE autumnal months have been less temperate, especially September and October, than is usual. The first fortnight in September was chill, with daily rains; and the last was cold, with a few showers. In October there was a considerable prevalence of east winds, with a damp and cloudy atmosphere, and occasional fogs and showers, which gave much of the character of February to that month. In the early part of November several smart frosts occurred, with morning and evening fogs; but the latter part has been more mild in temperature, although moderate rains were frequent.

Catarrhal and rheumatic complaints have been less numerous than we were led to expect, from the general predominance of a cold and moist atmosphere; and the cases have been, on the whole, of a mild nature.

In the month of September, a few cases of typhus were observed at the Dispensary, several were admitted into the House of Recovery, with malignant symptoms, and some severe, and even fatal instances occurred in individuals of respectable rank in life: they were, however, under all circumstances, only



sporadic; and since the commencement of October, I have scarcely seen or heard of one example of typhoid fever.

Scarlet fever appears to be almost the only contagious disease which can be said to be epidemic at present, if we except the *artificial* epidemic of small-pox. The latter disease, although little observed in the practice of the Dispensary, appears, from the bills of mortality, to be exceedingly fatal, to the extent of 40 deaths weekly, or nearly so. This is not the usual season of the epidemic of small-pox\*; and, therefore, it is probable that the fatal poison is now disseminated to this lamentable degree, by those advertising gratuitous inoculators, who have taken up the trade of death, which the humanity of the governors of the Small-pox Hospital had suppressed at St. Pancras.

The contagion of scarlet fever has been very active; we have seldom seen the disease find its way into a family, without attacking all the younger branches, who were liable to it, and some of the adults. Yet the symptoms have been generally moderate, inso-much that only *one* patient in the above list, a child three years old, died. The combination of a general efflorescence, with a sore throat, has been almost universally observed among the children, but the adults usually had the sore throat only; the throat in many cases was tumid, and the tonsils considerably enlarged, of a bright red colour, as if partaking more than usual of the nature of the common inflammatory sore throat, and the ulcerations on the tonsils and edge of the palate were seldom observed to be deep, extensive, or

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\* See the Report Jan. 1, 1806, No. 5, p. 124, of Edin. M. & S. Journal.



of a dark colour. The strength of the patients was not greatly depressed, so that many were not confined to bed more than the space of one or two days. The application of blisters to the external fauces, in all the cases in which the tonsils were enlarged, was attended with marked advantage. A laxative of calomel and jalap, preceded, when the patient was seen in the commencement, by an emetic, and the use of a gargle acidulated with the muriatic acid, was all the medicinal treatment that appeared to be requisite. The *lavatio frigida* was generally recommended, and employed in different degrees of extent, and with invariable relief to the heat, irritation, and other febrile symptoms: in a few cases I stood over my patients while the skin was washed with cold or tepid water, and witnessed the almost instantaneous diminution of the frequency of the pulse, as well as of the pungent heat of surface, the anxiety of countenance, restlessness, and so forth.

Dysentery has been very prevalent, especially in September and November, as it was also in the spring months. Physicians have differed about the nature of the disease, to which they have applied the term *dysentery*, from the time of Hippocrates to our own. It was applied to all ulcerations and hæmorrhages of the intestines by Hippocrates; and ulcerations were believed to be the origin of the dysenteric symptoms by writers in general, until Willis and Sydenham showed that the symptoms occurred independently of ulceration\*. Dr. Cullen considers dysentery as invariably

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\* A neat sketch of the medical history of dysentery is given by Sir J. Pringle "On Diseases of the Army," Part III. Chap. 6.



a contagious disorder\*, and a specific contagion as the only cause of the disease. This is an extraordinary opinion; for, if we are allowed to consider, with Sydenham† and Sir J. Pringle, that, together with some febrile symptoms, “small, but frequent stools, of a slimy and frothy matter, preceded by gripes, and followed by *tenesmus*,” constitute dysentery, whether blood is passed or not, such a disease is extremely common in this country, as the result of cold, of unusual irritations of the bowels, &c.; and is very rarely observed to pass by contagion from one individual to another, in ordinary life. But little fever accompanied the dysenteric symptoms, in most of the cases in the list, although in eight of them a considerable quantity of blood was discharged by stool. The gripes, but more particularly the *tenesmus*, and frequency of stools, were much complained of:—feculent matter made no part of the stools, in general, which were watery, or bloody, with little smell, and contained fragments of apparently coagulated mucus. The appearance of *scybalæ*, or formed fæces, was generally followed by relief. The commencement of the disease was not often witnessed: in some the complaint was of five or six weeks standing, at the time of application to the Dispensary. Exposure to cold was the cause generally assigned for its origin. The plan of cure consisted of the combination of anodynes and purgatives, as already stated, (Report for July 1808,) in preference to the alternation of them, as recommended by Sydenham. When the bowels have been

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\* Nosolog. Method. Gen. XLI. and First Lines, § MLXXV.

† Epidemic Constit. Sect. IV. Chap. 3.



effectually relieved, after the disease has continued long, Sydenham has observed that, from the irritated state of the rectum, the *tenesmus* often remains severe and troublesome; and he deprecates the use of glysters or other local means of relief, which, he says, is only to be obtained by the restoration of the general strength. But anodyne glysters are often beneficial under those circumstances; and when the introduction of a pipe has excited too great irritation in the rectum, we have seen a speedy and effectual benefit derived from the insertion of a grain of opium, in the form of a pill, within that intestine. Dr. Cullen considers dysentery as a disease of fatal tendency; but all the patients in the preceding list recovered; and we have seldom witnessed a fatal termination of the disease, where it was not of long standing before assistance was required.

One of the cases of anasarca originated apparently from an unusual cause. The patient was a middle-aged woman, in previous health. She was thrown into a state of extreme fright and alarm, on discovering in the evening that she had lost her little store of money, the savings of several years, and the next morning she was anasarcous from head to foot. By tonics combined with diuretics the disease was speedily removed.



## REPORT XVIII.

*From November 30, 1808, to February 28, 1809.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Tertiana	..	..	4	Peripneumonia notha	..	..	10
Synochus	..	..	10	Hepatitis	..	..	1
Febris Infantum	..	..	10	Pertussis	..	..	6
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	6	Rheumatismus acutus	..	..	10
Rubeola	..	..	1	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	2
Scarlatina anginosa	..	..	11	Hydrocephalus acutus	..	..	1
Urticaria	..	..	1	Apoplexia	..	..	1
Herpes Zoster	..	..	1	Dentitio	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	1	Abortus	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	89	Dysenteria	..	..	16
Peripneumonia	..	..	14				

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	7	Epilepsia	..	..	3
Hemicrania rheumatica	..	..	8	Chorea	..	..	2
Dyspepsia	..	..	12	Hysteria	..	..	1
Vomitus biliosus	..	..	2	Paralysis	..	..	2
Pyrosis	..	..	2	Melancholia	..	..	1
Gastrodynia	..	..	5	Asthenia	..	..	14
Icterus	..	..	3	Amenorrhœa	..	..	7
Diarrhœa	..	..	7	Menorrhagia	..	..	9
Constipatio	..	..	2	Leucorrhœa	..	..	7
Enterodynia	..	..	7	Dysuria	..	..	5
Melœna	..	..	1	Ischuria	..	..	1
Tænia	..	..	1	Nephralgia	..	..	5
Hæmorrhœis	..	..	2	Lumbago	..	..	6
Marasmus	..	..	9	Sciatica	..	..	1
Scrofula	..	..	3	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	..	36
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	49	Anasarca	..	..	5
Asthma & Dyspnœa	..	..	4	Hydrothorax	..	..	3
Phthisis pulmonalis	..	..	19	Ascites	..	..	3
Palpitatio	..	..	1	Hydrops tot. Corporis	..	..	3



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Hydrops post Scarlatinam	2			Prurigo .. ..	3		
Ophthalmia Tarsi ..	2			Porriço .. ..	4		
Scabies .. ..	1			Lepra .. ..	1		
Psoriasis .. ..	2			Impetigo .. ..	3		
Lichen .. ..	1						

ALTHOUGH the winter has been, on the whole, severe, cold, and stormy, yet there was not, at any time, a long continuance of frost without interruption. Three successive heavy falls of snow occurred between the 18th of December and the end of January, accompanied with heavy gales of wind, and intense frost, which continued a week or ten days, and was succeeded each time by a few days of mild rainy weather. An immense quantity of snow fell during the last frost, and lay so deep in the streets of the metropolis, that many of the hackney-coaches were drawn by three, and some by four horses. The thaw was extremely sudden, at the last, so that the melting of the great body of snow occasioned an inundation of some of the roads and low districts round London. The month of February has been mild, with occasional rains, and the prevalent winds from the west. The early part of December was also wet.

Catarrhal and rheumatic complaints have prevailed very extensively, in all their forms, and frequently in combination in the same patient. The rheumatic cases, which occurred early in the winter, proved unusually obstinate; the symptoms being protracted, if not aggravated, by the successive frosts, or by the rains and damps in the intervals. One variety of rheumatism, which was chiefly observed in the month of December, was exceedingly distressing to the patient, and not easy of relief by medicine: this was a rheu-



matic face-ache, or hemicrania, affecting generally one side of the head and face, from the crown downwards, with acute pain, which was aggravated in the night; with great tenderness of the integuments, as well as of the gums, and muscular part of the cheek, which were usually swelled; sometimes with small nodes, or painful tumors, in the scalp; and with restlessness, white tongue, quickened pulse, and other symptoms of febrile irritation. Fomentations had generally been resorted to, but with invariable increase of the pain, as commonly happens in the more inflammatory forms of rheumatism, in other parts. Sometimes Dover's powder afforded relief; but the combination of calomel and opium, alone or with the pulvis antimonialis, appeared to be the most successful remedy. The arsenic was beneficial in one instance, in which the disease assumed something of the form of *megrim*, the pain returning in periodical paroxysms. On the whole, however, that remedy has not seemed to be possessed of so much efficacy in chronic rheumatism, as the statements of Mr. Jenkinson, and some others, would lead us to infer.

The scarlet fever has been less prevalent, and of the same mild type as described in the former Report: and sporadic cases of dysentery have continued to occur, accompanied with rather acute symptoms; in one half of the instances, there was a considerable discharge of blood with the stools. It is remarkable, that no case of contagious fever has been observed, during the whole winter.

The case of diabetes mellitus, in the list attached to the last Report, occurred in a woman of spare habit, aged 59; who, after living three months in a damp



cellar, found herself weak and poorly about a fortnight before Christmas 1807. She soon became feverish, and unusually thirsty; and observed that her urine increased in quantity, and was passed more frequently, especially during the night. She applied to the Dispensary in September last. She then complained principally of extreme prostration of strength, languor, and loss of spirits, and of "the fever;" meaning by the latter phrase, a constant sense of heat about the præcordia, and fauces, with a dry mouth, and skin, and great restlessness and watching, the pulse being small and frequent, and the tongue dry. Her appetite was greater than formerly, and a craving returned very soon after taking food. She had been passing, during the last six months, about eleven or twelve pints of urine, the greater part of it in the night, which was of a pale amber colour, very sweet to the taste, and not in the least urinous in smell, but of a sickly violet-like odour, slightly acidulous. It yielded a considerable proportion of extract, resembling treacle, on evaporation. She also mentioned that her sight was a good deal impaired, and that her teeth had become loose, and dropped out, without decaying; the gums were ulcerated and spongy; and she complained much of an excessive weakness of the muscles of the thighs. She had not been able to procure any animal food for a long time back, and subsisted almost exclusively upon tea.

Under such circumstances, a cure was scarcely to be expected at a dispensary; and she was recommended to go to an hospital, where proper diet might be obtained: but she declined that plan. The case, therefore, is now chiefly mentioned, in order to afford an



additional testimony of the powers of a remedy, strongly recommended by Dr. Ferriar\* in diabetes, viz. a combination of cinchona, uva ursi, and opium, taken three times a day, in the proportion of a scruple of the first, xv. grains of the second, and half a grain of the latter in powder. In addition to this medicine, she often took a dose of Dover's powder at bedtime, and sometimes the quantity of opium was increased, in consequence of occasional diarrhœa. Under this course, the urine became diminished to about the natural quantity, and of the urinous quality, "the fever" left her, her strength and spirits were considerably recruited, and this while she lived upon tea. She grew tired of the medicine, however, and omitted it; the symptoms returned, with equal violence, and did not so speedily yield to the repetition of it. But from the marked relief experienced during its use, in spite of the diluent and saccharine diet, it may be presumed, that, had the diet been more favourable, the disease might have been more effectually combated. Dr. Ferriar says, that he had cured three confirmed cases by the medicine above mentioned, the great success of which had prevented him from trying Dr. Rollo's plan.

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\* See his Essay on Digitalis.



REPORT XIX.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1809.*

ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Quotidiana	..	..	4	Peripneumonia	..	..	14
Tertiana	..	..	3	————— notha	..	..	3
Quartana	..	..	1	Pertussis	..	..	5
Synochus	..	..	16	Hepatitis	..	..	2
Febris Infantum	..	..	3	Enteritis	..	..	2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	7	Peritonitis	..	..	1
———— parotidæa	..	..	1	Abscessus Hypochondrii	..	..	1
Variola	..	..	2	Dysenteria	..	..	11
Varicella	..	..	2	Rheumatismus acutus	..	..	11
Scarlatina anginosa	..	..	18	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	5
Urticaria febrilis	..	..	6	Hydrocephalus acutus	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	1	Dentitio	..	..	1
Ophthalmia	..	..	1	Abortus	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	106	Epistaxis	..	..	2
Pleuritis	..	..	4				

CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	20	Ascarides	..	..	4
Vertigo	..	..	5	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	2
Hemicrania intermittens	..	..	2	Hæmatemesis	..	..	1
Dyspepsia	..	..	25	Hæmaturia	..	..	1
Gastrodynia	..	..	6	Dysuria	..	..	4
Pyrosis	..	..	1	Ischuria	..	..	1
Vomitus biliosus	..	..	1	Enuresis	..	..	2
Icterus	..	..	3	Nephralgia	..	..	4
Enterodynia	..	..	4	Hysteralgia	..	..	2
Diarrhœa	..	..	9	Leucorrhœa	..	..	15
Tabes mesenterica	..	..	1	Menorrhagia	..	..	13
Marasmus	..	..	4	Amenorrhœa	..	..	9
Colica Pictonum	..	..	5	Hysteria	..	..	1
Constipatio	..	..	2	Epilepsia	..	..	4
Tænia	..	..	4	Spasmus Maxillæ clonicus	..	..	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Paralysis Faciei	..	1	Ascites	..	1
Hemiplegia	..	3	Anasarca	..	10
Tremor paralyt.	..	1	Hydrops tot. Corporis	..	8
Asthma	..	4	Aneurysma Aortæ	..	1
Catarrhus chronicus	..	43	Phthiriasis	..	1
Phthisis	..	23	Psoriasis	..	5
Hæmoptysis	..	11	Lepra	..	3
Rheumatismus chronicus	..	24	Strophulus albus	..	1
Lumbago & Sciatica	..	3	Erythema	..	4
Asthenia	..	30	Scabies	..	6
Pleurodyne	..	3	Porrigo	..	1
Hectica Nutricum	..	2	Impetigo	..	8

DURING the months of March and April the weather was almost uniformly cold, with a prevalence of easterly winds, and frequent rains. At the beginning of April the cold was unusually severe, and snow fell on several successive days; and on the 20th and 21st of that month the fall of snow was very great. The second week in May was hot and dry; but a severe thunder storm occurred on the 19th; since which time the temperature has been again low, with occasional rains, and brisk wind.

In consequence of the severe and blighting season, just described, the number of pulmonary and rheumatic disorders has been extremely great; and they still continue, at this late period of the spring, the predominant complaints. Sporadic cases of dysentery have likewise continued to occur; and seven of the eleven instances, included in the preceding list, were accompanied by considerable discharges of blood from the bowels.

The scarlet fever has been prevalent among children, nearly to the same extent, and with the same moderate symptoms, as mentioned in the last Report:



but the measles and small-pox, more especially the former, appear to have declined considerably. Intermittents, in all their forms, have been frequent, but less anomalous in their symptoms, and less obstinate in resisting the operation of the usual remedies, than in the winter. Some of the cases of simple fever put on somewhat of the remittent type, doubtless in consequence of the prevailing humidity of the season; but the symptoms were generally mild, except that, in one or two instances, the afternoon exacerbation was accompanied by delirium.

The case of chronic spasm of the lower jaw, which occurred in a delicate girl of eight years of age, affords a striking example of the connection of local disorder of the muscular and nervous system with derangement of the alimentary canal, as illustrated by Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Abernethy. The disorder consisted of a constant involuntary opening and shutting of the mouth, nearly as if in the act of mastication, which had continued in a greater or less degree during several days, and was accompanied by a languid and spiritless condition of the body, some tension of the epigastrium, irregularity of the bowels, and a pale countenance. A single purgative, containing three grains of calomel, removed the inordinate action of the maxillary muscles; and in a few days the healthy complexion and spirits were restored, under the use of a decoction of cascarilla.

The two cases, which, from the want of a better name, I have called *Hemicrania intermittens*, were instances of what is popularly termed *Megrim*\*, to

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\* This term is probably corrupted from *hemicrania*, through the me-



which an allusion was made in the last Report. This very painful affection, although not uncommon, has seldom been mentioned by medical writers\*, or has been confounded with the *tic douloureux*. It consists of a pain near the inner angle of the orbit, beginning in the point of the supra-orbital foramen, and extending a little way on that side of the nose, affecting also the eye, which becomes red, and more sensible to light during the paroxysm. The pain is very acute, and each pulsation of the supra-orbital twig of the artery is painfully felt. The seat of the pain may be generally covered with the point of the finger, and pressure gives momentary relief, although the integuments become tender during the paroxysm, and remain so, in some degree, during the intermission. When the disorder has continued several days, the skin of all that side of the forehead, which is supplied by the supra-orbital nerve, has become tender to the touch. After a duration of two or three hours, sometimes much longer, the pain diminishes, and soon ceases; but it returns again, sometimes most exactly, at the same hour on the succeeding day. The most usual period of the paroxysm is in the morning, after breakfast; sometimes we have observed it in the evening, after dinner. Dr. Darwin says, the periods sometimes correspond

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dium of the French *migraine*; just as we have the word *quinsy* (originally *quinansy*, Fr. *esquinancie*) from *cynanche*.

\* The generic character of hemicrania, as given by Sauvages, accords accurately with the phenomena of the complaint; but none of his species comprehend it. "Est morbus cujus præcipuum symptoma dolor est in alterutro capitis latere potissimum ad tempora, frontem, juxta oculos, isque vehemens, sæpe periodicus." Nosol. Meth. Class. vii. Gen. 13.



with alternate lunar or solar days, like tertian agues; at other times they observe the monthly lunation, and seem to be induced by the debility which attends menstruation\*. All the cases that we have seen have been quotidian. In some cases this hemicrania is obviously connected with dyspepsia,—in others it has occurred with catarrh,—and, in others again, it has been produced by fatigue or some other cause of debility. Dr. Darwin considers it as sometimes occasioned by a decaying tooth, especially the dens sapientiæ, or last tooth of the upper jaw. This disease differs altogether from the *tic douloureux*, in the regularity of its diurnal periods and intermissions, and in the length of both. In the *tic* “the pain comes on suddenly, and is excruciating; it lasts but a short time, perhaps a quarter or half a minute, and then goes off; it returns at irregular intervals, sometimes in half an hour, sometimes there are two or three repetitions in a few minutes.” Dr. Fothergill, from whom these remarks are quoted, adds, that “eating will bring it on in some persons: talking, or the least motion of the muscles of the face, affects others.” &c.† In these points the two disorders are totally distinct, not to mention the permanency of the *tic douloureux*, and the general facility of removal of the intermittent hemicrania.

The cinchona has suggested itself, by the analogy of the intermissions, to most practitioners since the

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\* Zoonomia, Class iv. 2. 2.

† See a paper on “a Painful Affection of the Face,” Med. Obs. and Inquir. vol. v. p. 131.



time of Morton, and is, perhaps, often adequate to the cure of the periodic hemicrania. Darwin recommends it in combination with opium, after an evacuation by purging, or slight blood-letting\*;—a large dose of æther, taken at the very commencement, or immediately previous to the paroxysm, as proposed by Mr. Davidson†, has sometimes succeeded in preventing the accession and curing the disease:—but the most decidedly active remedy, according to our observation, is the one recommended by Dr. Fowler of York; namely, four or five drops of the solution of arsenic, taken twice or three times a-day. The efficacy of this remedy has appeared to be such, as almost to entitle it to the appellation of a specific against this disease.

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\* Morton employed one bleeding previous to the use of the bark. “Hemicraniam periodicam etiam observavi, quam spatio bidui v. s. et usu corticis penitus sustuli; licet in hujus symptomatis curatione v. s. vesicatoria, emetica, cathartica, errhina, masticatoria ad hebdomados aliquot spem meam deceperant.” *Pysiolog. Ex. i. cap. 9.*

† *Medical Facts and Observations*, vol. v.



## REPORT XX.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1809.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Typhus .. ..	1	Scarlatina .. ..	4				
Synochus .. ..	15	Erysipelas .. ..	1				
Tertiana .. ..	1	Urticaria febrilis .. ..	3				
Quartana .. ..	1	Dysenteria cruenta .. ..	8				
Otalgia .. ..	2	———— alba .. ..	5				
Cynanche tonsillaris .. ..	3	Cholera .. ..	7				
Catarrhus .. ..	39	Vomitus biliosus .. ..	2				
Pleuritis .. ..	3	Apoplexia .. ..	1				
Peripneumonia .. ..	6	Hydrocephalus acutus .. ..	2				
Pertussis .. ..	11	Febris Infantum .. ..	4				
Variola .. ..	1	Rheumatismus acutus .. ..	5				
Varicella .. ..	2	Arthritis rheumatica .. ..	7				
Herpes Zoster .. ..	1						

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	16	Morbi hepatici .. ..	2
Hydrocephalus chronicus .. ..	1	Enterodynia .. ..	14
Vertigo .. ..	4	Hysteria .. ..	4
Hemicrania .. ..	1	Epilepsia .. ..	1
Catarrhus chronicus .. ..	23	Asthénia .. ..	29
Asthma & Dyspnœa .. ..	3	Paralysis .. ..	2
Dysœcœa .. ..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus .. ..	18
Palpitatio .. ..	1	Pleurodyne .. ..	2
Angina Pectoris .. ..	1	Lumbago & Sciatica .. ..	6
Hæmoptysis .. ..	8	Rachitis .. ..	1
Phthisis pulmonalis .. ..	8	Colica .. ..	3
Hectica Adolescentium .. ..	1	Colica Pictonum .. ..	8
Dyspepsia .. ..	20	Constipatio .. ..	3
Gastrodynia .. ..	7	Diarrhœa .. ..	10
Pyrosis .. ..	4	Hæmorrhagia intestin. .. ..	1
HæmatemesiS .. ..	2	Vermes .. ..	3
Icterus .. ..	1	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	3



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Peritonitis chronica	..	2	Hæmaturia	..	2
Marasmus	..	4	Impetigo	..	3
Menorrhagia	..	15	Porrigo	..	3
Amenorrhœa & Chlorosis	6		Scabies	..	4
Leucorrhœa	..	16	Prurigo	..	1
Hydrops tot. Corporis	3		Erythema	..	3
Ascites	..	2	Psoriasis	..	2
Anasarca	..	5	Purpura	..	1
Tympanites	..	2	Aphthæ	..	2
Phlegmatia dolens	..	1	Lichen	..	3
Nephralgia	..	3			

THE summer months have been unusually wet and cool. A few warm days occurred in the third week of June, in the second week of July, and about the end of August; but the remaining portions of those months were cool, often very chill, with almost daily rains, accompanied with thunder and lightning.

On the whole, however, a damp and cool summer is favourable to the health of the inhabitants of London; and accordingly, the number of applicants to the Dispensary has been smaller than is usual at the summer season. It must be observed, too, that the disorders which are more peculiarly the product of this season, when there is much heat, have appeared in a very small proportion. Cholera, bilious vomiting, and diarrhœa, have hitherto been rare; and cases of dysentery have not been more numerous than for several months past. Those febrile affections, which come under the denomination of synochus, or summer fever, have likewise occurred in very small numbers. In a word, it appears from a survey of the preceding catalogue, (as far as the practice of one institution can be deemed conclusive,) that the metropolis is at present



remarkably free from any prevalent disease. The whooping-cough, which is generally an epidemic of the colder months, has, indeed, been rather more frequent among children than is usual; but it has appeared in a mild form.

## REPORT XXI.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1809.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Quotidiana	..	..	1	Scarlatina anginosa	..	..	13
Synochus	..	..	15	Variola	..	..	9
Febris Infantum	..	..	16	———secundaria	..	..	1
Ophthalmia purulenta			1	Varicella	..	..	7
Peripneumonia	..	..	10	Herpes Zoster	..	..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	5	Urticaria febrilis	..	..	1
Parotis	..	..	1	Rheumatismus acutus			6
Peritonitis post abortum			1	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	5
Enteritis	..	..	1	Podagra	..	..	1
Cystitis	..	..	1	Dysenteria	..	..	12
Catarrhus	..	..	53	Cholera	..	..	1
Pertussis	..	..	2	Hydrocephalus	..	..	1

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	17	Constipatio	..	..	2
Vertigo	..	..	4	Verminatio	..	..	6
Asthenia	..	..	15	Tænia	..	..	2
Dyspepsia	..	..	17	Tabes mesenterica	..	..	1
Pyrosis	..	..	3	Marasmus	..	..	6
Hæmatemesis	..	..	1	Colica Pictonum	..	..	5
Gastrodynia	..	..	7	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	3
Icterus	..	..	2	Peritonitis chronica	..	..	1
Enterodynia	..	..	5	Nephralgia	..	..	5
Diarrhœa	..	..	15	Diabetes mellitus	..	..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Hæmaturia	..	..	2	Lumbago & Sciatica	..	..	4
Dolor Uteri	..	..	2	Rheumatismus Faciei	..	..	4
Cancer	..	..	1	Pleurodyne	..	..	3
Leucorrhœa	..	..	11	Hydrops tot. Corporis	..	..	2
Menorrhagia	..	..	9	———— Ovarii	..	..	2
Amenorrhœa	..	..	2	Ascites	..	..	2
Tussis cum Dyspnœa	..	..	28	Anasarca	..	..	4
Hæmoptysis	..	..	15	Prurigo	..	..	1
Phthisis	..	..	12	Impetigo	..	..	7
Hysteria	..	..	8	Psoriasis diffusa	..	..	4
Convulsio	..	..	1	———— (of washer-	..	..	
Epilepsia	..	..	3	women	..	..	3
Hemiplegia	..	..	2	———— gyrata	..	..	1
Paralysis	..	..	3	———— guttata	..	..	2
———— saturnina	..	..	2	Erythema	..	..	3
Hypochondriasis	..	..	1	Acne	..	..	1
Mania	..	..	1	Scabies	..	..	2
Melancholia	..	..	2	Aphthæ	..	..	1
Tremor	..	..	1	Lichen	..	..	1
Chorea	..	..	1	Ecthyma	..	..	1
Palpitatio	..	..	3	Purpura simplex	..	..	1
Aphonia paralytica	..	..	1	Porrigo	..	..	3
Rheumatismus chronicus	..	..	26				

THE autumnal months have been, on the whole, chill and wet, and therefore, as might be anticipated, the metropolis has been in general healthy. This conclusion might be deemed paradoxical indeed, by one unacquainted with the origin of disease: but when it is recollected, that each season is productive of its peculiar diseases, by the peculiar temperature, &c. by which it is characterized,—the hot season by the excess and duration of its heat, and the cold season by the degree and continuance of its low temperature,—it must be evident (and all experience confirms the inference) that, in proportion as the peculiarities of



the season are absent, its usual train of diseases must be absent too. The testimony of all our physicians demonstrates the salubrity of a mild, though damp winter\*; and a similar salubrity attends a cool summer, although moist, upon the same principle†.

Through the whole of September there were scarcely five days without showers, and on two or three the rain was heavy and continued: the temperature was generally low, and during the last ten days the atmosphere was constantly damp and cold. October commenced with a week of fine, mild weather, which was succeeded by another week of clear cold weather, with slight morning and evening fogs: the third week was mild in temperature, but damp; and the last moist and foggy, the fogs in the morning and evening of several days being unusually dense. Until the middle of November, the atmosphere continued chill and damp, with occasional fogs, and showers: from the 15th to the 21st some severe frosts occurred, with a slight fall of snow and sleet on the 18th; and the subsequent portion of the month has been cold, moist, and foggy, with occasional hoar frost in the nights.

It will be observed, that the diseases more peculiarly autumnal have no place in the foregoing catalogue. Only one case of cholera occurred; the few cases of synochus were not connected with any morbid profusion of bile, except in one or two instances; and the cases of diarrhœa were generally accompanied by some catarrhal or rheumatic symptoms, implying

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\* See Dr. Fothergill's Observations on the Weather and Diseases, 1757.—Dr. Heberden junior's paper in the Philos. Trans. for 1796.

† See Dr. Willan's Reports for 1799, p. 211.



an origin distinct from that of the bilious diarrhœa of summer.

The month of November has been most productive of diseases, especially of affections of the lungs. The influence of the fogs, which set in during the last week in October, was immediately obvious, by the doubling of our former average number of admissions in the first week of November; at which time some of our annual visitants appeared, with bloated countenances, and severe dyspnœa and cough, dating the return of their disorder, in one or two instances, from the remarkably dense fogs before alluded to. Of the 81 cases of acute and chronic catarrh, 46 were admitted in November alone, and the majority of the peripneumonies occurred within the same period. The latter have all assumed a degree of inflammatory type, which bore, and was decidedly relieved by, blood-letting; and no instance of peripneumonia notha has appeared. Typhus is absolutely unknown among us at present. The scarlet fever was accompanied by considerable affection of the throat, in most cases, which was alleviated very obviously, by the application of a blister to the external fauces; and all the cases terminated well, under the simple treatment of early purgatives of calomel, (with emetics in some instances,) diaphoretics, and cold washing.

Cases of small-pox have been more numerous than usual, and in many cases fatal, putting on the confluent character, with a pale or milky eruption, rising but little above the surface, and not maturing freely. It cannot be too much lamented, indeed, that the busy opponents of vaccination have succeeded but too well in exciting the prejudices of the multitude against it,



and in extending the malignant poison of small-pox by unceasing inoculation; thus, with a disposition truly *cannibal*, feeding upon the slaughter of their fellow-creatures. Among the cases of small-pox which we have attended, an instance of the *second occurrence* of the disease, in the same individual, presented itself, under circumstances which leave no room for doubt, as to the former existence of it, since the face of the patient exhibits *numerous pits*. Several of my professional friends saw the case, and among them Dr. Willan. The eruptions appeared on the face, neck, trunk, and thighs, on the third day of fever, commenced by vomiting, and were afterwards accompanied by considerable febrile disorder; the pustules were somewhat less full than is often observed in the distinct variola, and were drying on the eighth day of the eruption: on which day a lancet was armed on the cheek, for the purpose of deciding the fact by inoculation, where it could be done without danger. It must not be omitted, that the patient is the mother of three children, the two eldest of whom were vaccinated, (one six years ago,) and the youngest, an infant at the breast, not having been vaccinated, caught the confluent small-pox, and died. The mother was infected a second time, by nursing this infant, while the two vaccinated children, living all the time in the same apartment, remained free from disease. The particulars of the case will be laid before the public\*.

In one of the cases of diabetes mellitus, the treatment recommended by Mr. Watt of Paisley, has been adopted by my colleague Dr. Laird, with some relief

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\* See Medico-Chirurg. Trans. Vol. II. p. 81.



to the symptoms ; but hitherto not with more benefit than we have witnessed from other means. The injurious debility, from repeated loss of blood, which might have been apprehended, has not occurred ; but threatenings of slight anasarca of the face seemed to be an intimation to proceed with caution. The failure of most other attempts to remove a fatal disease certainly justifies cautious experiment. The result will probably be published.

The case of ophthalmia purulenta occurred in a new-born infant, whose mother had a gonorrhœal discharge from the vagina at the time of parturition. In two other cases, which we have seen lately, the mother laboured under leucorrhœa when delivered. This origin of the disease in infants, which, if we mistake not, was first pointed out by Mr. Gibson of Manchester, is now, we believe, generally admitted.

One remark more with respect to the purpura, or hæmorrhœa petechialis. It occurred in a feeble woman about forty years of age ; nevertheless, after fruitlessly taking bark and sulphuric acid for some little time, she was slightly, but repeatedly, relieved by purgatives of calomel, after which her languor and weakness were diminished : but the petechiæ, which occurred principally on the lower extremities, were suddenly and finally removed, and her strength speedily restored, after a severe catamenial flooding. This case, added to those related by Dr. Parry, in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, tends to throw a doubt upon our theories on the nature of petechial effusions.

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Subsequent experience has confirmed the views of the pathology and treatment of those singular affections, mentioned at the close of this Report, which the sagacity of Dr. Parry first pointed out. It is obviously a disease of congestion, and not of putrescency or mere debility; and evacuants, and not bark and other tonics, constitute the successful treatment. The benefits of purging, even in the hæmorrhagic species, have been well illustrated by my intelligent friend, Dr. Harty of Dublin\*; and I have recommended the same treatment in my own Synopsis of Cutaneous Diseases. I have also recently witnessed the success of blood-letting, after purgation had produced only a temporary suspension of the disease, which occurred in a stout farmer. The pulse always sharp and frequent; and the blood exhibited a firm buff on being drawn; and his health was completely restored on a repetition of it, in conjunction with laxatives. The efficacy of free purgation in the relief of petechial eruptions, even in Typhus, has indeed been sufficiently proved, both by myself and other recent writers on fever †.

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\* See Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal for April 1813.

† See my Succinct Account of the Contagious Fever of this Country in 1818; Dr. Armstrong's Essay on Typhus, &c.



## REPORT XXII.

*From November 30, 1809, to February 28, 1810.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.			No. of Cases.		
Synochus	..	6	Peritonitis	..	2
Febris Infantum	..	4	Dysenteria	..	16
Apoplexia	..	1	Variola	..	1
Hydrocephalus acutus	..	2	Rubeola	..	1
Parotis	..	1	Scarlatina anginosa	..	4
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	1	Herpes Zoster	..	1
Pleuritis	..	2	Urticaria febrilis	..	1
Peripneumonia	..	11	Erysipelas	..	5
—————notha	..	10	Rheumatismus acutus	..	6
Catarrhus	..	122	Arthritis rheumatica	..	7
Pertussis	..	4	Abortus	..	1
Enteritis	..	2			

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	15	Hæmorrhoids	..	3
Vertigo apoplectica	..	3	Cynanche chronica	..	4
Hemicrania intermittens	..	3	Phthisis pulmonalis	..	15
Asthenia	..	11	Hæmoptysis	..	6
Dyspepsia	..	24	Catarrhus chronicus	..	81
Gastrodynia	..	6	Asthma	..	5
Pyrosis	..	2	Pleurodyne	..	4
Icterus	..	1	Lumbago & Sciatica	..	8
Enterodynia	..	6	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	25
Colica	..	2	Chlorosis	..	1
Diarrhœa	..	14	Amenorrhœa	..	3
Constipatio	..	2	Dysmenorrhœa	..	2
Tenesmus	..	1	Menorrhagia	..	10
Hæmorrhagia intestin.	..	1	Leucorrhœa	..	6
Tænia	..	2	Hysteralgia	..	3
Ascarides	..	1	Dysuria	..	3
Marasmus	..	7	Hæmaturia	..	2
Tympanites	..	1	Enuresis	..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Diabetes ..	..	..	1	Anasarca ..	..	..	5
Nephralgia ..	..	..	5	Scrofula ..	..	..	2
Hysteria ..	..	..	5	Scabies ..	..	..	4
Epilepsia ..	..	..	3	Erythema ..	..	..	2
Hemiplegia ..	..	..	5	Crusta lactea ..	..	..	1
Paralysis Manus ..	..	..	3	Impetigo ..	..	..	1
Paraplegia ..	..	..	2	Psoriasis ..	..	..	1
Hypochondriasis ..	..	..	1	Prurigo ..	..	..	3
Melancholia ..	..	..	1	Aphthæ ..	..	..	1
Hydrops ..	..	..	6				

DURING the month of December, the weather was not very variable in point of temperature, the thermometer at noon never being lower than  $38^{\circ}$ , and commonly above  $43^{\circ}$ ; there were frequent light rains, and much cloudy weather. The year commenced with a mild, but cloudy and damp, atmosphere, which was succeeded by a severe frost, which began on the 15th of January, and continued, without intermission, to the end of the month; generally accompanied with a cloudy atmosphere, and some unusually thick fogs, but without much snow. The first fortnight of February was mild, moist, and cloudy; a smart frost commenced on the night of the 15th, which continued a week, with a less foggy atmosphere than the former, but with a heavy fall of snow on the 18th. Since the cessation of the frost, the temperature has been exceedingly mild, and during the last few days of the month the atmosphere has been likewise clear.

Although it appears, from the preceding catalogue, that the metropolis enjoys at present an almost total freedom from contagious diseases, and such as usually occur as epidemics; yet, during the months of January and February, and particularly since the com-



mencement of the frost in the former month, sickness has been more general among all ranks of people, than at any period since the influenza of 1803, and the applications to the Dispensary have been more numerous than during almost any equal portion of time since the occurrence of the epidemic alluded to. Nevertheless, the sickness has been chiefly of the ordinary forms of catarrhal and pulmonary diseases, unaccompanied by the peculiar characteristics of the influenza. Since the 1st of December, the number of patients entered on our books, exclusive of those under the care of the surgeon, amounts to 548; of whom 400 have been admitted since the commencement of the new year. Of these nearly one-half, *i. e.* 256 of the total number, have been affected with pectoral complaints; and of these pectoral complaints, again, 207 have occurred since the beginning of January, and about forty-nine in the open month of December; a circumstance which points out the origin of the prevalent sickness, in the obvious condition of the atmosphere, namely, in the severity and vicissitudes of its temperature. The occurrence of frost invariably multiplies the number of pulmonary disorders; but when it is conjoined with thick fogs, it is doubly pernicious, from the greater rapidity with which the atmosphere, thus loaded, abstracts the heat of the body. Hence several of our patients were able to date the origin of their disorders from a particular exposure to such a condition of the air. It may be observed, likewise, that all the cases of phthisis, except two,—all the instances of peripneumony, except three,—and the whole of the cases of peripneumonia notha, and of asthma, presented themselves after the frost set in.



The catarrhal affections have not only been numerous; they have also been more than uncommonly severe; an unusual number of them having been accompanied with a considerable degree of feverishness, and a disordered state of the functions in general: but they have been fatal chiefly to persons of advanced age, and to those who have been habituated to similar returns in the winter season, for several years back. Very old persons have been carried off by comparatively moderate attacks of catarrh, which seemed to wear out their feeble portion of vitality, merely by the slight interruption to the function of respiration, (it would be deemed slight, at least, at any other period of life) which the phlegm, secreted in the bronchial passages, occasioned; for they quietly sunk into the sleep of death, without any urgent symptom or appearance of distress. I have, in more instances than one, seen such persons sitting before the fire, only a few hours before their dissolution; but with a small feeble pulse, an increasing languor, and a rattling noise in the bronchiæ at each act of respiration. Those who are affected with habitual chronic cough and dyspnœa in the winter, often suffer fatally from the accession of a severe frost; their usual complaint immediately attacks them, and passes on to the peripneumonia notha, on the one hand, in which they are suffocated by the profuse effusion of viscid phlegm into the air-tubes and cells; or, on the other, it puts on the more active form of common peripneumony, which, however, is more manageable by remedies than the former. Both these affections, if they do not speedily terminate, are liable to degenerate into a distressing, and ultimately fatal chronic dyspnœa, from the altered organization



of the lungs, which they occasionally produce, followed by hydrothorax, and anasarca of the limbs and face, from the impediment to the pulmonary circulation. Besides these mortal consequences of severe cold, many of the pectoral affections, induced in the younger individuals, lay the foundation for phthisis pulmonalis. On the whole, therefore, a great catalogue of evils is to be traced to the most fatal of all the obvious qualities of the atmosphere, frost, which, in popular language, is usually termed "bracing and wholesome." And it cannot but be remarked, as an extraordinary example of the perverseness of human prejudice, that almost the only means, which persons of moderate constitutional vigour possess of resisting this source of disease, namely, the constant use of warm clothing, is so generally neglected.

Another operation of the cold season has been upon the alimentary canal, so that a proportion of bowel complaints, somewhat above the ordinary average, has lately occurred. These amount to about forty-five in the preceding list, of which dysentery and diarrhoea are the principal. The cases of dysentery, however, have not been more severe than for some time back, and were not so often accompanied by discharges of blood. The various forms of rheumatism have been, as might be expected, very prevalent; but not in an equal proportion with the pectoral complaints: indeed many of the cases, which are enumerated under the heads of rheumatism, diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, &c. were also complicated with some degree of catarrh.

I may here mention, that in consequence of a communication from Dr. Southey, of Durham, to my col-



league, Dr. Laird, in which it was stated that the *oil of turpentine* had been discovered by Dr. Fenwick to have been used, with considerable success, in the expulsion of *tape-worm*, by a mechanic of that city, this substance has been administered in doses of from *half an ounce* to *two ounces*, by several physicians of public charities in London, and it has appeared to be an active antidote to that troublesome animal, in a great majority of instances. In a considerable number of cases its exhibition has been followed, in the course of a few hours, by the discharge of a *dead* tænia, of many yards in length. The oil of turpentine may be swallowed with scarcely more inconvenience than so much gin, and its effects are nearly the same when taken in large doses, viz. some degree of vertigo, or an approach to intoxication. It generally acts as a speedy purgative, and produces no unpleasant effects on the bladder: but, in a very few instances, it has occasioned a distressing sense of heat in the stomach, with considerable sickness; and, in one or two cases, has produced strangury. Even in these few cases, in which it has failed to expel the tænia, it has commonly afforded great relief to the painful feelings which were believed to originate in the presence of the worm.



## REPORT XXIII.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1810.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.		
Quotidiana .. ..	1			Arthritis rheumatica ..	8		
Tertiana .. ..	3			Rheumatismus acutus ..	4		
Synochus .. ..	10			Erysipelas Faciei ..	1		
Ophthalmia .. ..	1			Erythema nodosum* ..	1		
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	2			Scarlatina .. ..	1		
Peripneumonia .. ..	11			Herpes Zoster .. ..	1		
————— notha .. ..	2			Dysenteria .. ..	10		
————— post Rubeolam ..	3			Catarrhus .. ..	98		
Pleuritis .. ..	3			Pertussis .. ..	1		
Carditis .. ..	1			Epistaxis .. ..	2		
Hepatitis .. ..	2			Odontalgia .. ..	2		
Enteritis .. ..	1			Hydrocephalus acutus ..	2		
Peritonitis .. ..	3			Febris Infantum .. ..	15		
Hysteritis .. ..	1			Abortus .. ..	1		
Cystitis .. ..	1						

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	20	Gastrodynia .. ..	10
Vertigo .. ..	4	Pyrosis .. ..	3
Hemicrania rheumatica ..	3	Hæmatemesis .. ..	2
Cynanche chronica .. ..	3	Icterus .. ..	1
Amaurosis .. ..	1	Constipatio .. ..	2
Catarrhus chronicus .. ..	51	Diarrhœa .. ..	15
Asthma .. ..	2	Enterodynia .. ..	10
Hæmoptysis .. ..	15	Colica .. ..	2
Phthisis .. ..	24	—— Pictonum .. ..	2
Palpitatio .. ..	3	Peritonitis chron. ..	2
Pleurodyne .. ..	2	Tænia .. ..	1
Dyspepsia .. ..	10	Lumbrici & Ascarides ..	3

\* See Dr. Willan on Cutaneous Diseases, Order III. Gen. VI. Spec. 6.  
p. 483.



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Marasmus	..	..	8	Ascites	..	..	2
Hæmorrhoids	..	..	4	Hydrops	..	..	5
Nephralgia	..	..	4	———— post Scarlatinam			1
Dysuria	..	..	5	Scrofula	..	..	1
Menorrhagia	..	..	7	Rachitis	..	..	1
Leucorrhœa	..	..	19	Aphthæ	..	..	2
Amenorrhœa	..	..	4	Purpura simplex	..	..	2
Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	2	———— hæmorrhagica			2
Cancer Uteri	..	..	2	Scabies	..	..	8
Hysteria	..	..	8	Urticaria	..	..	2
Epilepsia	..	..	2	Lichen	..	..	1
Hemiplegia	..	..	8	Psoriasis	..	..	5
Paraplegia	..	..	1	Porrigo	..	..	1
Tremor	..	..	1	Prurigo	..	..	3
Asthenia	..	..	21	Impetigo	..	..	9
Rheumatismus chronicus	25			Intertrigo	..	..	2
Anasarca	..	..	2	Strophulus	..	..	2

FROM the beginning of March to the present time the wind has blown from the east, with almost unvarying regularity. Of course the whole season has been cold, and ungenial both to animal and vegetable life; there has been a considerable degree of indisposition prevalent, and vegetation is unusually late in its progress. During March and part of April, the weather was damp as well as cold; but the last six weeks have been dry, with the exception of a day or two in the middle of May. For a little time past, a pleasant warmth has prevailed during the greater portion of the day, but a chillness has generally succeeded in the evening, which has been particularly complained of by invalids.

The number of applicants to the Dispensary has been beyond the usual average, amounting to about 560; and the disorders of a large majority of these



were such as usually derive their origin from the action of cold. Catarrhal affections have been numerous, and of an acute nature, being attended in a great many instances with a considerable degree of fever, and confining the patients for a few days to their chambers. The cases of intermittent fever, which were not very severe, originated in London, the patients having all resided entirely in town for some years back. The acute diseases have been chiefly of an inflammatory nature; and the single cases of scarlatina and pertussis afford the only examples of contagious disease, which have claimed our attention. We are sorry to observe, however, that the weekly bills of mortality have announced a considerable increase of deaths by small-pox, during the last fortnight. During the preceding month the average weekly mortality from that disease was only nine: but within the last week thirty-one, and in the preceding twenty-eight persons are recorded as being cut off by small-pox.

The two cases of that hitherto inexplicable disease, the *purpura hæmorrhagica*, (in Dr. Willan's nomenclature) or hæmorrhœa petechialis, terminated fatally from the excessive loss of blood. In the one case, the petechiæ began to appear during a severe salivation, which had been accidentally induced by a few grains of mercury, given, as we were informed, in combination with opium, for the cure of rheumatism. Great debility ensued: and, after suffering a constant oozing of blood from the mouth and nose, frequently expectorating it, and passing it from the bowels, the patient died. In the second case, which occurred in a boy 13 years old, no cause could be assigned for the malady. He suddenly became weak and languid;



and, in the course of a day or two, his skin was observed to be spotted with dark purple or livid spots, about the size and form of the areola of an ordinary flea-bite: his appetite failed with his strength and spirits; the abdomen was tense and tumid, especially in the epigastrium; and he complained of some uneasiness in that region. About a week after the appearance of the petechiæ, some oozing of blood took place from the mouth and nose; on the following day a more severe hæmorrhage occurred; the bleeding from the nose and mouth became incessant; he brought up blood by vomiting and by coughing, and discharged it by stool: and after passing nearly two nights of unceasing hæmorrhage, he died. His gums were not in the least spongy. Although dissection brought to light a considerable morbid growth, it did not afford the means of explaining the disease. A large heart-shaped tumor, occupying the situation of the thymus gland, and firmly attached to the sternum, clavicle, pericardium, and every surrounding part, was found on opening the chest; its texture was firm and fleshy, with a nucleus or centre of a whitish colour, and cartilaginous hardness; and the whole weighed about half a pound. There were some spots, occasioned by effused blood, on the surface of the heart, and the stomach, which last was much distended with flatus. The liver, and all the other abdominal viscera appeared to be unusually sound. Medicine afforded him no relief: purgatives, cordial bitters, with sulphuric acid, ultimately given in great profusion, appeared to be equally inert. The boy, though delicate and of a sedentary disposition, had enjoyed a moderate share of regular health; nor had his respiration been observed



to be disturbed by ascending the stairs, or other active exertion, notwithstanding the diminution of the cavity of the thorax by the large morbid growth.

The diagnostic symptoms of *carditis* are very far from being determined among medical writers, scarcely two of whom agree in their description of the phenomena of the disease; and as the patient, in the instance mentioned in the foregoing list, recovered, that ocular demonstration, which would be satisfactory to the anatomist, cannot be adduced. Of the eight characteristic symptoms specified by Dr. Cullen\*, the *pyrexia* is perhaps the only one upon which all the writers on the subject are agreed, some having left one and some another out of the account; and of the three, which have been supposed, conjointly with the symptoms of pneumonia, to characterize inflammation of the heart, namely, irregular pulse, palpitation and syncope, each or all of them are admitted to be occasionally absent by our ablest pathologists†. The following symptoms, however, do not appear to be referable to any other disease. The patient, a married woman, about 36 years of age, after complaining for a day or two of languor, anxiety about the præcordia, and pain in the occiput, was attacked in the night with frequent fits of syncope. When visited the following day, she was sitting up in bed, leaning a little forwards, and complained of a distressing pain about the region of the heart; the countenance expressed

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\* Nosol. Method. Gen. XIII. *Carditis*. "Pyrexia; dolor in regione cordis; anxietas; spiritus difficilis; tussis; pulsus inequalis; palpitatio; syncope."

† See Baillie's Morbid Anatomy, pp. 16 and 42. 2d edit.—and Davis on Carditis.



much anxiety ; the breathing was short and oppressed ; an occasional dry cough teased her ; and she was altogether sleepless. The stomach rejected by vomiting every thing that she swallowed, almost immediately. The tongue was white and dry ; and the pulse frequent (about 130) and small, but regular. Twelve ounces of blood taken from the arm, and a cathartic of calomel, which was retained by the stomach, produced no decided alteration in the symptoms, which, however, were not worse on the following day. A repetition of the bleeding gave great relief for many hours, and a less severe return of the pain was removed by cupping ; after which, although the syncope returned occasionally for a day or two, she rapidly recovered. The excessive sickness, which at the first view suggested the notion of inflammation of the stomach, is not generally considered as a symptom of carditis ; but Dr. Darwin, whose acuteness of observation is unquestioned, concludes his definition of the disease with the words, "constant vomiting\*." On the day when the second bleeding was performed, the pulse was somewhat unequal in its beats, but it did not intermit.

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\* See Zoonomia, Part II. Class ii. Ord. i. Gen. 2. Spec. 7.



## REPORT XXIV.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1810.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.			No. of Cases.		
Synochus	..	40	Cystitis	..	1
Tertiana	..	1	Dysenteria	..	14
Ophthalmia	..	3	Cholera	..	3
———— post Rubeolam	..	2	Rheumatismus acutus	..	18
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	9	Arthritis rheumatica	..	6
———— parotidæa	..	1	Variola	..	3
Pleuritis	..	1	Rubeola	..	7
Peripneumonia	..	11	Scarlatina	..	7
———— post Rubeolam	..	7	Erysipelas Faciei	..	3
Catarrhus	..	33	Miliaria	..	1
Hepatitis	..	2	Apoplexia	..	1
Enteritis	..	1	Hydrocephalus acutus	..	1
Peritonitis	..	2	Febris Infantum	..	13
Hysteritis	..	1			

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	19	Icterus	..	1
Hemicrania intermittens	..	1	Enterodynia	..	18
Vertigo	..	2	Diarrhœa	..	19
Cynanche chronica	..	4	———— post Rubeolam	..	5
Bronchocele	..	1	Tænia	..	2
Epistaxis	..	1	Marasmus	..	7
Catarrhus chronicus	..	26	Hæmorrhoids	..	2
Asthma	..	4	Nephralgia	..	12
Hæmoptysis	..	11	Enuresis	..	1
Phthisis	..	16	Dysuria	..	3
Palpitatio	..	2	Hysteralgia	..	3
Dyspepsia	..	13	Leucorrhœa	..	19
Gastrodynia	..	14	Menorrhagia	..	5
Pyrosis	..	3	Amenorrhœa	..	7
Hæmatemesis	..	4	Dysmenorrhœa	..	1
Hepatalgia	..	2	Hysteria	..	2



No. of Cases.			No. of Cases.		
Epilepsia	..	4	Tympanites	..	1
Asthenia ..	..	30	Erythema	..	1
Rheumatismus chronicus	21		Roseola ..	..	2
Lumbago & Sciatica ..	5		Impetigo ..	..	9
Pleurodyne ..	2		Scabies ..	..	10
Paralysis & Hemiplegia	10		Urticaria	..	1
Melancholia ..	1		Porrigo ..	..	3
Hypochondriasis ..	1		Ecthyma	..	1
Anasarca ..	3		Scrofula	..	1
Ascites ..	3		Lichen ..	..	2
Hydrops tot. Corporis	2		Prurigo ..	..	3
———— post Scarlatinam	1		Psoriasis ..	..	3

THE whole of the summer has been cool, and, from the latter part of June to the end of the present month, moderate rains have been very frequent. This day the heat is, almost for the first time during the season, very considerable; the thermometer standing at 77°.

With the exception of continued fever, under its milder forms, few of the diseases, which usually occur during the summer season, have as yet been prevalent to any great extent. The small number of instances of cholera, which have appeared during the month of August, were not severe; and the other forms of disorder of the bowels have not greatly exceeded the average number at other seasons of the year. In several of the cases of continued fever, however, an affection of the bowels was very distressing and unmanageable, while the head remained free from disorder; and it appeared to be the principal source of irritation, by which the pungent heat of skin, the frequent pulse, thirst, and other febrile symptoms were prolonged, with little variation, to the middle or end of the third week; constituting the *febris gastrica*



of authors. (See Burserius, &c.) The stools were generally watery, of a dirty brown or greenish-brown colour, and somewhat offensive in their odour, and they occurred in the number of three, four, or five, during the twenty-four hours. Active purgatives, even when conjoined with opiates, appeared rather to augment than to mitigate the disorder of the bowels; nor did the neutral salts, or rhubarb, afford a more decided benefit; while, on the other hand, opiates or astringents alone were manifestly injurious; giving rise to parched tongue, increased heat, and a more frequent pulse, without correcting the condition of the alvine excretions. In one or two cases, small doses of mercurials, as of the *hydrargyrus cum creta*, appeared to be beneficial, when repeated three times a day. In some of these instances, this state of the bowels certainly did not ensue from a neglect of evacuation in the beginning of the fever: indeed a suspicion more than once suggested itself, that the moderate employment of calomel, according to Dr. Hamilton's plan (generally so successful), had even induced the derangement of the bowels.

The small-pox and measles have been prevalent to a considerable extent, and the sequelæ of the latter, as the preceding list evinces, have been severe and troublesome.

In both the cases of *tænia*, which occurred in middle-aged women, the large doses of the oil of turpentine were administered. In the first, it operated speedily as a purgative, without occasioning any sickness, or strangury, and expelled the worm: in the second, a worm of several feet in length had passed from the intestines, immediately before the patient



applied to the Dispensary, but considerable pain and uneasiness in the abdomen remained. She took an ounce and half of the oil of turpentine, which began to operate in the course of half an hour, and brought away four slimy stools, but without any worm: she has had no pain or uneasiness since that time. The remedy excited no pain or difficulty in passing the urine, and little thirst; but she was sick at each operation by stool, and felt considerable giddiness during the whole of the afternoon.

## REPORT XXV.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1810.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.			No. of Cases.		
Quotidiana	..	1	Herpes Zoster	..	2
Synochus	..	15	Erysipelas	..	4
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	12	Hepatitis	..	3
———— parotidæa	..	1	Febris Infantum	..	13
Odontalgia	..	1	Hydrocephalus	..	1
Catarrhus	..	70	Apoplexia	..	2
Pleuritis	..	3	Dysenteria	..	20
Peripneumonia	..	12	Peritonitis	..	1
Pertussis	..	2	Cholera	..	14
Scarlatina	..	12	Rheumatismus acutus	..	12
Rubeola	..	9	Arthritis rheumatica	..	4
Variola	..	3	Abortus	..	3

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	22	Asthma & Dyspnœa	..	4
Vertigo	..	2	Palpitatio	..	2
Catarrhus chronicus	..	30	Hæmoptysis & Phthisis	..	14



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Dyspepsia	..	..	18	Ischuria	..	..	2
Gastrodynia	..	..	19	Dysuria	..	..	3
Pyrosis	..	..	5	Hæmaturia	..	..	1
Vomitus	..	..	3	Diabetes	..	..	1
Hæmatemesis	..	..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	..	18
Scirrhus Pylori	..	..	1	Lumbago & Sciatica	..	..	11
Icterus	..	..	5	Tremor paralyticus	..	..	2
Enterodynia	..	..	7	Epilepsia	..	..	4
Peritonitis chronica	..	..	1	Hysteria	..	..	6
Diarrhœa	..	..	24	Chorea	..	..	1
Colica Pictonum	..	..	1	Asthenia	..	..	20
Hæmorrhagia intestinalis	..	..	1	Tympanites	..	..	2
Marasmus	..	..	11	Obesitas	..	..	1
Tænia	..	..	2	Hydrops	..	..	5
Ascarides	..	..	3	Lepra	..	..	1
Hæmorrhœis	..	..	1	Prurigo	..	..	4
Hysteralgia	..	..	2	Impetigo	..	..	6
Amenorrhœa	..	..	5	Pityriasis	..	..	1
Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	3	Psoriasis	..	..	3
Menorrhagia	..	..	2	Scabies	..	..	7
Leucorrhœa	..	..	8	Porrigō	..	..	2
Prolapsus Uteri	..	..	2	Aphthæ	..	..	2
Nephralgia	..	..	5				

THE weather, which had been dry and warm during the latter half of August, continued so, with little variation, until the middle of October; scarcely so much as a shower of rain having occurred during the whole of that period; nevertheless, the temperature never reached any high pitch, but was uniformly moderate and grateful. The latter part of October was more variable; the temperature being often low, and several wet days occurred. The month of November has been remarkably wet; heavy and long continued showers falling almost daily, with some severe gales of wind from the south-west, and often with a



gloomy and muggy atmosphere, or a moderate degree of fog. The last two days of the month have been frosty, with morning and evening fogs.

The exanthematous contagions have been epidemic to a considerable extent, especially the scarlet fever and measles; but they seem to be at present on the decline in our district. The cases under the head of rubeola were, with one exception, the sequelæ of the disease, consisting principally of a pulmonary affection, and in two or three instances of diarrhœa; the whole of them occurred in September and the first week in October; and no case of scarlatina has appeared at the Dispensary since the beginning of the present month. The last-mentioned disease spread rapidly through the younger branches of the family, wherever introduced, and often affected the adults with sore-throat only, as is most usual.

The number of cases of asthenia is commonly considerable during the autumnal months. It consists of a general depression of the strength and spirits, with various sensations of lowness, sinking, and fluttering about the præcordia, sometimes with pains in the stomach or head, back and limbs, with loss of appetite, and indisposition to sound sleep. It is found chiefly in women of a middle age, and feeble habit; and, in the various cases that come before us, is traced to various debilitating causes, the operation of which seems to be aided by the influence of close and warm weather, as we have before had occasion to remark\*. In some it is attributed to the previous occurrence of other diseases, especially acute ones; in others it has

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\* See the Report for the Summer 1807.



followed child-birth, and more frequently abortion;—in others again it is connected with leucorrhœa, or, in older females, with the constitutional derangement accompanying the cessation of the menstrual discharge;—and in others, with derangement of the alimentary canal, of which costiveness is a general symptom. The predisposition to this asthenic state seems to be occasioned by the imperfect nutriment, the unwholesome habitations, the fatigue and anxiety, and the too long suckling of children, to which many of the poor females, who bring up families in the alleys of London, must necessarily submit. In general the use of vegetable bitters, combined with some diffusible stimulant, (such as the æthers and ammonia), affords a prompt relief to the spirits and morbid sensations of these patients, which would be more permanent, if rest and nutriment were combined with medicine.

Hæmatemesis, or vomiting of blood, is, like the disorder just mentioned, almost exclusively observed in women; we do not, indeed, recollect to have seen it in a male subject, independent of a violent local cause. The women themselves are usually disposed to attribute it to a suppression or irregularity of the catamenia\*; but it occurs occasionally where that discharge is regular. If we consider the delicate texture of the stomach, the importance of its function, and its connection with life, we cannot wonder that a hæmorrhage from the vessels of its internal surface should have excited considerable alarm. Hoffmann

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\* Such an opinion, indeed, is as old as Hippocrates; who says, "*Mulier sanguinem evomenti, mensibus erumpentibus, solutio fit.*" Aphor, Sect, V, 32.



affirms, that "a vomiting of blood is of almost all hæmorrhages the most dangerous;" but he admits, at the same time, that, when it arises from plethora or suppressed evacuations, "we need not despair\*." Experience, however, teaches us that the ordinary form of hæmatemesis in females is generally a trivial disorder, and easily removed; especially since the use of refrigerants, astringents, and emmenagogues, has been superseded by the employment of laxatives, as suggested by Dr. Hamilton. In truth, we have found the administration of laxatives more uniformly successful in the case of hæmatemesis, than in any other disease, in which those medicines have been recommended by Dr. Hamilton. It yields readily in general, to any laxative,—to the neutral salts, to calomel, or to rhubarb; and with the moderate operation of these medicines, the concomitant symptoms of indisposition, which accompany hæmatemesis, also readily disappear; namely, the languor and debility; the nausea and oppression of the stomach, and other dyspeptic symptoms; and the appearance of the complexion and countenance improves.

The single case of lepra, which has been so inveterate as to cover the patient from head to foot, is in a young woman, about 26 years of age, who had previously suffered two or three similar attacks of the disease, from which she recovered in a few months. She has been confined to bed for four or five weeks, in consequence of the inability to move occasioned by the universal pain and stiffness of the skin, which is every day casting off and reproducing large thick

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\* See his *Medicina Rationalis Systematica*, Tom. II. Par. ii.



scales, under which it is red, stiff, and shining. On the face, the scales are much smaller, and there are interstices of sound skin, between the leprous patches; but even the edges of the eyelids are affected. Having taken the decoction of dulcamara for two or three weeks, with Plummer's pill, or the sulphur antimonii præcipitatum alone, the progress of the disease seems to be arrested, the scales are forming in smaller quantity, and the skin is becoming somewhat more supple. She had previously taken the arsenical solution without relief. In some places, especially about the joints, where the skin was chapped and a slight moisture issued, the application of the unguentum citrinum, considerably diluted, afforded relief.

The two cases of apoplexy terminated, as is usual, fatally. The head of one of the persons, a large plethoric man, addicted to drinking, was examined; and not only a great distension of the vessels of the brain, but a considerable extravasation of blood on the surface of one side, was found. The effects of a more gradual pressure on the brain were exemplified in a young woman, who had suffered an incessant headach, varying of course in degree, for a period of thirteen months. The pain affected principally the left side, from the ear to the side of the nose, but shooting frequently through the head. In the course of the year, she had suffered several fits, beginning with a faintness, which induced her to lie down, and going on to insensibility; sometimes accompanied with slight convulsive motions of the limbs, and a little frothing at the mouth; and leaving her somewhat uncollected in mind. Latterly the pain had affected her gums, and she had had two or three teeth



drawn, without relief; the cheek became swelled, tender, and acutely painful, with tenderness of the scalp of that side of the head, as in the rheumatic hemicrania. I saw her within a month previous to her death, when neither evacuations by cupping and blistering, nor anodynes and diaphoretics, with a gentle action upon the bowels, afforded any relief. Her person, however, continued rather embonpoint, and was in this state when she died, suddenly, in one of the fits. An oblong, irregular cyst, containing a very thick, dark-green *pus*, intermixed with a little ragged lymph, was found adhering to the anterior part of the middle lobe of the cerebrum, extending obliquely forwards and downwards, and pressing upon the fifth pair of nerves, as it passes over the ridge of the temporal bone. The whole of the surface of the middle lobe adhered firmly to the dura mater, and that membrane, considerably thickened, was attached to the cranium. There were nearly two ounces of lymph in the ventricles, but the right hemisphere of the brain appeared perfectly sound. The situation of the abscess, in respect to the fifth pair of nerves, explained the affection of the cheek and gums, which led me to anticipate some affection of the antrum.



## REPORT XXVI.

*From November 30, 1810, to February 28, 1811.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Tertiana	..	..	1	Catarrhus	..	..	124
Febris	..	..	16	Rheumatismus acutus	..	..	11
Ophthalmia	..	..	1	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	1
Pleuritis	..	..	1	Scarlatina anginosa	..	..	2
Peripneumonia	..	..	14	Herpes Zoster	..	..	1
— notha	..	..	1	Erysipelas Faciei	..	..	1
Pertussis	..	..	7	Epistaxis	..	..	2
Hepatitis	..	..	1	Hydrocephalus	..	..	2
Peritonitis	..	..	3	Febris Infantum	..	..	6
Dysenteria	..	..	11	Abortus	..	..	4

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cynanche chronica	..	..	3	Colica Pictonum	..	..	1
Cephalæa	..	..	23	Hepatalgia	..	..	2
Vertigo	..	..	1	Hæmorrhagia intestin.	..	..	2
Hemicrania	..	..	1	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	5
Amaurosis	..	..	1	Scirrhus intest. rect.	..	..	2
Asthma & Dyspnœa	..	..	3	Marasmus	..	..	8
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	67	Tænia	..	..	2
Hæmoptysis	..	..	11	Ascarides	..	..	2
Phthisis	..	..	16	Nephralgia	..	..	12
Palpitatio	..	..	3	Dysuria	..	..	3
Pleurodyne	..	..	5	Enuresis nocturna	..	..	1
Dyspepsia	..	..	15	Hysteralgia	..	..	4
Gastrodynia	..	..	20	Leucorrhœa	..	..	12
Pyrosis	..	..	3	Amenorrhœa	..	..	7
Hæmatemesis	..	..	1	Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	2
Vomitus	..	..	3	Menorrhagia	..	..	5
Icterus	..	..	2	Prolapsus Uteri	..	..	4
Enterodynia	..	..	5	Hysteria	..	..	3
Diarrhœa	..	..	15	Chorea	..	..	1
Constipatio	..	..	2	Epilepsia	..	..	3



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Hemiplegia	..	2	Anasarca	..	4
Paralysis Manûs	..	1	Ascites	..	1
Asthenia	..	18	Hydrops totius Corporis	..	6
Rheumatismus chronicus	26		Impetigo	..	3
Lumbago & Sciatica	..	2	Psoriasis	..	4
Melancholia	..	1	Porrigo	..	5
Scrofula	..	1	Scabies	..	8
Hydrothorax	..	1	Lepra	..	1

THE winter has been variable, but, on the whole, moderate in point of temperature. The month of December was exceedingly moist, some rain having fallen on a great majority of days. On the 27th, a frost set in, which continued during a fortnight with considerable severity, the thermometer frequently standing at 19° in the morning, and the degree of cold, as affecting the animal temperature, being considerably augmented on several days by a strong north-east wind. During the remainder of January the weather was damp and muggy, with occasional slight frost, and one heavy fall of snow in the night of the 30th, which totally disappeared on the following day. With the exception of the third week, in which the mornings and nights were frosty, February has been very mild and showery. The winds have been unusually high during the winter, and the fogs less frequent than is common.

The course of the weather has thus been, on the whole, very similar to that of the last winter, but somewhat less severe, and accompanied with a clearer atmosphere; and the list of diseases above stated corresponds very nearly with that which we gave for the same period last year; the number of instances of chronic cough and of peripneumonia notha being



in the present list somewhat less. The total number of medical patients has been 534, during the three months comprehended by the Report, of which 237 were pulmonary complaints, and a large proportion occurred since the beginning of January\*. Probably the unusual absence of fogs, especially during the frosty weather, may account for the smaller number of the two forms of pectoral disease just mentioned. The acute catarrhs, however, have been generally severe, accompanied with a considerable degree of general fever, and prostration of strength; but they have commonly been short in their duration, and the convalescence has been speedy, especially in the young and strong, many of whom have been thus attacked. The bowel complaints, which have been rather numerous, have not proved very severe or tedious in general. Only two cases of dysentery were accompanied by a discharge of blood. Contagious febrile diseases have been almost unknown in our district during the last three months; so that, although we have had occasion to see a good deal of indisposition, during this period, we have witnessed but a small proportion of mortality.

Under the head of *Febris* we have classed the few anomalous and slight cases of continued fever that have occurred. These have never shown any tendency to the typhoid form, and have not spread beyond the individuals in whom they originated. In some instances the bowels appear to have been the only seat of local irritation, the head remaining free from disorder, except a little pain in the forehead and tem-

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\* See the Report of last Winter.



ples; and the symptoms have disappeared in a few days, by the use of purgatives, diaphoretics, and abstinence. In others, the principal symptoms have been languor, lassitude, and total loss of appetite, or rather a loathing of food, with a quick pulse, dry tongue and skin, and loss of sleep, the patients not being altogether confined to bed, nor complaining of much actual suffering. In such cases, it has appeared that little active treatment can be pursued with advantage; the disease must be led, rather than driven. Both stimulants, on the one hand, and evacuations, on the other, appear rather to disturb, than to accelerate the progress to recovery, which time certainly brings about. The moderate use of diluent drinks, and of liquid vegetable nutriment, with the mildest saline laxatives and diaphoretics, absolute quietness of mind and body, and a medium temperature of the apartment, rather verging to the warm than the cold, appears to be the most useful treatment in these cases; at least after the fever is established, which is commonly the case when we are first called in.

Both the patients affected with tape-worm took the oil of turpentine, in the dose of an ounce and half; and in both it was followed by a discharge of a very considerable length of the worm. One of the patients had been relieved by the same remedy, at the Dispensary, in the month of November last, and had since that time remained tolerably free from uneasiness; yet she now passed a *tænia* of several feet in length, on repeating the turpentine, to which she was led in consequence of some joints of the worm having lately begun to pass from the anus while she was going



about. The thready head of the animal, however, has not yet appeared.

The palsy of the hand occurred in a compositor, employed in a printing-office, who had had three or four similar attacks before. This affection, in which the hand drops, as in the case of the palsy from lead, succeeding to colica pictonum, appears to arise from handling the types, and is not very uncommon in persons employed as compositors. It is supposed, however, to arise principally from handling the metallic types when *hot*; and is said chiefly to affect those who, after washing their types, handle them while drying before the fire. This attack was preceded by constipation and colic, with great depression of strength and spirits. The Bath waters afford the most effectual cure of these local palsies, as in the cases affecting painters, glass-polishers, &c.

The case of shingles (*herpes zoster*) was characterized by a broad belt of clusters of vesicular eruptions, which extended more than half round the waist, and was accompanied by slight feverishness, and a considerable deep-seated pain in the abdomen. As is usual, the disorder began and terminated its course in *fourteen* days, going through its changes of vesicle, pustule, and scab, with its accustomed regularity\*. Dr. Cullen very justly questions the propriety of his arrangement, when he places this disease among the species of *Erysipelas*†. It is very distinct both from that and every other eruptive disease, in the appear-

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\* See the history of this affection in the Report for July 1805.

† See his *Nosol. Method. Gen.* XXI. Sp. 2. *Not.*



ance, form, and duration of the eruption; inasmuch as it consists of minute, clustered *vesicles*, transparent in the first instance, and each cluster surrounded with a narrow red margin; these clusters become more or less confluent; the matter in the vesicles becomes, in two or three days, opaque, but not exactly a yellow pus; and then it dries into a little brown scab, which falls or is rubbed off about the fourteenth day. This eruptive complaint is not uncommon in London; since, from the commencement of these Reports, I have seen about twenty-three cases. But herpes is occasionally seen in other forms, besides this of the *zoster* or *zona* above described; that is, an eruption beginning with small *clustered vesicles*, upon a red and itching base, soon becoming opaque, or pustular, and terminating in fourteen days, occurs in various forms; and to such an eruption alone is the term *herpes* confined in the nomenclature of Dr. Willan. It is sometimes confined to a single patch or cluster (always disposed to assume the circular or oval figure), and sometimes several appear; if on the limbs, they spread longitudinally, and not round them, as on the trunk of the body. I have seen herpes, in several instances, on the prepuce; in which case the vesicles are very minute, five or six in number in each cluster, if there be more than one. In this instance, the progress very much resembles that of beginning chancre, as described by authors; and I once knew mercury employed, and escharotics applied under that impression. This *herpes præputialis*, if left to itself, that is, if no ointments or stimulants are applied, and the matter be simply absorbed by dry lint (when the little sores are exposed



by the rubbing off of the tops of the vesicles), invariably terminates in a fortnight; but the ulcerations may be much extended, both in size and duration, by active interference, although nothing, I believe, will shorten their natural period.

It is to be regretted that this word *herpes* has been so much misapplied and abused; so that, like *scurvy*, and some other terms, it is often used as synonymous with *cutaneous* eruption. The little ulcers, by which it is considered as characterized by many writers, are, in fact, the secondary appearances, after the vesicles have changed their form\*; and it is scarcely to be doubted, that these ulcerations have been often actually produced, and rendered inveterate, by the busy hand of art; when we find Turner and others "clipping off the heads" of the vesicles, for the sake of *preventing erosion*, and of applying *ung. diapompholygos*†, &c.; and from what we have seen in the use of the red oxide of mercury in one case of the præputial herpes. The vesicle often becomes opaque in two days; and mistakes have doubtless arisen from the late period at which medical men are applied to. I know of no writer who has mentioned this herpes of the prepuce, except one, in a number of the Med. and Phys. Journal, I believe, for May or June 1810, who has given a plate very ill representing its form. The author of an able essay on herpes, in the Second volume of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical

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\* Cullen. *loc. cit.* Gen. CXLVII. *Herpes*, defined "Phlyctænæ vel ulcuscula plurima, gregaria, serpentia, dysepulota."

† Turner on Diseases of the Skin, Chap. V. See also Russell, de Tabæ Glandulari, where a still harsher practice was employed.



Journal, p. 325, appears to have erred, in not sufficiently discriminating between papulæ, pustula, and vesicula.

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The *herpes præputialis*, noticed in this Report, has been more fully described in my Synopsis of Cutaneous Diseases. It is extremely important that its character should be known, as the little ulceration, which succeeds the small cluster of vesicles, may be, and is constantly, mistaken for chancres, the hard surrounding elevation of which is actually imparted to it by the application of escharotics. It will commonly heal in five or six days, without exhibiting any such appearance, if simple ablution with tepid milk and water, followed by the application of a little dry lint, be the only treatment to which it is subjected. This disease is obviously connected with an irritable condition of the urethra, and occurs at intervals of six or eight weeks in persons whose urethra is liable to such a condition: its returns are best prevented, therefore, by removing that condition by the occasional use of a bougie, and bathing the perinæum with tepid water.



## REPORT XXVII.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1811.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Synochus .. ..	22	Inflammatiō Pudendi ..	1
Febris Infantum ..	7	Varicella .. ..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	3	Rubeola .. ..	3
———— parotidæa ..	1	Scarlatina anginosa ..	2
Pleuritis .. ..	3	Herpes Zoster .. ..	1
Peripneumonia .. ..	13	Erysipelas .. ..	3
———— notha .. ..	2	Hydrocephalus .. ..	3
Pertussis .. ..	13	Dysenteria .. ..	13
Catarrhus .. ..	99	Abortus .. ..	2
Peritonitis .. ..	4	Rheumatismus .. ..	9
Hysteritis .. ..	2	Arthritis rheumatica ..	4

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Dysecoëa .. ..	1	Hepatalgia .. ..	4
Cephalæa .. ..	17	Marasmus .. ..	7
Morbus Cerebri organicus	1	Tabes mesenterica .. ..	2
Cynanche chronica .. ..	2	Tumor Abdominis .. ..	2
Ptyalismus .. ..	1	Hæmorrhagia intestin. ..	2
Catarrhus chronicus .. ..	41	Tænia .. ..	1
Asthma & Dyspnœa .. ..	3	Nephralgia .. ..	4
Hæmoptysis .. ..	11	Dysuria .. ..	3
Phthisis .. ..	16	Enuresis .. ..	2
Palpitatio .. ..	4	Hysteralgia .. ..	2
Dyspepsia .. ..	41	Amenorrhœa .. ..	3
Vertigo dyspeptica .. ..	2	Dysmenorrhœa .. ..	6
Gastrodynia .. ..	12	Menorrhagia .. ..	6
Vomitus .. ..	3	Leucorrhœa .. ..	13
Pyrosis .. ..	4	Gonorrhœa .. ..	2
Hæmatemesis .. ..	5	Blenorrhœa .. ..	1
Enterodynia .. ..	14	Hysteria .. ..	3
Diarrhœa .. ..	12	Epilepsia .. ..	2
Colica Pictonum .. ..	1	Chorea .. ..	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Melancholia .. ..	1		Anasarca post Scarlatinam	1	
Hypochondriasis .. ..	4		Ascites .. ..	1	
Paralysis .. ..	5		Aphthæ .. ..	1	
Tremor paralyticus .. ..	1		Erythema .. ..	3	
Tabes post Variolam .. ..	1		————— nodosum .. ..	1	
Cachexia syphiloidea .. ..	1		Impetigo .. ..	6	
Rachitis .. ..	3		Prurigo .. ..	6	
Scrofula .. ..	3		Porrigo .. ..	4	
Asthénia .. ..	24		Acne .. ..	1	
Rheumatismus chronicus	29		Lichen .. ..	2	
Lumbago & Sciatica .. ..	3		Scabies .. ..	4	
Pleurodyne .. ..	1		Psoriasis .. ..	4	
Hydrops tot. Corporis	3		Purpura hæmorrhagica	1	
Anasarca .. ..	3				

THE spring has been favourable to vegetation, which advanced earlier than for several years back. This probably arose from an unusually clear state of the atmosphere, which admitted of a constant direct influence of the sun, during the whole of the month of March, followed by a mild temperature during the greater part of April and May, with occasional heats, lasting for two or three days. The wind was from the east, however, during March, and frequently in the following months; whence the evening and night air was generally chill, especially in March, and was the more felt from the contrast with the morning sunshine, especially by those whom the latter had induced to discard their winter garments. March was uniformly dry; some mild rains occurred in April; and May has been rather showery throughout, with several smart thunder storms.

The frequent vicissitudes, and the general chilliness of the evenings, may be sufficient to account for the continuance of catarrhal affections, many of which



were of considerable severity, during a spring which has been, on the whole, mild. They continued to preserve the same character which had marked the catarrhs of the winter; namely, to exhibit a greater degree of feverishness and depression of strength, than was proportionate to the state of bronchial inflammation: but we have not observed any other approximation to the character of influenza.

The instances of mild continued fever have been rather numerous; but, as usual, presenting themselves under a variety of forms, never assuming a typhoid appearance, nor spreading from individual to individual, and generally not lasting above ten or eleven days, and terminating well. In a word, these fevers have been of the same nature as those mentioned in the last Report; except that a greater number of them have appeared to be more immediately connected with gastric derangement. We have seen none, in which any approach to delirium, or other symptom of affection of the head, occurred.

The whooping-cough has been unusually prevalent in our district, and in a few instances fatal, in consequence of the supervention of pneumonia and effusion, by which respiration is finally stopped, and a considerable lividity of countenance takes place several days before death. We believe that no instance of pneumonic inflammation is generally found so difficult of management, as that which supervenes upon whooping-cough; since it seldom takes place until the little patient is greatly reduced in flesh and strength, by the continued irritation of the disease for a considerable period, and when of course evacuations, sufficient to remove the inflammation, are not to be borne.



with safety. Of two children, carried off in this way, one was a delicate infant, and the other a child of three years old, who had already exhibited unequivocal marks of scrofula. Arsenic has been recommended for the cure of hooping-cough, and by no less authority than that of Dr. Ferriar: we should, therefore, hesitate in rejecting it upon a brief trial; but, in three cases, it appeared to have no obvious influence on the disease; while, under the use of digitalis with slight anodynes, the little patients seemed to improve. At the same time, it must be acknowledged, that their progress was so slow, as to excite much doubt, whether the amendment were the result of the operation of the medicine, or of the spontaneous movements of the system. In truth, my experience does not lead me to be very sanguine in my expectations of the powers of drugs over this disease: the milder cases will generally disappear spontaneously after a certain course; and the more severe ones do not, I think, readily yield to the same active treatment, which is ordinarily successful in simple pneumonia. There is room for much fallacy, and therefore necessity for much caution, in drawing inferences respecting the operation of medicine, in diseases of slow progress and considerable duration, in which no marked change speedily ensues, and where the natural tendency, in a large majority of cases, is to recovery. Hence there is perhaps no disease, for which so many *specifics* and infallible nostrums are promulgated with confidence, or so few actual remedies known, as for the complaint in question. I speak, however, under correction; since the irregular attendance of mothers with their children at a public Dispensary, where this disease



has chiefly occurred to my observation, scarcely affords a sufficient ground, perhaps, for decision.

A healthy girl, of nine years old, was brought to the Dispensary, affected with a copious discharge of a thick greenish-yellow matter from the vagina, which continued obstinately for some time. No violence was believed to have been used, nor any accidental circumstance to have happened, which could account for its occurrence. A few years ago another girl, rather under that age, was brought to the Dispensary under a similar condition; but in this instance it was ascertained, that some young man, probably influenced by that mischievous popular notion, that a gonorrhœa may be got rid of by communicating it to a female, who has never suffered the disease, had introduced what the child believed to be his finger into the vagina. There cannot probably be much doubt, that such a communication had taken place in the present instance: for it may be questioned, whether, in a ruddy child, with every appearance of sound health, and before the uterine system is evolved, any copious purulent discharge should occur from the vagina, and continue for a considerable time, except from the introduction of the gonorrhœal poison.

The case of chorea occurred in a *boy* of eleven years old, and affected principally the limbs of the right side, insomuch that he walked ill, and was unable to use his pen at school, and even to feed himself with the right hand. Having been on the whole disappointed in trusting to purgatives alone for the cure of this disease, I put him upon a course of powders, consisting of the oxyd of iron with rhubarb, in such quantity as to operate gently on the bowels every day; which



he has adopted with a gradual, but decided amendment from the time of his admission, the bowels being occasionally cleared by more active cathartics.

The term *cachexia syphiloidea* is employed by my much respected colleague, Mr. John Pearson, to denote a state of general bad habit, connected with many symptoms resembling in their nature and progress the secondary appearances of syphilis; particularly various blotches and ulcerations of the skin, affections of the throat, tumours, &c. with great debility and emaciation. The disease assumes a great variety of form, and appears to be most effectually treated by preparations of sarsaparilla, when that medicine is genuine, together with the warm salt bath, sea-bathing, and other circumstances that contribute to restore vigour to the habit. In addition to what Mr. Hunter and Mr. Abernethy have given to the public on this important subject, the result of Mr. Pearson's ample experience would be extremely valuable in the elucidation of this yet obscure form of disease.



## REPORT XXVIII.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1811.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Febris	..	..	16	Hepatitis	..	..	1
Tertianæ	..	..	2	Dysenteria	..	..	18
Febris Infantum remittens	..	..	9	Cholera	..	..	8
Phrenitis	..	..	2	Rheumatismus acutus	..	..	7
Epistaxis	..	..	1	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	3	Variola	..	..	2
Pleuritis	..	..	1	Erysipelas	..	..	3
Peripneumonia	..	..	5	Herpes Zoster	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	48	Abortus	..	..	2
Pertussis	..	..	6				

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo	..	..	5	Ascarides	..	..	5
Cephalæa	..	..	16	Lumbrici	..	..	1
Dyspnœa	..	..	1	Physconia	..	..	2
Cynanche chronica	..	..	3	Tympanites	..	..	1
Asthma	..	..	2	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	4
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	17	Nephralgia	..	..	11
Hæmoptysis	..	..	10	Dysuria	..	..	3
Phthisis	..	..	21	Hæmaturia	..	..	1
Dyspepsia	..	..	31	Gonorrhœa	..	..	1
Gastrodynia	..	..	27	Hysteralgia	..	..	1
Vomitus	..	..	5	Prolapsus Uteri	..	..	1
Hæmatemesis	..	..	2	Amenorrhœa	..	..	7
Hepatalgia	..	..	2	Leucorrhœa	..	..	23
Diarrhœa	..	..	15	Menorrhagia	..	..	11
Enterodynia	..	..	14	Hysteria	..	..	3
Pyrosis	..	..	1	Epilepsia	..	..	2
Icterus	..	..	1	Hypochondriasis	..	..	3
Tabes mesenterica	..	..	1	Melancholia	..	..	1
Marasmus	..	..	8	Asthénia	..	..	18
Colica Pictonum	..	..	3	Tremor paralyt.	..	..	3



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Paralysis	..	3	Porrigō Capillitii	..	9
Hemiplegia	..	6	Sycosis Menti	..	1
Chorea	..	2	Lupus	..	1
Rheumatismus chronicus	23		Urticaria chron.	..	2
Lumbago	..	4	Lichen	..	3
Pleurodyne	..	3	Scabies	..	13
Ascites	..	3	Impetigo	..	3
Anasarca	..	7	Prurigo	..	4
Hydrothorax	..	1	Eczema æstivum	..	1
Scrofula	..	3	Ecthyma	..	2
Strophulus	..	2	Purpura	..	4
Lepra	..	2	Aphthæ	..	4
Psoriasis	..	3			

THE temperature during the three summer months has been variable, but on the whole moderate. In the latter part of June, and in July, there were occasionally a few days of summer heat; but the whole of the month of August has been temperate, not to say cool, with frequent showers: in the early part of this month, indeed, there were a few days unusually chill for the season, the thermometer scarcely rising above the 50th or 52d degree. Several thunder-storms of considerable severity occurred during the preceding months.

From the early, but unsteady heats, alternating with coolness and humidity, it might be expected that a considerable degree of indisposition would prevail among those who are most liable to be influenced by the state of the weather; and especially that the various modifications of disease, connected with derangements in the biliary and alvine secretions, would be most predominant. Accordingly we have had occasion to prescribe for more than our average number of patients at the Dispensary, particularly during the



last two months; the total, exclusive of those under the care of the surgeon, amounting to five hundred and thirty-three: and of these a considerable proportion is referrible to gastric disorder, perhaps to the extent of one third; while the proportion of pulmonary complaints is greatly diminished, and was exceedingly small, until the chilliness and humidity of August set in. In addition to the direct effects of gastric derangement, viz. the cases of diarrhœa, cholera, and dysentery, the painful affections of the stomach and bowels, gastrodynia, and enterodynia, and the disturbed function of digestion, under the heads of dyspepsia, bilious vomiting, &c. we must refer to the same source many of the cases of headache, vertigo, and continued fever, and perhaps the majority of instances of asthenia, not to mention those of jaundice, hepatalgia, hypochondriasis, &c.

The cases of vertigo were obviously sympathetic, being unaccompanied by lethargic disposition, by flushing of the face, throbbing of the vessels, or other symptoms of local fulness, occurring often at intervals, and being obviously connected with constipation, loss of appetite, loaded tongue, flatulence, or other dyspeptic symptoms, and generally yielding in a few days to absorbents, aromatics, and laxatives. With the exception of a few instances of rheumatism of the scalp and muscles of the head, the cases of headache were perhaps all of gastric origin. The pain was most frequently seated in the forehead, over the orbits, or in the crown of the head, and sometimes in the occiput, of an obtuse kind, and unaccompanied by tenderness of the integuments, except occasionally at the crown, in cases of some standing. It was commonly accom-



panied by some of the dyspeptic symptoms, above alluded to, and yielded to the same plan of treatment. In one woman, in whom the sympathetic irritation had terminated, as may be frequently observed, in a degree of local congestion and increased vascular action, the vertigo was considerable, and was accompanied by an illusion of the sight; whence she fancied that she frequently saw people standing by her, who vanished, however, when she steadily directed her eyes towards them. She was perfectly aware that this was a mere illusion, and it gradually disappeared with the other symptoms.

Several of the cases of fever, though such as are usually termed continued, manifestly assumed somewhat of the remittent character, exhibiting a very material alleviation of the symptoms in the morning, and an exacerbation in the evening, which occasioned much restlessness in the night. In some of these, however, the head suffered no observable disturbance of function, except an inability of attention and mental exertion, while the acceleration of the pulse, the heat of the skin, the depression of the muscular powers, the total loss of appetite, continued from day to day, and confined the patient at first to a couch, and afterwards to his bed. In two instances, the fever showed a tendency to intermit about the end of the third week, a slight rigor preceding the exacerbation, for two or three periods, on the alternate days. There was no one indication, either in regard to the seat of the disease, or to any active remedy which might be resorted to with a prospect of abbreviating the febrile action, unless the alvine discharges were examined, which were always found in a very morbid condition;



and it was interesting to observe the progressive amelioration or increase of the symptoms, in an exact proportion with the changes of the *egesta*. In the House of Recovery, as well as in some other patients, I have lately had occasion to see several examples of this modification of fever. The principal method of cure, in such cases, consists in regulating the alvine discharge, not by active purgatives, after the manner of Dr. Hamilton, but by a continual gentle operation, especially by means of the mercurial laxatives, aided by combination with others, and their irritation being counteracted by anodynes. The synochus biliosa, in which the bilious secretion is perhaps more augmented in quantity, than materially altered in quality, differs altogether from the fever just alluded to. The head is, in that case, affected with great pain, probably through sympathy with the great irritation in the first passages; and, as in the case of cholera, when these passages have been effectually cleared, the general fever speedily subsides. The present season seems to have produced fewer instances than usual of this variety of fever.

The congeries of symptoms, included in the term Asthenia, which has been formerly described, partakes in some measure of the nature of the *febricula*, is always connected with a condition which the nosologist would refer to *dyspepsia*, and especially with certain characteristic sensations of sinking, fluttering, imbecility, &c. in the epigastrium and *left* hypochondrium. In one case, which we lately saw, there was a most acute pain in this region, which was even increased on pressure; but it was accompanied with extreme languor, almost amounting to syncope, cold



sweats, extreme sickness, &c. which excited alarm for the patient's life. But all these symptoms were speedily alleviated by medicines (which, from their small bulk were retained on the stomach,) containing the extract of poppy, with aromatic powder, and small doses of calomel, and aided by an anodyne and saline enema, which brought away a considerable quantity of clayey and offensive fæces. Etmüller wrote an essay to prove that these symptoms originate in that part of the arch of the *colon* which lies in the left hypochondrium, where, he says, the excrements often stagnate and much wind is pent up: and this circumstance appears, in addition to the disordered state of the stomach, to afford a probable explanation of some of the local symptoms attending the complaint. This *asthenia*, which is a disease of women, seems to be more allied to the hypochondriasis of men, than hysteria. The diffusible stimuli are requisite in the treatment of this disease, which does not bear purging; but a gentle stimulus upon the bowels, in the first instance, guarded against any considerable evacuation or irritation by the poppy, conium, or hyoscyamus, aids the operation of the general stimuli, and accelerates the cure.

The disease, which has been briefly noticed in this and one or two other Reports\*, under the appellation of *Asthenia* (a term borrowed from Sauvages), is the *Febricula* of Manningham†, who has most ac-

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\* See Reports XI. and XXV.

† See his Treatise on the Febricula, or Little Fever, commonly called the Nervous Hysterical Fever, the Fever on the Spirits, Vapours, &c. 1750.



curately described its symptoms in the following passage.

“The symptoms of the *Febricula*, or little low continued fever, are commonly these which follow; viz. little transient chillinesses of ten in a day; a giddiness or mist before the eyes; a listlessness, with great lassitude and weariness all over the body; frequent yawnings, with little flying pains; dizziness, inappetency, with dryness of the lips and tongue; sighings, with great and unaccountable anxiety; and sometimes the patient is a little delirious and forgetful by fits; finds an oppression and pain about the region of the heart and stomach; a difficulty in breathing by intervals, having the tongue generally white, but sometimes redder than ordinary; together with a heat in the tongue; a low, quick, unequal pulse; heat and drought, but moderate; pale urine, often and suddenly made; frequent nauseas and flushings; subject to faint on every the least motion or surprise; attended with cold clammy sweats by turns. These symptoms more or less usually accompany the *febricula*, and will last 30 or 40 days.”

This is, indeed, a most accurate picture of that varying congeries of *nervous* symptoms, which, after the example of Dr. Willan, I have designated by the term *Asthenia*. Those who have affirmed that the *Febricula* of Manningham was synonymous with the slow nervous fever of Huxham, cannot, I apprehend, have perused even the title-page of his book, and must have been misled by a name; he expressly notices, in that page of his treatise, its identity with *hysteria* and *vapours*. It does not, in fact, partake of the nature of fever, with which nothing but his devotion to



the humoral pathology could have induced the learned knight to class it; and his treatment of it, upon that hypothesis, by diaphoretics and blisters, must have been very ineffectual.

The quick, but feeble fluttering and unequal pulse, which he justly considers a pathognomonic symptom of the disease, is in fact truly indicative of the general *asthenic* condition of the moving powers, from which not only the languors, faintings, vertigo, low spirits, but also the congestions and local pains proceed: and that state of the tongue is indicative of no more than that moderate degree of disturbance of the digestive organs, which accompanies hypochondriasis in men.

This *asthenic* condition is produced by fatigue, long suckling, watching, and confinement in the close atmosphere of crowded apartments; and would speedily yield to rest, better nourishment, and residence in a purer air. A proper regulation of the chylopoetic organs by gentle laxatives and absorbents, with some volatile stimulant, ammonia, ætherial and resinous substances, must constitute the medical substitutes for such expedients.

I beg leave here to enter my protest against the practice of local and general evacuation, lately recommended upon vague hypothetical speculation by a contemporary writer\*; and which appears to me not only faulty in the hypothesis itself, but of a dangerous practical tendency. I am fully sensible of the mis-

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\* See Dr. Armstrong's Observations on Chronic Diseases, &c. lately published.



chief of an indiscriminate use of tonics and stimulants in chronic diseases, to the exclusion of purgatives and alteratives, and other means of correcting the alvine excretions (an exclusion which has brought the former remedies, as well as the practice in nervous diseases, into some discredit); but nothing appears to me more clear in theory, or more signally established by practical observation, than the origin of many of the symptoms above detailed; and even of the partial congestions in the brain, lungs, liver, &c. of which some of them may be symptomatic; from that feeble and languid action of the heart and arteries; and the effect of diffusible stimulants in relieving them. An oppression of the venous system, connected with enfeebled arterial action, may doubtless be relieved *pro tempore* by abstracting some of the load; but reason and experience demonstrate, that the true and permanent remedy consists in restoring the propulsive power *à tergo*.



## REPORT XXIX.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1811.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Febris .. ..	18	Scarlatina .. ..	2
Quotidiana .. ..	1	Rheumatismus .. ..	9
Febris remit. Infantum	9	Arthritis rheumatica ..	6
Cynanche .. ..	5	Apoplexia .. ..	1
Epistaxis .. ..	1	Hydrocephalus .. ..	1
Catarrhus .. ..	85	Erysipelas .. ..	2
Pleuritis .. ..	2	Herpes Zoster .. ..	1
Peripneumonia .. ..	18	Cholera .. ..	6
Enteritis .. ..	1	Dysenteria .. ..	9
Peritonitis .. ..	1	Abortus .. ..	4
Hepatitis .. ..	1	Pertussis .. ..	3
Variola .. ..	4		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	28	Hæmorrhagia intest. ..	2
Vertigo .. ..	4	Marasmus .. ..	3
Hemicrania rheumatica	2	Ascarides .. ..	4
Dyseceæ .. ..	1	Lumbricus .. ..	3
Dyspnœa & asthma ..	3	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	2
Catarrhus chronicus ..	30	Enuresis .. ..	1
Hæmoptysis .. ..	2	Hæmaturia .. ..	1
Phthisis .. ..	17	Dysuria .. ..	2
Dyspepsia .. ..	31	Leucorrhœa .. ..	9
Gastrodynia .. ..	17	Menorrhagia .. ..	12
Hæmatemesis .. ..	1	Amenorrhœa .. ..	6
Enterodynia .. ..	13	Hysteralgia .. ..	2
Pyrosis .. ..	5	Chlorosis .. ..	2
Colica .. ..	2	Nephralgia .. ..	6
— Pictorum .. ..	2	Convulsio ex Dentitione	1
Hepatalgia .. ..	4	Epilepsia .. ..	2
Icterus .. ..	1	Paralysis .. ..	10
Diarrhœa .. ..	19	Paraplegia .. ..	1



	<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Hysteria	..	..	2	Prurigo cum Phthiriasi			1
Palpitatio	..	..	2	Erythema papulatum ..			1
Asthenia	..	..	20	————— nodosum			1
Hectica Adolescentium			1	————— œdematodes			1
Anasarca	..	..	5	Impetigo .. ..			2
Ascites ..	..	..	2	Ecthyma .. ..			2
Rheumatismus chronicus			25	Porrigo .. ..			4
Lumbago & Sciatica	..		5	Purpura urticans	..		1
Lepra .. ..	..	..	1	Urticaria .. ..			3
Psoriasis .. ..	..	..	10	Herpes labialis .. ..			1
Scabies .. ..	..	..	6	Aphthæ .. ..			1
Prurigo .. ..	..	..	8				

THE autumnal months, even to the end of October, were extremely mild and warm; the air, in the middle of the latter month, was generally sultry and close, not only in the day, but through the night, although there were frequent rains. During the whole of September, the atmosphere was clear and dry, except on a few days succeeding the equinox, when some stormy weather occurred. The coincidence of this unusual warmth, with the appearance of a splendid comet during the same period, led many persons to conjecture, that it was the effect of the influence of the latter. In the last week in October, however, the weather became chill and boisterous; and during the whole of November it has continued wet and foggy, though mild, with occasional high winds. From August to the present time the wind has been unchangeably from the W., with the exception of four or five days in the middle of November, when it veered to the north.

During the first half of the period comprehended by this Report, a general good health seemed to pre-



vail; even the autumnal diseases, which might have been expected to occur during the warm weather, such as cholera and bilious fever, were not often seen; and all the contagions were nearly dormant. Of the eighteen cases of fever, at the head of the list, only one exhibited any approximation to the typhoid character: four or five of them might be classed under the denomination of *synochus biliosa*; but the remainder were slight, and of short duration, without any considerable derangement of the gastric organs, and without any affection of the head. In some of the uncleanly parts of Clerkenwell and St. Luke's, beyond the district of our Dispensary, several instances of typhus have occurred, and some of the patients were received into the House of Recovery under my superintendence, after part of their families had been carried off: but I have not learnt that it has existed in any other district of London. The rains and fogs of the last six weeks, however, have multiplied diseases, more especially those of the chest and of the bowels, to a considerable extent. One half of the acute catarrhs, and three-fourths of the peripneumonies and chronic catarrhs, have been admitted within the present month. Children have suffered most particularly from pneumonic affections of great severity, and in some instances fatally: for soon after the commencement of the pneumonic inflammation, the fever began to assume a low type; the tongue became loaded with a thick brown crust; the alvine excretions became muddy and offensive, increasing above the quantity of the ingesta; and all nourishment was refused; while, at the same time, the cough was extremely distressing, and the dyspnœa very great. The children of



persons in better circumstances have been equally affected by this form of disease with those who are brought to dispensaries. I have found them struggle through a very untoward course of symptoms, where leeches and blisters were applied to the chest, even so late as the fourth day, and the bowels daily unloaded of their morbid secretions by calomel, (aided, if necessary, by other laxatives,) until the fæcal discharges assumed a more natural hue and odour; while small doses of squills, ipecacuanha, or digitalis, were administered, at first in a saline draught, and afterwards, as the powers of the constitution began to fail, in a little camphor mixture, or some gently cordial vehicle, which seem to aid the expectoration, as well as to support the strength. Light nourishing liquids were at the same time given often, in small quantities. These cases, after following the course of an ordinary gastric or low nervous fever, did not generally terminate in less than a fortnight or three weeks. This form of disease is still prevalent; and, in several families, more than one child has been attacked with it.

In adults, diarrhœa has been prevalent, together with the symptoms of catarrh, in a great number of instances; so that, besides the number of cases set down under the head of diarrhœa, several of those under the head of catarrh were also affected with this disorder of the bowels. The cases of dysentery have not been very severe; in only four of them was there any discharge of blood with the evacuations. The instances, in which the headache was the principal subject of complaint, have been numerous, and the great majority of them were connected with constipated bowels,



and relieved by restoring the regular evacuation, and amending the state of the stomach. The rest were chiefly rheumatic affections of the integuments of the cranium, or of the muscles of the face and neck. The case of apoplexy was a metastasis, to use a common phrase, of acute rheumatism, and terminated, as such metastases but too commonly do, fatally.

The case of erythema papulatum\*, consisting of large diffuse patches, of an irregular figure, of a vivid red colour, but with a livid tint in the central parts, (at the period when I first saw it, the papulæ having then disappeared,) was attended with a considerable degree of fever, for six or seven days, with acute pains and great tenderness of the limbs: these symptoms gradually diminished, and the eruption desquamated in somewhat less than a fortnight. The colour was considerably more vivid than the representation in Dr. Willan's plate. The case of purpura urticans, which is well represented by Dr. Willan†, was accompanied with a most acute pain in the belly, with constipation and fever, which supervened after the eruption had continued about a week, in which state the patient was bled, with immediate relief to the pain and fever, and the bowels were soon afterwards unloaded: but this state was succeeded by several attacks of violent spasmodic pain in the stomach, which required powerful opiates for its relief. The patient very slowly recovered under the use of cordials and tonics. No cause could be assigned for either of these disorders.

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\* See Dr. Willan's Treatise on Cutan. Dis. Ord. III. Gen. 6. spec. 4. and Plate xxxi. Fig. 1.

† Ibid. Ord. III. Gen. 5. and Plate xxx. Fig. 1.



Three cases of a chronic cutaneous disease, attended with considerable constitutional derangement, deserve to be noticed, principally with a view to the diagnosis; for it bears a close resemblance to a syphilitic form of eruption in many respects. It consists of an extensive eruption of circular tubercles, or slightly elevated spots, with a flat smooth surface, of a reddish brown colour. These spots are all nearly of equal diameter, (except on the forehead, where they are smaller,) not much exceeding the superficies of a split pea, and so thickly set, upon the arms and face, as to leave but little interstice of healthy cuticle: on the chest and body they are less numerous and close. On all these parts, the surface of the spots remains smooth, showing a tendency to desquamate, but not actually forming scales; but, on the legs, where the spots are larger, and thinly dispersed, they assume the ordinary appearance of *psoriasis guttata*\*, i. e. of white scales adhering to a red surface. On the forehead, about the roots of the hair, they are smaller and more acuminate, like small *vari*. Connected with this eruption, there has been sore throat, with whitish specks on the tonsils; some degree of ophthalmia, especially of the tarsi; a considerable languor and depression of strength, and loss of appetite; with a quickened and feeble pulse, and much pain in the limbs. The disorder occurred in two women and a man, in none of whom had there been any primary syphilitic symptoms; neither was there any tendency to pustule or ulceration, as in syphilitic eruptions: yet,

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\* In this account I have referred the eruption to psoriasis: but on the upper parts of the body, where it is simply tubercular, it would seem to be more correctly arranged under *vittiligo*.



in one of the women, it appeared to originate from contagion; for it first appeared in her husband, in whom it was said to have remained six weeks, during the last fortnight of which it began to appear in her, and continued during the same period, as well as in the two other patients. In its decline, the spots gradually contract in size, leaving larger interstices, which assume a more natural colour, (for the skin itself is brownish in the height of the disease,) and the spots thus diminish until they entirely disappear. The patients recovered, without the use of any mercury, taking the mineral acids alone, or combined with bark or sarsaparilla; and, in the last instance, while using the sarsaparilla only.

On showing one of these cases to my much respected colleague, Mr. John Pearson, he pronounced them decidedly not syphilitic, notwithstanding the similarity of the appearances, especially on the forehead; and observed that he had found this species of eruption infectious by contact. He is disposed to refer it to scrofula.

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As the syphiloid disease, mentioned in the preceding Report, had not been described by any medical writer, I presented an account of it, together with a drawing, to the Medical and Chirurgical Society, and both were published in the 5th volume of their Transactions.



## REPORT XXX.

*From November 30, 1811, to February 29, 1812.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Febris	..	..	18	Cholera	..	..	2
— post Partum	..	..	1	Rubeola	..	..	2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	1	Scarlatina	..	..	1
———— trachealis	..	..	1	Roseola	..	..	2
Catarrhus	..	..	92	Erysipelas	..	..	2
Pleuritis	..	..	2	Febris Infantum	..	..	9
Peripneumonia	..	..	15	Hydrocephalus	..	..	2
———— notha	..	..	1	Apoplexia	..	..	1
Pertussis	..	..	8	Rheumatismus acutus			7
Peritonitis	..	..	2	Arthritis rheumatica	..	..	4
Dysenteria	..	..	18	Abortus	..	..	2

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	18	Tænia .. ..	1
Vertigo .. ..	5	Lumbricus .. ..	1
Ophthalmia Tarsi ..	1	Tumor Abdominis ..	1
Cynanche chron. ..	4	Marasmus .. ..	4
Ptyalismus .. ..	1	Nephralgia .. ..	2
Catarrhus chronicus ..	70	Hysteralgia .. ..	3
Hæmoptysis .. ..	11	Menorrhagia .. ..	8
Phthisis .. ..	23	Leucorrhœa .. ..	6
Asthma .. ..	3	Amenorrhœa .. ..	6
Dyspnœa organica ..	1	Hæmorrhagia Uteri ..	2
Palpitatio .. ..	1	Enuresis .. ..	1
Dyspepsia .. ..	20	Asthenia .. ..	12
Gastrodynia .. ..	13	Chlorosis .. ..	1
Pyrosis .. ..	3	Chorea .. ..	1
Hæmatemesis .. ..	1	Timor Hydrophobiæ ..	1
Icterus .. ..	3	— Insania .. ..	1
Hepatalgia .. ..	4	Paralysis .. ..	3
Diarrhœa .. ..	9	Hysteria .. ..	4
Enterodynia .. ..	11	Rheumatismus chronicus	17



No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Hemicrania rheumat.	1			Lichen .. ..	2		
Pleurodyne .. ..	1			Prurigo .. ..	4		
Lumbago .. ..	1			Psoriasis .. ..	4		
Phlegmatia dolens ..	2			Erythema tuberosum ..	1		
Anasarca .. ..	1			Urticaria .. ..	1		
Ascites .. ..	2			Herpes .. ..	1		
Hydrothorax .. ..	2			Rupia .. ..	1		
Hydrops tot. Corporis	3			Impetigo .. ..	1		
———— Ovarii ..	1			Porrigo .. ..	10		
Scrofula .. ..	4			Scabies .. ..	14		

THE winter has been, on the whole, mild, but variable. During the first three weeks of December, the thermometer was sometimes above  $50^{\circ}$ , and seldom below  $40^{\circ}$ , with the wind varying between NW. and SW. and frequent light rains. At Christmas there was a fall of snow, which lay two days, and it continued frosty for a week. The month of January was generally cloudy and foggy: some snow fell on the 4th and 5th, and a heavy fall occurred on the 7th.

On the 10th, so dense a fog hung over the metropolis the greater part of the day, that, even in the open streets and squares, it was necessary to use candles. Some clear mild days occurred about the middle of this month, which were followed by a few days of slight frost. In February the rains have been frequent, and sometimes very heavy, and accompanied with gales of wind from the SW.

The list of diseases affords very little occasion for remark. During the whole of the three months, the number of catarrhal affections has been considerable, and nearly uniform; but no other tribe of diseases, on which the season of the year had any influence, has presented itself. There has been no epidemic;



the contagions appear to have been nearly dormant: and typhoid fevers have been equally rare. The febrile diseases, included under the first article in the list, have been moderate and short in their duration, and have terminated well; the sensorium having seldom been observed to be affected, nor the heat of the skin to be much augmented. A brief administration of diaphoretics and purgatives, with an antiphlogistic diet, has appeared to comprise all the requisite treatment.

The two cases set down under the head of Roseola were febrile diseases, and one of them was of considerable severity and duration. In both these instances the rash appeared on the second day of fever, and continued beyond the ninth day, the fever then declining with it. In the more severe case, the rash bore a considerable resemblance to that of rubeola, consisting of numerous small slightly elevated spots, of a pale red colour, not acuminate, covering the face, extremities, and trunk; but, although here and there confluent, not forming into crescents, like the measles, nor approaching to the raspberry hue. The patient complained during the whole period of great general distress, the skin was exceedingly hot, although the perspirations were considerable, and there was even a tendency to delirium. On the 9th day the eruption began to disappear, and the fever to diminish; but she was left in a state of great debility and languor, and recovered slowly. Purgatives, diaphoretics, and acids were principally employed; but it is probable that a cooler bed and apartment, than the parents of the girl chose to maintain, would have materially alleviated the complaint. The second patient,



a younger girl, only eleven years of age, exhibited on the second day of a moderate fever, accompanied by sickness, a diffuse rose-red rash on the legs, of an erythematous form, slightly elevated, but of an uneven surface, the most elevated parts being reddest: on the fourth and fifth days (the fever with slight headache continuing,) a similar rash appeared on the arms; and on the sixth day, when the eruption on the legs began to fade, a large circular patch, of the same bright red rash, showed itself upon each cheek. These patches were extremely vivid when the patient was first seen on the seventh day, at which time the eruption on the arms was less bright, and that on the legs was much faded, the elevated parts only remaining red, and giving a mottled appearance to the skin. Some remains of the rash continued on the face on the eleventh day, when she visited the Dispensary, free from fever, and a slight roughness, from imperfect desquamation, was found on the arms. She had taken some laxative before she applied to the charity, and was treated with *infusum rosæ* and *magnesiæ sulphas*, followed by the decoction of cinchona and sulphuric acid.

These febrile rashes, of which there is a considerable variety\*, are not often either dangerous or severe, and chiefly deserve to be noticed with a view to the diagnosis from the contagious eruptive fevers, scarla-

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\* Neither of these cases accorded accurately with the species of *roseola* described by Dr. Willan as having most frequently occurred to his observation. But it were not easy to follow these rashes through all their varieties. They agreed with his general definition: "a rose-coloured efflorescence, variously figured, without wheals or papulæ, and not contagious."—Ord. III. Genus VI.



tina and measles. I lately attended a case resembling the former of these in appearance, although not in the severity of the concomitant fever, which excited a great alarm in the family, from the belief that it was scarlet-fever; a supposition which was strengthened by the occurrence of a slight sore throat. But a careful attention to the form, distribution, and progress of the eruption, as well as to the concomitant circumstances, will generally enable an observer accustomed to analyse those appearances, to decide promptly as to their difference from the contagious fevers just mentioned. The causes of them are by no means easily traced: in the latter of the two cases above described, the disorder was supposed to have been occasioned by having been excessively heated, by working at a mangle, a week before the symptoms appeared.

The case entered under the title of timor hydrophobiæ occurred in an elderly woman, who had been bitten in the hand by a dog, which she was apprehensive was rabid. She exhibited a most extraordinary degree of mental agitation and much irritability both of body and mind, which we endeavoured to pacify by the pretence of prescribing a certain preventive; but without effect. She returned to the Dispensary, however, in the course of three days, perfectly free from inquietude, in consequence of the wound having already healed, which, she conceived, was a proof that no poison had been inserted with the dog's tooth.



REPORT XXXI.

*From February 29 to May 31, 1812.*

ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Febris .. ..	17	Scarlatina anginosa ..	2
Febres intermittentes ..	4	Erysipelas .. ..	1
Febris Infantum .. ..	6	Herpes .. ..	2
Cynanche .. ..	8	Hépatitis .. ..	2
Pleuritis .. ..	1	Dysenteria .. ..	14
Peripneumonia .. ..	13	Arthritis rheumatica ..	9
Pertussis .. ..	10	Rheumatismus .. ..	8
Catarrhus .. ..	116	Apoplexia .. ..	1
Variola conferta .. ..	1	Epistaxis .. ..	1
Varicella .. ..	2	Ophthalmia .. ..	1
Rubeola .. ..	6		

CHRONIC DISEASES.

Dysecœa .. ..	1	Nephralgia .. ..	7
Cephalœa .. ..	12	Hæmaturia .. ..	1
Vertigo .. ..	3	Enuresis .. ..	1
Dyspepsia .. ..	23	Hysteralgia .. ..	1
Gastrodynia .. ..	14	Prolapsus Uteri .. ..	1
Pyrosis .. ..	4	Menorrhagia .. ..	12
Icterus .. ..	7	Leucorrhœa .. ..	9
Morbi Hepatis .. ..	5	Amenorrhœa .. ..	7
Enterodynia .. ..	10	Gonorrhœa .. ..	3
Diarrhœa .. ..	10	Ascites .. ..	1
Marasmus .. ..	11	Hydrothorax .. ..	1
Tympanites .. ..	1	Anasarca .. ..	5
Tænia .. ..	1	Hydrops tot. Corporis ..	8
Colica saturnina .. ..	1	Phlegmatia dolens .. ..	1
Hæmorrhoids .. ..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus	25
Catarrhus chronicus ..	38	Pleurodyne .. ..	1
Asthma & Dyspnœa .. ..	6	Nodositas .. ..	1
Hæmoptysis .. ..	15	Lumbago .. ..	10
Phthisis .. ..	24	Insania .. ..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Asthénia .. ..	20.		Prurigo .. ..	2	
Tremor ab Hydrargyro ..	2		Psoriasis .. ..	4	
Paralysis saturnina ..	3		Lepra .. ..	1	
Lethargus .. ..	1		Pityriasis .. ..	1	
Hemiplegia .. ..	3		Urticaria .. ..	2	
Epilepsia .. ..	3		Erythema .. ..	2	
Hypochondriasis .. ..	2		Intertrigo .. ..	1	
Hysteria .. ..	6		Roseola .. ..	1	
Palpitatio organica post	}	1	Aphthæ .. ..	1	
Rheum .. ..			Impetigo .. ..	2	
Hectica .. ..	2		Ecthyma .. ..	1	
Tabes Nutricum .. ..	2		Scabies .. ..	11	
Scrofula .. ..	4		Porrigo .. ..	15	
Cæthexia syphiloidea ..	2		Tubera .. ..	4	
Rachitis .. ..	1		Verrucæ .. ..	1	
Phthiriasis .. ..	1				

UNTIL near the middle of May the temperature of the atmosphere was constantly chilly, and the wind with little variation from the east and north-east; during the month of March the operation of the cold was rendered more active, as an occasional cause of disease, by almost daily rains; while, in April, the penetrating chill of the easterly wind was unremitting, although the greater part of the month was dry. In the second week in May, when the wind changed, vegetation was but little advanced; but the rapid burst of foliage and blossom, which ensued, has been supported by a succession of rains, together with much sun-shine and warmth. So that although the productions of spring are late, they promise to be abundant. On the 27th inst. the thermometer was above 70°.

The unremitting cold of March and April, and the humidity of the former, will serve to account for the unusual number of acute catarrhal complaints, which



have claimed the assistance of the charity. The cases of hooping-cough were also aggravated by the same causes, as well as the cases of incipient phthisis, and hæmoptysis. If we take away, indeed, the diseases which were produced or augmented by the influence of cold, the list will present only the usual affections, which the ordinary occupations and habits of life induce among the lower classes of the people. There has been no epidemic or contagious disease in any district within the cognisance of the Dispensary, until the middle of the present month, when the measles have appeared, and seem likely to spread freely, in the neighbourhood of Fetter-Lane; and the scarlet-fever has shown itself in one or two families, and the chicken-pox in another. The latter has occurred in several families, in the upper class of society, in all of which it was traced to schools, where it had affected several others.

Little has occurred that is worthy of particular remark, in the progress of the diseases above enumerated, except a singular extension of the inflammation of the throat, in a case of scarlatina, to the internal membrane of the trachea, producing a true *croup*. It may possibly be doubted, whether the croup did not actually supervene, incidentally, at the time when the scarlatina was present; but, as it occurred just when the angina was at its acme, and the eruption disappearing, it seems more probable that it was a mere extension of the original inflammation. The patient, however, coughed up a cylindrical tube of coagulated lymph, of nearly four inches in length; but from this she experienced only temporary relief, and died two days afterwards.



Two marked examples of the effects of the poison of mercury on the constitution occurred about the same time, the one, however, considerably more severe than the other. Both these patients were employed in silvering mirrors; and, in applying the amalgam to the concave surface of convex mirrors, had been under the necessity of retaining the hand immersed in mercury for a long time, daily. After being engaged a few weeks in this employment, they were altogether disabled from work by the paralytic tremor and debility which ensued. The one, who was most severely affected, had quitted his work about three weeks before I saw him, at which time he had suffered a moderate degree of salivation, which had now disappeared. The principal affection under which he now laboured, was not, as has been sometimes described in these cases, a constant tremor of the limb, and see-saw of the head, such as occur in old paralytic persons, but a sort of rapid convulsive agitation of the limbs, (whenever the act of volition was exerted upon the muscles,) which moved the extremities quickly in all directions, except that which the will prompted. Thus he could sit on his chair, still and nearly unmoved; but the moment he got up, and attempted to walk, his legs began to dance, as it were, in spite of himself, and performed very rapid and irregular motions, with so much violence, as to compel him to drop on his chair again, or to throw him down. Somewhat similar motions were performed by his arms, if he attempted to use them, so that he was unable to carry any thing to his mouth, and the smallest quantity of liquid was immediately dashed out of any vessel from which he made an attempt to drink. He was under the neces-



sity, therefore, of being fed like a child. His articulation was also rendered somewhat indistinct. These spasmodic tremors, however, were greatly increased by any circumstance that agitated his mind, or occasioned any anxiety. His bowels were constipated, and he complained of much pain in his limbs and loins, which, together with the muscular agitations, rendered his sleep very imperfect; he frequently awoke, starting and frightened; and was troubled with incessant unpleasant dreams. The appetite was good, and the pulse apparently natural, although it was at first difficult to ascertain its beats, in consequence of the tremor of the tendons, which came on when his attention was directed to his arm, for the purpose of feeling the artery. He complained much of a general sense of great debility, and of being startled and flurried by slight causes.

Many instances of this state of body, induced by an impregnation of the system with mercury, in various artisans, but especially in water-gilders, as they are called, and in those who are occupied in the mines\* which produce mercury, have been recorded; and they are familiarly known to practitioners in large towns: but it does not appear, that the multiplied experience of medical men has yet led to the

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\* An account of the effect of the mercury on the labourers in the mines of Friuli, in the Venetian states, was given in the Philos. Trans. for April 1665. It is there said, that "all of them in time (some sooner some later) become *paralytic*, and die *hectic*." But as a proof that it was the spasmodic agitation of the limbs, above described, and not *paralysis*, like that from the poison of lead, it may be mentioned, that the writer saw a man, "so paralytic, that he could not with both hands carry a glass, half full of wine, to his mouth without spilling it, though he loved it too well to throw it away." p. 24.



discovery of any effectual means of expediting the expulsion of the poison from the body, much less of an antidote to its operation. It has been suggested that sulphur diminishes the activity of mercury; and some practitioners have thought that substance actually remedial in cases of this sort, when followed by tonics\*. De Hean, who has related a number of cases of the disease, ascribes great efficacy to electricity, even where it had advanced to a degree of severity much beyond that of the instances here alluded to†. But it seems very questionable, from the great variety in the length of time in which these and other remedies are reported to have effected the cures, whether time alone was not the physician. Mr. Pearson has frequently stated to me his conviction (and his experience has been most ample), that a free exposure to the open air, during a dry state of the atmosphere, whether hot or cold, is, on the whole, the most effectual mode of depurating the habit from a mercurial impregnation. In the more severe case, just described, the sulphur was given freely, combined with salts, afterwards with bark; and subsequently the bark, mineral acids, and chalybeates in two or three forms, were prescribed: in the milder case, chalybeates only were given; but no very speedy relief or alteration

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\* Dr. Lettsom says, "I have generally found the use of sulphur sufficient to remove it, with the addition of bark to strengthen the system." *Med. Memoirs of the Gen. Dispensary*, p. 327.

† See his *Ratio Medendi*, Part III. where he describes a patient as affected "*horrendo omnium artuum tremore*," which increased to such a degree, "*ut nihil laboris ultra perficere, ut nec comedere bibereve solus, nec loquens amplius intelligi potuerit. Nutriendus, vestiendus, et infantis iuxta, alvum urinamque positurus, adjuvandus erat.*"



was obtained. The latter thought himself better, as soon as he began to take the steel; but the former very gradually improved, and at the end of two months remains affected with a slight degree of the disease, which becomes considerable whenever any thing occurs to produce anxiety. He found himself most sensibly relieved, in respect to his general feelings, by the sulphur and salts, which acted as laxatives.

## REPORT XXXII.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1812.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Tertiana	..	..	1	Varicella	..	..	2
Febris	..	..	20	Rubeolæ & earum Sequelæ	16		
Febris Infantum remit.	11			Scarlatina	..	..	1
Febris puerperalis	..	1		Erysipelas	..	..	1
Apoplexia	..	..	1	Herpes proserpens	..	..	1
Odontalgia	..	..	1	Cholera	..	..	2
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	4		Dysenteria	..	..	15
———— parotidæa	..	4		Vomitus bil.	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	23	Rheumatismus acutus	7		
Pneumonia	..	..	9	Arthritis rheumatica	..	1	
Pertussis	..	..	3	Abortus	..	..	2
Variola	..	..	10				

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	20	Hæmoptysis	..	..	18
Vertigo	..	..	8	Phthisis	..	..	29
Dysecœa	..	..	1	Dysphagia	..	..	2
Catarrhus chronicus	..	19		Ptyalismus	..	..	1
Asthma & Dyspnœa	..	6		Hæmatemesis	..	..	3



	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Pyrosis .. ..	2	Paraplegia .. ..	1
Gastrodynia .. ..	33	Lumbago & Sciatica ..	7
Dyspepsia .. ..	25	Rheumatismus chronicus	33
Hypochondriasis ..	2	Hydrothorax .. ..	1
Hepatalgia .. ..	9	Ascites .. ..	2
Icterus .. ..	4	Anasarca .. ..	5
Hepatitis chronica ..	1	Hydrops tot. Corporis	2
Enterodynia .. ..	11	Mollities Ossium ..	1
Colica Pictonum ..	3	Hectica Adolescentum	1
Prolapsus Ani .. ..	2	Scrofula .. ..	4
Hæmorrhoids .. ..	4	Lichen .. ..	2
Diarrhœa .. ..	19	Prurigo .. ..	6
Ascarides .. ..	1	Lepra .. ..	4
Marasmus .. ..	11	Psoriasis .. ..	3
Tabes dorsalis .. ..	1	Erythema .. ..	3
Nephralgia .. ..	12	Urticaria .. ..	5
Hæmaturia .. ..	1	Roseola .. ..	2
Enuresis .. ..	3	Intertrigo .. ..	2
Amenorrhœa .. ..	4	Impetigo .. ..	1
Dysmenorrhœa .. ..	1	Porrigo .. ..	16
Menorrhagia .. ..	16	Ecthyma .. ..	1
Leucorrhœa .. ..	25	Scabies .. ..	8
Hysteralgia .. ..	1	Sycosis .. ..	1
Blenorrhœa .. ..	1	Eczema .. ..	2
Asthenia .. ..	36	Rupia .. ..	1
Hysteria .. ..	6	Aphthæ .. ..	3
Epilepsia .. ..	4	Acne .. ..	1
Palpitatio .. ..	2	Lupus .. ..	1
Convulsio .. ..	1	Molluscum .. ..	1
Tremor ex Hydrargyro	2	Tubera syphiloidea ..	2
Chorea .. ..	2	Phthiriasis .. ..	1
Fatuitas .. ..	1	Ulcera Mammillarum ..	1
Paralysis .. ..	6		

THE whole of the summer months has been cool, with the exception of a few days in June, and the second week of July. At times, indeed, even in the month of August, the temperature has been actually



cold, especially in the mornings and evenings. The atmosphere has been almost constantly cloudy, so that, for many days together, the sun was never visible; and hazy weather, with light and drizzling rains, has been unusually frequent for the season. The harvest, and the productions of summer generally, have been considered as later by a fortnight than in ordinary seasons.

From this cool state of the weather, the occurrence of a smaller proportion than is usual of bilious diseases, and a larger proportion of catarrhal and rheumatic affections might have been anticipated. The catarrhal complaints, however, have been comparatively rare; although rheumatism, in its various modifications, has been frequent, and hæmoptysis and pulmonary consumption have appeared in more than their usual proportion; and, though cholera has only been observed in two instances; yet other complaints of the alimentary canal, such as diarrhœa, dysentery, enterodynia, gastrodynia, hepatalgia, dyspepsia, and that general class of nervous complaints, under the head of Asthenia, which is connected with gastric derangement, have been unusually numerous. Perhaps this circumstance is attributable to the daily vicissitudes, which the sharp north and east winds, that have commonly prevailed, produced in the evenings, though preceded only by moderate warmth during the day. To the same cause, probably, is to be ascribed the great number of those cutaneous eruptions, which the summer usually produces, when the body is chilled, after being heated by exercise, carried to a state of fatigue and perspiration; all the cases of erythema,



roseola, lichen, urticaria, eczema, herpes, and psoriasis, occurred in and after the second week of July.

The contagious exanthemata have prevailed to a considerable extent this summer. In the month of June the measles became very general among children and young persons; but, as is usual in mild weather, all the cases that fell under our notice, with one exception, went through their course without any very urgent symptoms. In the case excepted, the prostration of strength at the close of the eruption was considerable, and the fading efflorescence became intermixed with a crop of petechiæ. As there was apparently no local congestion, however, the decoction of cinchona, with sulphuric acid, and a little wine, was administered, and the child speedily recovered. In general, a spontaneous diarrhœa occurred, sometimes on the second day of the eruption, and sometimes at the period of its decline, which contributed, as is usual\*, to ameliorate the severity of the febrile symptoms: where it did not appear spontaneously, a laxative of calomel and rhubarb seemed to alleviate the severity of the fever. In some cases, however, notwithstanding the disease had gone through its course in this moderate way, some severe symptoms of local congestion occurred on the decline of the rash, or even later during the convalescence of the patients. A severe ear-ache recurred twice, in one instance, after the rash and fever had altogether disappeared, and was removed by leeches. The lungs suffered from a similar determination of blood in other instances; and,

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\* See Dr. Willan's Treatise on Cutaneous Diseases, Order III. p. 255.



where active remedies were omitted to be used, a cough, with expectoration, remained troublesome for a considerable time; but it readily yielded to the operation of leeches and blisters in the commencement of the attack. In one or two cases, the diarrhœa, instead of a temporary and salutary discharge, became chronic, and was attended with a febricula, parched lips, a circumscribed flush on the cheeks, shrinking of the features, a dry skin, and much debility. Slight alteratives, especially the hydrargyrus cum creta, with antimonials, and light nourishment, appeared to relieve this affection in a short time.

The chicken-pox was also prevalent at the same time, but from its mildness it seldom becomes an object of attention at public institutions, except for the purpose of determining its nature. It occurred in several families of respectability in the neighbourhood of Russell Square, but without any remarkable symptom; except that, in one child, on the evening preceding the appearance of the vesicles, an universal red rash covered the skin, accompanied with extreme heat and tingling, but disappeared before morning, when the varicella came out.

The small-pox, which appeared here and there within the district of the Dispensary, in the month of June, has unfortunately been prevalent to a great extent, perhaps universally throughout the metropolis, in the two succeeding months, and continues to swell the weekly bills of mortality. It is melancholy to reflect on the immense proportion of the children of the lower classes that are exposed to the infection of this pestilence, in consequence of the weak prejudices of the parents against the security, or the salutary nature,



of vaccination. The influence of these prejudices, we have been sorry to observe, has, in some instances, extended to those who had obtained the security of vaccination for their elder children; and in spite of the living evidence daily before their eyes, had produced, in some a careless state of doubt or indifference, in others a total want of confidence in it, so that their younger infants were now labouring under small-pox. All the cases in our list recovered; but we heard of many instances of fatality; and some of the recent bills of mortality have exhibited *sixty* deaths by small-pox in the week! Can the caricaturists, and pamphleteers, and cow-pox chroniclers, who are accessory to the spreading of this murderous contagion, still complacently urge their *humane* plea, that the *small-pox is a merciful provision of Providence for the poor man*, by diminishing the *burthen of his family*\*!

In explanation of one or two terms, in the foregoing list, it may be observed, that the appellation of Rupia was not mentioned in the enumeration of genera in Dr. Willan's classification, as he had included the eruption under the pustular genus Ecthyma; but as it is vesicular in the commencement, is not surrounded by the red elevated base, and is covered with a thin loose scab, in which circumstances it differs from ecthyma in external appearance, though it coincides in those of its origin in many cases, he intended to separate it under this title, which is derived from *ρῦπος sordes*. The Herpes *proserpens* differs from the Herpes *circinans*, which includes shingles, principally

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\* See Mr. Birch's "Serious Reasons for uniformly opposing Vaccination," 1807.



in the situation and line of its march : instead of going round, or encircling the limb, it proceeds longitudinally in the direction of the muscles, by successive patches of vesicles. This is invariably the progress of herpes affecting the extremities ; while that of the trunk, neck, mouth, and eyelids, encircles the parts on which it appears. Under the head of syphiloid tubera, I have put down two cases of an eruption, described in a former Report, which is not referable to any of Dr. Willan's genera of tubercles, nor does it properly associate with the scaly diseases described by him. It is, however, very uniform in its appearance, insomuch that one drawing, which I procured of the eruption, has accurately represented all the other cases that have occurred to me. If further observations coincide with those already made, I shall lay the cases before the public\*.

Several of the examples of dysentery and diarrhœa were accompanied with severe pains in the belly, recurring in paroxysms at short intervals, and after continuing in this way a few days with tension and tenderness of the belly, and slight feverishness. In these cases blisters were applied with little or no benefit ; but where the pains and tenderness were very great, the application of leeches to the abdomen was eminently useful. Internally small doses of calomel and ipecacuanha, or antimonial powder, combined with the extract of poppy, and given twice a day, afforded great alleviation to the symptoms, producing a discharge of muddy light-coloured and offensive matter

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\* See the Report for Autumn 1811, and the Observations subjoined to it.



from the bowels, apparently in larger quantity than the whole of the ingesta. Until these motions assumed the colour, consistence, and odour of healthy fæces, or became highly charged with a dark yellowish green matter, of a tarry or oleaginous appearance, (which seemed to be the precursor of healthy secretions,) the symptoms were not materially relieved, and never permanently. In one case, which had commenced as cholera, these medicines produced only partial relief, and delirium, with a brown dry tongue, frequent small pulse, prostration of strength, and other typhoid symptoms ensued, and terminated fatally.

### REPORT XXXIII.

*From August 30 to November 30, 1812.*

#### ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Tertiana .. ..	1	Rubeola .. ..	6				
Febris .. ..	37	Variola .. ..	7				
Odontalgia .. ..	1	Scarlatina .. ..	5				
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	4	Febris Infantum ..	13				
———— parotidæa ..	5	Cholera .. ..	1				
———— aphthosa ..	5	Enteritis .. ..	3				
Peripneumonia .. ..	10	Abortus .. ..	3				
———— notha .. ..	3	Apoplexia .. ..	2				
Catarrhus .. ..	60	Hydrocephalus ..	3				
Carditis .. ..	1	Epistaxis .. ..	1				
Pertussis .. ..	1	Rheumatismus acutus	15				
Dysenteria .. ..	23	Arthritis rheumatica ..	4				
Erysipelas Faciei ..	1	Phlegmatia dolens ..	1				



## CHRONIC DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Hemicrania	..	1	Chorea	..	1
Cephalæa	..	20	Epilepsia	..	1
Vertigo	..	8	Asthenia	..	12
Ophthalmia Tarsi	..	3	Hypochondriasis	..	1
Cynanche chronica	..	4	Mania	..	1
Catarrhus chronicus	..	47	Paralysis & Hemiplegia		3
Asthma & Dyspnœa		5	————— saturnina	..	2
Hæmoptysis	..	16	Dysuria	..	2
Phthisis	..	23	Enuresis	..	1
Palpitatio	..	4	Nephralgia	..	14
Dyspepsia	..	22	Anasarca	..	2
Gastrodynia	..	16	Hydrothorax	..	3
Pyrosis	..	7	Hydrops tot. Corporis		1
Hepatalgia	..	4	Rheumatismus chronicus		18
Icterus	..	5	Lumbago & Sciatica		5
Enterodynia	..	11	Scrofula	..	2
Colica	..	1	Lichen	..	2
Colica Pictonum	..	1	Prurigo	..	3
Constipatio	..	2	Lepra	..	3
Diarrhœa	..	15	Urticaria	..	5
Hæmorrhagia intestinalis		1	Erythema	..	3
Tænia	..	2	Eczema	..	2
Marasmus	..	10	Porrigo	..	10
Hysteralgia	..	1	Impetigo	..	2
Menorrhagia	..	6	Ecthyma	..	8
Amenorrhœa	..	4	Scabies	..	2
Dysmenorrhœa	..	1	Rupia	..	5
Leucorrhœa	..	13	Herpes labialis	..	2
Chlorosis	..	3	Sycosis	..	1
Hysteria	..	5			

THE greater part of the month of September was dry and warm, affording the only instance of settled weather for a period of three weeks, that occurred through the summer. Soon after the equinox, however, the weather became turbulent and wet; and the rains con-



tinued frequent throughout October, being lighter, and accompanied with a thick foggy atmosphere towards the conclusion of the month. November commenced with a degree of cold somewhat unusual at that season, and several days of severe frost ensued, during which the atmosphere was commonly loaded with fog, especially in the mornings and evenings. The last ten days of the month have been mild, but damp, with occasional drizzling rains.

The seasons, not having been strongly characterized by their usual features, have not produced much peculiarity of disease. But one case of cholera has occurred; and that in the month of November, and therefore independently of the usual cause. More than half of the cases of gastrodynia, enterodynia, dysentery, and headache, appeared, however, in the month of September, as well as a great majority of the cases set down under the head of fever. These slight fevers, which are of short duration, and unaccompanied by any severe or alarming symptom, are obviously of gastric origin: they require no other treatment than an antiphlogistic regimen, with moderate purgatives, and the constitution speedily regains its strength, when the order of the gastric system is restored. Only one case of fever occurred, which assumed any appearance of a typhoid tendency, in a man who had been for some time struggling against poverty, and destitute of sufficient nutriment; in this instance a little more cordial treatment was deemed requisite, and was speedily successful.

An observation of some practical importance in the management of fever, has been suggested to me during a comparative view of this disease, under the dif-



ferent circumstances of the patients whom it affects, which may perhaps serve, in some measure, to explain the contradictory statements of practitioners, with respect to the effects of the cordial treatment of low fever. Some of them have extolled the success of cinchona, and the diffusible stimulants; while others have contended for the superior efficacy of a strict antiphlogistic plan, with purgatives, and have averred that the opposite system is not merely ineffectual, but absolutely deleterious. From observing the phænomena of fever in the close and heated apartments of private dwellings, and in the cool and airy wards of the House of Recovery, I am disposed to believe, that the state of the body is so materially modified by these external circumstances, as greatly to change the influence of the remedies in question: so that both these classes of practitioners have had some grounds for their respective opinions. The fact appears to be, that the constitution, under a state of acute fever, is elevated to a certain degree of excitement, by the salutary stimulus of pure cool air; and, in that condition, is easily acted upon by moderate internal stimulants: insomuch, that the slightest cordial, whether in diet or medicine, readily increases the febrile condition, whilst the strictest adherence to the antiphlogistic plan is necessary to reduce its violence, and to prevent the occurrence of untoward symptoms. But, on the contrary, when the patient is depressed by the influence of a close and stifling atmosphere, and melting under a load of bedclothes, imbued with his excretory fluids, he is not only incapable of being roused to extraordinary excitement by moderate stimulants, but absolutely requires them to prevent him from sinking un-



der the depression, in which these surrounding circumstances plunge him ; and it is extraordinary to what an extreme degree of lowness the operation of the mildest laxative, or any other debilitating cause, reduces him. It has frequently occurred to me to notice the rapid change in the degree of constitutional excitement, produced by the removal of a patient in fever from a close apartment to one that was clean and airy. Whilst in the former situation, he has appeared to be sinking under the worst symptoms, to which the epithet of *putrid* has been appropriated, and was only refreshed by wine and cordials : but after passing a night in the new situation, these putrid symptoms had not only disappeared ; not only had delirium gone, and the tongue lost its black hue ; but it was now no longer practicable to administer stimulants, for they accelerated the pulse, flushed the countenance, reddened the eye, and parched and incrustated the tongue. Whereas, under the use of light liquid nutriment, with the antiphlogistic and laxative system of medicine, the patient gradually recovered. The history of the *miliary* fever would afford an excellent illustration of this view of the subject ; but I have not room at present to pursue it. Such was the constitutional depression, which accompanied this artificial product of the stifling practice, that actual syncope was not unfrequently the consequence of one or two evacuations of the bowels, occasioned by the action of a glyster, or even by the natural efforts of the intestines \*. We cannot wonder, therefore, that great prejudices should arise against the use of purgatives

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\* See White on the Management of Lying-in Women.



in the treatment of fevers, while such a system was in vogue; and that many practitioners, not being aware of the circumstances under which the prejudicial effects of these medicines were incurred, should be slow to admit the evidence in favour of their utility.

From the small number of cases of small-pox contained in the preceding list, no opinion is to be formed respecting the actual prevalence of that pestilential disease in London. It is only a few of the worst cases for which the assistance of a public charity is claimed; indeed the malady seems to be, in many instances, quietly submitted to, as an uncontrollable infliction, among the lower classes of the people; who, having been terrified by the actual horrors of small-pox, on the one hand, and by the fictitious alarms of the antivaccinists, on the other, seem to have lost all confidence in either preservative; and, like the poor animal that starved between two sources of subsistence, to have submitted their offspring to perish, without an effort of any kind for their security. The lamentable consequence of this is, that, within the three months comprehended by this Report, the bills of mortality, which do not include the extensive parishes of Marylebone and St. Pancras, have assured us of no less than *five hundred and twenty-seven* deaths occasioned by small-pox. Yet amidst all this dreadful mortality, the opposers of vaccination have the assurance and the folly to exclaim against the "failures" of vaccination; which, though it have sometimes failed to prevent a subsequent small-pox, has never failed to prevent a *fatal* small-pox;—has never *failed*, in these cases, to *save life*! In one small court, in Shoe



Lane, *seventeen* individuals have lately been cut off by this variolous plague.

The case of chorea occurred in a boy, about 13 years old, and was the result of a blow on the head, received in a fall. The irregular motions of the muscles were chiefly confined to the right side, and were very considerable: for three weeks back, the boy has been unable to leave his bed, has been exceedingly peevish and irritable, often screaming and distorting his features, as if from sudden pain, and seldom answering questions put to him, or speaking of his own accord. Bleeding from the temporal artery, blisters, and purgatives have not afforded any material relief; but he seems to be somewhat improved, within these three days, by the use of a seton in the neck.

The instances of aphthous sore-throat have been rather frequent during the wet weather. In addition to those mentioned in the preceding list, it occurred under my observation among the children of two private families about the same time, affecting two or three of them in quick succession. There is an erythematous redness, inclining to purple, extending over the tonsils and velum pendulum, upon which the aphthous specks appear, in small numbers, and distinct. These remain five or six days, or more, during which period there is a slight feverish state of the body, with considerable languor and debility, and a sensation of soreness in the throat, increased by deglutition. The tongue partakes of the purplish redness, especially round the edges and at the point, on which the papillæ are somewhat elongated, and protrude their points



above the fur, somewhat in a similar manner as in scarlet-fever. Medicine does not seem to possess much power in shortening the duration of this sore throat: but in its decline, the cinchona, with mineral acids, appears to accelerate the return of the strength. The aphthous specks have not in any instance, that has fallen under my observation, terminated in actual ulceration.

Aphthæ, in grown children or adults, have been deemed one of the products of moist autumnal seasons\*; and this variety of sore throat has been described by Dr. Willan† as very frequent in some particular seasons of this character: but I have seldom met with it to the extent described by him.

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\* See VanSwieten, Comment. ad Aph. 982.—Arnemann, Com. de Aphthis.

† Reports on Diseases of London, p. 111.



## REPORT XXXIV.

*From November 30, 1812, to February 28, 1813.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Febris .. .. .	5	Peritonitis .. .. .	1
Febris Infantum remittens	9	Variola .. .. .	3
Hydrocephalus .. .. .	1	Rubeola .. .. .	6
Odontalgia .. .. .	1	Scarlatina .. .. .	1
Cynanche tonsillaris .. .. .	8	Herpes Zoster .. .. .	1
Catarrhus .. .. .	112	Erysipelas .. .. .	4
Pleuritis .. .. .	2	Arthritis rheumatica .. .. .	2
Peripneumonia .. .. .	7	Rheumatismus acutus .. .. .	7
————— notha .. .. .	2	Dysenteria .. .. .	12
Hepatitis .. .. .	1	Abortus .. .. .	3

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Asthenia .. .. .	8	Tænia .. .. .	1
Vertigo .. .. .	4	Marasmus .. .. .	10
Cephalæa .. .. .	21	Peritonitis chronica .. .. .	2
Hemicrania .. .. .	4	Physconia .. .. .	1
Catarrhus chronicus .. .. .	65	Hæmorrhoids .. .. .	1
Asthma & Dyspnœa .. .. .	6	Hysteralgia .. .. .	4
Hæmoptysis .. .. .	10	Menorrhagia .. .. .	6
Phthisis .. .. .	23	Amenorrhœa .. .. .	6
Dyspepsia .. .. .	20	Dysmenorrhœa .. .. .	1
Gastrodynia .. .. .	16	Leucorrhœa .. .. .	9
Pyrosis .. .. .	2	Nephralgia .. .. .	9
Hæmatemesis .. .. .	1	Dysuria .. .. .	2
Hepatalgia .. .. .	3	Enuresis .. .. .	1
Icterus .. .. .	2	Hæmaturia .. .. .	2
Colica .. .. .	1	Rheumatismus chronicus .. .. .	26
Enterodynia .. .. .	18	Lumbago .. .. .	7
Hæmorrhagia Intestin. .. .. .	1	Sciatica .. .. .	1
Diarrhœa .. .. .	10	Pleurodyne .. .. .	6
Lumbrici .. .. .	1	Hydrops .. .. .	2
Ascarides .. .. .	2	————— Ovarii .. .. .	1



No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Hydrothorax	..	..	2	Lepra	..	..	2
Anasarca	..	..	7	Urticaria	..	..	1
Epilepsia	..	..	3	Erythema	..	..	3
Chorea	..	..	2	Intertrigo	..	..	1
Aphonia	..	..	1	Pompholyx benignus	..	..	1
Stupor Manuum	..	..	1	Eczema	..	..	2
Tremores ab Hydrargyro	..	..	1	Rupia	..	..	1
Dysphagia	..	..	1	Aphthæ	..	..	4
Hysteria	..	..	5	Impetigo	..	..	4
Hemiplegia & Paralysis	..	..	9	Porrigo	..	..	15
Scrofula	..	..	2	Ecthyma	..	..	2
Prurigo	..	..	1	Scabies	..	..	20

THE winter, though not particularly severe on the whole, has been such as to multiply the diseases usually originating from the influence of cold. The greatest intensity of cold prevailed in December; from the 6th to the 20th of which month, a steady frost, with the thermometer from six to ten degrees below the freezing point, continued without intermission. From this time to the end of January, the temperature was generally low, descending below the freezing point during the nights, and accompanied by frequent fogs; at the latter end of the month, the frost again set in, with a fall of snow, but terminated in a few days. The month of February has been milder, but extremely wet and stormy; frequent and heavy gales of wind from the W. and S. W. have prevailed, accompanied by very heavy rains.

The season has, on the whole, been productive of a considerable degree of sickness, which, however, has been chiefly of that kind which is attributable to the impressions of cold and moisture, and has occurred pretty uniformly throughout the winter, the combined fogs and frosts of the former months effecting



what the rains and damps of the present have continued to produce. Of the six hundred cases comprehended in the preceding list, above one third consist of pulmonary disorders, and about one half, including the rheumatic inflammatory affections, are clearly the result of the causes alluded to.

Very little that is worthy of observation has presented itself to our notice, except the unusual severity of many of the catarrhal affections. The attack was, in several instances, extremely sudden and violent, resembling in some measure the commencement of the epidemic influenza; the patient was struck with great prostration of strength, accompanied by vertigo, headache, and dimness of vision; and the febrile symptoms assumed a degree of violence which is unusual in the ordinary cases of catarrh. In two or three instances, which occurred in elderly people, subject to annual attacks of pulmonary disease, the symptoms were suddenly aggravated, as if by a rapid obstruction in the bronchial passages: the power of expectoration was nearly lost, and the patients died within twenty-four or thirty hours, worn out by fruitless efforts to unload the bronchial tubes, or by a more rapid and distressing suffocation, accompanied by great restlessness and jactitation, with a confusion of intellect, and a countenance expressive of great terror and alarm. Such cases were already hopeless, when they were visited, after this aggravation of the symptoms called for such attention to the patients, who had previously attended at the Dispensary; for nothing but a more speedy sinking of the vital powers could be expected from blood-letting, in these enfeebled habits, when the access of the air to the bronchial cells was pre-



vented by the profuse excretion of mucus, with which they were loaded, and through which respiration was performed with a wheezing and rattling noise; and when the pulse was scarcely perceptible in its feeble but rapid beats, leaving the skin chill and damp from the inefficiency of the cutaneous circulation. Under such a condition of the skin, the counter-irritation and discharge of a blister are not to be obtained, even if this operation could be sufficiently speedy; and the stimulant expectorants can produce but a feeble excitement on the worn out irritability of the system. It is only at the very onset of such an aggravation of symptoms, that the rapid effusion can be prevented by the active measures just alluded to.

A striking instance of the remedial effects of purgatives in passive hæmorrhagy, as it is called, which, though unaccompanied with petechiæ or vibices, appeared to have a great affinity to purpura, occurred in one of the cases of hæmaturia. Blood was discharged with the urine, without any nephralgic symptoms, and was at the same time expectorated from the lungs, without the usual symptoms of irritation accompanying hæmoptysis; and the patient was a middle-aged woman, with little appearance of a phthisical habit, or indeed of much derangement of health. Two active purgatives of calomel and jalap were therefore given to her, to be taken on two mornings, with the interval of one. She returned to the Dispensary on the fourth day, and took leave, affirming that she had had no return of either hæmorrhage since the first powder, and was in perfect health.

The case of chorea, connected with local injury occasioned by a blow on the head, which was men-



tioned in the last Report, as being benefited by the operation of a *seton* in the neck, after the section of the temporal artery, bleeding by leeches, the application of blisters, which were kept open for some days, and the steady repetition of alteratives and active purgatives, had failed to produce any amelioration, gradually terminated in health. I have had several opportunities of witnessing the superior advantages of this mode of local depletion, over every other means, in chronic affections of the head, where organic mischief was apparently going on. A few years ago, a girl, not arrived at the age of puberty, was reduced to a state bordering on idiotism by frequent attacks of epilepsy; there was, in fact, little other prospect than of confirmed idiotism for life, if she survived the severe paroxysms of convulsion. The measures just enumerated, and particularly repeated bleedings by leeches, open blisters, and mercurial laxatives, were carefully employed; but without affording any essential relief. But from the moment when the discharge from a seton in the neck commenced, she began to recover her intellects; the drivelling expression of fatuity gradually left her countenance; and the epilepsy ceased. She is now a servant in a family in the neighbourhood of the Dispensary, where I have lately had occasion to see her from time to time, and she has remained free from the epilepsy, as well as in possession of a respectable share of mental acuteness. In a case of most intense and unremitting headache, in an adult man, which was accompanied with a constant frequency of pulse, an acute sensibility to light and sound, emaciation, and sickness, the local depletions were employed with considerable assiduity,



and with temporary benefit; and a course of mercurial pills, with squills and digitalis, was persisted in for several weeks, which at length produced salivation. But it was only during the latter part of this course, when a *seton* was opened in the nucha, that symptoms of amendment gradually appeared; and ultimately terminated in health. In addition to the convulsive affection, characterizing chorea, which the boy mentioned in the last Report suffered, he was disabled from walking or standing for a considerable time, and appeared to be incoherent, and at times vacant and stupid, in consequence of the morbid condition of the encephalon. In all these respects he gradually, though slowly, regained the proper exercise of his functions, while the discharge from the seton continued; and he was still in a progressive state of amendment, in respect to strength and general health, after the seton was closed.



## REPORT XXXV.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1813.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Febris .. ..	10	Cholera .. ..	1				
Febris Infantum remit.	17	Dysenteria .. ..	12				
Apoplexia .. ..	1	Peritonitis .. ..	2				
Hydrocephalus ..	1	Rheumatismus acutus	7				
Epistaxis .. ..	2	Rubeola .. ..	8				
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	6	Variola .. ..	2				
———— parotidæa ..	1	Varicella .. ..	1				
Catarrhus .. ..	90	Erysipelas .. ..	2				
Pertussis .. ..	13	Herpes Zoster .. ..	4				
Peripneumonia .. ..	1	Abortus .. ..	3				
Carditis post Rheumat.	1						

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	7	Hæmorrhagia Intestin.	1
Cephalæa .. ..	30	Enterodynia .. ..	16
Hemicrania .. ..	6	Lumbricus .. ..	1
Surditas .. ..	2	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	3
Cynanche chronica ..	3	Marasmus .. ..	12
Asthma .. ..	1	Nephralgia .. ..	11
Catarrhus chronicus ..	43	Enuresis .. ..	1
Hæmoptysis .. ..	18	Hysteralgia .. ..	4
Phthisis .. ..	37	Amenorrhœa .. ..	6
Palpitatio .. ..	5	Menorrhagia .. ..	12
Dysphagia .. ..	1	Leucorrhœa .. ..	13
Dyspepsia .. ..	27	Prolapsus Uteri .. ..	1
Gastrodynia .. ..	15	Rheumatismus chronicus	34
Pyrosis .. ..	3	Lumbago & Sciatica ..	6
Hæmatemesis .. ..	2	Pleurodyne .. ..	4
Cancer Ventriculi ..	1	Asthénia .. ..	17
Hepatalgia .. ..	5	Epilepsia .. ..	2
Icterus .. ..	3	Hysteria .. ..	5
Diarrhœa .. ..	18	Chorea .. ..	1



No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Paralysis	..	..	4	Psoriasis	..	..	4
Tympanites	..	..	1	Intertrigo	..	..	2
Anasarca	..	..	4	Urticaria	..	..	2
Hydrothorax	..	..	2	Purpura	..	..	1
Ascites	..	..	1	Impetigo	..	..	4
Hydrops tot. Corporis			4	Porrigo	..	..	16
— post Scarlatinam			1	Erythema	..	..	1
Struma	..	..	2	Scabies	..	..	17
Lichen	..	..	2	Rupia	..	..	1
Prurigo	..	..	4	Aphthæ	..	..	2
Lepra	..	..	1				

THE spring is, on the whole, late; the temperature having been generally low, though variable. A considerable series of dry weather occurred during the latter part of March, and in April; but the early portion of March was cold and stormy. In April a short interval of genial warmth took place, which was followed by cold and frequent rains, during the month of May, with occasional hail-storms and thunder.

The list of diseases does not afford any material occasion for comment. The number of pectoral complaints has been, as might be expected, very numerous, especially those of a phthisical character. Affections of the bowels, some of them connected with catarrh, and some with rheumatism, have also been frequent, and rather severe: and the measles have been, and continue to be, prevalent among children. On the whole, however, none of these diseases have assumed a very inflammatory type; few of the catarrhs were accompanied with much fever, and peripneumony appeared but in one instance. Among the small number of cases under the head Febris, about one half were of a typhoid type; but they were entire-



ly sporadic, and did not propagate themselves by contagion.

The case of chorea was somewhat singular. It occurred in a woman, past the middle age, (who is said to have been in previous good health,) in consequence of, or at least immediately subsequent to, a violent beating which she suffered from an intoxicated man. The convulsive and grotesque motions of the arms, and especially of the left arm, were perfectly characteristic of the disease; which was accompanied by a sallow complexion, considerable languor and debility, and lowness of spirits. She has not been materially relieved by free purgation, alternated and combined with tonics, nor by any other plan that has hitherto been adopted.

The diarrhœa originating from sympathy with the skin, when the patient has been exposed to the influence of cold, as it appears to be occasioned principally by a determination of fluids into the intestinal canal, or an over-excretion from the exhalants, may be in some instances safely and effectually restrained by anodynes and absorbents, combined with some aromatic substance. If there is the smallest degree of tenesmus, however, or any other feeling, which seems to indicate that the intestines do not fully eject their irritating contents, it is perhaps always advisable to employ some gentle evacuant, previous to the use of opiates and astringents. There is great plausibility and simplicity in Dr. Cullen's notion, that, where the bowels are thus spontaneously purged, the natural motion of the canal will be sufficient to evacuate its whole contents. But experience sanctions the ancient doctrine, which supposes, that the whole irritating



cause is often not thus ejected. I am well persuaded, that common diarrhœa is frequently converted into a dysenteric form, more or less severe in degree, by such a practice. For by the retention of matters, which ought to pass off, irregular spasmodic actions of the muscular coat of the intestines are induced, which lock up still more effectually the cause of irritation. Repeated diarrhœa occurs as the influence of the medicine ceases, but is again checked by a repetition of the medicine, until at length rigors, and a febrile paroxysm ensue, and severe tenesmus, with slimy and bloody stools, mark the establishment of a true dysentery. Evacuants then become obviously necessary, from the instinctive urgings of the patient to rid himself of an incessant irritation. But, as I have often had occasion to remark in these Reports, when this state of the intestines has been induced, it becomes necessary to temper the acrimony of a purgative by the union of an opiate: the alternation of the purge and the anodyne is not nearly so effectual as the combination of the two. Eight of the twelve cases of dysentery, stated in the preceding list, were accompanied by considerable discharges of blood with the evacuations; but we have seldom found it requisite to repeat more than once the night-dose of calomel, with opium, or the extract of poppy, in order to suspend that hæmorrhagy; and the most violent cases of dysentery, so treated in the beginning, seldom assume the chronic form, or terminate in ulceration, or any other organic lesion of the bowels. The value of the combination can only be estimated by experience of its advantages. The supposition, that two opposite qualities, astringency and relaxation, must recipro-



cally counteract and render each other inert, is found to be erroneous. The purgative acts indeed more tardily, but not less completely; so that all its good effects are obtained, without the irritation and debility, which it would otherwise occasion. In proportion, therefore, as the tendency to tenesmus is greater in every case of diarrhœa, where the structure of the intestines is not actually injured, a laxative, conjoined with an opiate, may be administered with advantage.

## REPORT XXXVI.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1813.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Febris .. ..	19	Peripneumonia notha	1				
Febris Infant. remit. ..	20	Pertussis .. ..	14				
Hydrocephalus ..	1	Scarlatina .. ..	1				
Convulsio .. ..	1	Rubeola .. ..	6				
Tetanus .. ..	1	Variola .. ..	7				
Epistaxis .. ..	3	Erysipelas .. ..	2				
Otalgia .. ..	3	Rheumatismus acutus	9				
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	8	Arthritis rheumatica ..	5				
———— laryngea ..	1	Cholera .. ..	6				
Catarrhus .. ..	55	Dysenteria .. ..	12				
Peripneumonia .. ..	1	Abortus .. ..	6				

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa & Vertigo ..	45	Phthisis .. ..	20
Hemicrania .. ..	1	Palpitatio .. ..	3
Dyseccœa .. ..	2	Dyspepsia .. ..	24
Catarrhus chronicus ..	23	Gastrodynia .. ..	22
Dyspnœa .. ..	4	Pyrosis .. ..	14
Hæmoptysis .. ..	21	Hæmatemesis .. ..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Hepatalgia	..	..	2	Hysteria	..	..	4
Icterus	..	..	2	Hypochondriasis	..	..	5
Diarrhœa	..	..	36	Melancholia	..	..	1
Hæmorrhagia Intestin.			1	Tænia	..	..	1
Hæmorrhoids	..	..	4	Ascarides	..	..	1
Peritonitis chronica	..	..	1	Lumbago	..	..	6
Physconia	..	..	2	Rheumatismus chronicus	31		
Marasmus	..	..	13	Nodositas	..	..	1
Enterodynia	..	..	18	Tympanites	..	..	1
Nephralgia	..	..	14	Struma	..	..	1
Dysuria	..	..	1	Lichen	..	..	8
Enuresis	..	..	1	— syphiliticus	..	..	2
Menorrhagia	..	..	11	Erythema	..	..	2
Amenorrhœa	..	..	6	Intertrigo	..	..	1
Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	1	Lepra	..	..	1
Leucorrhœa	..	..	20	Psoriasis	..	..	4
Hysteralgia	..	..	2	Pityriasis	..	..	1
Ascites	..	..	1	Prurigo	..	..	2
Anasarca	..	..	9	Scabies	..	..	10
Hydrothorax	..	..	2	Porrigo	..	..	12
Hydrops generalis	..	..	4	Impetigo	..	..	3
Hemiplegia	..	..	7	Ecthyma	..	..	4
Tremor paralyt.	..	..	2	Purpura	..	..	1
Asthenia	..	..	29	Urticaria	..	..	5
Paraplegia	..	..	2	Eczema	..	..	3
Lethargus	..	..	6	Rupia	..	..	1
Epilepsia	..	..	1	Herpes	..	..	2
Chorea	..	..	1	Aphthæ	..	..	1

THE summer season, on the whole, has been cool, although two or three days of considerable heat occurred about the end of June, and again at the end of July. During the first six weeks of this quarter, there were frequent rains, and some thunder-storms; but since the middle of July, the weather has been almost uniformly dry, though of moderate temperature, in consequence of the prevalence of north and north-east-



erly winds, which rendered even the noontide shade cool, and the evening and morning air cold: hence each day may be said to have brought its vicissitudes, in the warmth of the meridian sun, and the chillness which succeeded its setting.

This diurnal alternation of warmth and cold, although it does not give rise to cholera, bilious vomiting, and the bilious synochus, which continued heat produces, nevertheless generally conduces to derangement of the alimentary canal, especially to dysentery and diarrhœa; and these are the more readily brought on, in consequence of the imperfect defence, which the summer clothing, adapted to the heat of noon, affords against the chills of evening. The number of cases of diarrhœa has been unusually great, affecting children as well as adults, and being indeed exceedingly severe in the former. To the same source, derangement of the chylopoetic viscera, may be ascribed the numerous cases of headache and vertigo, which were usually connected with constipation, or irregularity of the alvine excretions, and yielded to the continued action of gentle laxatives, united with absorbents and mild bitters. The derangements of the stomach, and especially that form of severe gastrodynia, both with and without the distressing symptom of pyrosis, which supervenes on taking food, and appears to be the result of an extreme irritability of the organ, which renders it incapable of bearing the ordinary distention, have been unusually numerous. This form of the disease is often obstinate; it seems, however, to be most speedily relieved by administering some narcotic, such as the hyoscyamus, together with a warm laxative, about half an hour previous to the



principal meals; by which the stomach is prepared, by a diminished irritability and perhaps by an improved secretion, for the reception and disposal of the food. Sometimes alkalis and absorbents, even where there is no evidence of prevailing acidity, are advantageously combined with these remedies; and sometimes bitters, especially columba, appear to be more serviceable; but the narcotic and the laxative seem to be indispensable.

The case of tetanus occurred in a young woman, 16 years of age, of robust habit and highly sanguine temperament. It commenced about a week after she had slightly grazed her foot against a nail in the floor, an accident which she had nearly forgotten, until close inquiries led her to mention it. The trismus was at first accompanied by some swelling and inflammatory appearances of the integuments about the jaw and fauces, and the constitutional disturbance assumed a feverish character; spasmodic contractions in the muscles of the back and neck, soon ensued, and notwithstanding the copious administration of opium, and the use of purgatives, she died on the 5th day from the attack.

The patient affected with tape-worm affords an example of the active, though temporary success of the oil of turpentine in the destruction and expulsion of that troublesome parasite. This person has taken the medicine five or six successive times, and it has invariably expelled a considerable length of the worm, which of course implies that the expulsion has never been complete. By these operations, he has got rid of a prodigious quantity of *tænia*, to the extent of many



yards in length, and has always experienced immediate relief, and regularly returned to the Dispensary to exhibit the trophies of his success in a bottle. After the expiration of a few months, his pains return, and he resorts to the Dispensary for the repetition of his dose, with confidence in its efficacy. Latterly he has taken only half an ounce, which appears to answer the purpose as effectually as the larger doses, and occasions less disturbance. In several instances, it is certain that two or three years have elapsed, without any recurrence of the symptoms indicative of the presence of the *tænia*, after the operation of the oil of turpentine; but even the certain temporary relief which this individual experiences, exceeds that which any other remedy affords, and therefore stamps it with considerable value.

The case of purpura occurred in an elderly woman, of respectable appearance, who stated, that she had been accustomed to live very comfortably, but had nevertheless experienced a constant succession of purple blotches on the fore-arms, during the last ten years, although her general health remained unimpaired. About three months before she applied to the Dispensary, she had become sickly and feeble, and had suffered several large hæmorrhages from the nose, the purple blotches continuing as before. In consequence of a most extraordinary hardness and bounding of the pulse, which was also accelerated, venesection was ordered. One moderate bleeding softened the pulse, but it produced a very marked depression of muscular strength, which almost disabled her from attending the charity; she was then purged several times by



means of calomel and jalap. The epistaxis never returned; but the vibices continue to appear on the arms, though somewhat less extensively, and she feels herself better from the use of the cathartics; yet her strength is considerably impaired. I have had an opportunity of witnessing the decided advantage of purgatives, in a severe case of petechial typhus, in the House of Recovery. This patient was a stout woman, and was brought into the house in the second week of typhus, unable to give any account of herself, and almost covered with petechiæ; the whole of the back part of the body and limbs was particularly loaded, so as to present nearly one continuous purple dye. She was delirious and perfectly confused, with a frequent and weak pulse, and a brown tongue; but this was moist, and the eyes were nearly free from suffusion. Three or four successive doses of calomel and jalap, at the interval of a day, with the intermediate use of sulphate of magnesia in infusion of roses, constituted the whole of the treatment, under which she daily improved, and soon recovered.



## REPORT XXXVII.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1813.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Febris .. ..	12	Enteritis .. ..	3				
— — Infantum rem. ..	30	Peritonitis .. ..	4				
Hydrocephalus .. ..	4	Dysenteria .. ..	12				
Ophthalmia .. ..	2	Scarlatina .. ..	12				
Epistaxis .. ..	2	Erysipelas .. ..	2				
Cynanche tonsil. ..	7	Roseola .. ..	1				
Pleuritis .. ..	4	Variola .. ..	7				
Peripneumonia .. ..	11	Varicella .. ..	2				
Pertussis .. ..	15	Herpes .. ..	1				
Catarrhus .. ..	112	Rheumatismus acutus	13				
Hepatitis .. ..	1						

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	6	Hæmorrhagia Intest. ..	3
Cephalæa .. ..	21	Tænia .. ..	1
Hemicrania .. ..	1	Marasmus .. ..	10
Catarrhus chronicus ..	61	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	2
Hæmoptysis .. ..	18	Dysuria .. ..	2
Phthisis .. ..	23	Enuresis .. ..	2
Palpitatio .. ..	4	Nephralgia .. ..	7
Dyspepsia .. ..	26	Hæmaturia .. ..	1
Gastrodynia .. ..	19	Hysteralgia .. ..	4
Pyrosis .. ..	4	Menorrhagia .. ..	5
Hæmatemesis .. ..	3	Amenorrhœa .. ..	6
Vomitus .. ..	1	Chlorosis .. ..	2
Hepatalgia .. ..	4	Leucorrhœa .. ..	12
Icterus .. ..	4	Hysteria .. ..	6
Enterodynia .. ..	13	Epilepsia .. ..	6
Constipatio .. ..	4	Hypochondriasis .. ..	1
Diarrhœa .. ..	20	Insania .. ..	2



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Fatuitas .. ..	1	Lepa .. ..	1				
Hemiplegia & Paralysis	8	Psoriasis .. ..	5				
Rheum. chron. ..	39	Urticaria .. ..	6				
Lumbago & Sciatica ..	7	Purpura .. ..	1				
Pleurodyne .. ..	6	Impetigo .. ..	4				
Asthenia .. ..	9	Porrigo .. ..	19				
Anasarca .. ..	9	Ecthyma .. ..	1				
Ascites .. ..	2	Scabies .. ..	10				
Hydrothorax .. ..	1	Aphthæ .. ..	1				
Hydrops Ovarii .. ..	1	Eczema mercuriale ..	2				
Struma .. ..	3	Rupia .. ..	2				
Lichen .. ..	2	Acne .. ..	1				

THE uniform, dry, though not hot, weather of the preceding month, continued throughout September. In October it became unsettled, the rains were frequent, and accompanied by cold winds; and November has maintained its character of gloom, having been foggy, dark, damp, and cold, from the beginning: towards the conclusion, the fog was combined with a frost, somewhat more severe than is usual at so early a period of the winter. During the greater part of the three months, the wind from the east and north-east has prevailed, producing a chill even in September, and aggravating the effects of the dampness and cold of the past and present months.

The steady and temperate weather of September appears to have been conducive to good health, and especially to have precluded the occurrence of the bilious affections, which frequently occur in the autumnal season: no case of cholera, or bilious fever, was seen in that month, and the ordinary bowel-complaints were even below the average of these every-day maladies. The wet and unsettled state of October oc-



casioned an increase of disease ; but the cold and fogs of November have more manifestly multiplied every form of indisposition. Of the 173 cases of acute and chronic catarrh, included in the preceding list, only 33 cases occurred in September, and upwards of 100 of the remainder, together with all the cases of peripneumony, have taken place within the present month. In many instances, the greater part of a family suffered the catarrhal attacks together, or in quick succession. During the same period, there has been a remarkable tendency in the fevers, which have occurred, to affections of the bowels and peritonæum. In several cases, this amounted to actual peritonitis and enteritis ; but in others, which commenced as simple idiopathic fever, great pain and soreness on pressure ensued in the course of the complaint, requiring leeches or repeated blisters to be applied to the abdomen, while at the same time the contents of the bowels were constantly evacuated by gentle purgatives. The alvine excretions were, in all these cases, of an unnatural consistence, dark and offensive ; and the irritation arising from them appeared to be the cause of the supervening peritoneal soreness, which so often showed itself. This form of the complaint was particularly prevalent among young people, and was probably but a modification of the infantile remittent, which attacks, and which has during the same time indeed been unusually frequent among subjects still younger. It appeared, that a constant action upon the bowels, by small doses of calomel with antimony, or with the extract of poppy where the irritation was great, produced a more decided amelioration of the symptoms, than active purgation, employed at intervals. The lat-



ter mode of evacuation seemed to harass the patients without correcting the morbid condition of the excretions, and was followed, in some instances, by an increased dryness of the mouth, with a redness and choppy state of the tongue, and increased sharpness of the pulse, which seemed to imply an increase of the irritation of the alimentary canal.

In one case of fever, in which the bowels had been for some time considerably deranged, without any symptom of cerebral excitement, the patient appeared likely to recover, as the derangement of the bowels was subdued, and did not recur. Nevertheless, he remained in a feeble, fretful, and irritable state, becoming at times confused in his intellect, and talking incoherently when alone, though answering inquiries distinctly, his pulse beating about 100 times in a minute, and his distress being confined, as he affirmed, to the aching of his back and limbs. About the end of the fifth week, he became rather tremulous, and in a day or two his pupils were observed to be dilated under the impression of a strong light. His sight became imperfect at the end of the same week, but without strabismus, and he died. The brain was examined, and a large collection of water was found exterior to that organ, between its investing membranes, which were more vascular than usual; but the ventricles contained very little fluid. Was this vascularity and effusion from the membranes of the cerebrum the consequence of the continued excitement of the fever, induced by abdominal irritation, as in the case of some of the modifications of hydrocephalus in children? The patient was a young man of 18. He never complained of his head, and the occasional de-



lirium; and at one time, about a fortnight before his death, a most profuse sweating from the head and face were the only indications of irregular action in the cranium.

In some of the filthy courts in Saffron-Hill, near Hatton-Garden, which are inhabited almost exclusively by the lowest Irish labourers, typhus has been considerably more frequent during the months of October and November, than for several years past. It has spread rapidly and fatally in several houses, and would probably have committed great ravages among that dirty and crowded population, if the patients had not been received into the House of Recovery in Gray's Inn Lane, and the processes of lime-washing and fumigating the infected houses been diligently employed.

Although several cases of scarlatina have come under our notice, we have not seen any instance of measles. As far as the experience of an institution, of the extent to which this Dispensary goes, can be deemed of weight, it may be mentioned, that the evidence of our records does not tend to prove, with respect to that district of London which it comprehends, that measles are either more prevalent or more fatal than formerly. It is, in fact, a long time since we witnessed the death of a patient from that disease. It would be important to collect the testimonies of practitioners, upon this point, in different parts of the country, in order to ascertain whether the fact, which Dr. Watt has proved to have occurred at Glasgow, be really true with respect to other districts, or whether it may not be partial, and have arisen from some local circumstances belonging to that city exclusively. I am in possession of some evidence which tends to prove



that the fact is not general. It must be expected, that where the small-pox has been generally superseded by vaccination, and thus many weakly infants have been preserved during the first years of life, yet, on the whole, the number of those who attain the age of puberty may not be much increased; and among the diseases, from which they are liable to suffer, the measles and their sequelæ will probably be as trying to their feeble constitutions, and contribute to carry off as large a share, as any other diseases of childhood.

## REPORT XXXVIII.

*From November 30, 1813, to February 28, 1814.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Febris .. ..	9	Variola .. ..	1				
— Infantum rem. .	17	Erysipelas .. ..	1				
Convulsio .. ..	3	Urticaria .. ..	1				
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	6	Hepatitis .. ..	2				
— trachealis ..	1	Nephritis .. ..	1				
Catarrhus .. ..	195	Podagra .. ..	1				
Pleuritis .. ..	3	Rheumatismus .. ..	10				
Peripneumonia .. ..	45	Arthritis rheumatica ..	3				
Pertussis .. ..	12	Abortus .. ..	1				
Scarlatina anginosa ..	6	Epistaxis .. ..	1				

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	19	Odontalgia .. ..	1
Vertigo .. ..	7	Catarrhus chronicus ..	100
Hemicrania quotidiana .	1	Asthma .. ..	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Hæmoptysis	..	13	Leucorrhœa	..	1
Phthisis	..	9	Hysteria	..	8
Palpitatio	..	6	Paralysis	..	6
Hæmatemesis	..	1	Asthenia	..	5
Dyspepsia	..	18	Mania	..	1
Gastrodynia	..	16	Chorea	..	1
Pyrosis	..	1	Rheumatismus chronicus	..	33
Hepatalgia	..	4	Pleurodyne	..	7
Icterus	..	3	Hydrops	..	3
Diarrhœa	..	10	Hydrothorax	..	3
Dysenteria	..	12	Anasarca	..	4
Enterodynia	..	8	Nodositas	..	1
Colica	..	2	Tremor ex Hydrargyro	..	1
Constipatio	..	3	Gangrena Pedum	..	1
Marasmus	..	2	Struma	..	4
Hæmorrhœis	..	1	Lichen	..	1
Tænia	..	1	Prurigo	..	1
Ascarides	..	4	Psoriasis	..	3
Dysuria	..	5	Purpura	..	1
Nephralgia	..	4	Erythema	..	3
Cystirrhœa	..	1	Impetigo	..	1
Menorrhagia	..	7	Ecthyma	..	1
Amenorrhœa	..	4	Scabies	..	12
Hysteralgia	..	4	Porrigo	..	12
Prolapsus Uteri	..	2			

SINCE the severe winter of 1794-5, this country has not experienced such an intense and continued cold, as has occurred during the present season. The early part of December was raw, chill, and occasionally foggy; but the frost commenced on Sunday the 26th of that month. On Monday the 27th in the forenoon, it was accompanied by a thick fog, which in the evening became so dense as to render all objects at a few feet distance from the eye invisible, even by the aid of torches, to prevent the departure of mail-coaches and



other carriages, and to occasion numerous accidents in and near London. This singularly dense and dark state of the atmosphere, which was extremely offensive both to the eyes and lungs from being loaded also with smoke and soot, continued for the space of seven days, with scarcely any change, even at noon, except the appearance of a dim light during the latter; and as the frost was likewise uninterrupted, the houses, railings, shrubs, and trees, and even the cobwebs hanging upon them, became thickly spangled with the freezing humidity of the fog. This terminated at the end of a week with a heavy fall of snow, which was repeated, so as to cover the streets to the depth of several feet, and to interrupt the communication with the country for several days. In the last week of January a partial thaw occurred, which brought great masses of ice down the Thames, which, on the recurrence of the frost, became united between the bridges, and in the first week of February was sufficiently firm to bear great multitudes of people, who were entertained in booths erected upon the ice. A thaw of two or three days broke up the ice; but to the end of February, the frost has continued to recur nightly, with partial thaws during the day in the crowded parts of the town. The wind has been almost invariably from the east and north-east, and frequently high, since the disappearance of the fog, which rendered the cold more intense to the sensations, than even the thermometer indicated. On many days, however, the temperature was as low as  $15^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit, and it was said to have descended, on some nights, to  $11^{\circ}$  or even lower. The effects of the severity of the cold were aggravated, among the lower classes, by the difficulty of



procuring fuel, in consequence of the extreme scarcity of coals, which were sold at more than double their usual prices.

Since Dr. Heberden demonstrated the comparative insalubrity of a frosty winter, by a reference to the bills of mortality in the winter of 1794, and the succeeding open season of 1795, medical men have been fully aware of the popular error of considering frost wholesome. It would be almost sufficient, therefore, to inspect the preceding catalogue of diseases, in order to infer the severity of the season. For in the first place, the quarterly number of patients has exceeded 700, in an institution which presents an average of little more than 500 per quarter; and secondly, nearly 400 of that number have been affected with pulmonary complaints, which are the most unequivocal products of the operation of cold on the human constitution. These complaints, however, have not been remarkable for their numbers only, but likewise for their violence and fatality. About 200 assumed the form of acute catarrh, and a large proportion of these are entered in the books of the Dispensary under the title of *febris catarrhalis*, implying the severity of the constitutional disorder which accompanied them; and nearly 50 put on the character of the most active pneumonia. Persons of all ages have suffered from these attacks; but young children and persons who had passed the middle age have been most severely and fatally affected, especially those of the latter who had been subject to annual returns of chronic catarrh during previous winters. The increased mortality, occasioned by severe winters, has generally, indeed, fallen heaviest upon the aged and young children,



whose vital powers are possessed of less energy than during the intermediate periods of life; and it is by affecting the lungs more particularly, in both these classes, that intense cold exerts its deleterious influence on the delicate frames of such persons. A cursory inspection of the daily reports of the newspapers, during the last two months, is sufficient to ascertain the unusual number of people of advanced age, who have been cut off by the inclemency of the season.

Very few of the pulmonic affections assumed the type, which has been denominated pleurisy. Severe pain was seldom among the symptoms of the disease; which was characterized by extreme oppression and difficulty of breathing, with a sense of tightness and fulness of the chest, in those which have been put down under the head of peripneumony. This oppression was accompanied, in general, with a rattling noise in the bronchial passages, and with a secretion of a thick and viscid mucus in considerable quantities: the patients breathed more easily when propped up in bed, or in the erect sitting posture; and a sort of wandering delirium, in which they talked incoherently, when left to themselves, was a very common symptom; in a few cases the delirium assumed a character of wildness and violence. The pulse was generally frequent, from 120 to 130, and without either fulness or hardness in any remarkable degree; but, even when small and feeble, there was a perceptible jerk or quickness in its beats, which indicated the inflammatory action of the vessels. For the cure of these peripneumonic attacks the lancet proved the only effectual remedy. In many cases, indeed, the disease proved fatal notwithstanding the employment of blood-letting, espe-



cially in people advanced in life, and in those whose lungs were injured by repeated annual attacks of chronic catarrh: and in some, the opportunity for an efficient use of the remedy had passed by before it was applied. We had, however, great satisfaction, in several cases, in witnessing the immediate relief which blood-letting afforded to the most distressing and alarming symptoms: patients, who were restless and sleepless, and extremely distressed with dyspnœa, almost to a sense of suffocation, who were rambling and delirious, and under a state of the greatest anxiety, were seen immediately to become calm and collected, their countenances brightened, their rattling and heaving respiration became free and noiseless, and in a few minutes they fell into a quiet and sound sleep, which continued several hours. The symptoms were, indeed, apt to return, sometimes for several successive periods; but the repetition of the evacuation to the fourth, fifth, or sixth time, was found to be followed by the same temporary, and ultimately by permanent relief. The blood, in these cases, was highly buffed, and the coagulum cupped; and this was sometimes greater in the later bleedings than at first. From the fatality of the disease, where, from neglect in the beginning, or from apprehension of danger from free blood-letting in London constitutions, this evacuation was neglected or insufficiently used, and from the marked and unequivocal benefits derived from the full employment of it, where the age and constitution permitted, we have been led to doubt the correctness of the opinion, which interdicts the most copious abstraction of blood, in the inhabitants of the metropolis, which in the country is universally allowed.



Contagious fever has generally been considered as one of the products of a severe winter, in consequence of the close and unventilated state of the habitations of the poor, which the temperature induces them to resort to for the sake of warmth. No such effect, however, has occurred during the present season; the few cases of fever in the preceding list, were of a mild type, and were not propagated by contagion.

A child, two years and a half old, was brought to the Dispensary at half past four in the afternoon, two days ago, who had just swallowed, by mistake, a small quantity (about a tea-spoonful it was supposed,) of the strong sulphuric acid, from a phial, used for cleansing some copper vessels. The mother immediately excited vomiting by putting her finger into the child's throat; the matter brought up resembled coffee-grounds. The child seemed to suffer little pain, except when vomiting, which occasioned crying, and she died easily and almost unperceived at nine the same evening. On the following day, the body was examined in the presence of my friends Dr. R. Bright and Dr. W. Henderson, who are at present attending the Dispensary, and I am indebted to them for the following report:

“ The peritoneal cavity was largely distended with flatus; and on opening the integuments, the omentum was seen converted into a black pulpy mass, but still possessing sufficient tenacity to retain the food, which had escaped from the stomach, having been taken a short time before the acid was swallowed. The food consisted of considerable masses of undigested meat, very little acted upon by the acid; there was also a small quantity of the same dark-coloured fluid in the



omentum as had been vomited. There was an erosion or aperture in the stomach, about three inches in diameter, situated in the cardiac portion of the large curvature, which was bordered by thickened edges of a dark brown cinder-like appearance: through this the food had escaped. An appearance of inflammation extended towards the cardiac extremity of the stomach; but the œsophagus, with the exception of a little purple blush on some parts, showed nothing which could indicate violent action. The inflammation did not seem to extend towards the pylorus, and the intestines were free from any inflammatory affection: externally, the latter were strongly marked with transverse corrugated rings, but were not otherwise acted upon in the slightest degree by the acid; indeed the whole of its action seemed to be confined to the stomach and omentum."

On immersing small portions of animal flesh in strong sulphuric acid, it produced the same black colour and pulpy consistence which were observed in the stomach and omentum of this child; but other portions, immersed in caustic potass, a solution of nitrate of silver, and nitric acid, did not receive either the dark hue or the same change of texture.



# REPORT XXXIX.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1814.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Tertiana .. ..	1	Peripneumonia notha ..	3
Quotidiana .. ..	1	Pertussis .. ..	16
Febris .. ..	16	Cholera .. ..	1
———— Infantum rem.	13	Enteritis .. ..	1
Hydrocephalus .. ..	3	Peritonitis .. ..	3
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	9	Podagra .. ..	1
———— parotidæa ..	2	Rheumatismus acutus ..	6
Epistaxis .. ..	1	Arthritis rheumatica ..	6
Catarrhus .. ..	111	Rubeola .. ..	3
Pleuritis .. ..	3	Erysipelas .. ..	1
Peripneumonia .. ..	13		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	37	Ascarides .. ..	2
Vertigo .. ..	13	Tænia .. ..	2
Catarrhus chronicus ..	61	Hæmorrhoids .. ..	3
Hæmoptysis .. ..	18	Marasmus .. ..	11
Phthisis .. ..	15	Hysteralgia .. ..	4
Palpitatio .. ..	8	Leucorrhœa .. ..	8
Hæmatemesis .. ..	3	Menorrhagia .. ..	9
Gastrodynia .. ..	15	Amenorrhœa .. ..	2
Dyspepsia .. ..	43	Chlorosis .. ..	2
Icterus .. ..	6	Nephralgia .. ..	7
Calculus biliosus .. ..	1	Dysuria .. ..	3
Diarrhœa .. ..	10	Hæmaturia .. ..	2
Dysentery .. ..	13	Rheumatismus chronicus	34
Constipatio .. ..	7	Pleurodyne .. ..	4
Enterodynia .. ..	14	Lumbago .. ..	5
Tympanites .. ..	1	Hysteria .. ..	5
Physconia .. ..	1	Epilepsia .. ..	3



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Asthénia ..	..	..	19	Lepra ..	..	..	3
Hemiplegia ..	..	..	2	Psoriasis ..	..	..	4
Paraplegia ..	..	..	1	Erythema ..	..	..	2
Livor Manuum ..	..	..	1	Urticaria ..	..	..	3
Chorea ..	..	..	1	Purpura ..	..	..	3
Anasarca ..	..	..	5	Porrigó ..	..	..	16
Hydrothorax ..	..	..	1	Impetigo ..	..	..	3
Struma ..	..	..	4	Ecthyma ..	..	..	1
Scorbutus ..	..	..	1	Scabies ..	..	..	8
Strophulus ..	..	..	1	Rupia ..	..	..	1
Lichen ..	..	..	3	Herpes ..	..	..	1

THE severe weather continued without interruption till the 20th of March, when the frost suddenly disappeared on the occurrence of a west wind. From that time, until the latter part of April, the temperature of the atmosphere was extremely mild, and even occasionally hot; but the wind again returned to the east, in which quarter it has continued to the present time, bringing with it incessant cold, a cloudy atmosphere, and some chilling rains; so that vegetation, which was advancing luxuriantly, has been much retarded and blighted.

This will account for the continued prevalence of catarrhal and pulmonary diseases, which have been unusually numerous and severe, as well as for the rheumatic complaints, which have also been violent and tedious. The hooping-cough, which has been prevalent, has been also apparently aggravated by the same cause. The disorders of the digestive organs, including not only dyspepsia, gastrodynia, &c., but also the majority of the cases of headache, and vertigo, which are sympathetic of derangement of the stomach and bowels, are always so numerous in this metropo



lis, that the large proportion, which appears in the preceding list, may be independent of the state of the season. They are more commonly, indeed, aggravated by the opposite state of temperature, the autumnal heat. But it is probable, that the scarcity of provisions during the long winter, and the substitution of unwholesome stimulants for nutritious food, may have contributed to increase the catalogue of these diseases among the poor. The single case of cholera occurred during the few hot days in the beginning of April; but even this disorder occasionally attacks individuals of bilious temperament, under any extraordinary disturbance of the digestive organs by over excitement, independently of external heat. In a considerable majority of the cases of gastrodynia, the pain is particularly severe after taking food, and in a few, it is chiefly distressing when the stomach is empty. In the latter instances, cordials, bitters, and aromatics relieve the pain, by giving tone to the stomach, which chiefly suffers when there is a deficiency of stimulus: but in the former, anodynes are absolutely necessary, especially such as do not constipate the bowels, as the conium and hyoscyamus, and the preparations of the humulus, which combines an aromatic with its anodyne power. In these cases, there is often a strong tendency to the generation of acid in the stomach, and also to constipation; whence alkaline and laxative medicines constitute a valuable combination with these anodynes, in this form of gastrodynia, as well as in the pyrosis, which not unfrequently accompanies it.

The case of scorbutus occurred in a girl, ten years old, and was marked by an extremely spongy condition of the gums, which were so tumid in some parts, as nearly to conceal the teeth, and bled freely when



pressed or rubbed, and in the act of eating any thing that was not soft. There were no ecchymoses or spontaneous extravasations, but a purplish redness was produced by much pressure of one limb against another, especially inside the knees. She was weak and languid, and complained of a severe aching pain in the lower extremities, which induced her to lie much on the bed. For three years back, this girl has not tasted any fresh vegetables, even potatoes, and altogether refuses all vegetable food in its fresh state; as her parents were unable to supply her with animal food daily, though they indulge her with it as often as they can, from her extreme aversion to vegetables, she lives principally upon what they call broth, made of butter, salt, and water, and upon bread and butter. She is particularly fond of salted meats. During a part of the period since her rejection of vegetables, she resided in Gloucestershire, where she drank cider daily; and during this time she did not suffer any scorbutic symptoms; but on coming to London these symptoms recurred. The bowels are regular; she has no fever; the appetite is good; and she has an appearance of tolerable health; but the pain and debility of the limbs prevent her from taking active exercise. Purgings have appeared decidedly to augment the symptoms, especially the pains of the limbs, and the disposition to hæmorrhage from the mouth; whilst, on the other hand, she seems to be materially relieved in both these respects by the use of the decoction of cinchona with the sulphuric acid. In one of the cases of purpura which is now under treatment at the Dispensary, the opposite result has been observed from the administration of these medicines. The patient is a middle-aged woman, of a thin habit, and the erup-



tion consists of a numerous crop of petechiæ, of various sizes, nearly covering the legs and feet. These have appeared copiously in succession, for three or four weeks, and have been accompanied with considerable depression of the strength and spirits, and a slight tendency to œdema. The gums have not been affected in the slightest degree, nor has any hæmorrhagic disposition shown itself. All the symptoms have been invariably relieved by purging with calomel and jalap; she distinctly stated the regular relief to her feelings after each repetition of the dose, and pointed out the obvious diminution of the eruption, and the cessation of its tendency to appear again, at the same time; her depression of strength and spirits was particularly diminished by this operation. But when these medicines were omitted, and cinchona, with sulphuric acid, was given, for the purpose of aiding the convalescence, the crops of petechiæ returned, and with them the debility and languor. There is a species of purpura, however, which occurs in old people, and principally, if not exclusively, in old women, affecting the fore-arm, with very irregular, and sometimes large dark purple blotches, in which purging, and indeed every other remedy that I have used, appears to have no salutary influence. The eruption continues to appear, in a constant series, or at short intervals, for a long period, even for several years, without any material alteration in the general health. In one case, from the extraordinary hardness and vigour of the pulse, a moderate bleeding was employed; but though the pulse became soft, the eruption was not diminished, and the strength of the constitution seemed afterwards to decline.



## REPORT XL.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1814.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.		
Tertiana .. ..	1			Peritonitis .. ..	1		
Febris .. ..	22			Catarrhus .. ..	38		
— Infantum remittens	13			Hydrocephalus .. ..	2		
Epistaxis .. ..	1			Variola .. ..	3		
Cynanche trachealis ..	1			Rubeola .. ..	24		
Peripneumonia .. ..	2			Scarlatina .. ..	10		
Pleuritis .. ..	1			Erysipelas .. ..	1		
Pertussis .. ..	7			Herpes Zoster .. ..	1		
Hepatitis .. ..	2			Rheumatismus .. ..	3		
Dysenteria .. ..	15			Abortus .. ..	2		
Cholera .. ..	8			Convulsio .. ..	1		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	9			Hæmorrhoids .. ..	2		
Cephalæa .. ..	29			Diarrhœa .. ..	18		
Asthma .. ..	1			Constipatio .. ..	2		
Catarrhus chronicus ..	15			Tænia .. ..	1		
Hæmoptysis .. ..	21			Lumbricus .. ..	1		
Phthisis .. ..	24			Marasmus .. ..	4		
Palpitatio .. ..	5			Nephralgia .. ..	5		
Gastrodynia .. ..	26			Dysuria .. ..	2		
Dyspepsia .. ..	16			Hæmaturia .. ..	3		
Vomitus biliosus .. ..	9			Amenorrhœa .. ..	4		
Hæmatemesis .. ..	3			Dysmenorrhœa .. ..	2		
Hepatalgia .. ..	2			Menorrhagia .. ..	8		
Icterus .. ..	4			Leucorrhœa .. ..	12		
Pyrosis .. ..	3			Hysteralgia .. ..	6		
Enterodynia .. ..	24			Epilepsia .. ..	1		
Colica Pictonum .. ..	4			Hypochondriasis .. ..	1		
Peritonitis chron. .. ..	1			Amnesia .. ..	1		
Physconia .. ..	2			Asthenia .. ..	21		



	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Hysteria .. ..	5	Strophulus .. ..	1
Chorea .. ..	1	Prurigo .. ..	2
Hemiplegia & Paraplegia	5	Lepra .. ..	3
Paralysis saturnina ..	2	Psoriasis .. ..	5
Anasarca .. ..	3	Roseola .. ..	1
Ascites .. ..	1	Urticaria .. ..	6
Hydrops tot. Corp.	4	Purpura .. ..	4
Rheumatismus chronicus	32	Erythema .. ..	1
Lumbago .. ..	6	Porrigio .. ..	21
Rachitis .. ..	1	Scabies .. ..	14
Struma .. ..	3	Ecthyma .. ..	2
Ophthalmia .. ..	4	Rupia .. ..	3

THE summer has been moderate, or rather cool, in point of temperature, with the exception of the last week in July, and especially of Thursday the 28th, on which day the thermometer stood at  $90^{\circ}$ , or  $91^{\circ}$ , in the shade: it had been at  $86^{\circ}$  and  $88^{\circ}$  on the four preceding days. Distant lightning in every direction, on the Thursday night, indicated the general prevalence of thunder-storms, though they did not approach the metropolis within several miles: but the intense heat subsided. The wind continued during the greater part of June from the east or north-east, which rendered the mornings and evenings chill; but during the last two months it has been chiefly from the west and north-west.

During the months of June and July, the measles were extensively prevalent, but, as far as my observation went, neither more severe nor more fatal than usual. In some cases, and especially in children somewhat advanced in growth, as from 7 to 10 years of age, though the eruption was plentiful, the whole train of concomitant symptoms was particularly mild.



In infants and young children, and more especially in those living in close and crowded situations, the pulmonary symptoms and fever were more severe, and cough, ear-ache, or inflammation of the eyes succeeded the termination of the disease. The only fatal instances which occurred under my observation, were in two very young children in the same family, who resided in a cellar in a very close and crowded court. The elder of the two had been previously for some time in a sickly state, with symptoms of marasmus. Scarlet-fever has also been somewhat prevalent, and in a mild form, with but slight affection of the throat; and there has been some small-pox; but of the extent of the prevalence of the latter, the applications to the Dispensary afford no criterion, because the common cases are allowed to run their course, and assistance is only called for where something occurs to excite particular alarm. The prejudices against vaccination unfortunately do not appear to be diminishing: for in the family in which the three cases in the list occurred, there were two older children who had been vaccinated, and who now remained in the midst of the variolous contagion with impunity, sleeping in the same bed with the infected; yet the parents had been led to question the security of vaccination, and even now were not easily impressed with the lesson, though one of the children lost an eye by the small-pox. Nor is this the only instance of the kind, which has occurred, in which a former confidence in vaccination has been withdrawn, without any actual evidence in disparagement of it, but even contrary to personal experience of its value; so much is the opinion of the uneducated under the influence of prejudice.



The derangements of the chylopoetic organs are, as usual, among the more prominent complaints of the season. Not only the cases of enterodynia, vomitus, diarrhœa, dysenteria, and cholera, but the majority of the instances of febris, vertigo, cephalœa, and asthenia, originate in the same source. Almost all the cases of fever were of the gastric or bilious class, and characterized by deranged excretions from the bowels, with pain in the epigastrium and abdomen, a much loaded tongue and depraved taste in the mouth, and complete loss of appetite, and by the absence of any tendency to delirium, or marked affection of the head. In several cases, the tongue has been highly red, with a disposition to chap, while the stomach has been very irritable, rejecting every thing but the mildest fluids in small quantity, and the bowels have been in a lax and scarcely less irritable condition; the countenance at the same time, with the exception of an occasional flush, remaining nearly natural in its expression, and the eyes without any tendency to suffusion or dulness. In this condition the patient has continued, with very little alteration in the symptoms, for a fortnight or more; for the irritability of the whole alimentary canal has rendered the use of almost every species of ingesta, whether food or medicine, a source of stimulation. Small quantities of light liquid food, with a simple cretaceous draught, and blistering the epigastrium, have appeared to comprise all that was useful in the way of treatment: for even common saline medicines occasioned griping and purging, opiates and antimonials increased the febrile condition, or produced sickness, and every thing of a



cordial quality was attended by a similar effect. These complaints, however, have in general gradually terminated in convalescence.

## REPORT XLI.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1814.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Tertiana .. ..	1	Enteritis .. ..	1				
Febris .. ..	23	Peritonitis .. ..	2				
—— Infantum remittens	14	Cholera .. ..	2				
Ophthalmia .. ..	1	Nephritis .. ..	1				
Otalgia .. ..	1	Dysenteria .. ..	17				
Cynanche tonsillaris	6	Variola confluens	2				
Hydrocephalus .. ..	1	Varicella .. ..	4				
Catarrhus .. ..	74	Rubeola .. ..	9				
Pleuritis .. ..	2	Scarlatina anginosa	18				
Peripneumonia .. ..	19	Rheumatismus acutus	7				
———— notha	3	Abortus .. ..	3				
Pertussis .. ..	18	Convulsio .. ..	1				
Carditis .. ..	1	Tetanus .. ..	1				

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	8	Dyspepsia .. ..	16
Cephalæa .. ..	26	Vomitus .. ..	6
Asthma .. ..	3	Gastrodynia .. ..	28
Catarrhus chronicus	37	Hæmatemesis .. ..	1
Hæmoptysis .. ..	10	Pyrosis .. ..	4
Phthisis .. ..	18	Hepatalgia .. ..	1
Palpitatio post Febrem	1	Icterus .. ..	4
Dysphagia .. ..	1	Enterodynia .. ..	14



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Colica Pictonum	..	1	Hemiplegia	..	6
Diarrhœa	..	17	Paraplegia	..	1
Peritonitis chron.	..	4	Hydrops	..	1
Physconia	..	2	Ascites	..	2
Pulsatio Scrobiculi	..	1	Hydrothorax	..	1
Tænia	..	3	Anasarca	..	5
Lumbricus	..	1	Phlegmatia dolens	..	1
Marasmus	..	5	Struma	..	1
Nephralgia	..	4	Prurigo	..	6
Dysuria	..	6	Lichen agrius	..	2
Hæmaturia	..	1	Psoriasis inveterata	..	2
Enuresis	..	2	Lepra	..	1
Menorrhagia	..	5	Urticaria	..	4
Amenorrhœa	..	6	Erythema	..	2
Hysteralgia	..	7	Purpura	..	1
Leucorrhœa	..	7	Impetigo	..	2
Rheumatismus chronicus	34		Porrigo	..	11
Lumbago & Sciatica	3		Ecthyma	..	1
Tremores post Rheumat.	1		Scabies	..	8
Hypochondriasis	..	1	Herpes	..	1
Asthenia	..	15	Rupia	..	2
Hysteria	..	3	Aphthæ post Variolam	1	
Epilepsia	..	2			

THE temperature of the autumn was moderate and regular; and November has been, on the whole, less foggy than usual: the atmosphere, however, was frequently loaded, and in the third week a thick fog occurred for two or three days, accompanied by frost.

The pulmonary diseases, which usually multiply rapidly in the humid atmosphere of November, have assumed a considerable degree of severity; for, in addition to the number of cases of acute pneumonia, many of those, which are put down under the head of catarrh, and chronic catarrh, were marked by symptoms of considerable violence, especially in those



persons who are habituated to annual returns of winter-cough. In several of these, the habitual attack put on the character of peripneumony; and in some, particularly in those who had not applied for early assistance, or in whom the lancet had not been resorted to, it proved rapidly fatal. The apprehensions, which many cautious practitioners have entertained, and with which we have most of us been more or less impressed, in respect to the danger of blood-letting in London constitutions, are productive probably of some mal-practice. If the debilitating effect be really great, then, it is probable, the remedial effect is more easily obtained; and such appears to be the fact: for a single bleeding will often arrest a pneumonic inflammation, of moderate violence, in a person of indifferent vigour, and even advanced in life, sometimes during the flowing of the blood. Although, therefore, copious and repeated bleeding be seldom necessary, and that only in vigorous habits; yet in these patients, of a certain degree of feebleness, the opposite inference, that *no* bleeding is requisite, will be much more fatal in its consequences than any possible debility that can ensue. In cases of delicacy, however, the quantity should be determined, not by prescribed ounces, but by watching the operation, and observing its effects on the pulse and the symptoms as it proceeds. There appears to be no sound reasoning for doubting, that any constitution, which has vigour enough to be capable of acute inflammation in any important viscus, is capable also of bearing the quantity of debility (if we may so speak) which is necessary for subduing it.

The measles and scarlet fever have been very pre-



valent; and the former, in a few cases, were attended with considerable affections of the chest. The scarlatina has been, in all the cases, accompanied by sore throat; in the adults, indeed, in two or three families, the throat, as is usual, was the only seat of the disease, as the rash did not appear on the skin. Under the cool treatment, which, however, is often very imperfectly accomplished in the close and crowded apartments of the poor, these cases have uniformly done well. The fevers, of which twenty-three cases are mentioned, were of various types, and commonly mild and of short duration, depending apparently upon gastric derangement, and such as might be denominated *Synochus biliosa*. In two cases, however, a more serious affection of the bowels occurred, in the course of their progress, in which a copious and repeated hæmorrhagy took place, with pains in the abdomen, but with little or no tenesmus. The tongue and mouth, in these instances, were coated with a black fur, the pulse was exceedingly frequent and small, and much emaciation ensued. Purgings, though gentle and moderated by the combination of opiates, (which succeeds in dysentery,) appeared to aggravate the symptoms. Both the patients lingered a considerable time, with much moaning and expressions of distress; but with bright countenances, and only an occasional confusion of intellect; and one of them ultimately recovered, under the use of saline medicines, combined with anodynes.

The case of tetanus proved fatal, as is but too common. I had no opportunity indeed of employing any means of relief until the fifth day from the attack, when complete opisthotonos had existed for nearly



three days. The disease occurred in a woman of about 30 years of age, and appeared to be ascribable solely to the irritation, occasioned by scratching off a small scabby crust from a small superficial ulceration, that had subsisted for some time below the patella on both knees. Those on the right knee were completely healed, and on the left the little scab remained, and was forcibly abraded by accident. On the Tuesday, two or three days after this abrasion, she complained of stiffness about the jaw and back of the neck; the rigidity in these parts increased, and had extended, on the following day, to the extremities, which on the Thursday became spasmodically extended, and immoveable by the will. The jaw was now locked, so that no sustenance could be introduced. On the Saturday afternoon, I saw her, and found her lying on her back, with the arms and legs rigidly extended, and the toes pointed forward. She spoke in quick and irregular exclamations, appearing to be interrupted by the spasms of the diaphragm, after every two or three words. When asked how she was, she rapidly uttered, with catches in the breath, the words "Stop—I'll tell you—let me get—my breath." She complained of the most agonizing pain, both in the limbs and in the region of the diaphragm: the skin was hot, and she perspired profusely; the pulse was about 100; and she had had no evacuation from the bowels since the commencement of the attack. The pain of such a malady may be conceived, indeed, to be excruciating, if it be considered that it is an universal cramp; and she appeared to be in torture. It was vain to attempt the introduction of any medicine into the stomach; for not even a broken tooth afforded the means of passing any



thing into the throat. As the only case of tetanus, which I have ever seen terminate favourably, was treated by the cold affusion; and as this was almost the only remedy to the administration of which there was no actual impediment, a strong impression of the natural mortality of the disease, which must probably prove fatal in a day or two, was made upon the minds of the family, and the cold affusion was fully employed, at intervals of three or four hours, by dashing a bucket of water over the naked body, held in a tub. A turpentine clyster was likewise administered, but without any effect. On the following day, (Sunday) she was materially relieved in respect to the pain, and the rigidity of the spasms, and bent the knees considerably, to show me the command which she had regained over the muscles of the extremities; and she had none of those paroxysms, during which the body was in a great measure supported by the heels and the occiput. She still spoke with a catch, and in broken sentences; the jaw remained firmly locked; the pulse was above 100; the skin hot, and the sweating profuse; and no motion had passed. She was anxious to have the affusion continued, in consequence of the relief of pain which it had procured; and, without any consideration of the sweating surface, it was repeated. The enema was also increased in activity. But, in the course of the night, the vital powers began to sink, and she died in the forenoon of Monday, the seventh day.

The evidence of this case, though not strongly in favour of the cold affusion, is certainly not any disparagement of it. It produced, even at the late period



at which it was resorted to, a considerable alleviation of the spasms, and much ease to the patient: and, had it been employed earlier, such relief might have been more effectual. I once had the satisfaction of seeing this remedy remove the disease; and the patient affirmed, that, at each application of the affusion, he gained a manifest step in the recovery of his muscular freedom. Dr. G. Currey has recently witnessed the same success from the same remedy, in a case which was much less rapid in its progress, than the present one, and which he had an opportunity of treating from its commencement\*. With these intimations in its favour, and in the difficulty, which the disease occasions, of administering any internal remedy, if we were in possession of it, the cold affusion seems to be the first resort of which the practitioner would avail himself in this formidable and distressing malady.

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\* Medical Transactions of the College of Phys. Vol. IV. Art. xiii.



## REPORT XLII.

*From November 30, 1814, to February 28, 1815.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Febris .. ..	17	Enteritis .. ..	1
— Infantum remittens	2	Nephritis .. ..	2
Apoplexia .. ..	1	Dysentery .. ..	11
Hydrocephalus .. ..	3	Rheumatismus acutus	17
Cynanche .. ..	3	Scarlatina anginosa ..	9
Catarrhus .. ..	157	Rubeola .. ..	16
Pleuritis .. ..	3	Variola confluens ..	1
Peripneumonia .. ..	16	Erysipelas .. ..	1
————— notha ..	3	Herpes Zoster .. ..	2
Pertussis .. ..	9	Abortus .. ..	1

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	7	Hæmaturia .. ..	1
Cephalæa .. ..	22	Enuresis .. ..	3
Asthma & Dyspnœa	7	Nephralgia .. ..	8
Catarrhus chronicus	65	Dysuria .. ..	1
Hæmoptysis .. ..	10	Cystirrhœa .. ..	1
Phthisis .. ..	32	Hysteralgia .. ..	2
Palpitatio .. ..	4	Menorrhagia .. ..	6
Dyspepsia .. ..	23	Amenorrhœa .. ..	5
Gastrodynia .. ..	12	Leucorrhœa .. ..	9
Icterus .. ..	3	Rheumatismus chronicus	34
Hepatalgia .. ..	2	Paralysis .. ..	6
Enterodynia .. ..	11	Hysteria .. ..	7
Marasmus .. ..	9	Hypochondriasis ..	2
Tabes mesenterica ..	1	Mania .. ..	1
Hæmorrhagia intestin.	1	Chorea .. ..	1
Tænia .. ..	2	Asthma .. ..	11
Ascarides .. ..	2	Anasarca .. ..	3
Hæmorrhoids .. ..	3	Hydrothorax .. ..	2
Constipatio .. ..	2	Ascites .. ..	2
Diarrhœa .. ..	12	Hydrops totius Corporis	4



No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Scrofula	..	..	1	Porrigo	..	..	16
Cachexia syphiloidea	..	..	1	Ecthyma	..	..	2
Strophulus	..	..	1	Scabies	..	..	17
Lichen	..	..	1	Eczema	..	..	2
Psoriasis	..	..	2	Aphthæ	..	..	2
Urticaria	..	..	2	Lupus	..	..	1

ALTHOUGH the month of January was frosty for the most part, and during the third week intensely cold, with snow and fogs, yet the winter has been unusually mild; for December was not cold, though damp and stormy, with heavy gales from the west and south-west; and February has been throughout, not merely temperate, but actually warm.

Nevertheless the usual number of pectoral complaints is to be found in the preceding list, amounting to 300 cases out of 650. Several of them, too, assumed the acute form of catarrhal fever and peripneumony; but the catarrhs, generally speaking, have been much slighter than during the preceding severe winter, and the pulmonic inflammations have been much more manageable, and considerably less fatal. The most unyielding modifications of pneumonia have occurred as the sequelæ of measles, or have supervened upon whooping-cough; under both of which circumstances, the ordinary remedies appear to be less efficacious than in the more simple forms of pneumonic disease.

A few cases of simple fever present themselves sporadically from time to time, and most commonly appear to be referable to the class of *bilious* fevers, *i. e.* to those which owe their origin to gastric derangement, neither resulting from the operation of contagion, nor communicating themselves to more than



one individual, even in the ill-ventilated and uncleanly dwellings in which they are found. In one or two cases, however, which were first seen at a late period, and in which the gastric excretions had been neglected, and were in a very much deranged state, the head had become affected, and the disease assumed a low and typhoid type. To those who recollect the numerous cases of typhoid fevers, which called for the relief of dispensaries twelve or fourteen years ago, and the contagion of which was often with great difficulty eradicated from the apartments where it raged, and even seized the same individuals again and again, when they escaped its fatal influence, the great freedom from these fevers, which now exists, even in the most close and filthy alleys in London, is the ground of some surprise. The Fever Institution has, doubtless, contributed much to the purification of many receptacles of contagion, especially within the district superintended by this Dispensary, from the situation of the House of Recovery in Gray's Inn Lane. But the diminution of typhus is perhaps too general throughout the metropolis, to be entirely ascribable to the efforts of that useful institution. At the same time, we cannot observe any contemporaneous progress in the diminution of the causes to which these fevers are usually ascribed, which is at all proportionate to the diminution of fever, or adequate to account for this occurrence. If the scavengers are a little more diligent; if there be a slight improvement in the virtue of cleanliness, and in the taste for fresh air, among all classes of people; if the increasing supply of water afford additional facilities of purification; and if the absence of dearth for several years have contributed to



support the public health ;—the physicians of dispensaries are well aware that there is still an abundance of dirt, closeness, and starvation, immoveably inherent in numberless districts which they visit, which appear to be as fully adequate as ever to produce and nurture the contagion of fever. Upon the ordinary calculations, it might have been expected, that, during the three months of frost, which occurred last winter, the want of food and fuel must have been so extensively felt among the poor of London, as to render them liable to fever from debility, and to induce them to exclude the air from every crevice for the sake of warmth ; yet the population remained free from febrile diseases. The subject is, therefore, involved in considerable obscurity.

Although the efficacy of *oil of turpentine*, as a remedy for the *tape-worm*, has been several times mentioned in these Reports, there can be no impropriety in multiplying evidence in favour of a medicine, which is entitled to the character of a powerful and salutary agent, operating commonly *citò, et tutò*, and, in moderate doses, not *injucundè*. In both the cases of *tænia*, in the preceding list, *six* drachms of the oil of turpentine, alone and unmixed, were swallowed by the patients, at the Dispensary, without the least difficulty or inconvenience, and without producing any immediate effect. In about five hours it operated as a moderate cathartic on the first patient, a middle-aged woman, and produced the discharge of several feet of the worm, which appeared to be dead ; although other portions, which had occasionally been evacuated by drastic purgatives, had usually seemed to be alive. In the second patient, a young man of



about eighteen, it also operated moderately on the bowels, but without expelling a distinct worm; a great quantity of slimy matter, however, was said to be discharged: he has been subsequently free from the pain in the bowels, which he frequently suffered; and has ceased to pass single joints of the *tænia*, which he had been accustomed to evacuate. Although the woman has also ceased to expel the joints singly, as heretofore, yet she has had some uneasiness in the belly, similar to what she heretofore experienced. It produced no sickness, nor any affection of the urinary organs, in either of these patients.

The term *cachexia syphiloidæa*, I have borrowed from Mr. Pearson\*, as conveying with accuracy the two leading characteristics of the disease, a *malus habitus*, resembling, in many of the symptoms which accompany it, that state of body which is produced by the syphilitic poison;—the *pseudo-syphilis* of Mr. Abernethy. Without attempting to enter into any general history of a class of diseases, which is as yet very imperfectly known, it will be sufficient here to state briefly the symptoms of this case. The patient was a married man, about thirty years of age, who had not, according to probable evidence, been the subject of venereal infection, at least for several years. After having experienced a languor and debility, with some loss of flesh, and a sallow complexion, for the space of a few weeks, he was seized with a slight febrile paroxysm, which was followed by a general eruption on

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\* See his elegant and able work "On the Effects of various Articles of the Materia Medica in the Cure of Lues Venerea."—Introduct. p. liv. 2d edit.



the face, body, and limbs, of a papular character, very irregularly distributed, being here and there confluent and clustered in patches, and in other places distinct and distant, and the whole being of a dull brownish-red colour. The throat also became inflamed, and, when examined two or three days after, exhibited a superficial ulceration of the tonsils. The eyes were likewise suffused with redness, and with a tinge of bile. He was for some days in a state of slight fever, with extreme depression of strength, and became at the end of that period completely jaundiced. By means of purgatives, and the nitric acid, the jaundice was speedily removed. The eruption, however, continued, varying occasionally in hue, and being increased at irregular intervals by fresh crops of papulæ; and the debility and languor were also increased at those periods by a fresh accession of the febricula. This complaint continued about five weeks, the whole symptoms, however, becoming gradually less considerable, under the use of the mineral acids and vegetable tonics, especially the sarsaparilla.

31	Catarhus chronicus	31	Jaundice
32	Asthma	32	Jaundice
33	Hæmoptysis	33	Jaundice
34	Phthisis	34	Jaundice
35	Palpitatio	35	Jaundice
36	Dyspnoea	36	Jaundice
37	Dyspepsia	37	Jaundice
38	Gastritis	38	Jaundice
39	Hæmaturia	39	Jaundice
40	Icterus	40	Jaundice
41	Hepatitis	41	Jaundice
42	Hypochondriasis	42	Jaundice
43	Conspatio	43	Jaundice



REPORT XLIII.

*From February 28 to May 31, 1815.*

ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Tertiana .. ..	1	Peritonitis .. ..	1
Febris .. ..	29	Cholera .. ..	1
— Infantum remittens	5	Dysenteria .. ..	14
Otalgia .. ..	2	Hysteritis .. ..	3
Hydrocephalus .. ..	2	Rheumatismus acutus	11
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	9	Rubeola .. ..	5
— trachealis .. ..	1	Variola .. ..	3
— parotidæa .. ..	1	Scarlatina anginosa ..	7
Pleuritis .. ..	3	Erysipelas .. ..	1
Peripneumonia .. ..	13	Apoplexia .. ..	1
Catarrhus .. ..	101	Convulsio .. ..	1
Pertussis .. ..	10	Abortus .. ..	4
Hepatitis .. ..	3		

CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	11	Diarrhœa .. ..	13
Cephalæa .. ..	21	Enterodynia .. ..	7
Hemicrania intermittens	1	Hæmorrhœis .. ..	4
Catarrhus chronicus ..	31	Tænia .. ..	2
Asthma .. ..	3	Ascarides .. ..	5
Hæmoptysis .. ..	25	Lumbricus .. ..	1
Phthisis .. ..	42	Physconia .. ..	2
Palpitatio .. ..	4	Marasmus .. ..	10
Dysphagia .. ..	1	Nephralgia .. ..	7
Dyspepsia .. ..	19	Dysuria .. ..	2
Gastrodynia .. ..	22	Diabetes .. ..	1
Hæmatemesis .. ..	2	Hysteralgia .. ..	4
Icterus .. ..	4	Dysmenorrhœa .. ..	3
Hepatalgia .. ..	4	Amenorrhœa .. ..	7
Hypochondriasis .. ..	3	Menorrhagia .. ..	10
Constipatio .. ..	5	Leucorrhœa .. ..	17



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Rheumatismus chronicus	45			Lepra	..	..	3
Asthenia .. ..	39			Psoriasis .. ..	..	..	6
Epilepsia .. ..	3			Urticaria .. ..	..	..	2
Chorea .. ..	1			Purpura .. ..	..	..	4
Hysteria .. ..	8			Erythema .. ..	..	..	3
Hemiplegia .. ..	4			Impetigo .. ..	..	..	4
Paraplegia .. ..	1			Porrigo .. ..	..	..	7
Morbus spinalis .. ..	1			Rupia .. ..	..	..	1
Hydrops .. ..	4			Eczema .. ..	..	..	3
Hydrops Ovarii .. ..	1			Scabies .. ..	..	..	13
————— Pericardii	1			Sycosis .. ..	..	..	1
Anasarca .. ..	6			Ecthyma .. ..	..	..	1
Lichen .. ..	3			Scrofula .. ..	..	..	2
Prurigo .. ..	5						

THERE has been nothing peculiar in the weather, during the three months comprehended by this Report, except that March was warmer than April, and not infested by the easterly winds, which set in rather later, and have been less permanent than usual. The rains were frequent in May.

There has been nothing, in fact, either peculiar or prominent in the diseases which have occurred during this period. The usual majority of catarrhal and rheumatic complaints, sometimes single, but in very many instances combined, (the list only presents an account of the most prominent, where they occurred together,) has been the principal subject of medical treatment. The fevers have been almost invariably mild, and many of them of a gastric or bilious character. In one instance only, where a poor woman and her two daughters were confined to the same room, without a bed, and destitute of proper nourishment, as well as of every other comfort, from temporary distress, all the three individuals became the subject



of typhus, which, however, after they were removed to the Fever Hospital, was prevented from assuming a malignant type. The eruptive fevers appear, also, to have occurred only sporadically, or very partially, and, even in some very close courts, in which we witnessed them, to have shown no considerable tendency to spread beyond the families in which they appeared.

The friends of humanity must be gratified to find, that some check is likely to be given to the indiscriminate inoculation of small pox, by the operation of the common law, which has been lately appealed to, and by which the punishment of imprisonment has been inflicted, by way of example, upon a woman, who exposed her inoculated infant in such way as to infect and destroy the lives of several other individuals; and also upon an unworthy member of the profession, who has spared no pains to multiply his own gains, by the dissemination of the pestilence through his own vicinity of the metropolis. "*Sic utere tuo, ut alienum non lædas,*" is the principle of the law, as well as of common equity; and it will be favourable to the increasing security of the lower classes of the people, that their prejudices will have this wholesome restraint put upon them, and operating gradually, perhaps, to their final extinction. The act of inoculation is not unlawful; but if disease or death be, by that act, carelessly inflicted upon another, the law deems it punishable. We have lately had the satisfaction of seeing many instances, among the patients of the Dispensary, where vaccination was preferred; and perhaps the cessation of the violence both of opponents and advocates, aided by the public im-



pression just alluded to, will gradually establish its general adoption.

In this and the preceding, as well as in other Reports, distinct evidence occurs of the conversion of cases of fever to the typhoid form by the circumstances in which the individuals happen to be placed; thus affording the most clear proofs of the identity of fever under all its modifications;—a doctrine which I have attempted to establish more explicitly in my “*Succinct Account of the Contagious Fever of this Country*” recently published.

## REPORT XLIV.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1815.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Quotidiana	..	..	1	Peripneumonia	..	..	8
Tertiana	..	..	1	Catarrhus	..	..	58
Quartana	..	..	1	Pertussis	..	..	5
Febris	..	..	54	Hepatitis	..	..	5
—— Infantum remit.			9	Enteritis	..	..	2
Otalgia	..	..	1	Dysentery	..	..	13
Hydrocephalus	..	..	3	Cholera	..	..	11
Epistaxis	..	..	1	Peritonitis	..	..	3
Cynanche tonsillaris	..	..	2	Rheumatismus	..	..	1
Pleuritis	..	..	2	Variola	..	..	4



	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Varicella .. ..	1	Herpes Zoster .. ..	1
Rubeola .. ..	1	Erysipelas .. ..	1
Scarlatina .. ..	12		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	11	Amenorrhœa .. ..	8
Cephalœa .. ..	35	Leucorrhœa .. ..	7
Asthma & Dyspnœa ..	4	Asthénia .. ..	24
Catarrhus chronicus ..	13	Melancholia .. ..	2
Hæmoptysis .. ..	18	Hysteria .. ..	11
Phthisis .. ..	29	Epilepsia .. ..	2
Aneurisma .. ..	1	Paralysis .. ..	4
Palpitatio .. ..	3	Rheumatismus chronicus	38
Dyspepsia .. ..	36	Pleurodyne .. ..	7
Gastrodynia .. ..	22	Lumbago .. ..	7
Pyrosis .. ..	1	Hydrops .. ..	7
Hepatalgia .. ..	1	Hydrothorax .. ..	1
Icterus .. ..	1	Anasarca .. ..	2
Peritonitis chron. ..	3	Struma .. ..	2
Colica Pictonum .. ..	5	Strophulus .. ..	1
Enterodynia .. ..	32	Lichen .. ..	2
Diarrhœa .. ..	19	Prurigo .. ..	1
Constipatio .. ..	3	Lepra .. ..	4
Lumbrici .. ..	1	Psoriasis .. ..	4
Hæmorrhoids .. ..	2	Urticaria .. ..	3
Physconia .. ..	2	Purpura .. ..	2
Marasmus .. ..	7	Impetigo .. ..	1
Nephralgia .. ..	10	Porrigō .. ..	11
Dysuria .. ..	1	Ecthyma .. ..	3
Hæmaturia .. ..	2	Scabies .. ..	12
Hysteralgia .. ..	9	Rupia .. ..	1
Menorrhagia .. ..	8	Eczema .. ..	1

THE summer has been in general warm and dry, and in August the heat in the metropolis was considerable, and the harvest was early and rapidly got in throughout the southern and midland counties.



The fineness of the season might indeed be almost inferred from a perusal of the preceding catalogue of diseases, in consequence of the diminution of the proportion of pulmonary and rheumatic complaints, and the great augmentation of the derangements of the alimentary canal, under the heads of dyspepsia, enterodynia, cholera, &c. as well as of the summer-fevers, headach, vertigo, &c. which are indirectly the result of the same derangements. These maladies, in fact, constitute about one-third of the whole catalogue. The fevers, though unusually numerous, were very seldom severe, or of long duration; some of the patients even walked to the Dispensary, complaining much of headach, with great languor, lassitude, and aching of the back and limbs, and exhibiting a good deal of depression in their countenances, but speedily recruiting after the operation of a purgative, and the use of saline medicines. All the cases of fever were sporadic, or at least were not of a contagious or spreading character, and only two assumed a typhoid appearance, one of which, indeed, was speedily fatal, the skin being covered with petechiæ, and ultimately with large vibices and ecchymoses, which were mistaken by the people for confluent small-pox. Yet in this instance, no other person in the family suffered. Many of the cases of headach and vertigo were obviously but slighter degrees of the febrile affection, and generally yielded to the same remedies, without any topical means of relief being resorted to. In the many cases of bowel-derangement, which were accompanied by considerable abdominal pain, the union of a narcotic with purgatives, especially those of a warmer description, proved very beneficial.



In two cases of inveterate dysentery, which had been long neglected or mismanaged, and to which the ordinary combinations of purgatives and opiates, and other means, failed to afford any material relief, an active treatment, first recommended in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* \* by Mr. Playfair, as practised at Calcutta, and subsequently by Mr. English, in London †, was adopted with great and effectual benefit. The relief, indeed, was described in such strong language by both patients, and the request for a repetition, on some threatening of a return of the symptoms afterwards, was so urgent, as to demonstrate the effectual operation of the medicine. The remedy consists in giving a large dose of ipecacuanha combined with a full dose of laudanum. These gentlemen recommend from 30 to 60 grains of ipecacuanha, to be given with the same number of drops of laudanum; a dose which is often vomited at first, but retained on being repeated, and then produces an easy evacuation of the bowels, without tenesmus or blood. In the two cases in question, only a scruple of ipecacuanha was given, with 30 drops of laudanum, and no vomiting was produced, but a speedy relief to the griping and tenesmus, and one or two quiet motions in the day, instead of the numerous irritating discharges, which had previously been the source of continued distress to the patients. This method of administering ipecacuanha in dysenteric affections appears, therefore, to be worthy of attention; and the result of these trials confirms the observation of Mr. English, that the remedy

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\* See the No. for January 1813, Art. IV.

† See the No. for October 1814, Art. XII.



is as effectual in the advanced stages of the disease as Mr. Playfair had found it in the incipient.

The bowel-complaints of the season, which have assumed a considerable variety of form within the district of the Dispensary, are said to have put on more generally a dysenteric character in the eastern part of the town and suburbs, especially about Hoxton, Bethnal Green, &c. where an epidemic dysentery has been very prevalent, and in a few cases fatal.

## REPORT XLV.

*From August 31 to November 30, 1815.*

### ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Febris .. ..	32	Dysentery .. ..	25				
— — Infantum remittens	8	Peritonitis Puerperarum	1				
Apoplexia .. ..	1	Variola .. ..	9				
Hydrocephalus .. ..	1	Rubeola .. ..	14				
Otalgia .. ..	1	Scarlatina .. ..	30				
Cynanche .. ..	15	Varicella .. ..	2				
Catarrhus .. ..	80	Erysipelas .. ..	2				
Pneumonia .. ..	22	Arthritis rheumatica ..	5				
Pertussis .. ..	5	Rheumatismus .. ..	4				
Hepatitis .. ..	2	Abortus .. ..	2				
Cholera .. ..	4						

### CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa .. ..	21	Catarrhus chronicus ..	32
Vertigo .. ..	6	Hæmoptysis .. ..	10
Asthma .. ..	1	Phthisis .. ..	21



<i>No. of Cases.</i>		<i>No. of Cases.</i>	
Dyspepsia	25	Pleurodyne	3
Gastrodynia	14	Paralysis	4
Pyrosis	4	Asthenia	11
Vomitus	7	Hysteria	2
Hepatalgia	2	Chorea	3
Icterus	6	Epilepsia	4
Enterodynia	16	Melancholia	1
Colica Pictonum	1	Struma	2
Tænia	1	Lichen	2
Ascarides	1	Lepra	1
Hæmorrhoids	4	Psoriasis	4
Marasmus	8	Urticaria	3
Diarrhœa	25	Erythema	2
Hæmaturia	1	Purpura	1
Dysuria	1	Impetigo	8
Nephralgia	2	Porrigō	12
Hysteralgia	4	Ecthyma	2
Amenorrhœa	4	Scabies	8
Menorrhagia	5	Herpes	1
Leucorrhœa	8	Rupia	2
Anasarca	9	Eczema	2
Hydrops	3	Aphthæ	1
Rheumatismus chronicus	46		

THE warm and dry weather, which had prevailed during the summer, was protracted to the latter part of October; so that the whole season was remarkably uniform, dry and fine, yet temperate. It was a general observation, in the month of October, that so long a series of fine weather had not occurred for many years. This steady temperature and dryness appears, however, to have been peculiar to the south-east portion of the island; for in the north-west the autumn was unusually wet, and in the north in general showery and cool. In the second week of November, however, the temperature suddenly altered during a



hail-storm, and became 20 degrees lower at night than it had been in the morning. From this time, a steady frost, unusual at this early season, has prevailed, until to-day, the 30th, when the thermometer has again suddenly mounted to 50°, having been as low as 26° last night.

The diseases of the patients of a Dispensary, who are much exposed to the influence of the weather, are observed to vary much in correspondence with its changes. Accordingly during the months of September and October, the disordered states of the stomach and bowels, and other affections, usually termed *bilious*, which are connected with them, continued to prevail to an unusually late period. Several severe cases of dysentery, especially, presented themselves, accompanied by much abdominal pain and tenesmus, and a very irritable state of the bowels, which appeared to require more soothing and to bear less evacuation, even when moderated by anodynes, than usual. Opiate enemata were very serviceable, in some cases, in quieting the irritability of the rectum, which sometimes suffered considerably from the acrimony of the discharges.

Most of the exanthemata, but especially the scarlet-fever, which generally assumed rather an unfavourable character, have been prevalent during the autumnal months. The measles, though frequently occurring, were not generally attended by those formidable pectoral symptoms, which indeed are always less liable to be severe in the milder seasons. But the small-pox in some cases were of the confluent kind, and lamentably prevalent, considering the facilities which are offered to the poor of rescuing their



children from this calamity. The variolous inoculators, being chiefly practitioners conversant with the lower classes of the people, seem to have left the minds of these people in a state of confusion, on this subject, almost approaching to stupor. They have scarcely any reason to offer in excuse for their omission to secure their offspring from the contagion ; but in the state of doubt into which they have been thrown by contradictory assertions, they neither variolate nor vaccinate, but wait in apathy the casual operation of the contagion. The scarlet-fever was generally accompanied by a severe affection of the throat, which, in many cases, continued to harass the patient after the usual term of the fever had elapsed, and in several children appeared to be the principal cause of the fatality of the disease. The simple rash, which yields readily to the cool treatment with little medicine, was seldom seen during this epidemic ; and the period, when cold washing seemed to be essentially remedial, was soon over ; but laxatives and acids appeared to be more beneficial than the cinchona or cordials. We witnessed only one or two cases of dropsy supervening upon the disease, although the convalescence was in many cases slow.

The only case of hydrocephalus in the list, which exhibited symptoms of the commencement of pressure, when it was first visited, terminated in recovery. The child, an intelligent boy of eight years of age, with light hair, and large blue eyes, had been ill ten days with fever and headach, the latter of which had considerably increased, and had been accompanied at first with intolerance of light and noise. When he was visited from the Dispensary, he was lying in bed,



with a rapid pulse, partially flushed countenance, dilated pupils, and extreme pain in the head, so that he screamed upon being moved, or even upon the apprehension of being moved. He was nearly, if not entirely blind, and there was a perceptible disposition to strabismus. The bowels had been slightly opened by medicine. A purge of calomel and jalap was ordered immediately; the head to be shaved, and cloths instantly wetted with water and a little æther to be applied to the scalp; the temples were bled with leeches; and as effusion appeared to have commenced, half-a-drachm of mercurial ointment was ordered to be rubbed in twice a-day. On the following day, a very marked amendment was perceptible; the boy could bear to be moved gently, and said his head was better. The leeches were a second time applied, and the purgative repeated, and the friction was continued about ten days; during which there was a progressive and rather rapid diminution of the symptoms: the sight returned about the third day, with the cessation of the headach, and soon became perfect; and he was discharged in a fortnight in complete health. The speedy relief to these formidable symptoms, which ensued upon the adoption of this treatment, is obviously to be ascribed exclusively to the evacuant and refrigerant remedies, and not to the influence of the mercury, the operation of which was necessarily too tardy to produce so rapid a change; and it may serve as an intimation, not to omit the use of evacuants, even when we are called to treat hydrocephalus at a period when the stage of effusion appears to have commenced.



## REPORT XLVI.

*From November 30, 1815, to February 29, 1816.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Febris .. ..	16	Rheumatismus ..	6
— Infantum remittens	10	Enteritis .. ..	1
— quartana ..	1	Peritonitis .. ..	2
Hydrocephalus ..	3	Rubeola .. ..	8
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	13	Scarlatina .. ..	3
Ophthalmia .. ..	1	Variola .. ..	4
Peripneumonia ..	23	Erysipelas .. ..	1
— notha .. ..	3	Pertussis .. ..	2
Pleuritis .. ..	7	Apoplexia .. ..	1
Catarrhus .. ..	179	Abortus .. ..	2
Dysenteria .. ..	7		

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa & Vertigo ..	18	Lumbricus .. ..	1
Asthma .. ..	2	Ascarides .. ..	1
Catarrhus chronicus ..	99	Menorrhagia .. ..	14
Hæmoptysis .. ..	13	Amenorrhœa .. ..	5
Phthisis .. ..	21	Leucorrhœa .. ..	7
Odontalgia .. ..	2	Hysteralgia .. ..	2
Hæmatemesis .. ..	2	Diabetes .. ..	1
Palpitatio .. ..	2	Anasarca .. ..	6
Dyspepsia .. ..	25	Hydrops .. ..	9
Gastrodynia .. ..	14	Asthenia .. ..	11
Pyrosis .. ..	5	Rheumatismus chronicus	43
Icterus .. ..	2	Chorea .. ..	2
Hepatalgia .. ..	2	Epilepsia .. ..	5
Enterodynia .. ..	9	Hysteria .. ..	5
Diarrhœa .. ..	17	Convulsio .. ..	4
Colica Pictonum .. ..	1	Scrofula .. ..	2
Marasmus .. ..	10	Strophulus .. ..	1
Nephralgia .. ..	7	Lichen .. ..	2
Dysuria .. ..	2	Prurigo .. ..	3



No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Intertrigo	..	..	3	Impetigo	..	..	5
Lepra	.	..	2	Porrigo	..	..	8
Psoriasis	..	..	4	Ecthyma	..	..	1
Ichthyosis Cruris	..	..	1	Scabies	..	..	8
Urticaria	..	..	1	Aphthæ	..	..	1
Purpura	..	..	1	Rupia	..	..	3

THE winter, though it can scarcely be said to have been a severe season, has been productive, however, of much illness by the perpetual fluctuations, and the occasional intensity of the cold. On two nights, indeed, in February, the thermometer was lower by many degrees than it has been for a great number of years, and much lower than it ever was during the severe frost of 1814\*. In fact, although there has been no long-continued frost, and therefore it has not been felt as severe; if the number of frosty days, from the early part of November when they commenced, were to be counted, it would be found that, on the whole, the cold of this winter has been considerable. The fluctuations, however, have been frequent and unusually great, a change of above 20 degrees of the thermometer having sometimes occurred in the course of twenty-four hours.

The result of this has been very unfavourable to the public health; for a more general prevalence of ca-

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\* The common registers in the magazines are not to be depended upon, as their great *difference* demonstrates. From the accurate observations of Mr. Howard, it appears, that on the 9th of February, at night, the thermometer near the snow at Tottenham stood as low as *minus* 5, or 5° below *zero*. I understand it was observed at — 2 at Kew, and — 4 at Northampton on the same night; a degree of cold not observed above once in 20 or 30 years.



catarrhal and pulmonary diseases has not been observed since the year 1803, than has occurred since Christmas. The number under the heads of all the other diseases in the preceding list is small, and seems to have given place to the multiplication of catarrh. Indeed for a few weeks it was scarcely necessary to inquire respecting the nature of the complaint, so uniformly catarrh followed catarrh, among the successive applicants at the Dispensary. On the whole, the disease, too, has assumed an unusually inflammatory type: it was not the influenza, however general its attacks; for it was not accompanied by the usual depression of the vital powers, which marks that modification of catarrh; nor was it prone to assume the low and bastard form of peripneumony, or that of the moist and expectorating chronic cough and dyspnoea: but was in most cases a hard and active catarrhal cough, or a more active pneumonia, requiring and bearing well the lancet, and free blistering, with evacuants of calomel and antimony. We had an opportunity of witnessing the benefit of a second and even a third bleeding, in some cases, where neither the apparent constitutional vigour nor the age would have led us to anticipate an inflammation so active as to require so much depletion; but which the consequent relief and success amply proved to be necessary. Whatever may be the cause, there seems to be a manifest difference in the character of the same diseases at different periods, as Sydenham remarked; and the epidemic catarrh of this season appears to have been more inflammatory than those which have sometimes obtained the appellation of influenza.



In each of two families among whom the cases of measles occurred, there appeared to be tolerably clear evidence of one individual, who now had the disease, having previously undergone the eruption and catarrhal affection in a regular way; in fact, that one child in each family now had the measles for the second time. The boy first attacked in one family, and who infected the rest, was eight years old; and the mother, an intelligent woman, would not believe that the eruption could be rubeolous, in consequence of a distinct recollection of his having gone through that disorder when he was a year old, through the course of which he was attended by a medical practitioner, who pronounced it to be measles. We have the high authority of Dr. Baillie, recently published in testimony of the same fact; and the measles would indeed constitute an anomaly among these contagions, if the general rule of its occurrence only once during life were not liable to the same exceptions with the small-pox and scarlatina.



# REPORT XLVII.

*From February 29 to May 31, 1816.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

	No. of Cases.		No. of Cases.
Febris .. ..	20	Enteritis .. ..	3
— Infantum remittens	8	Splenitis .. ..	1
Cynanche tonsillaris ..	5	Dysenteria .. ..	9
— parotidæa .. ..	2	Scarlatina .. ..	4
Pleuritis .. ..	6	Rubeola .. ..	5
Peripneumonia .. ..	10	Variola .. ..	1
Catarrhus .. ..	92	Urticaria febrilis ..	3
Pertussis .. ..	6	Rheumatismus .. ..	3
Phrenitis .. ..	1	Convulsio .. ..	1
Peritonitis .. ..	2	Apoplexia .. ..	1

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Vertigo .. ..	10	Hæmaturia .. ..	2
Cephalæa .. ..	23	Menorrhagia .. ..	11
Catarrhus chronicus ..	22	Amenorrhœa .. ..	3
Phthisis .. ..	18	Dysmenorrhœa .. ..	2
Hæmoptysis .. ..	11	Leucorrhœa .. ..	11
Dyspepsia .. ..	8	Hysteralgia .. ..	5
Pyrosis .. ..	2	Prolapsus Uteri .. ..	2
Gastrodynia .. ..	12	Lumbago .. ..	5
Vomitus .. ..	5	Rheumat. chron. ..	33
Hæmatemesis .. ..	1	Asthenia .. ..	6
Hepatalgia .. ..	5	Hysteria .. ..	4
Icterus .. ..	1	Epilepsia .. ..	4
Diarrhœa .. ..	13	Paralysis .. ..	6
Enterodynia .. ..	10	Marasmus .. ..	6
Constipatio .. ..	4	Hydrops .. ..	5
Ascarides .. ..	1	Anasarca .. ..	6
Tænia .. ..	1	Cachexia syphiloidea	2
Nephralgia .. ..	4	Struma .. ..	4
Dysuria .. ..	3	Pernio .. ..	1



<i>No. of Cases.</i>				<i>No. of Cases.</i>			
Lichen	..	..	5	Impetigo	..	..	2
Prurigo	..	..	2	Porrigo	..	..	8
Psoriasis	..	..	2	Scabies	..	..	5

A CHILLY and ungenial spring, which has retarded the progress of vegetation much beyond the usual period, has also prolonged the duration of catarrhal and rheumatic complaints, and rendered them obstinate and difficult of cure; so that those who happened to be attacked in the early part of the season, were often unable to conquer their disorders till towards the close of it. Other diseases do not seem to have been very rife; so that the character of the epidemic constitution has been principally catarrhal. The eruptive contagions never cease to show themselves in this extensive metropolis, and even small-pox still continues to add some victims to swell the weekly bills of mortality; but we have had occasion to see but a few scattered cases of these exanthemata during the last three months. Typhus, or common contagious fever, has nearly disappeared from our district; for the cases, inserted in the list under the head of Febris, do not approach in any of their symptoms to that character; and it is long since we have witnessed any thing like the spreading of simple fever from one individual to another, in any of the courts and close habitations which we are called upon to visit. The cases in the list are generally slight attacks of fever, of a gastric origin, with a white and somewhat loaded tongue, little or no affection of the sensorium, but with some manifest disturbance of the stomach or bowels, which yield speedily upon regulating the functions of these organs, with the use of the antiphlogistic regimen.



The term *Cachexia syphiloidea* has been appropriated by Mr. Pearson to a class of symptoms, with which he is undoubtedly better acquainted than any other practitioner, but which have not yet, perhaps, been sufficiently investigated to be finally subjected to generalization. It expresses the leading characteristics of this polymorphous disease with brevity, and is less equivocal than *pseudo-syphilis*, and some other appellations that have been proposed, as it implies merely a *malus habitus*, resembling, in its external signs, the morbid state which the poison of syphilis induces. The symptoms of syphilis were soon detailed with great minuteness and accuracy, and mercury early ascertained to be its specific remedy; but it seems to have first occurred to the sagacity of John Hunter, that such symptoms were not invariably the result of the syphilitic virus, nor invariably required the specific treatment. Observation has subsequently confirmed that opinion, and greatly extended it; insomuch that the soundest observers begin to admit, that there are, in fact, no symptoms which unequivocally characterize a disease of syphilitic origin, or unequivocally indicate the necessity of administering mercury; and that it is only by combining an examination of the appearances, with a history of their origin and progress, and of the treatment to which they have already been subjected, that a satisfactory conclusion can be deduced. Neither the nodes of the periosteum, the ulcerations of the fauces, nor any of the modifications of cutaneous eruption, upon which so much stress has been laid, can be relied on as unequivocal indications of a syphilitic or non-syphilitic disease. An ingenious attempt has indeed lately been made with



great confidence, in the sister island, to settle the characteristic eruptions connected with particular modifications of the cachexia, resulting from specific primary ulcerations, as well syphilitic as non-syphilitic; but, anxious as every zealous practitioner must be for solid instruction upon this subject, and ready as every friend of independent inquiry to admire the acuteness of the suggestion, it is but too manifest that this attempt is premature. If the point, indeed, could be thus expeditiously settled, it would have been determined long ago. The practical inference, from this state of uncertainty in the diagnosis, however, is, that we should be extremely cautious in pronouncing diseases to be syphilitic, without a careful examination of their history and treatment, and of subjecting a cachectic patient to the severity of a mercurial course, when he may be restored to health by more safe and certain means.



## REPORT XLVIII.

*From May 31 to August 31, 1816.*

## ACUTE DISEASES.

No. of Cases.				No. of Cases.			
Febris	..	..	36	Cholera	..	..	7
— Infantum remittens	..	..	4	Enteritis	..	..	1
Apoplexia	..	..	1	Peritonitis	..	..	7
Hydrocephalus	..	..	2	Dysentery	..	..	4
Cynanche	..	..	3	Erysipelas Faciei	..	..	1
Epistaxis	..	..	2	Variola	..	..	1
Catarrhus	..	..	69	Varicella	..	..	1
Peripneumonia	..	..	13	Rubeola	..	..	12
Pleuritis	..	..	7	Scarlatina	..	..	6
Pertussis	..	..	3	Rheumatismus	..	..	15
Hepatitis	..	..	1				

## CHRONIC DISEASES.

Cephalæa	..	..	31	Tænia	..	..	2
Vertigo	..	..	16	Ascarides	..	..	3
Dyspnœa organica	..	..	1	Marasmus	..	..	12
Catarrhus chronicus	..	..	18	Hæmorrhoids	..	..	6
Palpitatio	..	..	5	Splen magnum	..	..	1
Hæmoptysis	..	..	6	Dysuria	..	..	3
Phthisis	..	..	28	Hæmaturia	..	..	1
Dyspepsia	..	..	29	Nephralgia	..	..	2
Gastrodynia	..	..	16	Hysteralgia	..	..	4
Pyrosis	..	..	3	Prolapsus Uteri	..	..	2
Vomitus	..	..	3	Amenorrhœa	..	..	13
Hæmatemesis	..	..	4	Dysmenorrhœa	..	..	1
Hepatalgia	..	..	4	Menorrhagia	..	..	11
Icterus	..	..	6	Leucorrhœa	..	..	10
Enterodynia	..	..	19	Blenorrhœa	..	..	1
Colica Pictonum	..	..	1	Hydrops	..	..	4
Constipatio	..	..	1	Ascites	..	..	1
Diarrhœa	..	..	19	Anasarca	..	..	3



<i>No. of Cases.</i>			<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Rheum. chron. .. ..	34		Psoriasis .. ..	3	
Lumbago .. ..	5		Urticaria .. ..	5	
Pleurodyne .. ..	3		Erythema .. ..	3	
Dolor Mammæ .. ..	1		Purpura .. ..	2	
Chorea .. ..	1		Impetigo .. ..	5	
Epilepsia .. ..	4		Porrigo .. ..	15	
Melancholia .. ..	1		Ecthyma .. ..	4	
Asthenia .. ..	17		Scabies .. ..	20	
Hysteria .. ..	6		Herpes Zoster .. ..	2	
Hemiplegia & Paralysis	4		Eczema .. ..	2	
Struma .. ..	2		Rupia .. ..	2	
Dysphagia .. ..	1		Aphthæ .. ..	1	
Lichen .. ..	2		Acne .. ..	1	
Prurigo .. ..	1				

THE three *summer* months have exhibited very little of that character this year; as there has scarcely been one hot day during the whole of that period, and very few without more or less of rain: the season, in fact, having been later by at least a month in all its productions than is usual, and the thermometer uniformly low.

Whence the diseases, which have presented themselves at the Dispensary, have been also of a mixed character. The derangements of the digestive organs, and the diseases principally depending upon them, have therefore been rather more numerous than in the winter months; whilst the occurrence of upwards of fifty cases of rheumatic affections, and twenty of acute attacks in the chest, indicate a state of atmosphere rather ungenial. Among the diseases that are principally referable to gastric derangement, not only the large proportion of vertiginous cases and cephalæa, but the long list of cases under the head of Febris are also chiefly to be enumerated; for most of them assumed the type of slight fever, accompanied by dis-



turbed abdominal function, with little disorder of the head, and were of slight duration after a proper regulation of the chylopoetic organs. A small number of them, however, which occurred in the very filthy courts about Saffron Hill, occupied almost exclusively by Irish labourers and their families, assumed a typhoid character, and spread, apparently by contagion, so that twelve patients were removed from that quarter to the House of Recovery in Gray's Inn Lane, in the course of a fortnight in the early part of the present month. By this speedy removal, assisted by the white-washing and fumigation, which that institution practises in the habitations of the patients when removed, the progress of the fever appears to have been completely arrested.

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The extraordinary disappearance of contagious fever from every part of this crowded metropolis, during the long period comprehended by these Reports, cannot fail to have attracted the attention of the reader. But the fever just mentioned, though it was temporarily arrested in the quarter in which it began, by the exertions of the Fever Institution, (at that time under my superintendence,) was, in fact, the commencement of an epidemic, which has prevailed extensively, not only in this metropolis, but in most parts of the United Kingdom, up to the present time (April 1819), when it is manifestly on the decline. The year 1816, indeed, was well calculated to generate an epidemic fever, by the concurrence of the ungenial season above described, and the deficient har-



vest which resulted from it, with the general failure of the manufactories and of all the occupations and means of subsistence, connected with the war, which had recently terminated. My situation, as sole physician to the Fever Institution, up to the summer of 1818, afforded me the most ample opportunities of witnessing the progress and character of this epidemic, which I have deemed it my duty to record in a treatise already referred to\*.

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\* See above, p. 264.



EXPLANATION  
OF THE NOMENCLATURE.

- Abortus.* Miscarriage.  
*Acne.* Pimpled face.  
*Amenorrhœa.* Retention or suppression of the menses.  
*Anasarca.* Dropsy under the skin.  
*Aphthæ.* Thrush.  
*Arthritis rheumatica.* Rheumatic gout.  
*Ascarides.* Small thread-like worms.  
*Ascites.* Dropsy of the abdomen.  
*Asthenia.* Nervous affections.  
*Cachexia.* Depraved habit.  
*Cardialgia.* Heartburn.  
*Carditis.* Inflammation of the heart.  
*Catarrhus.* Common cold.  
*Cephalæa.* Head-ache.  
*Chlorosis.* Green sickness.  
*Chorea.* St. Vitus's dance.  
*Cynanche.* Sore throat.  
*Diabetes.* Excessive and morbid urine.  
*Dyseca.* Deafness.  
*Dysmenorrhœa.* Painful menstruation.  
*Dysphagia.* Impeded deglutition.  
*Dyspepsia.* Indigestion.  
*Dyspnœa.* Difficulty of breathing.  
*Dysuria.* Difficult micturition. Gravel.



- Eczema.* A hot vesicular eruption.  
*Ecthyma.* Large inflamed pustules.  
*Enteritis.* Inflammation of the bowels.  
*Enterodynia.* Pain of the bowels.  
*Enuresis.* Incontinence of urine.  
*Epistaxis.* Bleeding of the nose.  
*Erythema.* A red diffuse rash.  
*Gastritis.* Inflammation of the stomach.  
*Gastrodynia.* Stomach-colic.  
*Hæmatemesis.* Vomiting of blood.  
*Hæmaturia.* Bloody urine.  
*Hæmoptysis.* Spitting of blood.  
*Hæmorrhoids.* Piles.  
*Hemicrania.* Pain of one side of the head.  
*Hemiplegia.* Palsy of one half of the body.  
*Hepatalgia.* Pain in the liver.  
*Hepatitis.* Inflammation of the liver.  
*Herpes.* A vesicular febrile disease. Shingles.  
*Hydrocephalus.* Dropsy of the brain.  
*Hydrops.* Dropsy.  
*Hydrothorax.* Dropsy of the chest.  
*Hysteralgia.* Pain of the womb.  
*Hysteritis.* Inflammation of the womb.  
*Hysteria.* Hysterical diseases.  
*Icterus.* Jaundice.  
*Ichthyosis.* Fish-skin disease.  
*Impetigo.* The running tetter.  
*Intertrigo.* Inflammation of contiguous surfaces.  
*Ischuria.* Suppression of urine.  
*Lepra.* Leprosy.  
*Leucorrhæa.* The whites.  
*Lichen.* A pimply eruption.  
*Lumbricus.* The long round worm.  
*Mania.* Insanity with violence.



- Marasmus.* The disease commonly ascribed to worms.
- Menorrhagia.* Excessive menstruation.
- Molluscum.* A tubercular disease.
- Nephralgia.* Pain in the kidneys.
- Nephritis.* Inflammation of the kidneys.
- Odontalgia.* Tooth-ache.
- Ophthalmia.* Inflammation of the eyes.
- Otalgia.* Ear-ache.
- Paralysis.* Palsy.
- Paraplegia.* Palsy of the lower limbs.
- Peritonitis.* Inflammation of the membrane lining the abdomen.
- Pernio.* Whitlow.
- Pertussis.* Hooping-cough.
- Phlegmatia.* A painful swelling in one limb.
- Phthiriasis.* Lousy disease.
- Phthisis.* Pulmonary consumption.
- Physconia.* Solid tumour of the abdomen.
- Pityriasis.* A dusky branny eruption.
- Pleuritis.* Pleurisy.
- Porrigo.* Scalled head, ringworm, &c.
- Prurigo.* An itching pimply eruption.
- Psoriasis.* The scaly tetter.
- Purpura.* Purples. Land-scurvy.
- Pyrosis.* Water-brash.
- Quartana.* Quartan ague.
- Quotidiana.* Quotidian ague.
- Rachitis.* Rickets.
- Roseola.* A rose-coloured rash.
- Rubeola.* Measles.
- Rupia.* A vesicular scabbing eruption.
- Scabies.* Itch.
- Strophulus.* A red gum.
- Synochus.* Bilious or summer fever.



*Tabes.* Mesenteric consumption.

*Tenia.* Tape-worm.

*Tetanus.* Universal cramp and spasm.

*Trismus.* Locked jaw.

*Varicella.* Chicken-pox.

*Variola.* Small-pox.

*Urticaria.* Nettle-rash.

Such words as *Dysenteria*, *Colica*, *Rheumatismus*, &c., which differ from the terms in use only by their Latin termination, and others, such as *Asthma*, *Cholera*, *Lumbago*, &c., which are adopted into our language without any change, are omitted, as requiring no explanation.

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