

**Cases of insanity, the epilepsy, hypochondriacal affection, hysteric passion, and nervous disorders, successfully treated / by William Perfect, surgeon, of West Malling, in Kent.**

### **Contributors**

Perfect, William, 1737-1809.  
Bristol General Hospital  
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### **Publication/Creation**

[Rochester] : Printed for the author, by T. Fisher, at Rochester; and sold by J. Dodsley; N. Conant; and J. Bew, London, [1780?]

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/k5juq7gh>

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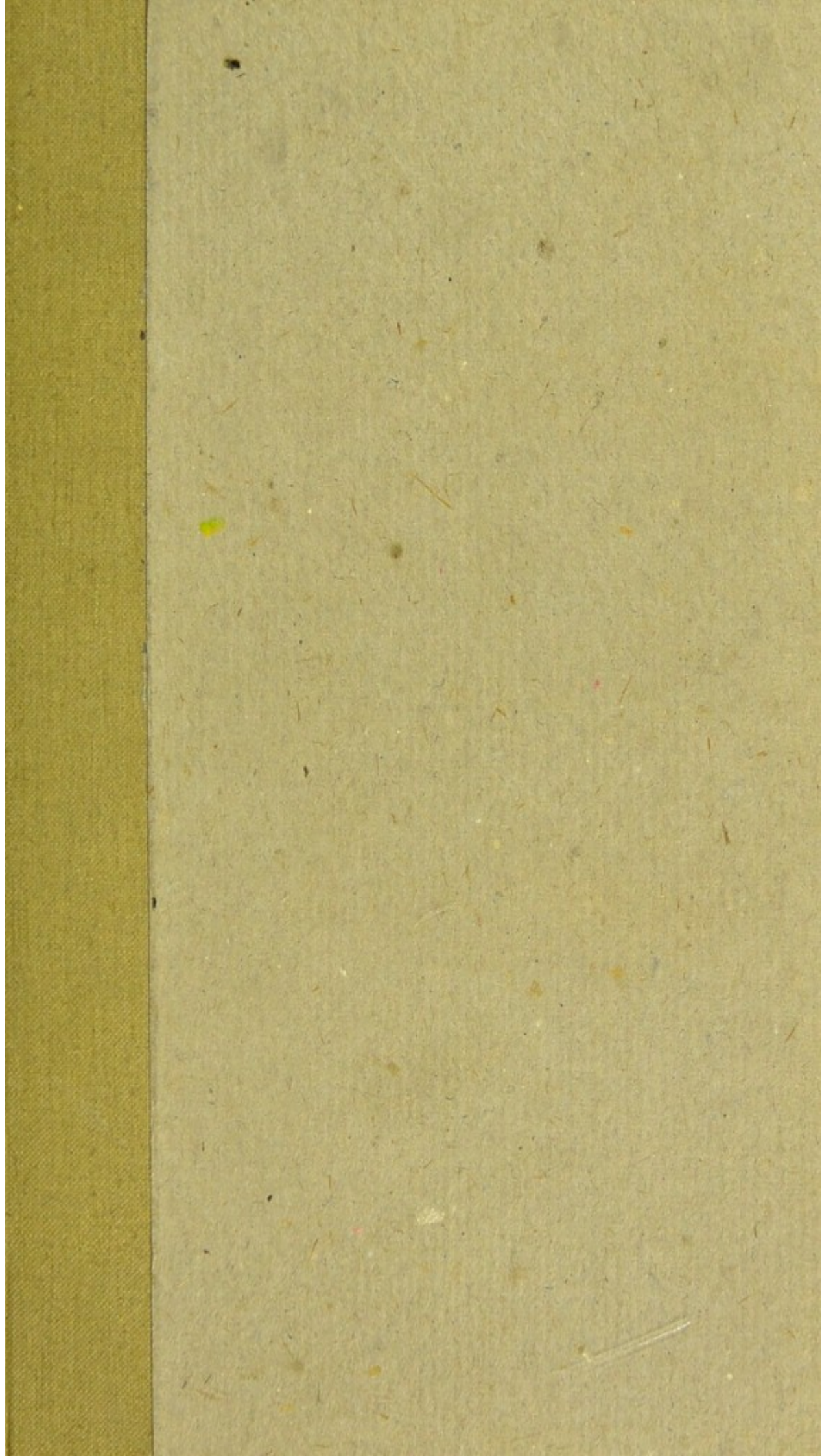
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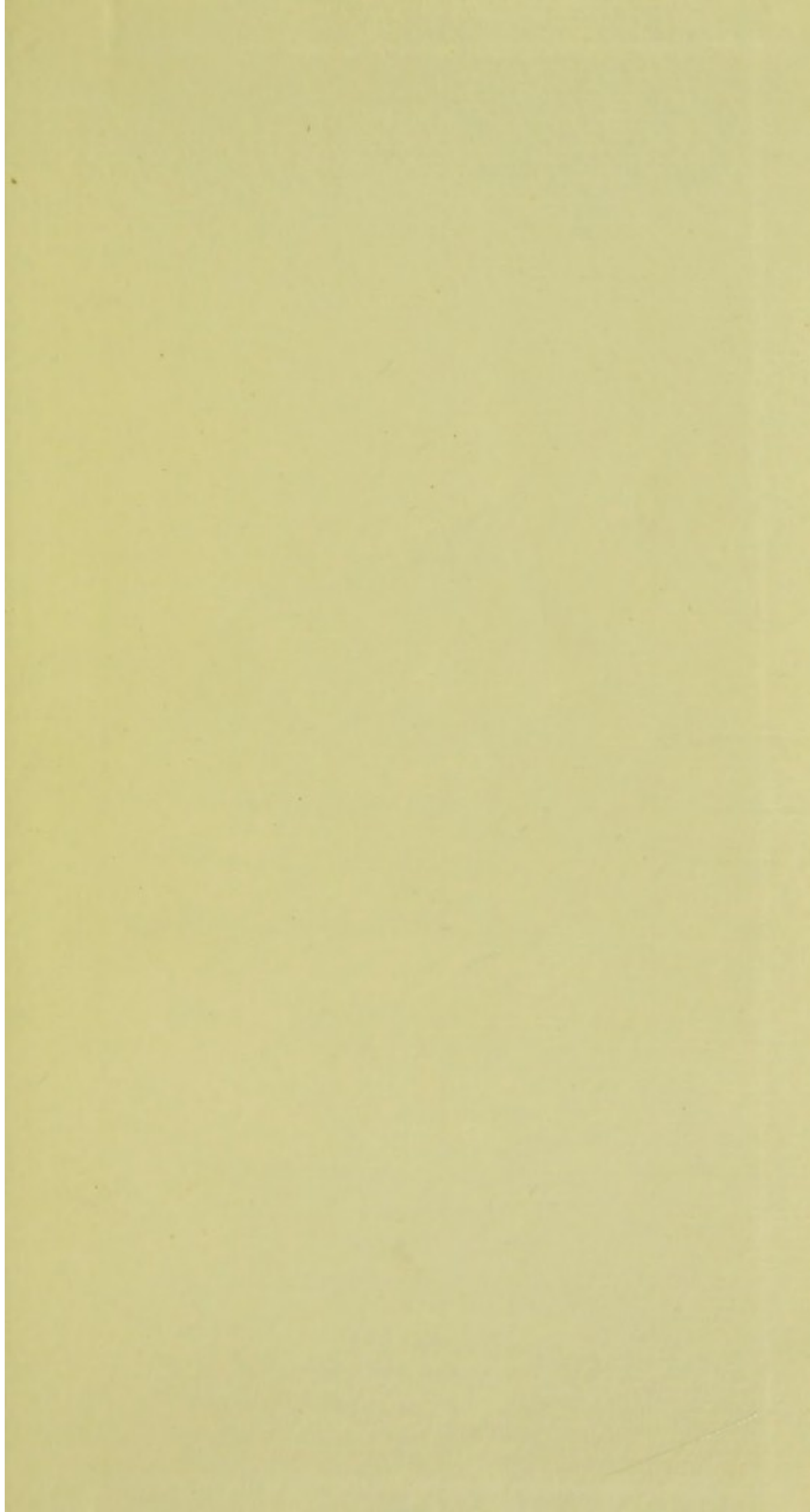
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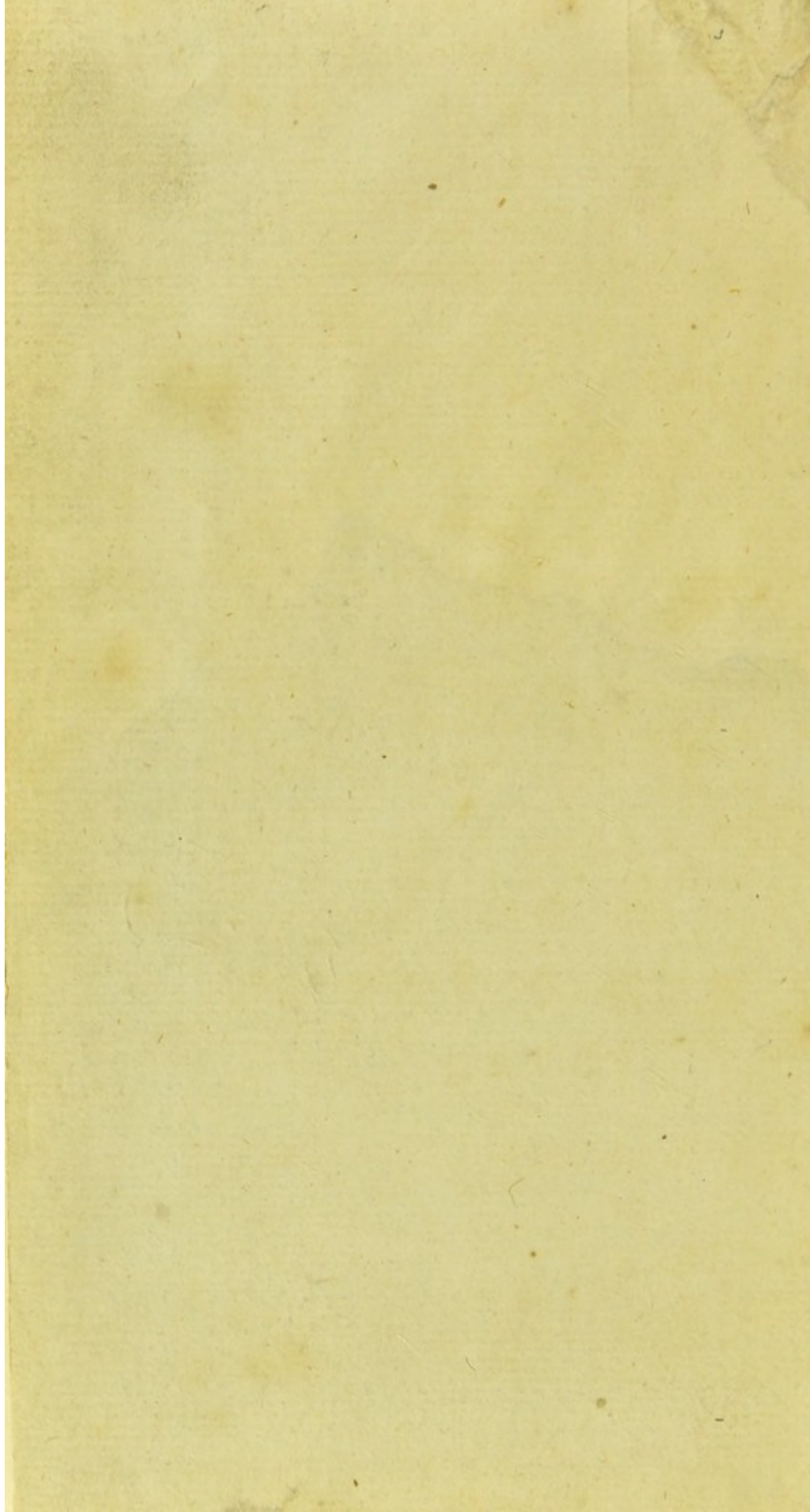
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C A S E S  
O F  
I N S A N I T Y,

T H E  
E P I L E P S Y,  
H Y P O C H O N D R I A C A L A F F E C T I O N,  
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N E R V O U S G E N E R A L O R D E R S,  
S U C C E S S I V E L Y T R E A T E D.  
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B Y  
W I L L I A M P E R F E C T, S U R G E O N,  
O F W E S T M A L L I N G, I N K E N T.

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*“ Non quæ mibi suggestit Phantasia  
Imaginatricis Temeritas, sed Quæ  
Phænomena præctica edocuerit”.*

SYDENHAM.

*“ Ad Utilitatem Vitæ omnia Consilia Factaque nostra  
dirigenda sunt”.*

TACITUS.

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T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N.  
W I T H M A N Y A D D I T I O N A L C A S E S.

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PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,  
By T. FISHER, at ROCHESTER;  
And Sold by J. DODSLEY, Pall-Mall; N. CONANT, Fleet-Street;  
and J. BEW, Pater-noster-Row, LONDON.





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“**M**R. PERFECT, a skilful and experienced Surgeon of this town, (*West Malling*) has fitted up divers convenient apartments, for the reception of all persons insane or immerfed in the desponding abyfs of melancholy; they are attended at his house with the affection of a parent, and the abilities of a man, who has, from itudy and obfervation, reduced into a practical science, the method of reftoring the mott wild and fixed madness, to cool fenfe and rational judgment: this Gentleman, actuated by a noble principle of univerfal benevolence, and a tender concern for the mental infirmities of his fellow creatures, has fo far fucceeded in the arduous task of curing dementated individuals, as to deferve a fingular favour and countenance from the legiflature”.

*Seymour's New Survey of Kent.*



## P R E F A C E.

**I**F an anxious care to improve the most important branches of his profession, by the faithful communication of some practical truths, selected from cases successfully treated, with an earnest desire to disseminate whatever may be in his power to collect for the direction or assistance of others, may justify the intention of the following pages; at the same time, that his Mode of Cure shall appear consistent with sound practice, the AUTHOR has to hope for the approbation of the unprejudiced, and little to fear from the illiberal and invidious.

The

The cure of maniacal patients must ever be esteemed an object of the last importance to individuals, as well as to society in general; Epileptic, Hypochondriacal, Hysterical, and Nervous Complaints have therefore engrossed much of the writer's time and attention, as in numberless instances some one or other of those diseases has apparently been the leading principle to the various species of madness.

As his first publication was not thought wholly void of utility, so the Author's highest felicity will be to find this Second Edition esteemed a collection of useful facts.

METHODS

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# METHODS of CURE

IN SOME PARTICULAR

CASES of INSANITY, &c.

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## M A D N E S S

“**I**S a disorderly inconstance of ideas. This most terrible calamity, in its *original state*, seems to admit of no other human definition, than that of

“Reason buried in the Body's Grave.”

B

And

And if hereditary, is not removeable by any method, which the science of physic, even at its present much improved state, is able to suggest. In which unhappy and irremediable stage, proper management alone seems all that can be done; yet, in its *consequential state*, arising from Epilepsy, Child-birth, Fevers, Anxiety, excessive Grief, Frights, Intenseness of Study, irregular Living, or strong and uncontrolled Passions, the aid of medicine cannot too soon be called in.—Accordingly, the late learned and celebrated Dr. *William Battie*, in his most excellent Treatise on Madness, says, “Laxity, whenever it intervenes between spasm and delirious pressure, and thereby becomes a remoter cause  
of

of consequential Madness, admits of cure, if timely and properly applied; and very often the weakened membranes spontaneously recover their former elastic tone, provided the spasmodic impulse is abated, before their constituent fibres are distracted beyond that natural tendency to approximation which was originally implanted in them."

MADNESS, consequential to gradual or chronical congestions, occasioned by gluttony or idleness, easily yields to medical cure, if seasonably and properly applied. Madness, consequential to, or accompanied with other disorders, affords no particular prognostic but what arises from those disorders, when

considered as primary distempers, distinct and separate from Madness itself. Anxiety, when it arises from some fault in the internal frame and constitution of the nervous substance, which is thereby rendered too sensible like original Madness, and for the same reason is not radically curable; but when its only cause is a laxity or defect of those external integuments which were given to the nervous substance for its defence; in such case, Anxiety, however afflicting, promises better success.—And here let me be permitted to add this sensible writer's annexed observation on Insensibility or Idiotism; which, when arising, he says, from an internal and constitutional defect of the organs designed to excite sensation;

or

or when it is a symptom or consequence of original Madness: like original Madness, and for the same reason, must be pronounced incurable by art: but, what is very remarkable, and much to be lamented, when Insensibility is the effect of consequential Madness; or when it may be attributed to the preter-natural closeness and rigidity of the nervous integuments, or to obstructions in the contiguous vessels, though it may seem as curable as consequential Anxiety; yet, in fact, (whatever is the reason of the difference) it is very seldom relieved either by art or nature. The antecedent signs of Madness are many and various; particularly, a redness and suffusion of the eyes with blood, a tremulous



mulous and constant vibration of the eye-lids, a change of disposition and behaviour, most extravagant, unnatural, and inconsistent ideas, supercilious looks, haughty carriage, disdainful or obscure expressions, grinding of the teeth, unaccountable malice to particular persons, little sleep, violent head-ach, quickness of hearing, incredible strength, insensibility of cold, &c."



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C A S E I.

**A** GENTLEMAN, aged fifty-eight, was  
 in January 1770, put under my  
 care as an insane patient. The cause  
 of his disorder was attributed to a sud-  
 den transition in his circumstances,  
 from easy and comfortable, to doubt-  
 ful and precarious; his complaints were  
 great pain in the head, continual noise  
 in his ears, at intervals a depression or  
 exaltation of spirits, his water was  
 very high-coloured, he passed whole  
 nights without sleep, sometimes raved,  
 and was convulsed, and his attention  
 was invariably fixed on one object;  
 namely,

namely, that he was ruined and undone! which was his incessant exclamation by night and day. He had taken strong purges, antimonial vomits, ammoniac draughts, sagapenum and steel had been exhibited in continued doses, issues, venæsection, a seton, and blisters, had been tried for a series of time; bathing: and, in short, almost every thing seemed to have been done without any visible alteration for the better. He had, however, never been fixed in a proper place of retirement, nor had the relations ever sufficiently excluded him from company and the conversation of *curious impertinence*. When I undertook the care of this person, he appeared very impatient of contradiction, and even talking to him,

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in the gentlest manner, would ruffle him to misconstruction of all that was said; I therefore prohibited all intercourse with his friends and relations for a fixt space of time; for, as the ingenious Dr. *Battie* truly observes, "The visits of affecting friends as well as enemies ought strictly to be forbidden." And this injunction was on their side punctually observed, otherwise I might have met with insurmountable obstacles in the execution of my curative plan; which was begun by applying a blister to the back, and confining the patient to a still and almost totally darkened room; I never suffered him to be spoke to by interrogation or reply, nor permitted any one to visit him but such whose busi-

ness it was to supply him with his aliment, which was light, cooling, and easy of digestion; at the same time that his constant drink was weak and diluting; this was absolutely necessary, as his regimen, although frequently directed to be cool and light, had never been properly attended to; a circumstance exceedingly blameable, and to be only imputed to the mistaken indulgence of his friends. For twelve nights successively he used the warm pediluvium, which resting him something better than he had long before done, I was induced to go a step farther, and try the effects of opium, which I began in the evening of the thirteenth day after he came to me, in the quantity of fifteen drops of the Elixir Pargoricum,

regoricum, which slept him an hour at a time; and through the day following he appeared much easier, and less anxious than usual; the elixir was now repeatedly increased till his nights were thoroughly composed, and his days rendered so free from perturbation of spirits, hurry and confusion of thoughts, that he talked rational and just, and seldom broke out into passionate expressions. In this course I persevered for nearly four months, every second, third, or fourth night, as occasion required, administering a sufficient dose of lenitive electuary, to prevent too great a constipation of the bowels from the repeated use of the paregorics; his reason now returned, his imagination grew stronger and less

confused, he spoke of things as they really were, and of the cause of his unhappiness with dispassionate coolness and resigned moderation. The opiate and pediluvium were gradually decreased, and entirely left off on the second of June following, after being with me fifteen weeks and three days; when I restored him to his relations in a state of Sanity, which he has happily preserved to the present time.



CASE

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C A S E II.

**O**N December the 29th, 1770, I was consulted by letter in the case of a Gentleman, in Carey-street, *London*; he was about the age of two-and-twenty, and, till within twelve months before, had enjoyed a rational mind and good state of health; but, in consequence of a disappointment in a treaty of marriage, from a chearful disposition he at once became sad, dull, and pensive, destitute of his wonted resolution, with almost a total loss of appetite, sleep, and spirits, and fond  
of



of solitude; for some weeks together he scarcely spoke a word, and from a florid complexion became pale and wan. In about three months after this melancholy dejection took place, he was seized with a drivelling, which continued four or five days; during which time his speech was facilitated, his appetite mended, and he enjoyed a partial return of his wonted vivacity; but no sooner did this discharge leave him than he reverted to his former gloomy and dejected state. A physician of eminence had in vain been consulted, and the ptyalism periodically returned with every full moon, brought with it its exhilarating and left its distressing effects. In this state he continued for the space of eight months

months, when he was entrusted to my management and care on the 15th day of January 1771; and finding, upon the strictest enquiry, that many probable methods of cure had ineffectually been referred to, and supposing, by this periodical discharge of the salival glands, that Nature had shewn an effort of self-assistance; and as the patient was not altogether in such a state of laxity as to prohibit the experiment, and particularly desirous to try it, I resolved to prolong the next monthly sputation by the assistance of calomel, exhibited at proper distances in quantities proportionate to the strength of the patient: accordingly, about a week before the expected return of the flux, I every night, at bed-time, gave him  
two

two grains of calomel, made into a small pill with conserve of roses; about the fifth day he complained of soreness in his gums, and on the sixth the salival discharge commenced, which I encouraged moderately, supporting the patient with a diet adapted to his situation; he was chearful, and, except the soreness of his mouth and gums, made no complaint at all. I continued the flux, in a small degree, till he had passed the following new moon, (at which time I perceived no increase of the ptyalism) when I began gradually to carry off the mercury by lenient purges, but the sputation did not entirely cease till the end of the seventh week from the first day of giving the calomel. I opened him an  
issue

issue in his arm, and advised him to a purging draught at the change of every full moon. The ptyalism never once returned; the cortex was, for some time, exhibited to brace up and strengthen the habit, and he was so thoroughly recovered, that I am well-informed he has not endured one day's illness, since he left my house on the second day of May 1771.

**D****CASE**

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## C A S E III.

**A** GENTLEMAN, aged forty-five, after having been subject for some years to acute rheumatic pains, without any apparent cause, became at once dull and melancholy; infomuch, that he could not follow his business, was frequently watchful, timorous, and despondent, and more than once made an attempt on his own life; he was first attacked in the beginning of September 1773, and had then only tried the advice of an apothecary in the

town where he lived. In November I was desired to visit him, and found him seated in his customary attitude, of his head reclining upon his arm, and his eyes fixed to the ground, as if lost in profound thought; I asked him several questions, but received no reply. I was informed he had taken vomits and purges, and had then by him a volatile mixture; he passed but little water, his belly was bound, and his stomach and bowels were much inflated with wind; the pulse was slow and hard, and he had been subject to the bleeding piles, which were now stopt; and the day before I saw him, he had ejected, by vomit, a great quantity of dark-coloured bile.—Little or no regard had ever been paid to his regimen,

regimen, and as his appetite was but very small at the best, he had been suffered to indulge it with high-sauced meats, and other things, directly opposite to the state of his case; wine, malt liquor, and sometimes rum or brandy, had not been denied him; and his unwillingness to move had prevented him to take exercise in the open air in a proper manner. At the time I took him to my house he had the most *incurious aspect* I ever beheld, and insensible to a near degree of idiotism; in-somuch, that a servant was always obliged to dress, undress, and feed him. In a few days I bled him, to the quantity of six ounces; the complexion of the blood proved the vessels to be loaded with a superabundant quantity



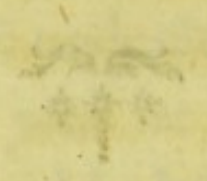
tity of humours, which clogg'd the circulation. I prohibited his wonted freedom of diet, and confined him to a slender and cooling one; he was frequently carried into the air, and had daily given him in broth, two drachms of soluble tartar, with one ounce of compound cinnamon water, to a pint. The pulse was greatly softened by the first bleeding; by the second, (at the distance of three weeks,) more; and, by the third, at the distance of ten weeks from the first, with a strict perseverance in the above antiphlogistic plan, and proper exercise, the patient was recovered to his right senses and understanding. Bleeding was now used at discretion, the diet enlarged, and he left me hearty and well

well in the March following as he came to me in November; since this cure, I have had three melancholics much relieved by phlebotomy. In a low state of melancholy, where the pulse is oppressed and hard, and the solids not too much relaxed, it is often justifiable, to increase the circulation of the fluids; and, a few months since, I had a case of the kind from MARDEN, in this county, where venæsection had universally been prohibited by every gentleman of the faculty who had seen her; and yet this patient recovered by repeated bleedings only.



CASE

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 in this county, where venesection had  
 universally been prohibited by every  
 gentleman of the faculty who had seen  
 her; and yet this patient recovered  
 by repeated bleedings only.



CASE

## C A S E IV.

**A** LADY, in the 37th year of her age, of a delicate constitution, in lying-in of her second child, and about a month after her delivery, was seized with a shivering fit, succeeded by a fever, delirium, inflammation of the eyes, and watching. She was attended by Gentlemen, eminent in the medical art; by whose assistance, in about the space of three weeks, she was so far recovered as to be able to walk across the room; when, on a sudden, from a mistaken apprehension of her

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husband's conduct, she became anxious, irresolute, incoherently talkative, turbulent, and so mischievous, that her attendants were obliged to confine her; raving, foaming at the mouth, involuntary laughter, or loud lamentation ensued; from a pleasing, open, cheerful countenance, her face was contracted to a rigidly emaciated and truly maniacal appearance; and, from a decent and delicate choice of words, her expressions bordered upon blasphemy, or vented the rankest obscenity. The general methods had been referred to, under the direction and care of a most eminent physician, by whose advice she had been four times bled, within the space of three months; blisters had been prescribed for the occiput, back,

back, and legs; a seton had been fixt in her neck; to lenient purges cathartics had succeeded; the gums, and fetid anti-hysterics, had been administered in abundance; vomits often prescribed, and cold-bathing not omitted. All painful applications, and every method, hitherto used, had rather aggravated than lessened her complaint; and, in a state of Insanity, little short of raving, she was committed to my care in May 1773; she had then a blister open on her back, and an issue in her arm; but as no good effect had ever accrued from muscular irritation, they were both suffered to dry up, and in a few days there was no discharge from either. I lodged her in a quiet, retired, darkened room, gave her mag-

nesia, to occasionally relax the bowels; and, for the heat and quickness of pulse, two spoonful of a neutral mixture every five or six hours, with an addition in the evening of a few drops of the paregoric elixir. In ten days the spasms abated, the febrile heats were allayed — the pulse, from near a hundred, was, at times, reduced to below eighty; when a decoction of the bark, with nitre, was made use of. The intervals, from a few hours at first, were, in three weeks time, prolonged to a day, and sometimes to two; from a week to a fortnight, three weeks; and, at length, till the frenzy entirely subsided. During the continuance of this course, I suffered no one to visit or converse with her

her

her but myself and one female attendant, the relations and acquaintance being strictly enjoined from the first not to come near her. By means of the above practice, retirement, and a regimen properly adapted to her case, in November of the same year, I had the happiness to restore this Lady to her worthy partner and family, and the chearful reception of a large circle of genteel acquaintance, who had experienced many anxious feelings on her deplorable situation.



CASE



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 cheerful reception of a large circle of  
 general acquaintance, who had expe-  
 rienced many anxious feelings on her  
 deplorable situation.

CASE

## C A S E V.

**A** LADY, about forty years of age; from a violent fanatical affection, which had possessed her mind for some months, at length became indifferent to every enjoyment of life, unable to perform the domestic duties of her family, and had given several evident proofs of Insanity; her ideas in general, where inadequate, gloomy, and depressed; her apprehensions misfounded, and her life such a burden to herself, that more than once she would have put an end to her own existence, had she  
not

not been happily prevented. In this wretched state she was conveyed to *London* for advice, received medicines usually given melancholics; and particularly the *tinctura melampodii*, whose efficacy, as well as the specific antimanical qualities, ascrib'd to the black hellebore in general, is, in my opinion, *highly exceptionable*: a blister was also opened between the shoulders; but, in less time, than it could be reasonably expected she should find relief, her relations, for the conveniency of her being placed nearer to them, removed her, in March 1774, to my house. A fixt pallid melancholy seem'd strongly impress'd on her features; her eyes look'd wild and staring; her nights were watchful and restless; and she often  
talked

talked of religion in a confused, timorous, and mistaken manner. All books, of religious tendency I caused to be removed from her sight\*; forbad her the use of a Testament, which she had been suffered to have continually in her possession, and ordered the servant not to answer any interrogations she might propose upon pious matters, or even to speak to her thereon. She had been too closely confined, I therefore gave her exercise in the open air every morning and afternoon; and, as the pulse was hard and tense, on the 6th day after she came to me I took away

\* As few reverence the sacred Scriptures more than the publisher of these cases; therefore the absolute necessity, at that time, for such a prohibition will, he hopes, prove an exculpation in the opinion of his pious readers; one of whom, a worthy clergyman of his acquaintance, expressing some dislike at the above injunction, occasion seemed to offer for the addition of this note.

four ounces of blood, and exhibited a small bolus of nitre and Russia castor every night and morning for three weeks; when an expectoration, which was habitual to her, and which had ceased from her first being taken ill, again returned; and other salutary excretions following, the patient every day recovered strength, appetite, and firmness of mind; and, at the close of the seventh week, from her coming to me, desiring to return home, she did, to the heart-felt satisfaction of a most worthy tender husband, and an affectionate deserving family; who have cheerfully and voluntarily confirmed the above cure, to the advantage of the author, by the grateful relation of it to their general acquaintance.

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## E P I L E P S Y :

“ Called also, the FALLING SICK-  
NESS, from the sudden falling  
down of the Patient in the FIT.”

**I**T is an observation of the celebra-  
ted Mead's, that “ this disease owes  
its origin to so many different constitu-  
tions of the body, that the same re-  
medy which succeeds in one case, often  
fails in another ; and therefore different  
medicines, are to be tried, and great re-  
gard must be paid to the times, in which,  
the paroxysms usually return, to effect  
F 2 a cure.”

a cure." In some patients, this disorder is hereditary, and gives no notice of its accession; in others, it is consequential, and previous to the fit, there is a weight in the head, stupidity, pain in the joints, loss of memory, broken and interrupted sleep, tingling in the ears, frequent yawning, unusual dread, palpitation of the heart, wind and rumbling in the belly, and involuntary stools. The fit is usually attended with a deprivation of the senses, gnashing of the teeth, frothing at the mouth, sometimes the tongue is bit almost asunder, and there is a violent tremor and agitation of the whole body. The fits are prolonged, and curtailed, according to the various original causes. In some, they will return upon the  
least

least perturbation of mind; in others, periodically, to a fixt hour, day, or month, according to the changes of the moon. Happening to children, about the time of dentition, they generally cease with the cutting of the teeth. It is consistent with the opinion of some medical writers, of good authority, "that if these fits happen after puberty, they are seldom cured." The first annexed case, however, will serve to contradict this assertion; but, notwithstanding, that the cure, in general, will be found much more difficult when the fits, in either sex, happen after the fifteenth year.

CASE



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 month, according to the changes of the  
 moon. Happening to children, about  
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 contradict this assertion; but notwith-  
 standing, that the cure in general, will  
 be found much more difficult when the  
 fits, in either sex, happen after the  
 intermenstrual year.

CASE

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C A S E VI.

**A** YOUNG MAN, of a cachectical habit, had an issue in his arm from his thirteenth to his twenty-third year; at which time he caused it suddenly to be dried up, and found no ill effects from the deficcation till about three months afterwards; when, after some days complaining, of weight in his head, and pain in his stomach, he was attacked with an epileptic fit, attended with violent convulsions. The cause was not immediately imputed to a cessation of  
the

the discharge from the arm by the issue. A blister was applied to his back, he was twice blooded, and some medicines of the alterative kind were given him by the gentleman to whom he at first applied; notwithstanding which, the fit returned on that very day fortnight from its first attack. He was now advised to the cold bath, and an issue was re-opened in his arm; but to little or no purpose, for the fits returned frequently and irregularly. The least perturbation of mind, hurry or fright, would bring them, and it was not unusual for him, to have them sometimes three, four, and even five times, in a day and a night. It was on the 25th of September 1773, that he was recommended to my care. I began the cure by the  
Peru-

Peruvian bark and steel in an electuary, preceded by a gentle emetic, and drew a seton between the shoulder blades in the direction of the spine. For the first week I perceived little or no difference in the fits; but after that time, he had a total remission of them for fourteen days together: an interval of ease and hope, which he had not enjoyed from the beginning of his illness, except in the first space of the fits, as already mentioned. The *seton* was very troublesome and painful at first; but in some little time the soreness abated, and (two issues being previously fixt between the scapulæ,) after being open for ten weeks, it was suffered to dry up, as was also the issue in the arm. By the Christmas

G

follow-

following, the patient was entirely well of the fits; and soon afterwards, the issues in the back were reduced to one, which he has kept open to the present time, and has not had the least return, of the epileptic paroxysm, since the second day of November 1773. The Peruvian bark and steel, in an electuary, he took through the whole course, and once a day for twelve months afterwards.



CASE

## C A S E VII.

**A** GENTLEMAN, aged forty-four, after a habit of excessive drinking, for more than six years, was suddenly seized with an epileptic fit in the month of May 1773. After which he was much troubled with wind in his stomach and bowels, and a great indigestion; his complexion, from florid, was changed to a pale yellow. The fits had now followed him through every mutation of the moon for three months; and, although a consciousness of the ill effects, arising from the per-

nicious indulgence of too much liquor, might have induced him to a forbearance thereof, yet it was scarcely possible to restrain him from the excessive use of it, as usual. In August he was advised to go to Bath, which, with some reluctance, was complied with; but, neither the journey, the chalybeate quality of the springs, nor the excellent advice, to be collected from that celebrated spot of genteel resort, was of any great service to him; and he returned in the beginning of the October following, in much the same state as when he sat out upon his journey; with this advantage, however, that he could now content himself, for a whole day together, without spirituous liquors. This, indeed, he had found to be the  
general

general advice of every physician he had consulted. Wine, rum, brandy, or geneva, made weak with water, were adopted in their stead; and his diet was, in general, of the lightest, and most easily digestible kind. It was, at this time, he conferred the favour on me, of expressing a partiality to my advice, with the resolution of persevering in whatever plan of medicine I should lay down to him. The epileptic electuary, prescribed by Dr. Mead, had never been tried: in the use of this medicine he therefore persisted for nearly two months; but unsuccessfully. The case was obstinate, the fits returned periodically to the quadratures of the moon, and with as much force as ever; factitious cinnabar and musk he had ineffectually



fectually taken in great quantities, both at Bath, and previous to his journey thither: blisters and issues had been repeatedly made to little or no effect, and, in January 1774, I drew a seton between his shoulders, in the same direction as in the preceding case; which, with a strict conformity to regimen, and by the use of a strong decoction of the valerian and cortex, in the beginning of the April following, the fits entirely left him; he recovered his usual health and spirits, and has not been afflicted with any epileptic symptoms since. In this case, it may not be improper to observe, that the patient's changing an irregular to a regular course of living, was a great step towards his cure; yet, I am firmly of opinion,

opinion, *that*, alone, unassisted by the seton, valerian, and cortex, might not have been found virtually sufficient to have subdued the fits. The two preceding cases serves to furnish us with means of relief in the *symptomatic* epilepsy; but, in *the original disorder*, little, I believe, is to be expected from medicine. Several cases of that kind having occurred to me; where, the utmost I was able to boast of, was a temporary mitigation, and, (that but very seldom,) of the severest symptoms.



CASE

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...tion, that alone, qualified by the  
 ...valent, and correct might not  
 have been found equally deficient to  
 have subdued the life. The two pro-  
 cesses of observation to be taken with  
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 ...; but, in ...  
 I believe, is to be expected from medi-  
 cine. Several cases of ...  
 occurred to me, where, the ...  
 was able to push off, was a temporary  
 mitigation, and, (that but very seldom)  
 of the lowest ...

CASE

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T H E  
**HYPPOCHONDRIAC**  
**A F F E C T I O N ;**

“ Known also by the names of  
 HYP, VAPOURS, and MELAN-  
 CHOLY,”

**I**S a disorder attended with such a  
 multiplicity of symptoms, that it is  
 morally impossible to describe every  
 one; but, in general, the stomach and  
 intestines are greatly inflated, and in  
 the progress of the disorder the patient  
 suffers much, from windy eructations.

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The principal signs of this disagreeable change of the natural state of the mind, are, a loathing of food, want of appetite, and an uncertain one at best, indigestion, indolence, a heavy pain and pressure in the stomach, and more particularly so after eating, groundless fears, a spasm of the throat, a frequent spitting of limpid, and sometimes tough phlegm, heart-burn, cardialgia, flushings in the face, gripings, palpitations of the heart, a burning heat in the tongue, terrible apprehensions, straitness of the breast, pain and difficulty in making water, listlessness, and a fancied inability to move at all, a rumbling noise in the bowels, a frequent inclination to stool, a sense of fullness in the stomach and bowels, the piles, dulness,

ness, irresolution, decay of strength, wasting of the body, pains in the head and joints, wild ideas, and most extravagant fancies foreboding dreadful events, great fickleness of temper, petulance, impatience, inquietude, anxiety, terror, and sadness.—To these may be added the conclusion of Dr. Mead, when speaking of the Hypochondriac Affection, he says,

*“ Non unam sedet habet sed morbus totius  
“ corporis est.”*



not, intoleration, decay of strength,  
 watering of the body, pains in the head,  
 and joint, wind, and most extra-  
 vascular, cancer, torpidity, dreadful  
 events, great thickening of tongue, pain,  
 lancet, impotence, impurities, anxiety,  
 terror, and habits -- to this may be  
 added the complaint of the Dr. of the  
 return the nature of the Hypochondriac  
 Attention, he says, of the  
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**C A S E VIII.**

**A** GENTLEMAN, in the eight and fortieth year of his age, after a long-continued course of drinking, about the month of August 1770, complained of a violent head-ach whenever he walked or rode, but was easier whenever the body was in an incumbent posture. He was naturally of a sensible, nervous system, but had never before been subject to a pain in the head; which now, upon every motion, seemed to affect the whole part of it; his eyes  
were



were dull and heavy, he had a nausea at his stomach, and his head was continually reclined on his arm. An emetic was administered, some blood taken away, and a blister applied between the shoulders; a partial cessation of the pain was the consequence, and it now became periodical, returning every evening about nine o'clock, and ceasing sometimes about four, five, or six in the morning. In the intervals the cortex took place, and in a few days with the desired success; yet a giddiness remained; he became low-spirited, solitary, and thoughtful; his appetite was impaired, and though unattended with sweats, his body visibly declined; he was often seized with a syncope, tremors, sinkings, and flatulencies in his  
stomach

stomach and bowels, which frequently occasioned violent spasms; he had a direct nervous cough, the pulse in general was too fast, his days were anxious, and his nights restless and uneasy. About the latter end of October in the same year he applied to me, relating his case with much hurry of spirits, while tears trickled down his cheeks as he spoke, and he prophesied his approaching exit. I endeavoured to soothe his emotion with tender and chearful promises of assisting his distress, and enjoining him to a proper diet with moderate exercise. At bed-time I prescribed the warm pediluvium, and exhibited a small quantity of laudanum in a neutral draught; and in the day-time, when the pulse was found to be at the slowest,

flowest, administer'd the cortex in decoction wherein gum arabic was soluted. He very exactly conformed to the rules enjoined, and in eight weeks time, with little variation of the medicines, except now and then increasing the opiate, and adding a few drops of Mynsicht's tincture of steel to the decoction, he recovered of his debility; the pulse subsided to a regular and natural vibration, the cough ceased, the appetite returned; and, by a plan of living consistently temperate, he, to this day, enjoys an uninterrupted state of health. In the management of this case, if we do not altogether extol the soothing efficacy of the opiate, or yield the cure to the bracing qualities of the cortex; yet, every one, who is reduced  
 by

by excessive drinking, has here a most encouraging example before his eyes, to try the good effects of abstaining from too much liquor; and giving into a proper regulation of diet before the bounds of Nature are entirely demolished, and the constitution so far disabled, as to be in an undone and irremediable state.



by excellent discharges, has been a most  
 successful example before his eyes  
 of the good effects of abstaining  
 from tobacco's liquor, and giving into  
 a proper quantity of diet before the  
 hour, the nature was thereby deter-  
 mined. *Quod dicitur, quod dicitur, quod dicitur.*  
 The case of his own experiment, and  
 the medicinal experiment was in 1747  
 very suddenly attacked with such a  
 violent cough, that the essential  
 parts and vessels as to be in a most  
 dangerous situation. By the ad-  
 ministration of a small quantity who  
 was cured very much, and who proper  
 advice, and this successful advice was  
 in great measure restored, but still was  
 supported by the late physician till  
 an accident which remained a cure for

## C A S E IX.

A GENTLEMAN, aged twenty-nine, of a sedentary employment, and melancholy temperament, was in May 1774 suddenly attacked with such a violent contraction of the bronchial tubes and vesicles, as to be in immediate danger of suffocation. By the assistance of a medical gentleman who was immediately called in, with proper applications this asthmatical stroke was in great measure removed; but as I was informed by the same gentleman still an unusual tension remained a cross the

thorax, and the respiration was far from being naturally free; which, notwithstanding many endeavours for relief, was the case till the month of October following, when he was taken with pains in one ankle and foot, which terminated in a fit of the gout of eight days; during which time the breathing was unconfined, but the gouty paroxysm ceasing, the oppression returned; his memory failed, and he frequently complained of a sensation of cold, comparable to cold water being dropped upon his back, with a sense of stiffness in his arms and legs. The pulse was in general at ninety-five, a hundred, and sometimes above; an acceleration, chiefly attributed by the gentleman who attended him, to the heating qualities

qualities of a nervous medicine he had procured from an advertisement. He had generally a great depression of spirits, attended by sighing, a nausea, and a total aversion to food. Under these distressing circumstances, in the December following, he was advised to try me. I found him much emaciated, and scarcely able to walk across the room without assistance. As the alimentary canal was in a most debilitated state, my first intention was to strengthen the primæ viæ; which I began to effect by evacuations equal to the strength of the patient, that I might make way for a chalybeate, on whose efficacy experience had taught me to found much hope of success. I advised a thick flannel waistcoat to be continually worn,  
and



and opened a large issue between the scapulæ: Four drops of BOERHAAVE'S *Strengthening Chalybeate Tincture* were exhibited three times a day in a weak infusion of bark, as the most proper vehicle I could think of; which I continued for a month together, now and then omitting it for a day or two, and adopting in its stead a gentle laxative, incessantly paying a due regard to his regimen, which, as his appetite strengthened, was rendered proportionably liberal. Through the second month the same plan was invariably pursued, except an increase of the tincture to six drops. On the first day of March following he complained of a pain in his foot, which increased to a fit of the gout that held him ten days; the respiration, (which, previous

vious to the paroxysm, was considerably relieved, by the discharge from the fontinell in the back,) was now not in the least oppressed, and, upon the going off of the gout, scarcely troublesome at all. The drops and infusion were occasionally continued. The gout has attacked him but once since, viz. in the autumn of 1775, and the hypochondriacal symptoms have not in the least been troublesome to him.

BOERHAAVE'S *Strengthening Chalybeate Tincture* of steel is thus prepared:

TAKE of filings of steel *one ounce*, of very sharp distilled vinegar *ten ounces*, of sugar *three ounces*; boil them *twenty-six hours* in a tall phial, and when filtrated, preserve the infusion in a glass vessel.

As the good effects this patient received from the above excellent chalybeate serves to evince the great efficacy of such medicines, with a suitable regimen, where there is a particular delicacy or debility in the nervous system; it may not be deemed foreign to my present design, to mention a chalybeate spring, at TENTERDEN, in this county, which has been lately enclosed by Mrs. LOTT, of that place; previous to which, I have been informed upon the most reputable testimony, that several people of that town and its vicinity, had happily experienced its virtues in debilities of the nerves of the head and stomach; and in cases of the scurvy, diarrhœa, and some other disorders. The water of this spring, upon

exa-

examination, is found to possess strong chalybeate powers, entirely exempt from any aluminous or sulphureous taint. And as many Gentlemen and Ladies, of weak nerves and relaxed habits, have experienced its salutary efficacy, it gives me pleasure to do justice to its virtues, by recommending it as a most excellent mineral spring, whose properties deserve the greatest commendation; and, whose inherent good qualities, might do credit to the medicinal investigation of the most finished pen.



examination is found to possess being  
 chalybeate power, entirely exempt  
 from any aluminum or sulphurous  
 taint. And as many Gentlemen and  
 Ladies of weak nerves and relaxed  
 habits have experienced its salutary  
 efficacy, it gives me pleasure to do  
 justice to its virtues by recommending  
 it as a most excellent mineral  
 spring, whose properties deserve the  
 greatest commendation; and whose in-  
 herent good qualities might do credit  
 to the medicinal investigation of the  
 most purified water.

## C A S E X.

**I**N hypochondriacal, as well as hysterical, and nervous complaints, there seems to be scarcely a possibility of fixing a true criterion, by which they may be separately classed, or distinctly marked, from each other, should the following Case therefore be thought to fall *mal a propos*, upon the hypochondriacal line of disorders. The difficulty of distinction in such cases, may, it is presumed, plead an excuse for its appearance here; especially,

whilst the fidelity of its narration will fully exculpate the author, from the least shadow of impropriety in placing it under the head of occasional causes, adapted to this publication.

A GENTLEMAN, of thirty years of age, of an exquisitely sensible nervous system, subject from his childhood to tremors and faintings, was, on the ninth day of January 1775, from a sudden fright, as it was supposed, attacked with a violent pain in the occiput, which continued to the twelfth of the same month, when my assistance was asked; and, upon attending, I found, that he had had some intermission of the pain, and, that about six weeks before this head-ach began, an abscess on the

the parotid glands, (which after discharging pretty freely,) had, on a sudden, dried up. I was therefore led to believe, the cause not immediately resulting from the fright, but more probably from the morbid matter lodged in the blood. The patient had a pale languid countenance, heaviness in his eyes, a quick pulse, and hectic heats. I immediately ordered the occiput to be shaved, and a blister to be applied thereon; at bed-time the warm pediluvium was advised, and the use of a camphorated julep he had by him forbade, as too heating for so quick a pulse. A neutral julep, with sixty drops of the elixir paregoricum, was given to two spoonsful every four or five hours, with a laxative medicine occasionally.



caſionally. The patient was kept very quiet and free from company, and, till the 19th day of the ſame month, this plan was unremittingly purſued, with little or no alteration or advantage to the patient; therefore, on the 20th, I began to give him a decoction of the bark, nitre, and valerian. The bliſter was kept in an open ſtate, and the pain in the head, by the 27th, was conſiderably abated; when I obſerved a cutaneous eruption to have ſpread over the whole ſurface of his body; and in the evening of the ſame day he complained of a pain, heat, and tenſion, in the left axilla. Cardiacs and ſtomachics now took place, an abſceſs formed in the pained part, which was brought to maturation by  
the

the common methods, and discharged copiously for several days; but at length abating, an issue was opened in the arm, mild alteratives were exhibited, and for his habitual lowness of spirits, and faintings, a musk julep was administered for about a month afterwards; which was found so very beneficial to him, that, to this time, whenever he finds the tremblings, depressions, or faintings, he has recourse to this medicine, from which, at least, he is certain to find some temporary assistance. The pain in his head has never been in the least troublesome since the discharge from the abscess disappeared, and that of the fontinell began.

CASE

the common method and discharge  
usually for several days; but as  
lengthy as an illness was opened in  
the sun, and the patient was ex-  
posed for his habitual lowness  
of spirits, and having a milk  
was administered for about a month  
afterwards; which was found to be  
beneficial to him, that to this time  
whenever he finds the urinal  
depositions, or labours, he has re-  
course to this medicine, from which at  
least, he is certain to find some tempo-  
rary assistance. The pain in his head  
has never been in the least mended  
some time the discharge from the ab-  
scess disappeared, and that of the  
testis began.

CASE

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T H E

HYSTERIC PASSION;

“ A Disorder peculiar to the FAIR SEX, differing in most cases very essentially from the HYPOCHON-  
DRIAC AFFECTION, both in Cause  
and Situation.”

**T**HE fits accompanying this com-  
plaint are, in general, very un-  
certain; in some, they will return  
weekly, or monthly; in others, four,  
five, or six times in a year, or oftener,  
L upon

upon any sudden commotion of the mind, or disturbance of the spirits; by fear, grief, anger, or disappointment; wind, and acrid humours, vellicating the nerves of the stomach and intestines, will frequently produce the fits in women of a delicate habit, whose nervous system is naturally weak and irritable. The symptoms preceding the fits, are different in different persons; those attending them, are well known, to be a difficult respiration, and sometimes weak and easy, as if the patient was asleep, convulsed agonies of the whole body, involuntary laughter and crying, paleness of the face, coldness of the extremities, oppression, anxiety, reaching to vomit, a violent rising in the throat, and often a  
strong

strong intermitting pulse. After the fit is gone off the patient frequently complains of universal soreness, pain in the head, noise in the ears, dimness of sight, the pulse becomes quicker, and more regular, and the patient either relapses into another fit, or falls asleep, and, for that time, recovers. Much more might be added, were it not almost impossible to describe and enumerate the variety of symptoms attendant on either this or the Hypochondriac disorder; for, as the sagacious Sydenham has very wisely observed: “ The  
 “ shapes of Proteus, or the colours of  
 “ the Camelion, are not more nume-  
 “ rous and inconsistent, than the vari-  
 “ ations of the Hypochondriac or Hyf-  
 “ teric disease.”

strong determining factor. After the  
 it is gone off the patient frequently  
 complains of neuralgic pains, and  
 in the head, more in the eye muscle  
 of sight, the pain becomes quicker and  
 more regular, and the patient either  
 looks into a mirror or holds a lamp  
 over his face, thus recovering from  
 more than he added, and at the  
 same time, he is able to describe and  
 describe the variety of symptoms attending  
 not on either side of the Hypochondriac  
 disorder, but as the disease spreads  
 from his very widely observed. The  
 "shape of the tongue; or the colour of  
 "the Gums, are not more un-  
 "usual, and inconsistent than the var-  
 "ious of the Hypochondriac or Hypo-  
 "chondriac disease."

Case of a patient who had been  
 CASE

## C A S E . XI.

**A** YOUNG LADY, nineteen years of age, was, in August 1773, suddenly seized with a depression of spirits, want of appetite, giddiness, and great pain and uneasiness in the back, without any probable reason for such an alteration in her mind and health. I was applied to on the twenty-fifth of the same month, when the height of the pulse was up to a hundred and ten, the affection of the mind very great, she sighed often, looked despondent,



ent, shed tears, and breathed quick and hard; some blood was immediately taken from the arm, and a vesicatory on the same evening applied to the back, a neutral mixture with a paretic was administered, and she rested pretty well that night. On the morning following she appeared much relieved, but in the afternoon was suddenly attacked with a strong hysteric fit, which held her, with very little intermission, for five hours, with violent catchings and convulsions; when she came out of the fit she complained of pain in her ears and eyes, sickness at her stomach, and rising in her throat, became listless, yawned, stretched, and suddenly relapsed into a second fit. As she was of a delicate constitution, and  
not-

notwithstanding these complaints, the blood pure, and of a healthy complexion, and phlebotomy had so lately been used, I did not choose to repeat it; but advised a continuance of the warm pediluvium, which had not been omitted from the beginning of the fits; at the same time, the assistants were ordered to rub the hands, arms, and belly, with warm cloths. No motion to stool having happened for the last twelve hours, a laxative clyster, with asafœtida, was administered, and in the space of two hours she again came to herself; at first she talked extravagant and incoherently, but soon became composed and rational, took a spoonful of camphorated julep, and was put into bed, where she soon fell into a dose, and a  
dia-

diaphoresis following: I found her much better in the morning, the pulse was below eighty, the skin cool and moist, she had no complaint in her head, the clyster had operated, and she was much better than I had seen her at all. As the nerves were in a most debilitated state, I exhibited a decoction of orange-peel, with a few chalybeate drops, twice a day; recommended her to change of air, moderate exercise, and cold-bathing, with a uniform and steady perseverance in the bitter infusion, and drops; which advice being most strictly attended to, she had no return of the fits, but remained entirely well till the month of December following; when she exchanged a single for a marriage state; and is now completely happy in  
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an uninterrupted enjoyment of health, heightened by the endearing tenderness of a most amiable partner, and two children, the blooming pledges of connubial felicity.



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CASE



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C A S E XII.

A WOMAN, aged forty-three, of a hale constitution, was subject to hysteric fits, which had returned with great violence at short intervals, for the last two years; she had had recourse to every means she could think of, or afford: insomuch, that from tolerable circumstances she was reduced to extreme need, and at length became an object of parochial consideration; by whose direction she was put under my care in the beginning of the year 1773. As she always complained of a

load and weight at the stomach, I exhibited an emetic, and afterwards prescribed a pill every night, consisting of two grains of asafœtida, and half a grain of opium, with every third night two spoonsful of an infusion of hiera picra, omitting the pill. The fits returned at intervals, after the commencement of this course, for about three months; but in every succession became weaker, and the patient recovered her strength and a tolerable share of health; but if at any time she perceived a sense of suffocation, an oppression at her stomach, or great anxiety of mind, the symptoms usually fore-running the fit, she had immediate recourse to the above medicines, which infallibly relieved her. Much may be here ascribed

bed

bed to the antispasmodic quality of the opium; especially, as it is certain, that this patient had often before taken great quantities of the fetid gums, without any manifest relief.



CASE



bed to the antipathetic quality of the  
opium: especially, as it is certain that  
this patient had often before taken  
great quantities of the feed gums, with-  
out any manifest relief.

A

CASE

## C A S E XIII.

**A** WOMAN, about thirty years of age, applied to me in February 1775; she had been subject to the highest hysteric symptoms for two years past; and, during that time, was scarcely ever free from them for a fortnight together; had frequent convulsive catchings, and the least noise or fright would immediately throw her into hysteric fits. She had applied to a very worthy and sensible Gentleman of the faculty, in the neighbourhood where she lived; who, uninfluenced

fluenced by the least hope of reward (as she was poor, and in very necessitous circumstances) had paid very particular attention to her complaints; but his humane endeavours had hitherto proved unsuccessful: from him I learned she had taken frequent vomits, been blistered, taken castor, musk, and other antispasmodic medicines; but that he had never been able even to shorten the paroxysms. It was now six days since she had a fit; the pulse was full, and her appearance rather plethoric; I bled her to eight ounces; the blood was fizy and inflamed, and separated but little serum, which was of a yellowish tinge. I gave her in a solution of the asafœtida half a drachm of purified nitre, and twenty drops of the tinctura thebaica,  
for

for two nights at bed-time; and, on every third evening, a gentle laxative medicine. Besides this, the anti-hysterical plaister was applied to the abdomen, and I administered a nitrous apozem to take twice a day, desiring to hear from her in three weeks at farthest; in which time she came herself, and with much cheerfulness told me, she had had no return of her fits, but, that her legs were much swelled and inflamed. The pulse was very full, and admitted of losing more blood; which, however, had not the inflammatory appearance of the last. I opened an issue in her leg, and desired she would omit the night-draught for a week; which she did, only for two nights, and was seized with the Cramp in her left leg

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and

and thigh, succeeded by an hysteric spasm of the whole body, which continued near an hour; the shortest space the bye-standers had remembered to have seen her suffer in any fit for twelve months before. I ordered her to repeat the draught occasionally, to use the warm pediluvium, and to lose a small quantity of blood whenever the pulse might be found in a condition to bear it; which, the Gentleman, who had before been employed, most civilly and condescendingly took upon him to observe. And the patient, in the May following, having, in the interim, no return of her fits, personally assured me she was quite recovered. In the December after, she was again attacked with an hysteric

teric

teric fit, being thrown into it by a violent gust of passion; but the same means being again used, she recovered, and has had no return of it since.



CASE

case of being thrown into it by a  
violent gust of passion; but the same  
means being again used, the recur-  
ved, and has had no return of it since.

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

CASE

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C A S E XIV.

**A**LADY, about the age of thirty, by long-continued grief and distress of mind; for which she had in vain sought relief, from change of place, company, and climate, was, in November 1776, attacked with an hysterical fit, in which I was called to assist her. The stomach was greatly inflated, she had violent reachings to vomit, the globus hysterical in her throat, palpitation of the heart, and convulsive motions of the extremities. The system  
being



being much weakened by anxiety, and the pulse quick and soft, bleeding in the fit was rejected, it was more than an hour before she could swallow; when I gave her two spoonsful of a cordial julep with castor, and as soon as recovered from the fits endeavoured to soothe her nights with opiates; but she had so constitutional an antipathy towards them, that they made her more restless and uneasy, and were obliged to be declined. She was exceedingly reduced, from a fresh colour and lively presence, to a pallid, dejected appearance; the alimentary canal was much weakened, and the stomach loaded with phlegm, which I endeavoured to remove by an emetic; which, though very mild in its operation,

tion,

tion, so extremely irritable was the system, that a second fit ensued, from which, it was more than three hours before she entirely recovered. A galbanum plaister, with a little asafœtida and camphor, was applied to the umbilical region, and two spoonsful of a camphorated julep exhibited at bed-time, with which she rested pretty well; and I was now encouraged to hope for that assistance from the camphor, which had been denied me in the opium; and herein was happily not mistaken, for by giving her three spoonsful of the camphorated julep every night at bed-time, it answered the same end. The narcotic efficacy of the camphor, in some few instances, I had experienced before; but, in this case,  
it

it was most particularly so. A decoction of orange-peels, with BOERHAAVE'S most excellent *Strengthening Chalybeate*, was prescribed to her twice a day; and, with much sollicitation, she was prevailed on to be more liberal in her diet, and chearful in her conversation; which, in a few weeks, removed the sollicitude of her mind, and braced the habit to its pristine tone.



## C A S E XV.

A YOUNG WOMAN, of nineteen, had been subject to hysteric fits for three years, which returned very irregularly; sometimes, at the distance of a week or fortnight; and at others, a month or five weeks. In April 1776, she asked my advice, complaining of a voracious appetite, fetid breath, tension of the stomach and abdomen, disturbed nights, pains in her sides and bowels, and an habitual dry cough; her complexion was pale and wan; and she was subject to nervous tremblings.

O

On

On questioning her, I found, that about six months before, she had brought away from her stomach, by vomit, three worms; which, according to her own description, were of the large round kind, distinguished by the name of Teres; from this account, and the symptoms she complained of, there was the highest probability, that her fits were occasioned by worms. I prescribed her a course of the bitter purgatives; which, after having taken about a fortnight, expelled by stool, five large round worms, of the Teres kind. Between the purgations I gave her a strong decoction of chamomile, with the *Chalybeate Tincture*; in which course she continued with the most exact regularity, from the twenty-first of April  
till

till the third day of June following; in which time the hysteric fits had returned but twice, and that within the first three weeks, much weaker than usual, and she remained free from them till the latter end of November; when, after complaining of her head and stomach for several days, she was again attacked with an hysteric fit, which I had reason to suspect was occasioned by a regeneration of the vermicular animals. Accordingly I again prescribed the bitter purges; after the second of which, at the end of five days, she voided by stool three small round worms; the purges were continued, with proper intermissions, for six weeks, but without the appearance of any more worms. On the intervening

days I strengthened her stomach with small doses of the Peruvian bark, given in substance. By which kind of treatment she has had no return of her fits, enjoys a very good state of health; and, at present, finds it unnecessary to use any kind of medicinal assistance.



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N E R V O U S  
D I S O R D E R S.

**T**O expatiate distinctly upon every complaint, and enumerate every symptom, which carries the name of NERVOUS, would be almost an endless task. I shall therefore take the liberty of giving the common, and most remarkable symptoms, in the words of the ingenious Dr. WHYTT, viz.

“ WIND in the stomach and intestines, sour belchings, squeamishness,  
“ heart-



“ heart-burning, and vomiting of a wa-  
 “ try stuff, tough phlegm, or a black  
 “ liquor like the grounds of coffee;  
 “ want of appetite, and indigestion, or  
 “ an uncommon craving for food and  
 “ quick digestion, a debility, faintness,  
 “ and sense of great emptiness about  
 “ the stomach, when hungry; a strong  
 “ desire for rare or uncommon sorts of  
 “ food, or for things that can afford no  
 “ nourishment; a visible swelling or in-  
 “ flation of the stomach, especially after  
 “ eating; sometimes a severe pain, with  
 “ cramps in that *viscus*; an oppression  
 “ about the *præcordia*; an uneasy,  
 “ though not painful sensation, about  
 “ the stomach, attended with low spi-  
 “ rits, anxiety, and sometimes great  
 “ timidity; strong pulsations within the  
 “ belly,

“ belly, spasms in the bowels, and dif-  
“ tensions of certain portions of them;  
“ violent cholic pains, a rumbling noise  
“ from wind passing through the intes-  
“ tines, the body sometimes too lax,  
“ oftener bound; pains in the back and  
“ belly, resembling those of the nephri-  
“ tic kind; a sense of irritation and  
“ heat in the neck of the bladder and  
“ *urethra*, with a frequent desire to  
“ make water; a great discharge of lim-  
“ pid urine; at other times a frequent  
“ spitting. Sudden flushings of heat over  
“ the whole body, shiverings, a sense  
“ of cold in certain parts, as if water  
“ was poured on them, at other times  
“ an unusual glow; flying pains in the  
“ arms and limbs; a troublesome pain  
“ in the back, and between the shoul-  
“ ders;

“ ders; pains, attended with a hot sen-  
 “ sation, shifting often from the sides  
 “ or back to the interior parts of the  
 “ abdomen, cramps, or convulsive mo-  
 “ tions of the muscles, or of a few of  
 “ their fibres; sudden startings of the  
 “ legs and arms, almost constant invo-  
 “ luntary motions of the muscles of the  
 “ neck and head, or arms and legs; a  
 “ general convulsion affecting, at once,  
 “ the stomach, bowels, throat, legs,  
 “ arms, and, indeed, almost the whole  
 “ members of the body, in which the  
 “ patient struggles as in a violent epilep-  
 “ tic fit; long faintings, in some cases,  
 “ following one another after short in-  
 “ tervals. Palpitations or trembling of  
 “ the heart; the pulse very variable, fre-  
 “ quently natural, sometimes uncom-  
 “ monly

“ monly flow, and at other times quick,  
 “ oftener small than full, and, on cer-  
 “ tain occasions, irregular or intermit-  
 “ ting; a dry cough, with difficulty of  
 “ breathing, or a constriction of the  
 “ lungs, sometimes returning periodi-  
 “ cally; yawning, the hiccup, frequent  
 “ sighings, and a sense of suffocation,  
 “ as from a ball or lump in the throat;  
 “ fits of crying, and convulsive laugh-  
 “ ing. Although in the day-time the  
 “ patients are generally pretty cool, and  
 “ the pulse sometimes slower than na-  
 “ tural; yet, in the night, especially in  
 “ time of sleep, hot flushings often  
 “ spread over almost the whole body,  
 “ the pulse becomes quicker and  
 “ stronger, and a faintness, or some  
 “ degree of sickness at the stomach is  
 P “ felt;

“ felt; a giddiness, especially after  
 “ rising up hastily; pains in the head,  
 “ sometimes returning periodically; a  
 “ violent pain in a small part of the  
 “ head, not larger than a shilling, as if  
 “ a nail was driven into it; a ringing in  
 “ the ears; a dimness of sight, and ap-  
 “ pearance of a thick mist, without any  
 “ visible fault in the eyes. Objects are  
 “ sometimes seen double, and unusual  
 “ smells are perceived; obstinate watch-  
 “ ings, attended sometimes with an un-  
 “ easiness which is not to be described,  
 “ but which is lessened by getting out  
 “ of bed; disturbed sleep, frightful  
 “ dreams, the night-mare; sometimes a  
 “ drowsiness, and too great an inclina-  
 “ tion to sleep; fear, peevishness, sad-  
 “ ness, despair; at other times, high  
 “ spirits;

“ spirits; wandering thoughts, impaired  
 “ memory, ridiculous fancies; strange  
 “ persuasions of their labouring under  
 “ diseases of which they are quite  
 “ free; and imagining their complaints  
 “ to be as dangerous as they find them  
 “ troublesome, they are often angry  
 “ with those who would convince them  
 “ of their mistake.”



"faintly wandering thoughts in pain";  
 "memory, ridiculous fancies; images  
 "perceptions of their labouring under  
 "objects of which they are quite  
 "use; and imagining that complaints  
 "to be as dangerous as they find them  
 "prophesying they are often angry  
 "with those who would convince them  
 "of their mistake."

## C A S E XVI.

**A** GENTLEMAN, five and fifty years of age, had, for three years together, been afflicted with a most complicated nervous disorder, attended with great dejection, horrors, flatulencies, tremblings, catchings, unconnected thoughts, wandring ideas, impaired memory, giddiness, pain in his head, palpitation of the heart, and numbness in his hands and fingers. In the beginning of the year 1772, he had been advised to try a course of nervous medicines immediately under  
the



the care of a Gentleman in London, celebrated for his peculiar attention to disorders of this kind; but in the May following, he returned into the country, not at all benefited by the experiment; soon after which he was seized with the dysentery, which, after continuing three days, was submitted to my care; when I gave him a gentle emetic, of fifteen grains of ipecacuanha; and afterwards, to ease the violent pain he complained of in his intestines, and defend their internal coats from the acrid humours which vellicated them, I ordered the starch clyster, with half an ounce of diacodium in each, to be thrown up three times a day; and milk, impregnated with iron, was frequently given in small quantities, which proved

proved effectual, and the dysentery was subdued; but, in a few days after, the numbness in his hands and fingers, which he had long before complained of, increased, and he was attacked with a paralytic stroke in his right arm, which felt very cold, and the pulse was sensibly lower and weaker in that than in the other arm. A vesicatory was applied above and below the cubit, and an embrocation used of an antiparalytic kind: composed of an ounce and a half of cantharides in powder; half an ounce of the seeds of bishop's weed, and a quart of rectified spirits of wine; digested for a few days, and then strained off for use. On the medicinal hours, for many days together, he took two scruples, in a dose, of valerian powdered,

in

in a glass of white wine; and fifty castor drops of a night, going to-bed, in a cup-ful of weak chocolate. In about three weeks, the muscles of the disordered arm recovered their natural tone, and he could handle any thing with his natural sense of feeling; and, at the end of three months, he was entirely recovered of the paralysis; and his nervous symptoms were, in general, much alleviated. To brace the solids, and accelerate the blood's motion, the cold-bath was advised, with the use of the *strengthening chalybeate drops*; which, with proper exercise, and diet, re-established his health; so, that in the October following, he had scarcely any nervous symptom; nor have I heard any complaint of that kind since.

CASE

## C A S E XVII.

**I**T is generally allowed difficult to fix a just criterion, by which nervous disorders may be distinguished from others; but where there is a universal delicacy of the whole frame, with too great a degree of sensibility of the nervous system; as in the case I am about to recite, no impropriety can appear in calling the case truly *nervous*. The subject, was a YOUNG LADY, of so exquisitely a delicate habit, that the highest nervous,

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and

and hysteric spasms, were produced, by the application, only, of a blister; which, in the course of many trials, she, for three years past, had unsuccessfully made, had more, than once, been recommended, and never, without causing those symptoms. In the autumn of the year 1773, she applied to an eminent physician, in London, who had endeavoured to appease the spasms by opiates; but she could not bear them in the quantity at first prescribed, and, though given in smaller doses, the antipathy recurred. Bitters, with the bark, were tried; immersion in cold water, proper exercise, and change of air, were not neglected; a religious observation had been paid to the diet; watry and flatulent food was rejected;

rejected; and every thing that could be thought corruptive of the blood, or enervating to the tone of the stomach, cautiously abstained from. Nervous powders and drops had been taken; but her heat, flushings, and palpitations, were not lessened by them: and every exhibition of sagapenum, galbanum, asafœtida, penny-royal water, volatile spirits, bark, tincture of wood foot, and musk, was found equally unsuccessful. In April 1775 she applied to me, and related her case with great precision and exactness; complaining of pain in her back, and weakness of her stomach, very uneasy and watchful nights, want of appetite, lowness of spirits, flutterings, flushings in her face, heat in the palms

of her hands, loathings, and a swimming in her head. I could do no less than acquaint her of the little prospect left to be serviceable in this case, after the experienced and approved characters she had named, to have consulted; whose confessedly superior abilities, perspicuity, and judgment, having been employed in vain, served to leave but little hope for my best endeavours. However, finding her willing to try something, and partial to my directions; in order to strengthen the alimentary canal, and allay the febrile heats, I prescribed her ten drops of acid elixir of vitriol, every morning, at eleven, and afternoon, at four o'clock, in a cup of rosemary tea; and, at bed-time, exhibited a neutral draught, with one drop of the tinctura thebaica, increasing

increasing the dose guttatim; till, at length, she could take eighteen or twenty of them, without experiencing the ill effects which had before resulted from the exhibition of the same medicine. By a continuance of these means only, in the beginning of June following, I had the satisfaction to find the spasms appeased, and her nights uninterrupted; the stomach was invigorated, the digestion amended, the pulse cooled, and lowered to a natural uniformity of motion; her spirits were relieved, the swimming in her head was removed; and she has since enjoyed as good a state of health as she had ever done before, or probably ever can expect to do, with one, whose nervous frame is naturally so sensible delicate and irritable.



receiving the dose gradually till at  
 length the cold take eighteen or  
 twenty of them, without experiencing  
 the ill effects which had before retarded  
 the progress of the cure. The medicine  
 being administered of these means only,  
 in the beginning of June following I  
 had the satisfaction to find the patient  
 perfectly cured and his night's rest  
 uninterrupted. The patient was  
 however to a natural salubrity of mo-  
 deration. His spirits were revived, the  
 cough in his throat was removed,  
 and the patient enjoyed a good sleep  
 at night as the bed ever does before,  
 and every part can be expected to be  
 one whole new man. I naturally  
 expect a return of the same  
 symptoms, and I have accordingly  
 prepared a second course of medicine  
 to be ready in case of need.

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IT is but right to premise, that in the FIVE SUBSEQUENT CASES, where the acid elixir of vitriol, in an infusion of betony, was taken to advantage, that the complaints were of long establishment; that acids were not, at any time, disagreeable to the patients; and, that these cases are selected from a great many others of less note, and continuance, where the elixir of vitriol has been successfully administered.

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C A S E XVIII.

A SINGLE LADY, about the age of thirty, had, for years, complained of weakness of the head, and whole body;

body; at times been subject to startings, twitchings, indigestion, thirst, wind, and hectic heats. She had taken variety of remedies for disorders of the nerves, which had scarcely ever yielded her temporary ease, and much impaired her circumstances. Pains and uneasiness in her stomach and belly she almost incessantly complained of, was frequently low-spirited, and the pulse was always too quick. On the 13th day of September 1774, I prescribed the elixir to be taken in an infusion of common Betony, with two ounces of strong cinnamon water to a quart; which, upon many trials, I had found deserved the preference as its vehicle. She at first began with eight drops, in a cup-ful of it once a day, and

and finding it agree with her, was encouraged to take it twice: she found it invigorate her more than any thing she had taken before; and, by the almost unremitting use of it twice a day, till the February following, she grew surprizingly better; and, if at any time, she has occasion to fear a return of her old symptoms, she has immediate recourse to this medicine, as a certain assistance and relief.



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CASE

and finding it agree with her, was con-  
 tinued to take it twice: the fourth  
 it improved her more than any thing  
 she had taken before: and, by the  
 almost unchanging use of it twice a  
 day, till the February following, she  
 grew remarkably better; and, if at  
 any time she has occasion to fear a  
 return of her old symptoms, she has  
 immediately recourse to this medicine,  
 as a certain assistance and relief.

CASE

## C A S E XIX.

A POOR MAN, had been in a very low and dejected state, for upwards of two years, with loss of memory; pain in his stomach, horrors, mist before his eyes, noise in his ears, universal weakness of the nervous system, palpitation of the heart, loss of appetite, and numbness in the extremities. An opulent neighbour of his, had, most humanely, procured him some of the first advice in this kingdom, the Spaw waters, and some adver-

tified Nervines; but without any effect. By my direction he pursued a course of the elixir and infusion, and, in less than six month's time, by the entire use of them alone, got so far the better of his complaints, that he was enabled to gain his own livelihood by hard labour. He began to take these medicines about the 29th of June 1775, at first, only once a day, in the quantity of six or eight drops; and afterwards increased them to five and twenty, twice in that time.



CASE

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C A S E XX.

**A** M A N, about six and thirty, who had greatly impaired his health, by excess of drinking, applied to me in January 1775, complaining of many nervous symptoms; such as a constant pain in his head, weakness of stomach, violent oppression of wind, sudden tremors, causeless fears, reachings, loathings, dizziness, and want of appetite. He had been more than three years in this state, without finding any relief, from the frequent experiments he had  
made



made of many medicines, judged to be specifically nervous; his habit of drinking he had curtailed, almost to a plan of temperance, with which I wished him rigidly to comply, as the most effectual chance of relief from the medicines I should give him; he faithfully promised to acquiesce, and as he lived at a great distance from me, a quantity of the drops and decoction, sufficient for three months, was given him; but it was near three weeks, before the expiration of that time, that I received a letter from him, couched in the strongest terms, of the most respectful gratitude, which he entertained for the service I had done him, and desiring, that his case might be made public;

public; which, I did not then choose to comply with, on account of reserving it for this publication.



CASE

1851  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the publication of the report of the Board of Commissioners of the State of New York, relative to the condition of the State of the State of New York, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the printer, and will be published in due season.

CASE

## C A S E XXI.

A MAN, near fifty years of age, applied to me in the month of February 1776, with a letter from a Gentleman of the Faculty, in the village where he lived, describing his case to be of two years standing; that it was nervous, and wishing, that I would endeavour to assist him. His symptoms, as the letter expressed, were a soft quick pulse, the nervous and vascular system debilitated, a slow fever, indigestion, cold chills with flushing heats, giddiness, weak stomach,

mach, heat of urine, trembling and weaknefs in the knees, no refreshment from sleep, oppreffion of wind, flying pains over the whole body, pale urine, and fometimes a fenfation of cold of fhort duration. The letter added, that he had taken the common Nervines; bitters had not been omitted; and, that fea-bathing had been ufed: but all without the wifh'd-for fuccefs. The fea-bathing I defired might again be tried, and continued for fome time: advifed an opiate at bed-time, and recommended the acid drops and be-tonic infufion, to be given at the difcretion of the Gentleman who had favoured me with his cafe, and who very kindly undertook to obferve my directions; the result of which was,  
another

another letter from him in the June following, acquainting me, that he had punctually, and without variation, adhered to my plan, and, had the pleasure to inform me, the patient was amazingly amended for the better.



another letter from him in the June  
following, acquainting me, that he had  
eventually, and without variation, af-  
firmed to my plan, and had the plea-  
sure to inform me, the patient was  
necessarily amended for the better.

## C A S E XXII.

**A** YOUNG MAN, of about twenty, in a low and relaxed state, with a constitution seemingly pre-disposed to nervous symptoms, had, for sixteen months, greatly suffered from symptoms of the highest nervous kind. He had tried bark, steel, valerian, asafœtida, castor, musk, camphor, and change of air, but had received no permanent relief from either: in January last, he sought my assistance; and, by ele-

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ven weeks continuance in a course of the acid drops and infusion, with the use of the cold bath, the solids were braced, the vibrations invigorated, and the body and nerves restored to a strength equal to that which they had possessed in his best state of health.

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C A S E    X X I I I .

The well-written letter, and most excellent description of this patient's case, I shall take the liberty literally to transcribe as follows:

M\*\*\*\*\*n, *Aug. 30, 1778.*

S I R,

**Y**OUR favour of the fourth instant I received, and should have answered it ere this, but waited to give you the present symptoms.—The person I wrote to you about, is a

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young

young man, of twenty eight years, of a delicate thin constitution.— 'Tis six years ago next Christmas, he was bit by a dog; it was fancied the dog was mad, but many persons were bit by the same dog, who took no further notice of it, and no ill consequence following it, confirms the dog's not being mad. This young man was advised to be dipped in the sea, and to take some medicines as preventatives, the chief ingredients of which were native and factitious cinnabar; he took these medicines so long, till he found himself much weakened by them, and has frequently complained since of a giddiness in his head, and a relaxation at times: last summer he almost every evening

evening used most violent exercise, at fives. As we impute his present disorder to these causes, I thought it proper to mention them, though we never observed any thing remarkably particular in him, till about the sixth or seventh of October last: he had been a few days on a journey on business; the evening he returned, he appeared in an odd whimsical way, and very inconsistent in conversation, which was imputed to his being in liquor, and no notice taken of it: he went to bed; presently rose again, and insisted on going out, the servants let him out; he remained out all night in the fields in a hard rain; the next morning he returned, complained of a most violent pain in  
his

his head, and that he had not slept since his leaving home; was very feverish and unaccountably whimsical, fancied he had been poisoned, and that every thing offered him was impregnated with poison; violent and acute pains in his head, for half an hour together; when the pain ceased, an odd sensation left like the crawling of something within the skin, sometimes exceeding strong, then weak and faint; smelt disagreeable smells, exceeding timorous, violent flushings, then deathly paleness succeeded; at his first seizure no appetite, then a most extraordinary one, sudden gusts of passion, with strong aversions and affections to different objects, violent convulsive motions in arms and legs, frequent

quent and deep sighings; his water limpid with a sediment like sand, sometimes a great thirst; he found no relief from any thing but Blisters on his legs ( which were kept open till a mortification was apprehended ) and drinking strong mutton broth frequently; about Christmas he grew better and has been able to follow his business, tho' not perfectly well; as he has always been low, and rather shewed an aversion to conversation or cheerfulness; since then we have observed him peculiarly low between the last quarter and first of the moon, at which times of the moon he has from the first appeared most affected. About two months ago he went to spend a few days with a friend, by  
the

the sea; he drank rather more than his usual quantity (which has not exceeded three or four glasses of beer or wine, after dinner and supper, since his first illness) the next morning he rose early, and bathed; at breakfast he complained of a great pain in his head, and that he had not slept all night, and was very feverish and weak: he lay down the best part of that and several days, but could get no sleep, nor did he sleep for several nights; great anxiety on his mind; violent fits of crying; would eat nothing but a little water gruel, with a bit of bread in it; when he returned home he continued the same for a fortnight, best part of the time kept in bed; with violent flushings  
and

and a few slight convulsive motions, but these were suppressed by musk and nitre, of which he took many doses; the bark was attempted to be given, but was found to heighten the flushings and passions, therefore stopped: when in bed, he sweat freely; a dose of James's powders was given, from which he found relief, and remained tolerable, only at times fanciful, especially about the same times of the moon as before mentioned; he has since shewn the greatest aversion to conversation, and a kind of disgust to his friends, doubting their sincerity: he remained in this manner till Thursday the eleventh instant, when he went a journey about twenty miles, which he takes once

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a week,



a week, on his business; since then he has been remarkably surly, which being the reverse of his natural disposition, we were alarmed, and on the nineteenth instant his passions broke out most violently; he drove all before him, and shewed most unaccountable whims, and then set out on foot for his usual journey; he was sent after, but not overtaken; he returned the next day, and took to his bed, where he continued for some days, only rising when the fumes were on him, and at times appears to be lost in childishness; he has for some time refused taking or doing any thing to relieve him, till the 22d instant, when he sent for the surgeon, and had a few ounces of blood taken away,

away, just to examine it's state, when it was found to be of a very loose texture, the crasis being so very tender, as not to resist the touch of a feather; he complains of a very uneasy and disagreeable sensation, which he can no otherwise describe, than by likening it to the winding up of a cobweb; his spirits and pulse are very irregular, for the most part exceedingly depressed; within these few days he seems a little chearful for a short space at a time; he has a very great aversion to conversation, and generally a very great languor and relaxation, attended with a numbness and slight pains in particular parts; till last Thursday he has taken very little, since which he be-

gins to recover his appetite, for some days he has been persuaded to drink Valerian tea, with seven drops of acid elixir of vitriol; at the beginning of his illness, he had an issue cut in his arm, which discharged greatly, but about six or seven weeks ago he had it dried up, and in vain hitherto has he been entreated to have another. We are sometimes afraid his senses will be lost in childishness, at others have great hopes; but, as his complaint varies so often, we don't know what to think. The roots of his nails have frequently turned quite black: he has grown most exceedingly thin, and by nature was never robust. For these two months he has drank nothing but small beer  
and

and water, and lived very low. We are the more anxious for him, as he has nothing but his business to depend on, which must fail if he has no relief; but please God to restore him, he is in a genteel way. I therefore hope you will consider his case, and do your best for him. I flatter myself you are capable, I must desire you will let me know your fee, that it may be remitted you. At the time you send your prescription, beg you will acquaint us what regimen he ought to follow, and how he should be treated, as hitherto he has always been indulged in his whims.—Your answer as soon as possible, will very much oblige, SIR,

*Your respectful humble Servant,*

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IN consequence of the above address, issues were directed to be opened in the left arm, betwixt the biceps and deltoid muscle, and in the interior part of the leg, on the same side, in the cavity below the knee; the vegetable bitters were prescribed, with an agglutinating regimen, the use of the cold bath, and compulsive measures advised, as occasion might require; by which means I have the satisfaction to believe that the most alarming symptoms were mitigated, and the patient so far relieved, as to render him able to pursue his wonted avocation with more comfort to himself and friends.

C A S E

## C A S E XXIV.

**M.** L. a young lady, of naturally too great a sensibility of the nervous system, soon after eating too large a quantity of salad, was seized with vomiting, purging, pungent heat in the bowels and loins, difficulty of breathing, anxiety and delirium; of which, by the judicious care and treatment of an experienced apothecary, who had long been employed in the family, she recovered; but

but at almost every change of the moon, for two years afterwards, was subject to hysteric faintings, bilious reachings, and giddiness of the head, which generally continued eight, ten, or twelve hours, and were succeeded by heaviness on the diaphragm, depraved appetite, pain and tension in the umbilical region, and a tremor of the nerves upon any sudden noise, interruption, or hurry; and in this manner did the paroxysms recur till the month of December, 1778, when my assistance was required; the pulse was quick and hard; she generated much bile and wind, and was subject to a nausea and bad digestion; therefore, to cleanse the primæ viæ, and strengthen the alimentary

mentary canal, seemed the most necessary object, and herein I was so fortunate as to succeed, by giving her, every other night at bed time, three grains of ipecacuanha, in powder, with eight of rhubarb, made into a small bolus, with *Confectio Alkermes*; the first dose puked her twice, but afterwards (altho' it sometimes for a short time occasioned the nausea) had no other effect, than towards the morning producing a gentle stool; on the physical hours of the intermediate days, she never declined taking eight drops of the chalybeate tincture, in a pretty strong infusion of *Cortex Aurantiorum*; and about the time she had reason to expect a return of her fit, ten drops of



the *Tinctura Thebaica* were either added to the bolus, or given with the last dose of the chalybeate and bitter draught, which she took in the day; malt liquor and vegetables she wholly refrained from; it was necessary to lay down some dietetic rules, which she observed with a most becoming resolution, and which not a little contributed to her cure: for three months together she persisted in this method of treatment, and experiencing its good effects to her utmost wishes, gradually declined the medicinal part, since which time she has enjoyed as good a share of health as she ever experienced prior to this illness.

As

As it is to be deemed most probable that the trains of bad symptoms attendant on this case, were solely occasioned by the shock which the constitution underwent from the deleterious effects of the fallad, it will not be thought an improper intrusion here to subjoin the relation of some appearances upon opening the body of a poor woman, who died the beginning of August 1762, after eating a large quantity of cucumbers, and which I published soon after in the Medical Museum.—From the time of her being first attacked, to the time of her death, which was on the third day after her eating the cucumbers, she had all the symptoms of the bilious cholic to the most extreme degree; in a few hours after she expired

pired I opened the body, and found the stomach dilated, and swelled to the size of a child's head, but of a more oblong form, and resembling, in figure and tension, a large bladder filled with wind; the external or membranous coat of the stomach appeared florid and inflamed; and upon making an incision thro' that and the subjacent coats, a most amazing quantity of sliced cucumbers, porraceous matter, and vesicles filled with air issued thro' the opening; the circular valve of the Pylorus was extremely rigid and strongly contracted; the Duodenum and Jejunum were inflamed, and the Ileum so much inflated, as to render any passage thro' it impossible; the Colon, Cœcum

cum and Rectum were not so much  
 inflamed as the lesser intestines; but  
 what was very extraordinary, the  
 lower part of the latter was mortified  
 for several inches, the Lungs particu-  
 larly; a large portion of the left lobe  
 appeared as if they had been boiled,  
 with several livid spots dispersed over  
 them; the Liver, Spleen, and Uterus  
 were the only viscera which preserved  
 their natural complexion; there was  
 but little gall in the gall-bladder, pro-  
 bably because of the great separation  
 made of the gall, by the uncommon  
 fulness of the stomach; the Pancras,  
 Pleura, and Mediastinum were in-  
 flamed; a very large quantity of  
 water was lodged in the Pericardium;  
 the kidneys were inflamed, and the  
 Vesica

Vesica was in a remarkably flaccid state, without containing any urine; the patient I was informed had frequent motions to urine, for some time before her death, but was unable to void a drop.

C A S E.

## C A S E XXV.

A Catalepfis; or, Stupor Vi-  
gilans.

\* **O**N the fifth of December last,  
J. W. aged 29, was seized  
with a vertigo, attended with pain,  
nausea, and vomiting, which symp-  
toms were the following day greatly  
abated; but as a heaviness of the

\* This case was first published in the Me-  
dical Museum, No. 66.

head

head still continued, and soon after the stupor increasing to a great degree, was blistered on the back; the next morning he was seized with the catalepsy; when I came to him, he was in an erect posture, and as immoveable as a statue, without any sense or motion, and his joints so stiff, that they could scarcely be bent; soon after the commencement of the paroxysm so violent a palpitation of the heart ensued, that it might be heard to the most distant part of the room, which was not a very small one; but notwithstanding this extraordinary agitation of the heart, the pulse was found but little accelerated, and in a hard contracted state; the face was intensely florid; the eyes  
red

red, and full of tears, and his jaws so much contracted, as to resist all attempts to open them: I thrust the point of an incision knife several times under his nails, but he remained insensible of it, and it had no other effect, than to cause an appearance of two or three drops of blood; neither did he seem in the least affected with the violent noises which were made on purpose to rouse him. A quantity of the *sp. sal. armon.* was two or three times injected up his nose, but the great irritation and stimulus which this must have caused was in vain, and in vain every device to excite his senses, 'till by bringing on an hæmorrhage from the nose, by thrusting a quill up the nostrils,

Y

trils,



trils, which flowed for the space of three minutes with a thick grumous blood, he recovered from the fit; after it had held him near four hours; upon coming to himself he sighed greatly, stared wildly about him, and expressed the utmost confusion and surprize, complained of great pain in that part of the back, where the vesicatory had been applied, in the tops of his fingers, where the incisions were made, and in his nose, which had been heated with volatile spirits, and wounded to procure an hæmorrhage; in the evening he had an emollient clyster, and I gave him ten grains of \* musk, with the same

\* For the extraordinary effects of this celebrated antispasmodic, see Philosophical Transactions,

quantity of factitious cinnabar, which was continued every night and morning, 'till he appeared out of danger; for some little time afterwards he occasionally took a quantity of a laxative electuary, and had no return of the fit.

actions, No. 474, p 213, by the late eminent Dr. John Wall, of Worcester, and now republished in his Medical Tracts.



## C A S E    X X V I .

**T**HE subject of the following cure, a young gentleman of fortune, education, quick and lively feelings, and of the most liberal sentiments, became unhappily attached to the too common and prevalent fashion of *morning drinking*, by which pernicious practice, he hurried himself into an inflammatory fever, which had nearly cost him his life. On his recovery, it was very much wished  
and

and hoped by his relations and acquaintance, that the danger he had escaped, the shock which his constitution had sustained, together with the thorough sense he seemed to entertain of his former imprudence, would forcibly have operated to deter him from resuming a habit, which is the parent of almost every disease; and, when indulged to excess, proves eventually fatal; but so it was, that, unreclaimed by his past sufferings, and despising every admonition, after a few weeks he reverted to his mischievous morning glass again, which being daily repeated, soon brought on tremors, spasms, pain and tension in the left hypochondrium, faintings, and at length, an epileptic

epileptic fit; this lasted an hour and ten minutes, during which time he was totally insensible, violently convulsed, foamed at the mouth, and passed his water involuntarily: when he came to himself, his speech was much impaired, and for some weeks after he complained of an uneasy lassitude in his limbs, oppression about the præcordia, wind, spasms of the glottis, rheumatic pains, and depression of spirits; the pulse was generally low, quick, and unequal; he appeared unrefreshed by sleep, and was affected in the morning with thirst, languor, and sinkings; he appeared seriously alarmed at his danger, and so sensibly convinced of his folly, that for a while he strictly abstained

abstained from tasting in a morning, any kind of strong drink; yet so great is the prevalence of bad example, and so highly was he wanting in justice to himself, that before he had well recovered his strength, he again relapsed into this most injurious habit; the natural consequence of which was another fit, and that in every degree stronger, and more severe than the former. On the third day after its attack I was consulted, he had had leisure for reflection, appeared open to conviction, and stood self-admonished and condemned; which, with the weight of parental reasoning and tender intreaty, seemed to fix those impressions on his mind, of which he was naturally susceptible,

susceptible, that he now formed the  
 resolution totally to relinquish the  
 bad habit, which had nearly  
 proved his destruction. The great  
 debility of his stomach justified an  
 exhibition of the vegetable bitters,  
 in a glass of white wine every fore-  
 noon about eleven, and in the after-  
 noon about five o'clock; and further,  
 as a prophylactic for the fits, I admi-  
 nistred every night and morning, one  
 grain of the flowers of *zinc*, with a  
 scruple of fresh powdered *valerian*,  
 made into a *bolus*, with the conserve  
 of orange peel, drinking a cup full  
 of rosemary tea, after each dose:  
 the cold bath was used as a Tonic,  
 and an issue opened in the arm; at the  
 same time a regimen of exact tempe-



rance (excluding all fermenting liquors, because of the elastic air they contained) was enjoined. In this line of direction he continued about three months, when he entirely laid aside his medicines, dried up his issue, and by an abstinence from morning tipling, which does honor to his resolution, he now enjoys better health than for more than two years past, and the fits have not returned.

CASE

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**C A S E XXVII.**

**T**HE unhappy patient of whom I am about to speak, and whose case, I believe, exhibits an instance scarcely to be found in the annals of surgery, was in the forty-fifth year of his age, of a tall slender make, melancholy countenance, gloomy disposition, and vindictive temper; after labouring for some time under

great discontent of mind, caused by a displeasing change in his circumstances, he became fullen, morose, disturbed in his ideas, and fond of solitude. In the evening of the fifth of July last, he strayed away from home, and not returning at his usual bed time, filled the family with apprehensions for his safety, which in the sequel appeared but too well grounded, for about midnight he was found by two men, who had been in search of him, lying on the grass, in the hollow of an unfrequented meadow, with his throat cut in a most shocking manner: as the effusion of blood had not been very considerable, and was entirely stopped, he was capable of giving an  
account

account that he had done it himself with a razor; being able to walk home, a neighbouring surgeon was sent for, who with much precision and skill reunited the divided parts by suture, and attended him daily; but, as he often averred, with the most forlorn hope of his recovery, the accomplishment of which was indeed in the opinion of every one who saw him, morally impossible. On the sixth day from the accident the stitches were broken, and partly thrown off by the digestion of the parts; a most horrible incision now appeared of six inches in extent, dividing the *sterno hyodei* muscles, the *coraco hyoidæus*, the larynx immediately above the thyroid cartilage,

cartilage, and about two fifths of the œsophagus; the air which issued from the trachea would almost blow out a candle, but his voice was not so much altered as one might have imagined; considering the nature and dimensions of the wound, it must be matter of great surprize, that the carotid and jugular arteries should escape the razor; on the 13th of July it was thought necessary to remove him to my house; for which purpose I went to his residence, attended by proper assistants, but notwithstanding he was much emaciated and under peculiar pain and embarrassment from so desperate a wound, it was not till after a hard struggle of more than twenty minutes that we were able

to

to confine him in the strait waistcoat; he was then placed between two men in a chaise, and brought home, where upon inspecting the wound, and finding a repetition of futures wholly impracticable, we contented ourselves with cleansing and dressing the parts twice a day, applying a bandage to keep the head continually bent forwards with the chin to the *sternum*, so that the lips of the wound might continue in close contact; his food entirely consisted of spoon meats, to get down which there was much difficulty of deglutition; and unless he made a resistance with his hand against his throat when he swallowed, little went down into the stomach, but ran thro' and appeared upon the dressings; yet,  
astonishing

astonishing as it may appear, in less than six weeks, the parts were so far healed, that he could without any impediment swallow solids, and the opening was so narrowed as scarcely to admit the end of a quill: at this time, from motives of œconomy, it was thought expedient to send him to Bedlam, where he was admitted on the 20th of August, in a state of health much beyond the expectation of every one who had the least knowledge of his case; and I have received recent information that the wound is perfectly closed, and the cicatrix firm, even, and complete.

C A S E

## C A S E XXVIII.

**M.** N. a young lady in the nineteenth year of her age, of a sprightly disposition, but subject to a native debility of the nerves, had for two years past, from excessive grief at the death of a near relation, been attacked with epileptic fits, without any signs of the approaching disorder, in which she was much convulsed, foamed at the mouth, the thumbs and fingers were clinched,

A a

her



her limbs surprizingly agitated and drawn in different directions; the paroxysm sometimes lasted an hour, at others about half so long, and sometimes but ten or fifteen minutes, and when off, she generally complained of pain in the back part of her head, drowiness, a depraved appetite, sometimes of thirst and heat, at others a sensation of cold in the hypogastric region, an exquisite pain in her left breast, and dulness of hearing; from which complaints it was seldom that she found any relief sooner than the third, and sometimes the fourth or fifth day: during the first year of the fits she was never scarcely a fortnight at a time wholly exempt from them; and altho', thro' the second, they

they were more remifs, yet they regularly returned on the fecond or third day preceding her menstrual fecretion, which from its moft early appearance about her fourteenth year, had frequently recurred in too fmall a quantity ; but in its more liberal returns, fince the commencement of the fits, it had been obferved they were never in the leaft leffened; ſhe ſometimes complained of a fpafmodic conſtriction, and riſing in her throat, feebleneſs, lowneſs of ſpirits, and flatulent pains in the ſtomach and bowels ; at others, of palpitation, ſadneſs, inquietude, and wind; for all which complaints ſhe had taken the advice of a regular phyſician, who had preſcribed for her, aſafoeti-

da, with aloes and *sal martis*, in sufficient quantities to keep the bowels relaxed; camphire, castor, æther, musk, and many other nervines and carminatives had been repeatedly given; she had also been prevailed on to make trial of some empirical compositions, which had been vauntingly proclaimed to possess amazing neurotic virtues; and in the month of July 1778, at the pressing instance of a lady, with whom her family had been long acquainted, she was induced to take a strong infusion of lime flowers, as a specific in epileptic disorders; but these and all other remedies proving ineffectual, in the beginning of May, 1779, I was favoured with her application; and  
finding

finding the habit delicate, of an hectic tendency, the pulse soft, and the bowels subject to constipation, recommended the *oleum ricini*, to be taken in the quantity of half an ounce at a time, as occasion might require; early rising, and moderate exercise by all means to be complied with, and to both of which the season of the year then gave the most flattering invitation; of the chalybeate tincture, page 63, I ordered eight drops made into a draught, with simple infusion of orange peel, to be taken an hour before dinner, and at four o'clock in the afternoon; and of the flowers of *zinc* one grain, of fresh *valerian* powder fifteen grains, made up into a bolus, with  
a suf-

a sufficient quantity of the conserve of rosemary; she relinquished tea for her breakfast, and, at my desire, made that meal of milk only: on the 27th of May, the time she had some reason to expect a return of the epileptic fit, she had in the evening a much slighter shock than usual, and by far weaker than any one she had suffered from its first beginning; for two or three days, prior to her next monthly menstruation, she was faint, drowsy, and low, but had no fit, nor has it returned since; after the tenth week, the bolus was entirely disused, the *oleum ricini* she still continues occasionally, and now and then, in loss of appetite, has recourse

to

to the chalybeate drops and bitter infusion; the nervous system is much strengthened, and the cure at present appears to be radical.

C A S E

to the chapel door and then  
returning the person who is  
much distressed and the cure is

to be made in the following manner

Take of the following ingredients

and mix them together

in a mortar and pestle

and strain the mixture

through a cloth

into a glass bottle

and stop it with a cork

and use it as directed

in the following manner

and you will find it

of great service

## C A S E XXIX.

**A** GENTLEMAN much respected, for the integrity of his conduct, who had been long in business, to which he had ever paid the most indefatigable attention, and having acquired a competent fortune, at the age of fifty eight, retired into the country, to spend a life of uninterrupted ease and tranquility, without considering that the exertions which

B b

he



he had so industriously used for the attainment of his fortune, were also the very sources from whence he derived his health and spirits. He had not been longer than four months in the situation, which he had mistakenly depicted to himself as the crowning of his wishes, when a listlessness ensued; his corpulency, to which he was naturally inclined increased to a troublesome degree of bulk: he found himself depressed without cause, his appetite was depraved, his imagination clouded, and his ideas were restless and confused; he became costive, made but little water, complained of pain in his head, thirst and heat; had acid belchings, frequently laboured for  
breath,

breath, was often wild and extravagant in his actions and behaviour, and at length fell an entire victim to melancholy, in which deplorable state, had he not been carefully watched and looked after, he must have fallen by his own hands; he was sullen, seemed weary of existence, and was with difficulty brought to answer the most civil interrogations proposed to him by his physician, who prescribed for him with that judgment and discernment, which have long marked the reputation of his distinguished medical abilities; in vain, however, were issues opened, blisters applied, emetics administered, and baths advised; he became worse, even to the heaviest pressure of melancholy, and

was at length removed from his own house to mine; his tongue was generally dry, harsh and discoloured; his countenance of a fallow hue, dull and dejected, and his eyes staring and prominent; his pulse was full, hard, and oppressed, and not more than sixty in a minute; he was averse to food, and it was often found difficult to get down a sufficient quantity for his subsistence; on the third day from his coming to me eight ounces of blood were taken from the arm, the serum of which was bilious, small in quantity, and of a yellowish cast; the *crassamentum* streaked with lentor, tough and grumous; his diet, to which too little attention had been paid, was regulated with an exactness much more to be depended

depended on in his new appointment than at his own house; a cooling emulsion with about a drachm of nitre was given him, at least every eight hours, and he took every other night at bed time, half an ounce of soluble tartar in weak broth, which relaxed and purged him; on the seventh day from the first bleeding I repeated the operation, when the complexion of the blood was much changed for the better, its texture being less compact, the serum more clear and less loaded with bile; the pulse became gradually softer, and less oppressed; he replied somewhat rationally to questions proposed, appeared less dull and dejected, and was tolerably tractable; the nitrous  
emulsion

emulsion and soluble tartar were continued to the nineteenth week, in which time venesection to the quantity of six or eight ounces at a time, had eight times intervened, and he was obviously better in every respect; his tongue became soft, clean, and moist; his countenance undisturbed, rather pallid, but clear, and his conversation ready, rational, and unreserved: in the beginning of the twenty-second week from his removal, his return home was proposed to me by himself and friends, in which I concurred, advising him to use a degree of exercise, in proportion to his diet, and to be more sparing of the latter than he was before his illness. I have the pleasure to observe  
that

that my documents had their due weight; he now and then loses a little blood, takes a dose of the soluble tartar, and continues in tolerable good health.

As

that the blood is not  
weight; how and how  
blood, takes a hold of the  
city of Cambridge, and  
the and comes in to the  
leaves needles, to prevent the  
injection.

A look of the various drug  
enough testimony of the  
authorities.

The celebrated Hoffman has  
said that Cambric will  
and prevent the most dangerous  
fever, and it is also  
that as the principal of  
pharmics.

Persons speaks of us  
calls to patients labouring  
delirium.

As

As the outlines which constitute the history of the following four cases principally depend upon the efficacy of CAMPHIRE, little apology seems necessary to premise the virtues of that valuable drug, on the eminent testimony of the annexed authorities.

The celebrated Hoffman has advanced that CAMPHIRE will moderate and prevent the most dangerous fever, and it is also esteemed by him, as the principal of all alexipharmics.

Riverius speaks of its wonderful success to patients labouring under a delirium.

C c

Dr.



Dr. David Kenneir mentions the efficacy of CAMPHIRE in maniacal disorders, and in the Philosophical Transactions has given the history of five cases, in which it was used with success.

Dr. Lysons, a physician of eminence, in his ingenious Essay on the effects of CAMPHIRE and Calomel, affirms that the former may be given in very large doses, with ease and safety, recommends it in continual and epidemical fevers, gives several instances of its good effects therein, and describes its singular qualities with great accuracy.

Dr.

Dr. Whytt, in his Observations on the Nature, Causes, and Cure of those disorders which have been commonly called nervous, hypochondriac, or hysterical, observes that "CAMPHIRE, as its effects in the mouth, the skin, and the eyes shew, is naturally heating, but sometimes it may cool, by lessening or removing some disorder in the body, which increased its heat and quickened the pulse".

And in page 356 of the same work characterises CAMPHIRE as being volatile and penetrating, promoting perspiration, and acting as an antispasmodic; sometimes procuring sleep in fevers attended with

raving, where opium would prove hurtful, and declares that he has found it of good use, in rendering more quiet and composed some maniac and melancholic patients.

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### C A S E   X X X .

**I** WAS consulted on the fourth of June, 1779, in the case of Miss L. H. aged 27, who from an obstruction of the menstrual discharge, was afflicted with lowness of spirits, violent tremor, hysterical suffocation, wandering,

wandering, confused thoughts and ideas, giddiness, pains in the head and stomach, loss of appetite, spasms, watchfulness, palpitation, and diminished perspiration; she became averse to company and conversation, and when at any time she did converse, it was in a vague, trifling, and whimsical manner, and the very reverse of her usual discourse; she frequently moaned, sighed, and was mopish, and at length, notwithstanding the trials which she had made of bleeding, cupping, antihysterical draughts, aperients, and emmenagogues, fell into a deep melancholy; the pulse when I first saw her, was small and irregular, but rather hard and quick; there was a constant  
throbbing

throbbing in the temporal arteries; a dry convulsive cough, her urine was pale and limpid, and she was frequently troubled with reachings and nausea; I gave her a weak antimonial vomit, and afterwards *Lac Ammoniacum* with *Spiritus Nitri dulcis* & *Oxymel Scilliticum*, and invariably pursued this course to the end of the third week, when finding no good effects ensue, I tried another antimonial emetic, and put her upon a course of valerian and steel, but this too, after a trial of six weeks, proving equally inefficacious, and the patient growing rather worse than better, on the 26th of July I began to use the warm pediluvium, which was continued every night, giving her  
twice

twice a day two scruples of camphire, in form of a bolus, and altho' she perspired freely in the night, the pulse was quickened, and she complained of great thirst; I therefore without lessening the quantity of the camphire, added fifteen grains of nitre to be made into a bolus, with the mucilage of gum arabic, which she took at bed-time, and at three o'clock in the morning, continuing the pediluvium till the 5th of August, when the menses, which had been long suppressed, appeared in their usual quantity, for the space of four days, which I was informed was the wonted time of their continuance in her perfect health; the tremors abated, the hysterical suffocation subsided,

subsided, the pains of her head and stomach were gradually appeased, her appetite was restored, her sleep was longer and more refreshing, and her conversation pure, easy and uninterrupted; the camphire and nitre bolus was continued at night to the fourth return of her menses, from their first reappearance after her coming to me; her diet throughout the cure had been particularly attended to, and chiefly consisted of nourishing spoon meats and diluting liquids, but as she grew better, and the system was reinvigorated she returned to a regimen of solids, and added a mixture of wine to her barley-water, a beverage to which she

she had always shewn much partiality; she has not had the least return of her maniacal complaints, and continues exceedingly well.

D d

C A S E



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## C A S E    X X X I .

**M**RS. B. a married lady, of about thirty, rather of a leucophlegmatic habit, naturally inclined to despondency, and of an inert disposition, was in May, 1779, from the loss of a near relation, deeply afflicted with melancholy, infomuch that she would pass whole days and nights without uttering a word, seemed very indifferent to her food, of which she took but little, had frequent

D d 2            reachings

reachings to vomit, would often suddenly burst into tears and cry vehemently; her countenance was pallid and meagre, she had a dejected languor in her eyes, a copious sediment, sometimes mixed with fabulous concretions, appeared in the urine, her voice was faint, the tongue rough and dry, and her pulse contracted, hard, and unequal; under these circumstances her relations applied to me; I prescribed an antimonial vomit, with which she discharged a quantity of dark bile; on the morning following, she began to take two scruples of camphire in form of a bolus every night and morning; on the eighth day of its continuance, an eruption like the *herpes miliaris* broke

broke out upon the skin, and she menstruated, which had not been the case before for more than ten weeks; she recovered her voice, her countenance was more clear and lively, and she discoursed with propriety; I continued the camphire, with a small addition of nitre, to the thirty-seventh day from its first exhibition, and at the end of six weeks she was entirely well.

C A S E



## C A S E    X X X I I .

**T**HE young Lady whose case I shall next recite, was in the twenty-fourth year of her age, naturally of a lively disposition, but from an irregular flux of the menses, subject to hysteric fits, which at length degenerated into raving madness; in consequence whereof her words and actions from decent and rational, became wild and extravagant; her anxiety at times was inexpressibly

expressibly great, her appetite so much depraved, that she would eat paper, cinders, bits of wall, or any thing that lay in her way, and sometimes so unnaturally voracious, that she would swallow her food in too large a quantity, without chewing; her countenance was hippocratic; she complained of pains in her back and loins, had a frequent cough, pain and weight about the diaphragm; her blood, as I was informed by a very ingenious surgeon, who had attended her, and thought proper to take away a few ounces to moderate her frenzy, was florid, and of a loose consistence; her breath was hot and offensive, she often continued delirious three days and nights without intermission, and  
her

her lucid intervals at any time seldom exceeded a few hours; her stools were purulent and foetid, her flesh flabby and dry, immoderate laughter in quick transition often followed involuntary crying, to which screams, yells, and horrid ravings often succeeded; her pulse was hard, quick, and small, and she was often seized with convulsive spasms; on the first of June, 1779, she was placed immediately under my care: I began the cure with an antimonial emetic, in the operation of which, she ejected a worm of that species called the TÆNIA\*, of which the learned and respectable

\* A broad worm, like a piece of tape, for which reason it is called the Tape Worm.

E e

Doctor



Doctor Samuel Foart Simmons, of Bentinck Street, Cavendish Square, has lately favoured the world with a full and particular account. The warm pediluvium the same evening was begun, and a course of the camphire and nitre entered upon, and continued to the end of the cure, except on every fifth or sixth night, when, in its stead, I thought proper to give her, as a vermifuge, five grains of calomel, and fifteen of rhubarb; she had not menstruated for more than three months before her coming to me, and the first reappearance of that salutary secretion was observed in a small quantity, on the 26th of June, and on the 24th of July following, it returned in a more copious manner; in a few days after which, she recovered  
her

her full mental powers, has been very regular ever since, and is now perfectly well.

It is observable, that, during the above course of cure, an eruption, somewhat similar to the nettle rash frequently appeared on the patient's arms, legs, and breast, and always at such times when she was most calm and easy.

her full mental powers, had been  
very regular ever since, and is now  
perfectly well.

It is observable, that during the  
above course of cure, an eruption  
somewhat similar to the one last  
frequently appeared on the patient's  
arms, legs and breast, and always at  
such times when the was well calm

and easy. I was obliged to return to  
the same course of treatment, and  
the eruption continued for some  
time, but at length subsided, and  
the patient was restored to her  
usual state of health, and is now  
perfectly well.

THE END OF THE FIRST CASE

## C A S E XXXIII.

**I**T was with the most heart-felt satisfaction, that from a melancholy state of mind I was enabled to restore to his rational faculties, a most worthy and valuable member of society: he was in the thirty-ninth year of his age, had long applied to intense study, and rigidly denied himself those relaxations, which a mind like his so greatly stood in need of, as a temporary relief  
and

and refreshment from the immoderate fatigue of intellectual researches; his original complaints were flatulence of the abdomen, tension in the left hypochondrium, indigestion of aliments, inquietude, anxiety, watchfulness, pain in the spine of the back, and a universal lassitude of the whole body; he had recourse to a gentleman of the faculty in his neighbourhood, who bled him three times within six days; the blood was affirmed to be black, thick, and grumous, and to separate but little serum of a greenish cast; soon after the first bleeding, an emetic had been given, which for some little time he thought of service, but finding his usual pains and anxiety recur, he desired

fired to have it repeated, which was complied with, and the next day all his complaints returned with redoubled violence, and to use his own expression, “ he felt an anxiety affect his heart”; excessive difficulty of breathing ensuing, constrictions of the external parts, with slight shiverings, and a stupor supervened, which ended in a confirmed delirium; his mouth was distorted, he raved, was confined, and my advice thought necessary; I found the pulse full, great and quick; the countenance flushed and inflated, and the eyes wild and protuberant; venesection I immediately judged requisite, and that even *usque ad Deliquium Animi*; the blood appeared in the same state as  
before

before described; a vesicatory was applied *inter Scapulas*; and the following day an antimonial emetic administered, which operated very well, and the stupor was lessened, but the pulse being still too full, ten ounces of blood was again taken away, it was not so black and grumous as before, and there was more serum of a better colour; the camphire and nitre were next given in equal quantities, and regularly continued twice a day, till the patient's thorough recovery, which was happily effected at the end of seven weeks, and he has since continued in good health: about a fortnight after giving the camphire, an eruption of small red spots appeared on the cutis, and continued several days, with an itching, and some degree of heat.

Though

Though not immediately in the line of this publication, the Author takes the liberty to insert the following singular cure of an AMAUROSIS.

**A** NN BASSETT, a poor girl, aged ten years, of the parish of Mereworth, was brought to me by her mother on the tenth of January, 1773; she had six months before been attacked with a dimness in her eyes, and a pain and weight in her head, chiefly about the occiput, but often in the night for an hour, and sometimes longer; the pain was confined to the left temple; she often complained of cold air ascending from the extreme parts to the brain,

F f

had



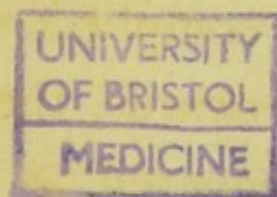
had the *aurium tinnitus*, and particularly when in a recumbent posture; she was costive, her cheeks were frequently puffed up, and swelled near the eyes; she was often drowsy, dull, and forgetful, and sometimes complained of giddiness and nausea: these disorders were imputed by the apothecary who attended her, to the measles, which she had had some weeks before, and in consequence thereof, been repeatedly bled, blistered, and purged, but to no good effect, for the dimness was now increased to a total blindness, the eyes looked fair and clear, but the pupils of both were much dilated; her pulse was remarkably hard and vibrating, she was of a gross habit,

bit, and more plethoric than girls of that age usually are; I began the cure by taking about eight ounces of blood from the foot, directing the regimen to be light, cooling, diluting, easy of digestion, and principally to consist of spoon meats and vegetables, with a total abstinence from all kinds of animal food, ordered the warm pediluvium every night, half an hour before bed-time, and every other night administered two grains of calomel, three of scammony, and four of camphire, made into a bolus, with conserve of red roses; this system had been regularly followed for three weeks, when the girl was a second time brought to me, and could now distinguish different colours with her

right eye, the pupil of which was at least two-thirds contracted since I first saw her; she could likewise perceive a glimmering light with her left; I desired she might prosecute the plan already adopted, which she invariably adhered to, and at the end of three weeks could see with her right eye as well as ever; she had generally two or three stools on the day after the bolus; a small dimness continuing to affect the left eye, I enjoined her to persist without the least variation in the same path as before, which she strictly complied with, and in a month afterwards, the left eye was as well recovered as the right, and she has continued to see clearly and well

well ever since, without the least defect of vision, or disorder of her eyes.

F I N I S.



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will be done, when the  
list of what is to be done  
is made.

W. H. H.

