

A collection of testimonies respecting the treatment of the venereal disease by nitrous acid / published by Thomas Beddoes, M.D.

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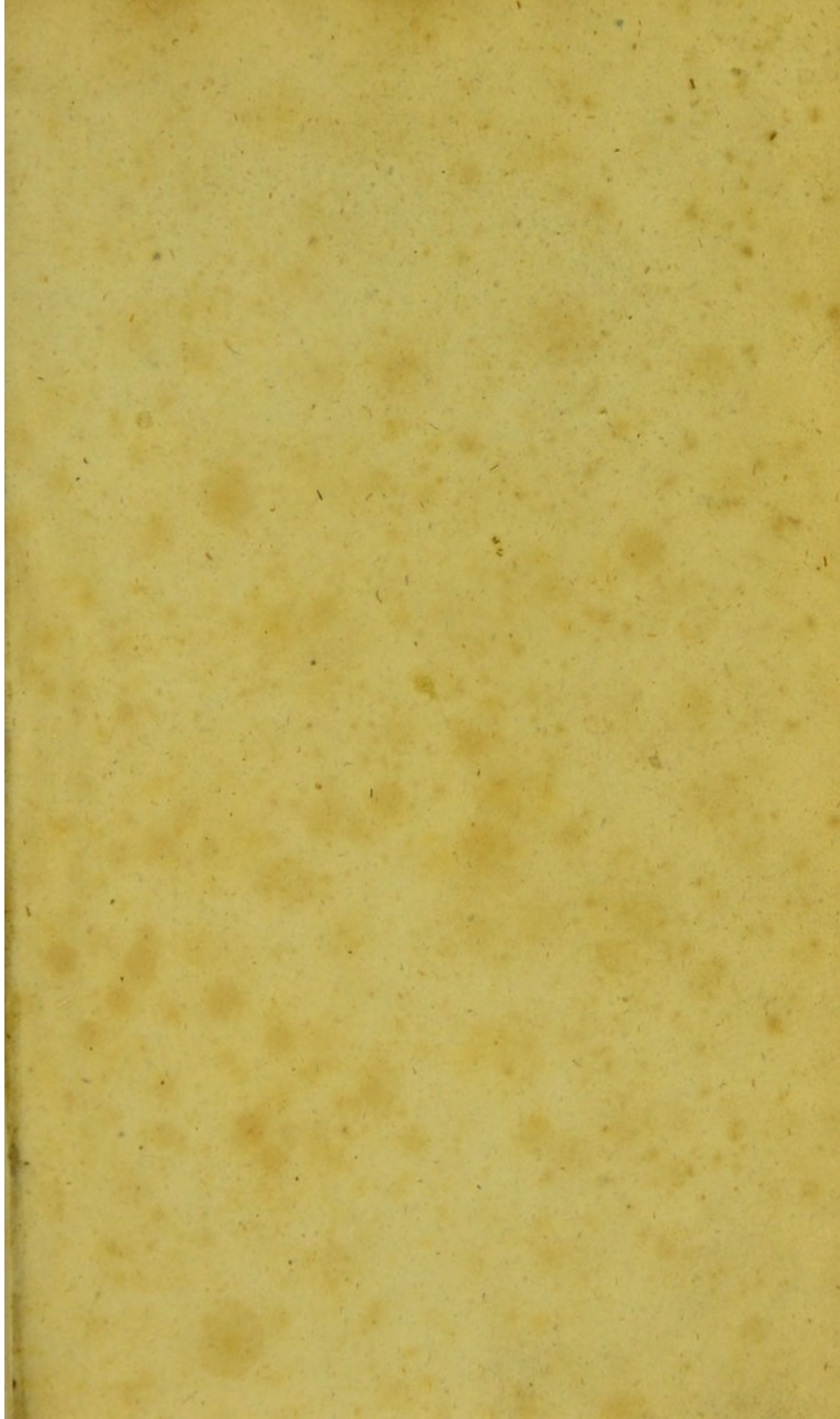
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A. Carrick

NEW

REPORTS

CONCERNING

NITROUS ACID

IN THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

1850

REPORTS

COLLECTING

VITREOUS BODIES

IN THE

VENEREAL DISEASE

475
A
COLLECTION OF TESTIMONIES

RESPECTING

THE TREATMENT

OF

THE VENEREAL DISEASE

BY

NITROUS ACID,

PUBLISHED BY

THOMAS BEDDOES, M.D.

London:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, NO. 72, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1799.

COLLECTION OF TESTIMONIES

RESPECTING

THE TREATMENT

OF

THE FEBRILE DISEASE

BY

ZIROUS ACID

PUBLISHED BY

THOMAS REDDONS, M.D.

UNIVERSITY
OF BRISTOL
MEDICINE

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD

1825

UNIVERSITY

TO

THOSE WHOM DIFFERENT CRITICISMS AND NARRATIONS

MAY HAVE

DETERRED FROM USING

NITROUS ACID, OR ANALOGOUS ANTISYPHILITICS,

THE FOLLOWING PAPERS

ARE PRESENTED

FOR IMPARTIAL EXAMINATION.

Rodney-Place, Clifton,

Feb. 1, 1799.




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BY THE EDITOR.

THE formation of the following collection, which will be found much more considerable in mass than in bulk, has proved a tedious and inconvenient task. Nothing, I believe, but the immense importance of the enquiry, could have prevented me from destroying the sheets that came first from the press, and adopting the alternative I reserved to myself in my circular letter, of returning the papers. For their long delay I demand grace both of  readers and the writers. It will, I hope, be considered, that in literature, as in commerce, the power to fulfil an engagement may be innocently lost by the failure of correspondents.

ONE failure is of consequence enough to be particularly mentioned. A medical friend undertook to furnish, very early in the last year, about a hundred cases treated, according to Mr. Scott's method, in the Lock Hospital, at Dublin. He told me that it had completely failed, and that the dose did not exceed two drachms of the *dilute nitrous acid* in the day. How long even this dose was continued, I did not learn.

THE situation in which the military surgeons of Ireland have been placed, sufficiently accounts for the failure, without any imputation of levity or inattention. But I regret the loss of so large a mass of information the more, because *circumstantial** reports of unsuccessful cases are necessary towards determining the most efficacious modes of proceeding, and the limits of the new method. Could my friend have fulfilled his promise, I should have kept my time with the public. The main question would undoubtedly have then appeared in a very different light, and the establishment of the truth been retarded.

AFTER waiting so long, I might have waited a little longer for further advices from the West Indies, had I not in the mean time projected a periodical work, in which communications will henceforth find a convenient place. At the end of the present pamphlet will be found a prospectus of the designed work, for which I earnestly solicit the assistance of observers, both for what concerns the controverted powers of the new antisyphilitic remedies, and for other medical topics.

FROM the facts which I now publish, every discreet practitioner may derive information beneficial to his patients; so that the advantage of these endeavours will, I flatter myself, be felt through distant countries and

* *Circumstantial* implies *impartial*.

future ages. But I should experience much greater satisfaction at the present moment, were I not conscious of being about to add to the number of publications which must fix disgrace somewhere.

THERE was a time when I felt alarm for myself, and for those who had adopted similar conclusions, on account of certain menacing sounds that proceeded from the region of the metropolis. But, though I deem it incumbent upon all men, and more especially upon medical men, to cherish the sense of human fallibility, my fears have nearly subsided. The stroke, as far as I can see, has been much less terrible than the distant rumbling. The meteor appears to have been of the species which the ancients held cheap under the title of *brutum fulmen*.

I DO not perceive how I can avoid noticing a late *Essay on the Venereal Disease* (*Johnson and other Booksellers, June, 1798.*) Silence would sanction the grossest misconstruction of my expressions. Besides, I have facts essential to a thorough cognizance of the cause; one in particular, which a great part of the public may easily not notice; and another, with which the public cannot possibly be acquainted. Neither can be clearly stated without quoting that Essay.

THAT the nitrous acid and its kindred will occupy a much more important station in the *Materia Medica Antisyphilitica*, than the author of the Essay seems ready
to

to assign them, or rather has already assigned them, is my present firm persuasion. But, should this be a vain persuasion, may I not still be a little proud of helping to prepare the way for a personage, who, by second sight, or by some extraordinary nameless faculty, is able, with very slight assistance from experiment, to divine the "*bidden power*" of drugs? In an art of such inglorious uncertainty as our's, what advantages may we not promise ourselves from this precious endowment?

THE following CIRCULAR LETTER is reprinted, not only as having procured many of the following papers, but also as material to the illustration of some things which come into question towards the end of the pamphlet.

SIR,

YOU probably know that Mr. SCOTT, of Bombay, was led by considerations, that need not be stated here, to try the nitrous acid in the venereal disease; that the experiment answered; and that it has been successfully imitated in England,

IN above fifty cases, many of them picked for the worst, the Surgeons of the Royal Hospital at Plymouth have found this acid certain, expeditious, and infinitely milder than mercury. Their mode of administration is extremely commodious. To a pint of water they add a drachm of strong nitrous acid, together with 4 or 6 ounces of simple syrup. This mixture is sucked through a glass tube. $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 drachms of the strong acid, so diluted, have proved an adequate dose for the day.

MR. CRUICKSHANK, of Woolwich, ingeniously substituted bodies of analogous constitution. He represents

the oxygenated muriate of potash, as more powerful than nitrous acid. It produced an inflammatory state of the system.

WHAT is here recapitulated, together with some suggestions, may be read at large in *Considerations on factitious Airs, Parts iv. and v. Johnson*; in *Two Cases of Diabetes, Dilly*; and in *Reports concerning the Effects of Nitrous Acid, &c. Johnson*. Above 100 bad cases stand attested, as cured, beyond all reasonable doubt. Some unsuccessful trials are noticed in the last pamphlet.

THE mild action and general power of the acid, with the proportion of failures, render a fuller induction of facts and testimonies highly desirable.—It cannot have escaped you, that the pretensions of many quack medicines are rested on the occasional inefficacy of mercury, and on an over-charged representation of its baneful effects. It is therefore certain, that to establish the anti-venereal virtue of substances, not injurious to the constitution, would be giving a deadly blow to empirical imposture.

BY the co-operation of practitioners, a thousand cases might soon be collected. And it is hoped that you will not refuse your assistance to such an undertaking. The share I have had in conveying information to the public, very naturally led me to reflect on the speediest method of solving this problem; *how far the cure of lues can be justifiably entrusted to the nitrous acid in the first instance.*

In consequence, I have taken the liberty of making the present application. I do not think that it can yet be deemed superfluous to collect more evidence, nor will the advantage of bringing the evidence together be disputed. There are persons, to whom every large design appears, by reason of its comprehensiveness, absurd. Others, I trust, will not condemn the idea of attempting to induce a large part of the medical profession, to unite in an enquiry of the highest interest.

WHERE the case prospers, the report should concisely state the symptoms, with the date and permanence of the cure. Appearances leading to a knowledge of the cause of failure should be noted. The nitrous acid (and the oxygenated muriate) will be found useful in various diseases. But as the collection here proposed, will be confined to syphilis, information on other subjects should be written separately.

IF any profits accrue, they shall be divided among charitable establishments for venereal patients. On this account it will not, I hope, be thought improper to request that communications be transmitted, free of expence, to Mr. JOHNSON, Bookseller, 72, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

I DO not wish that any reports should be forwarded before Jan. 1798. If by the end of February, the number shall suffice for publication, they shall be immediately printed; or else returned.

XIV CIRCULAR LETTER, REPRINTED.

To render the task of editor as little disagreeable as possible, it is desired that all technical terms and quantities may be written at length, and the whole in a fair hand.

Sept. 5, 1797.

THOMAS BEDDOES.

Be pleased to communicate this letter to any Physician, Surgeon or Apothecary of your acquaintance.

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R E P O R T S.

DEAR SIR,

Bombay, August 5, 1797.

YOUR last publication has just come to my hands, and I am happy to see that by your means the nitric acid has made its appearance in England, with some appearance of success. I inclose you the four letters that I have written on that subject, and I suppose that I shall write no more, as the matter has now fallen into better hands than mine. I should be glad, if you think it worth while, that you publish the remaining three letters, as they have been printed here only in a newspaper, for we have no other mode of communication.

ALTHOUGH from my theory I was led to suppose that oxygen, applied to the internal surface of the intestinal canal, would answer the same purpose as the nitric acid, I have not found it so in practice. Perhaps the pure air requires some base to adhere to, that may enable it to enter the general system. I think I have known the nitric acid useful in scrofula, but that is a disease I have seen but seldom here.

I remain, dear Sir,

HELENUS SCOTT,

Dr. Beddoes, Clifton, near Bristol.

LETTER II*.

Bombay Courier, June 11th, 1796.

I INTEND in this paper to take notice of some effects of the nitric acid on the human body, which I have not yet mentioned.—2dly. To relate a few trials that I have made to oxygenate the body by other substances, and to get a substitute for the acid, less disagreeable than it is to many people.—3dly. To give an account of my method of procuring this acid, which, although of no use to chemists in Europe, may still be of some service in this country, where we have not always at our command the vessels and the substances employed in chemistry.

ONE of the most disagreeable effects of the nitric acid is its action on the teeth, which it has in common with the acid of vitriol. These acids decompose the teeth, by taking their calcareous base from the phosphoric acid, as is well known to chemists since the time of Scheele. I have in some measure obviated this unpleasant effect, by causing it to be mixed with the congee of rice, or sweetened with liquorice root or sugar. It is to be apprehended that these additions deprive it of a certain portion of pure air, although I have not found that they diminish its effect. It should be swallowed as quickly as possible, and the mouth immediately afterwards washed with water. It must be acknowledged that mercury, carried to any great degree, is far more hurtful to the teeth than a considerable use of the nitric acid. The acids no doubt carry away a

* Many readers will recollect that I reprinted Mr. Scott's first letter in *Considerations on Airs, Parts IV, and V. Johnson.*

portion of their enamel, but from mercury, long continued, they become loose in their sockets, and not unfrequently drop out altogether.

THE taste of the nitric acid is so disagreeable to some people, that they cannot be prevailed on to drink it in a sufficient quantity. I have observed, that the more pure air the acid contains in proportion to its azote, the more pleasant it becomes to the taste, and that the acid which I distil, is much more agreeable in this respect than any I have had from Europe.

THE stomach has a repugnance to the nitric acid, if taken at one draught in a considerable quantity: a pretty large wine glass full may be given when mixed with water, as I have before directed, but in general a smaller quantity is proper. In this way it in general remains on the stomach, and produces no disagreeable sensation.

BESIDES the external action of the acid on the mouth, I am persuaded it affects the mouth also by impregnating the habit like mercury with pure air, the great agent of the destruction of animal matter. It certainly produces a flow of saliva, a swelling of the gums, and when carried to a great extent, a pain about the throat and jaws that exactly resemble the effects of mercury.

IN two or three instances I have seen people, when taking the nitric acid, affected with scabs on the body which appeared to be composed of coagulated lymph. Two of those patients had a return of the same appearances on taking the acid a second time, and they both ascribed them to it as a cause. On giving over the acid, those appearances also went away. In one case I could see the very point from which, for many days together, the pure lymph continued to flow. If this be an effect of the nitric acid, it is not a common one.

A pretty common effect of the nitric acid *, when carried to a considerable extent, is a degree of fever. In about fifteen days after beginning to take it, the body gets hot, the combustion of life goes on a little faster than usual, several inconvenient symptoms are felt, and it becomes necessary to discontinue it. At this time there are people who complain of a great increase of their sensibility of smelling.

I have observed that the nitric acid produces more remarkable effects on the natives of this country in siphylis, and in other diseases, than it does on Europeans. I imagine that this is connected with the vegetable diet to which the Indians of all casts confine themselves when they are sick. The nitric acid seems to be well qualified for removing several of the diseases of this country which are connected with the liver and its secretions, and where a strong tendency to animalization gives these diseases a peculiar character, which is of a contrary nature to the acid principle. The rickets, which appear to arise from an acid that resembles the acid of sugar, is accordingly a malady nearly unknown in these latitudes.

It cannot be expected that the observation, nor the experience of an individual, is equal to ascertain the whole effects, that an active substance can produce on the human frame. I think I have ascertained several effects of the nitric acid, and I hope that I have said enough to show, that it is a powerful agent, which may be happily applied in altering some morbid conditions of the body.

* This remark very pleasingly coincides with Mr. Cruikshank's observations on the oxygenated muriate. Dr. Rollo informs me that Mr. Cruikshank finds some excitement necessary to the perfect cure of siphylis. *Editor.*

2d. I have often wished to procure a substitute for the nitric acid more agreeable and not less efficacious. With this view, I thought of uniting it with the simple earths, and I preferred the earth of alum, as the acid has the weakest affinity with it. I should expect but little from its union with the alkalis: Having made a solution of alum in water, I threw down its earth with a solution of potash in water, and I washed the precipitate; to this I added, by degrees, the acid of nitre till the neutralization was complete. This new compound I found answered my purpose but imperfectly; for it is not more agreeable to the taste, nor can a greater quantity of it be taken daily than of the acid. It certainly however has the advantage of not acting in the same way on the teeth. From this nitrate of clay, I obtained the same effects as from the nitric acid. It induced sore mouths that so much resembled the effects of mercury, that I could hardly persuade some people who took it, that I had not given them that metal. In this case the affection of the mouth could hardly be attributed to the external action of the remedy.

I shall mention another attempt that I made to get a substitute for the nitric acid, which although unsuccessful with me, may yet be deserving of farther attention. It is well known that the black calx of manganese contains very abundant quantities of pure air; from which it may be separated by heat and many other bodies. I thought that by giving this calx in powder, while I kept the primæ viæ in an acidulous state during its passage, I might be able to extricate such a volume of vital air, (the action of the acid being assisted by animal substances greedy of oxygen of which the canal is composed) as should produce some material effect. I had a quantity of manganese which I knew, from experiment, contained no lead nor any hurtful mi-

neral ; of this I gave no less than several drachms a day, while the common drink of the patients was well acidulated with the acids of vitriol or nitre. I had only a few ounces of the calx of manganese, and as I could procure no more in this country, my trials were soon at an end ; I am not sure that by this means I produced any very sensible change ; I suppose the acids found, almost immediately on being swallowed, several substances that they preferred to the metal, and with which they entered into combination. Those who took this remedy never complained of the smallest inconveniency from it ; on the contrary, they called for more, and spoke of it as a medicine that was agreeable to them, and that assisted their digestion.

WITH the view of oxygenating the living body, there are many substances that might be tried with some prospect of success. We know not yet, for instance, the effects of oxygenated vinegar, nor of the oxygenated muriate of soda. As the mineral alkali, whether in its simple or its compound state, appears to be better fitted for the purposes of medicine than the vegetable, I *conjecture* that the oxygenated muriate of soda might be preferable for a trial to the oxygenated muriate of potash.

I have made some attempts to procure pure air from nitre, in sufficient quantities to supply the sick with it, as a remedy in disease ; but the difficulties of such an undertaking are not easily surmounted in this country. I hope the patriotic Dr. Beddoes has now put it in our power, to get without trouble, this aeriform substance, which I believe would be very beneficial in many of the diseases that arise from the liver and its secretions. It remains *perhaps* to be determined whether the oxygenation of the body can be carried on more safely and more effectually by the lungs, or by the primæ viæ. Some people

people may be disposed to question altogether the theory that I have given of the operation of the nitric acid, as arising from vital air. All that I can answer is, that it appears to me very consistent with the composition of that acid, with the effect of other substances that contain vital air, and with the state of our knowledge of its affinities; but should this theory be altogether false, the facts that regard its operation on the human body will still remain, I hope, without impeachment. I believe that it is a remedy capable of producing many new combinations, and extraordinary changes in the animated mass, and with a degree of safety that could hardly have been expected from so active an agent.

3d. THE acid of nitre that I first employed for internal purposes was the palest coloured acid that I could procure from apothecary's hall. This is all distilled from impure nitre; for it contains a great deal of marine acid, as any person may satisfy himself by dropping into it a little of the nitrous solution of silver, which immediately precipitates a luna cornea. As I soon had disposed of all the acid of nitre sent out by the Company, it became necessary for me to procure a more abundant supply. An account of my apparatus may be of some assistance to those who wish to procure the nitric acid in this country, where neither the vessels nor the materials usually employed for that purpose in Europe are at all times to be found. I have improved this simple apparatus by degrees, which is now very manageable by a common Cooly, and perfectly answers its purpose.

I TAKE a cast iron pot which holds about seven gallons. I fix this in brick-work over a grating in the usual way; from its sides, two flues pass and meet in a chimney behind. This pot I cover with a Pegue jar, which contains about fourteen gallons of water: I have found

the Pegue jars very well fitted for such an operation ; for they are impervious to the acid vapours, and bear the heat remarkably well, which is not the case with any of the earthen ware, that I have had from China, nor any other part of the East. On one side of this jar, there is made an oblong opening that receives a pipe communicating at its other end with another jar, which is the receiver. The pipes for this purpose I make here, of the purest clay I can get, mixed with a proper proportion of quartz, in powder. Their form is a cylinder, whose internal diameter is about four inches, and whose length is about twelve. By these means a communication is preserved between the iron pot, covered by its head, and the receiver. This receiver is also a Pegue jar, larger than the one that covers the pot ; its mouth is closed by a piece of wood luted to it, so that an opening is only left for one end of the pipe, that serves as a communication. At the other end, or bottom of the receiver, a bent glass tube enters, which dips about two inches below the surface of the water contained in a vessel below it. In order to procure the nitric acid, I mix a quantity of nitre, finely powdered, with three times its weight of Scindy alum, which has not been deprived of its water of crystallization. With this mixture, I fill my iron pot about one-third part. I cover it with its jar, and lute them together. I secure the pipe where it enters this head, and where it goes into the receiver. The lute that I prefer for such purposes is composed of mild lime in powder, and Jengely oil. All the junctures being secured, a fire is applied and kept up in the usual manner for twelve hours. If the receiver be kept pretty cool, by wet cloths, the water into which the tube enters will be but slightly acidulous, while the acid is found in the receiver. One distillation in this way gives me about five pints of a
pale

pale straw coloured acid, of the specific gravity of 1,257.—I give one, or even two* ounces of this acid, by measure, every day, sufficiently diluted with water.

As the nitre that I used contained about six per cent of sea salt, it will be evident that the acid that I obtained is not a pure acid of nitre, but it is a mixture of nitric acid, and oxygenated muriatic acid, or it is an aqua regia, in which the marine acid bears a small proportion to the nitric acid. As this is precisely the case with the acid of nitre of Apothecary's Hall, with the effects of which I was well acquainted from experience, I was less anxious to separate from my nitre the whole of its marine salt. This is the acid that I have used in almost all my trials. It is more agreeable to the taste than the acid from Europe, and more salutary, if I mistake not, in the living body.—I have lately purified my nitre for the distillation of the nitric acid, by a method recommended by Baumé, and afterwards practised in the great by M. Lavoisier: according to their method, I have washed my nitre with two portions of cold water, amounting together to sixty-five per cent of the weight of the nitre; by taking care to remove the water very carefully from the nitre, after each washing, I believe I do not leave half per cent of sea salt among it. Whether this greater degree of purity has increased or diminished the effects of the acid, I am not able at present, from want of sufficient experience, to determine.

I am now at an end of a detail, that I fear will appear very tedious and dry to most people; but I have thought it necessary to be as accurate as I was able in my information on a subject that is new;—I am sure I shall meet with a fair hearing from the candid and the enlightened, and receive an impartial judgment in the end. I have pre-

* Query, *Drachms?*

tended to remove some diseases by a substance that was never, as far as I know, employed for them before: If I am right, I may have added to the store of our active and useful remedies; I may have contributed a little to enlarge the theory of their operation, by shewing the principle of their composition from which the effect is produced; or lastly I may have laid the foundation of a better knowledge of the disease, by showing in a substance, unemploy'd before, the very element that destroys it.

WE have at present a great deal of knowledge of Nature that was denied to our predecessors. As it has been done so successfully in the mechanical arts, I do not doubt but we shall soon see the art of healing improved by the beautiful discoveries of chemistry, and put on a new appearance by their aid; some very happy examples of this kind might even now be mentioned. Much as I esteem an accurate knowledge of distempers, I value no less the science of effectual remedies. It is not for the present times to rest satisfied with Hippocrates in calculating the periods of diseases, and foreboding the hour of decease*.

C.

* In a letter to Dr. Al. Johnson, of Charlotte-street, Marybone, Mr. Scott says: "I have such extensive experience of the effects of nitrous acid (in hepatic and venereal cases) that I cannot be mistaken.—It is certainly more efficacious than mercury in many cases, and far less hurtful." *Ed.*

LETTER III.

Bombay Courier, July 22d, 1797.

I DID not suppose some time ago, that I should again trouble the public on the subject of the nitric acid, as a remedy for disease, having given up all thoughts of publishing

lishing the numerous cases in which we have used it at this place with success. I had resolved to leave it to its fate, with a conviction, that if I really had discovered a truth of some importance to mankind, I had said enough to secure it from being lost, and with a wish, that if I had done nothing new or useful, it might, like many other vain speculations be speedily forgotten. I have lately, however, made an observation with respect to the nitric acid, that I think is of sufficient consequence to be laid before the public, as it seems to remove the chief objections that have been brought against it by practitioners. These objections are its unpleasant taste, and the bulky form in which it is necessary to give it:—I have now made it probable, that like mercury the nitric acid is absorbed by the skin, and afterwards produces in the system the same effects that arise from its internal use; in this way I have tried it only in two instances, and with a degree of success that I could hardly have expected.

THE first case in which I tried it was that of a gentleman, who for many months had laboured under a variety of the most dismal symptoms of syphilis, for which mercury gave him but an imperfect and temporary relief; the nitric acid had a much better effect on him, but he could not retain it on his stomach in a sufficient quantity to effect a cure.

IN this situation it struck me to advise him to bathe his legs for an hour or two daily, by surrounding them with cloths, which he kept wet with water, acidulated by the nitric acid; he soon experienced a remarkable relief, his skin became clean, which on some parts had long had the characteristic eruptions of his disease, his strength returned, and his nocturnal pains went away. I believe he is now perfectly cured, as he has been in good health for three months past, although he occasionally continues his
nitric

nitric bathing; he made use of no other remedy during the whole of this period.

IN another case, the pains of the tibiæ from syphilis were alleviated by a nitric bath, but this person was obliged to leave Bombay after he had used it only for a few days, nor have I heard any thing from him since that time.

IF I am not mistaken in the cause that produced relief in these two cases, I can see that this very active substance may be applied to the skin for a variety of diseases, where otherwise it could not be employed.

As the skin can hardly bear, for any length of time, the application of the acid in a stronger state than it can be drank, such a quantity as would be sufficient to acidulate water, so as to cover the whole body in a proper vessel, would be but a small expence.

THE fever of Salfette, which arises on the return of the fair season, after the long continued rains, appears to me to be of the same kind with the yellow fever of the West Indies, and occasionally not less violent than it. I think it probable that bathing in the nitric acid might be of great service on the first appearance of such a complaint. The disease of Salfette does certainly arise, not from living vegetables, but from the decomposition of such as are dead, and one of the most remarkable effects of it is a surprisngly great production over the whole system of the resinous base of the bile. I do not pretend to trace the **smallest** connection between the cause and effect, nor to follow nature in her hidden chemistry, by which the fluids that arise from fermenting vegetables are converted into the resin of the bile; but in the nitric acid I would hope to find a remedy, from its singular action on this resinous substance. The analogy that I have observed between the effects of the nitric acid and the calces

calces of mercury, would also encourage me in such a trial. I was for some time on Salfette, about two years ago, during the prevalence of this fever; I believe that at least three-fourths of the people who lived there were then affected with it: I soon after my arrival felt myself disordered, and I knew very well that the fever of the place would ensue, unless I could prevent it: I had recourse to calomel, which in twenty-four hours made my mouth a little tender, and I remained for some time afterwards neither fearing nor feeling a return of it. We have found no remedy besides mercury of much consequence in the confirmed stages of this disease, but such a quantity as was sufficient to obviate it on its approach would have been far from sufficient to cure it in its more advanced state.

I MAY soon have an opportunity of putting my conjectures on the effect of bathing in the nitric acid for this fever, to the test of experience: it is I acknowledge an easy matter to make conjectures; I mention them merely as such, and I gladly dismiss them: while the benighted traveller is allured by some glimmerings of light, he is but too often led the farther from the path that he seeks to pursue.

C.

LETTER IV.

Bombay, August 5th, 1797.

SINCE the publication of my letter of the 22d of last month, I have seen a case of lues venerea cured by bathing in the diluted nitric acid, that affords me the most satisfactory

factory evidence of its great and truly surprising efficacy for that disease.

A YOUNG man to whom I had given, for symptoms of syphilis, three different courses of mercury in the space of eight months, with all the care that I could employ, found himself relapse in a short time after each of them. From the last course his mouth, which was very sore, had hardly recovered before his nocturnal pains were renewed, his headaches returned, and swellings in several parts made their appearance, his joints became stiff, so that he could hardly crawl from one chair to another, his arms were affected in a similar way to his legs, and one of them remained perfectly immoveable; but a few days ago he was indeed a very wretched creature.

ON the 26th of last month I made him immerse his legs and part of his thighs, for an hour in the morning, and an hour in the evening, in a wooden vessel, which contained water so much acidulated with the nitric acid that the skin could scarcely bear it without uneasiness. In two days afterwards he could make use of his rigid arm; in the space of four days the pains had left both his arms, his head, and one of his legs; for three days more the pain in the other leg continued to decrease, and on the fourth it nearly went away; he is already without pain or complaint, and I believe could walk a mile without uneasiness. He began the use of the nitric acid in a state of great despondency of mind, but he no sooner felt the good effects of it, than his spirits returned, and now, trusting to the remedy, he kept, of his own accord, his arms and thighs wet with the acidulous water, during the time that his legs remained immersed in it.

I HAVE attended very carefully to the progress of this case, which before had vexed me so often, and it is impossible

fible for me not to believe that the whole of the *extraordinary* and sudden relief has arisen from the absorption of the nitric acid by the skin. As the same acidulous water will answer for a long time, I now find that a smaller quantity of acid will cure the disease, when applied to the skin, than would cure it when taken into the stomach. May not the greater part of the pure air of the acid, when taken inwardly, be let loose in the intestinal canal, and its good effect be lost on the system? This opinion *seems* to be confirmed by all the trials that I have made to disengage pure air in the *primæ viæ*: among other trials, I have given considerable quantities of nitre, mixed with alum, in pills, but without producing any material effect, nor were my efforts with manganese more successful. I leave the cause to be ascertained by future experience, but from the few, although decisive cases, that I have already seen, I do suppose that bathing in the nitric acid, properly diluted with water, is still more effectual than its internal use, and that either way of administering it is to be preferred to mercury, as more powerful, and entirely harmless.

I BELIEVE that the nitric acid will soon be applied for the relief of a variety of disorders. In a few years I think that mercury, as a remedy for lues venerea, will be banished by this acid; and in some of my dreams for the improvement of the condition of man, I even imagine that the poison of syphilis may in a great measure be extinguished over the face of the earth, not by the efforts of the magistrate, but by an agent like this, safe, simple, and efficacious.

C.

As the substance of the 4th Letter of Mr. Scott has appeared in two extracts in the Monthly Magazine, and as a number of copies of the letter itself have been dispersed through Great Britain, all that can now be done is to publish the following retractation. *Editor.*

DEAR SIR,

Bombay, Oct. 20, 1797.

WHEN I wrote you in August, I sent you a copy of three more letters that I had published here, on the nitric acid, and I expressed a desire that you would publish them, as you had already done me the favour to publish the first letter. Should it not be too late, I now beg of you not to allow the fourth or last letter to be published, as I am now of opinion, that I have probably attributed too powerful effects against syphilis to the nitric bathing. I did not follow, in this last letter, the cautious conduct that I did in the rest, by waiting for a sufficient experience on the subject. My first trials of the bath were very encouraging, but some since that time have been less so. Whether I am to attribute this to the inefficacy of the acid in this form in some cases, or to the way that I have lately used it, I do not yet know. When I used it at first, with so much advantage, I employed fresh acid for every bathing, and then I only kept the legs wet for a few hours daily. I have since, and with less success, immersed the legs in the acidulous water, employing the same water for many days together. The matter deserves farther attention, but till this can be given, I beg of you, if in your power, to prevent the publication of the fourth letter, which speaks so confidently of the effects of the nitric bath.

THE good effects of the acid, especially in syphilis, when taken internally, I see daily confirmed, and I at
last

I can't believe, that no case can resist it, when properly administered for a sufficient time. Those melancholy situations, where mercury affords but a temporary relief for that disease, seem to occur more commonly here than in Europe. In all those cases, I find the acid an effectual remedy, and in my own hands, as well as in those of others, it has already been a great blessing to many. While I have the satisfaction of seeing my opinion of it confirmed by the happy experience of every day, I feel a little anxious respecting the decisions of the medical world in Europe, for your diseases are so different from ours, and the human body so altered, by climate, that it is dangerous to advance far from reasoning or analogy.

ALTHOUGH I have not yet brought myself to believe that the acid is inefficacious externally, still my hopes are a little diminished, and I am fearful, that by promising too much on one occasion, I may diminish my credit where I think I deserve it. These are my motives for troubling you at present. If at any time I can be of service to you in this country, in your search after knowledge, it will give me pleasure.

Believe me to be, dear Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

W. SCOTT.

Dr. Beddoes, Clifton, near Bristol.

DEAR SIR,

Spithead, Dec. 4, 1797.

IMMEDIATELY on receiving your last part of *Considerations on Air, &c.* I communicated the success of Mr. Scott's practice in lues venerea by nitric acid, as there narrated, to many of my medical acquaintance; three cases, treated in this manner, were quickly cured

by Dr. Huggan, Surgeon to the West Kent Regiment, and to these I allude, in my letter to Dr. Rollo. Vide his work on Diabetes.

IN the months of March and April, three cases were cured by Dr. Browne, Surgeon of the Royal Sovereign, the flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Sir A. Gardner, Bart. I have herewith the pleasure to communicate three cases, as transmitted to me during our last cruize, by Dr. Browne; he is one of our most able and experienced surgeons, and his authority in this department deservedly high. I saw these men, while under medicine, in the sick birth of the Royal Sovereign; and I perceive there is one circumstance which my friend Browne has forgot. In one of the patients, severe symptoms of scurvy appeared, during the use of the acid. nitr. so much so, that the Doctor was obliged to give it up for some time, and had recourse to the citric acid, till the scorbutic complaints yielded, and the cure was completed afterwards by the acid. nitros. The seamen are at this moment in perfect health.

Royal Sovereign, off Ushant, October 21, 1797.

CASE I.

TYSON WILSON, seaman, aged about 30, was the first patient on whom the acid was tried: he had contracted a venereal complaint, about four years before, at Liverpool, and undergone a regular course of mercury, by which he was apparently cured. But from that time he had been frequently attacked with what was deemed rheumatism, and was once sent to Haslar Hospital for this disease. Suspecting a lurking virus, I had frequently administered mercury, so as to excite ptyalism, and continued it for some time. A course of this kind, with decoct. lignor. had
been

been tried for near four weeks, without any apparent advantage whatever; so that when he began to take the acid, he had large nodes on the tibia of each leg, so exquisitely sensible, that the slightest touch made him cry out; a large glandular swelling under his chin, ulcerated and discharging a thin, acrid, greenish, foetid matter; nodes beginning on his arms; swellings in the joints of the fingers; copper-coloured, dry, crusty scabs over his head; constant fever; high coloured urine; no appetite; nocturnal pains, so severe, that two grains of opium seldom procured him an hour's rest; hectic sweats, and very great debility.

It was my intention to have sent him again to Haslar Hospital, when you put Doctor Beddoes' first account of the nitric acid into my hands; I thought him a proper subject. Mercurial medicines were immediately left off, and I procured some of the best nitrous acid, to be found in Portsmouth. He began by taking a mixture of seventy drops, in a quart of water, by wine glassfuls, in the course of twenty-four hours. Having heard me conversing in the sick birth with the young gentlemen, concerning this new medicine, he was strongly prepossessed in its favour; and like a true sailor, thought the more he could take the better, and the sooner he should get well; so that at six o'clock, our usual hour of visiting the sick, his bottle was empty. I was rather displeas'd at his hurry, but as he felt no uneasiness about his stomach, comforted myself that he had not taken too much. Next day I increased the quantity to ninety drops, and every day afterwards added twenty drops, till he took two hundred and twenty, which I found as much as his stomach could bear.

ON enquiring how he was the morning after the first bottle; he said he had been in heaven, (his own phrase)

all night, that he had six hours sleep, and felt much stouter. About the sixth day, I think, to his great surprise and my satisfaction, he could allow me to handle the nodes freely, so much was their sensibility diminished. In short the cure went on as favourably as could be wished, the abscess healed, the nodes gradually disappeared, and in twenty-eight days, on the 14th of May, he returned to his duty, a stronger and healthier man than he had been for four years before. The only inconvenience he experienced during the use of the acid was an *ardor urinæ*, for which he drank linseed tea. He often complained that he had too much appetite, and that he had not time enough, during the night, for sleep. Since his discharge from the list, he has enjoyed uninterrupted good health, notwithstanding our having been almost constantly at sea for the last six months.

CASE II.

PHILIP AUSTIN, aged twenty-nine, had long laboured under the baneful effects of the venereal virus; sailors seldom complain too early to a surgeon, and it was owing to his receiving a hurt, that I first discovered his complaint, for which he was put under a course of mercury, &c. I learned that he had been twice salivated for the same disease, once in London, and thought himself well. It is needless to particularize the various changes of his case, suffice it to say, when he began to take the acid, his left testicle was diseased, very much enlarged, adhered to the posterior and lower part of the scrotum, ulcerated and discharging a thin foetid matter; large hard dry scabs over his legs, thighs, and elbow joints; a slight paralytic affection of the left arm and eye-lid; an incontinence of urine,

urine, and on catching the slightest cold, great pains in his bones, particularly of the head.

THIS man began to take the acid about the same time with Wilson, and with equal good effect. It is to be remarked, that after using it a week, the dry crusty scabs began to peel off, and some of the large discharged a good conditioned pus, were treated as simple purulent ulcers and healed as kindly. The ulcer on the scrotum healed in about a month; the testicle was somewhat reduced in size, and free from pain. He returned to his duty on the first of June. His stomach could never bear more than one hundred and seventy drops in twenty-four hours.

ABOUT three weeks after he returned to duty, one of the largest sores on the upper part of the leg broke out afresh; for which he took eight bottles more of the acid drink; it healed, and he has ever since enjoyed good health.

CASE III.

JOHN EVANS, aged twenty-three, had venereal ulcers in his throat; venereal eruptions over his breast, shoulders, neck, face, and head, and of very long standing. For these he was put under a course of acid. nitr. similar to the preceding cases, and in due time, like them, recovered perfect health and strength.

THESE relations, though hastily written, you may depend upon are authentic.

I HAVE been silent, with regard to diet; our stores on ship-board admit of little variety; sago, rice, cocoa, tea, and sugar, with portable broth, and occasional supplies of vegetables from the Medusa hospital ship*, constitute the

* The Doctor has here overlooked thirteen prime sheep, which I sent to the Royal Sovereign during the summer cruize.

principal diet of our sick. All other medicines were laid aside, so that every beneficial effect was solely derived from the acid. nitros.

The world is much indebted to Dr. Beddoes for his indefatigable exertions to ascertain the virtues of a medicine, which promise, in a short time, to root out empirical imposture; it will give me singular pleasure to aid his laudable endeavours, but the want of the medicine prevents me, at present, from extending my observation.

(Signed) ALEX. BROWNE.

To Dr. Trotter, Physician to the Fleet.

ON reading your last Reports on the effects of nitr. acid. it is very pleasing to me to find one of the Royal Hospitals beginning to rear its head in this grand investigation. I hope the example of young Hammick will be quickly followed by other juvenile enquirers, in these magnificent institutions; and I have no doubt but it would soon demonstrate what I have always thought, that these splendid charities are of all hospitals the best calculated to relieve human misery, to promote the love of science, and to diffuse knowledge. The present is a subject that comes with peculiar authority from the practice of a naval surgeon, for a naval and military life are likely to receive more benefits from it, than any other description of mankind.

VARIOUS causes have opposed my trials of this new medicine; but I can reckon six or seven cures, and most of them of long standing. In some, mercury had been used without effect; in others the acid was the first anti-syphilitic medicine. I have however tried it in a few without any apparent advantage. Our acid was marked nitric acid, and came from Apothecaries Hall; but I have
suspicion

suspicion of its being genuine. Its specific gravity, with pure water, was in the proportion of 1,420 to 2,000; this I see does not accord with Lavoisier's estimate; could it be adulterated with the ponderous sulphuric acid? We must be very much on our guard, about the preparation of this article; there will be a thousand mouths open to expose its failure in lues venerea, when the charge ought to lay against some other quarter, and it is devoutly to be wished that government should order a quantity to be prepared under the direction of some able and faithful chemist, for the use of the navy and army, such as Mr. Cruikshank, at Woolwich, of whose abilities Dr. Rollo, in his valuable work on Diabetes, has recently given abundant testimony.

ON our arrival here lately, we sent two patients from our hospital ship to Haslar, that had been three weeks under a course of the acid, where the symptoms completely yielded; such as large scabs over the body, pain of the forehead and nose, with purulent discharge from the membrana schneideriana, violent nocturnal pains, &c. of many months standing. I have since been informed that the disease returned, and they were put on a course of mercury. It appears to me, that ten days more on the use of the acid would have secured these men from any future attack; but it looked too much like experiment, to keep them on board in bad weather, when a comfortable hospital was at hand.

SINCE the fleet arrived here, I have been desired to visit a female patient, who received the infection from her husband four years ago. She had taken much mercury at different times, but her apothecary thinks not sufficient for a perfect cure. It had however affected her mouth considerably; yet the disease recurred under different forms. She was weak and low spirited had no

rest from excruciating night pains without opium. One node on the left tibia became an open sore, and healed up, during the use of mercury; she had another on the right leg, and one on the *metacarpal* bones of each hand, when I visited her. It appeared a fit case for the acid, and the common nitrous acid of the shops was tried. On the sixth day of taking it the node on the right tibia that was inflamed, and seemed fast approaching to suppuration, was evidently declining, and of the colour of the skin. It is now the tenth day, and the pain of that leg is entirely gone; the swellings *on the wrists* are also falling fast, and the nocturnal pains are moderate. I therefore prognosticate a favourable issue, and a speedy cure.

WE generally find an increase of appetite from this medicine; at first it also promotes sweat and urine. A little sugar is added to the diluted acid, and we find no inconvenience from the patient drinking it as he would lemonade.

It appears to me that careful observers will soon be able to select particular cases of lues, that will justify practice in trusting solely to the nitric acid: my experience has hitherto been too confined to hazard speculation, and from the numerous trials now going on everywhere, there is no need of leaving the subject to such uncertainty. Accept my warmest thanks, in the name of the public service, I have the honour to represent in this undertaking, for extending and appreciating the discovery, that must immortalize Mr. Scott. You will abridge the labour of the naval surgeon, and you will save the seamen of Britain from premature old age and untimely graves.

THE supervention of scurvy, in one of Dr. Browne's cases, is a strong proof of some analogy between the action of mercury and nitrous gas; for we have always found the exhibition of mercury very hurtful in a scor-
butic

butic disposition of body. I see no proofs of its imparting oxygene to the system, unless the increase of appetite may be called such; but future experience will unfold many interesting and curious particulars on this subject; yet we see that it is highly advantageous after the use of mercury, and probably from imparting more oxygene to the metallic oxyd within the body.

I AM rather hurried in sending you these remarks, for it appears from a paragraph in the Monthly Magazine that you are sending your Recent Communications to the printer, and I hope these will come in due time.

I am, dear Sir,

With great consideration,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

T. TROTTER.

To Dr. Beddoes.

DEAR SIR,

Clifton, December 17, 1797.

IN compliance with your request, I send you an account of the cases of syphilis, in which I have employed the nitrous acid. I am sorry they are not more decisive; but they undoubtedly tend to confirm the reports already given of its powers over this disease.

With every good wish,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

A. CARRICK.

CASE I.

A. B. aged forty-five, a carpenter, received the venereal infection three years ago, in the form of a gonorrhoea and chancre, soon after followed by a bubo, which suppurated. By the direction of some empiric he took mercury in sufficient quantity to remove the existing symptoms; but the disease soon after returning, mercury was repeatedly administered the length of salivation. Still however the disease remained unsubdued, and liable to break out at short intervals, and in the course of two or three years he has taken mercury, according to his account, six or eight different times, and had the disorder in every shape of ulcers in the throat, warts on the penis, eruptions on the skin, &c. In July last, about two months after the last use of mercury, he applied to me. He was at that time affected with callous ulcerations in the throat, and pain and rigidity in the limbs and joints, preventing sleep and motion; but the most troublesome symptom was a node on the left shin bone, the size of a large walnut, and so extremely painful, that the weight of his stocking was almost insupportable, and the slightest touch with the finger made him cry out. When I considered the man's circumstances, and his peculiar liability to salivation by a small quantity of mercury, I began to despair being able to introduce a sufficient quantity of that medicine to eradicate the virus; and thinking this a favourable opportunity for trying the powers of the new remedy, I immediately mixed up six drachms of nitrous acid, which I happened to have by me, with a sufficient quantity of water, desiring him to finish it in four days. Eight days, however, elapsed, before it was all taken, owing to griping and pain in the bowels and stomach.

He

He then informed me he was greatly better, and had been able to work a little the last two days; and I found, to my great surprize, that not only the ulcers in the throat had disappeared, but also the node on the shin bone, which eight days before was so prominent, was now *entirely* gone, and little or no pain was occasioned by pressing the part. He continued the acid three weeks longer, having taken in all twenty-four drachms, and has continued ever since perfectly free from complaint, and in an infinitely better state of health than at any time since the commencement of the disorder.

CASE II.

ABOUT four months ago, I had an opportunity of ordering the nitric acid, for a gentleman affected with calous ulcers in the throat, pain in the limbs, and general debility, arising, as he supposed, from a chancre and bubo, with which he had been affected nine months before, and for which he had taken a large quantity of mercury, but none within the last four or five months. A drachm and a half of the acid was ordered in the day. In twelve days the ulcerations had entirely disappeared. The acid was continued a month longer, in the dose of a drachm in the day, and he has ever since remained in perfect health.

CASE III.

ABOUT the same time, I recommended the acid to a gentleman, who had had frequent occasion to take mercury in very large quantities, within the last three years, particularly last spring, when he underwent a long course of that medicine, under the direction of an eminent surgeon in London. Upon examining the case, I was inclined

inclined to believe that his fears were groundless, as no ulcer nor other venereal symptom was at the time apparent: but he assured me, that notwithstanding the use of bark and other tonics, he was sensible of the same languor and debility, loss of appetite, and particularly the same lowness of spirits, which had, on former occasions, uniformly accompanied the latent existence of the virus in the constitution, and having no doubt of the disease being about to shew itself again, he was desirous of taking more mercury. I ordered the nitric acid, in the dose of a drachm in the day, taking care to regulate his bowels, which were liable to purging, by laudanum. About a month afterwards, he informed me his complaints were entirely gone, and that his health had not been so perfect for upwards of three years. He at the same time informed me his gums were a little sore (the only instance of this effect, from the medicine, I have observed) but without ptyalism; and probably the soreness was only accidental, as it soon went off, although he continued the acid some weeks longer. He remains in perfect health.

BESIDES these cases, I have administered the acid in two others without success: candour, however, obliges me to declare, that in one of them it had by no means a fair trial. This was a case of recent chancre, in which mercury had not been employed. Two drachms of the acid were ordered in the day. On the sixth day the chancre had become rather more enlarged, and a painful induration and swelling in the groin was observed the day before, which seemed to increase. The patient became dissatisfied with the remedy, and insisted on the exhibition of mercury, which I could not in conscience resist.

THE other was likewise a case of recent chancre, with slight gonorrhœa. A weak solution of acetated lead

was ordered for washing the chancre, and a drachm and a half of the acid, to be taken in the day. This was persisted in for a fortnight, without any amendment of the chancre, and the patient refusing to persevere any longer, the cure was completed by mercury. The gonorrhœa had in the interim subsided.

UPON these cases the following reflections suggest themselves :

1st. As those only were cured, in which mercury had been previously used, they afford no positive proof of the antisyphilitic power of nitrous acid, although it is rendered highly probable, by the time that had elapsed between the exhibition of the mercury and the acid in cases 1st and 2d.

2nd. It is rendered highly probable, that where the complaint is of long standing, and where much mercury has been used, the acid produces a cure more speedily than mercury alone; and probably would effect a cure, where mercury, unassisted, could not.

3d. IN such cases, where some of the mercury previously taken may be still supposed to remain in the body, it remains uncertain whether the cure is effected by the direct antisyphilitic powers of the acid, or by its tonic powers, rendering the solids more susceptible of the action of the mercury, or by the combined powers of two antidotes acting on the disease at the same time, or by some chemical combination, which may *possibly* take place between them in the body.

4th. JUDGING, from my own limited experience, the acid appears better adapted to cases of long standing than primary affections, and promises to be of infinite service, where the long continued exhibition of mercury has both debilitated the constitution, and impaired its powers

over



over the virus, and where a cure, as sometimes happens, is by mercury alone impracticable.

5th. It does not appear that the nitric is in any respect preferable to the nitrous acid, in the cure of this disorder.

Extracts from an unpublished French Pamphlet, entitled "Extrait du 11 vol. du Traité Complet sur les Maladies Syphilitiques, par F. Swediaur, M. D." of which the original was furnished by the politeness of Mr. Cruikshank.

CIT. ALYON read, (the 7th of Messidor, year 5,) a memoir on the anti-venereal, and anti-psoric properties of oxygen. "For three centuries," says the author, "mercury has been tortured in a thousand ways, and no just ideas of its action on the animal œconomy acquired. It was for modern chemistry to explain this action." It had for some time been presumed, that mercurials owe their virtue to oxygen. But this theory required to be confirmed by incontrovertible facts. This Cit. Alyon has done. "Who," says he, "has ever thought of regarding the mere metal, as anti-venereal? Is it not known that many pounds can be swallowed without danger, and without effect? But now when we know mercury to be the most *oxydable** of the metals; that for this purpose it is sufficient to agitate it in the air; that the saliva will oxydate it; and that on the other hand it is very easily *dis-oxydable*—if we attend to the facility with which

* This is false in every sense. Mercury is not the most easily oxydated, nor does it absorb most oxygen. *Ed.*

oxygen unites to animal substances—we shall easily conceive how all mercurial preparations act. Accordingly, to discover a powerful anti-venereal, we have only to take a substance that contains much oxygen, and that easily yields it to animal matter.”

HENCE Cit. Alyon has obtained several combinations of oxygen, which he has employed with the greatest success in syphilis. He contrived an ointment superior to the blue ointment of mercury, and which has produced the *same* effects. The hyper-oxygenated muriate of potash has much more certainly, and more speedily healed chancres and venereal ulcers, than any mercurial hitherto employed. In the military hospital of St. Denys, he has made several experiments, confirming the facts he has advanced. By augmenting the doses of his oxygenated ointment, he has effected the same salivation, swelling of the tonsils and diarrhœa that are produced by pushing mercurial frictions to excess. Such experiments cannot be too much repeated. They tend to improve and render rational the treatment of syphilis.

FROM among the facts related by Cit. Alyon I shall quote two. They seem to confirm his opinion of the greater promptitude and efficacy of oxygen in comparison with mercurials. This metal he regards as an impediment to oxygen, which alone he affirms to be medicinal, when the treatment consists in frictions.

CASE I.

A MAN, aged thirty-eight, had herpetic ulcers on his hands and feet, and on one of his cheeks. He bathed three days, Cit. Alyon then had the ulcerated parts rubbed twice or thrice with half a drachm of oxygenated unguent. They skinned over in eleven days; nor has the
patient

patient since experienced any such effects of metastasis (vulgarly repulsion) as usually are produced by the topical remedies used in these affections. It cannot, says Cit. Alyon, be admitted that the oxygenated muriate acts as an astringent repellent*, since it alluages, as by enchantment, the sharp pain of the affected parts.

CASE II.

A SOLDIER had a sore, an inch in size, on the *velum pendulum palati*. He had ineffectually taken Van Swieten's solution for forty days. He touched the sore thrice a day with solution of hyper-oxygenated muriate, and in seven days it was quite well.

DOCTOR SWEDIAUR, after reciting Mr. Scott's and Mr. Cruikshank's observations, adds, I have externally employed with success oxygenated axunge in two cases of primitive venereal ulceration on the glans and prepuce, and hyper-oxygenated muriate in a third. In each case the ulcers were recent. They were very quickly cured without any other application or remedy. In all the other cases of gonorrhœa, or primary venereal ulcer, in which I have employed oxygen externally, it appeared to render the discharge thicker, milder and whiter. It evidently expedited the cure. I warned all my patients to apprise me without delay, if the symptoms should return, or any appearances of a general affection arise.

I HAVE employed nitrous acid internally, in various cases of general syphilitic affection. The symptoms disappeared, and in one case, where mercury had been employed without success. All the patients had an increase

* *Repercussif astringent*. This expression shews the wretched state of medical theory among some of the latest writers in France.
Ed.

of appetite. Two or three experienced a slight affection of the salivary glands. In one there appeared *aphthæ* in the mouth. Two patients complained of griping for a few days. But all these symptoms disappeared of themselves.—In all these cases I used nitric acid, at thirty degrees. I have never given above one hundred and thirty grains a day.

IN a note, Dr. Swediaur says, that Dr. Fourcroy finds that oxygenated (rancid) axunge kills mercury much sooner than recent. Copper is quickly oxydated by axunge subjected to the action of nitric acid.

SIR, *Weymouth, January 8, 1798.*

A SHORT time since, I was shewn a printed letter, circulated by you, recommending a trial of the nitrous acid in venereal cases, and which, from the manner you spoke of it, I was determined to do in the first convenient cases that should occur. From some medical friends in town, I find that their principal reliance on this medicine is in recent cases only, but the case I have now the honour of relating to you shews, that great effects may be expected in the most inveterate symptoms.

ON my mentioning your letter to a regimental surgeon here, he requested me to view a man then in his hospital, to see if I thought him a proper subject for a trial of the acid. The patient was a private soldier of the Oxford Blues, and being unable to march with his regiment, when they left our camp, he was sent to this place, under the care of the above gentleman. This man was first attacked with chancres in the usual way, and which, from his not applying for relief in due time, spread rapidly;

pidly; venereal ulcers and blotches also appeared in other parts of his body, particularly the perinæum and groin; when I saw him the disease had existed between four and five months, he was then a shocking object, his face and neck being covered with ulcers of that peculiar appearance which always marks the venereal disease, one large one in particular nearly surrounded the orbit of the left eye, rendering the bone carious. Bark, opium, cicuta, mercury, in all its forms, &c. had been tried, separate and together, without producing the least good effect, or at all stopping the progress of the ulcers; he was so much emaciated, that he was unable to move without assistance, and we expected that death would soon relieve him from his torments.—We directly began the acid, omitting every thing else; during the first four or five days he evidently grew worse, but after that time his amendment was wonderful, and in about three weeks from the first use of the medicine, he was so far recovered, as to be able to go as an *outside* passenger on the coach, to join his regiment. It was also used with success on another man who could not bear mercury. I tried it in a very bad and foul ulcer on the leg, not venereal; and it evidently was of great service.

I HAVE found considerable difficulty in keeping my patients a sufficient length of time in the use of this remedy, owing to the tediousness of sucking it through a tube; if a more convenient method could be obtained, it would certainly be a means of making it more general.

I remain, &c.

STEPHEN P. BRYER.

To Dr. Beddoes.

It may not be useless to observe, that immediately before the following letter was written, I had transmitted to Dr. Geach, a paper which had just been circulated. As Dr. Geach evidently alludes to that paper, I have inserted it here :

TO MEDICAL GENTLEMEN.

*No. 69, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury-square,
October 16, 1797.*

SEVERAL respectable physicians and surgeons have positively affirmed, that nitrous acid and other substances of analogous constitution, are a certain and speedy remedy against the lues venerea: To establish this point, many instances of cures in the early stage of that disease have been attested. But, as the success of experiments made in recent and doubtful cases, which might perhaps have terminated happily by other means, and without the administration of mercury, are unsuitable proofs of the efficacy of a supposed anti-venereal remedy, it has been judged fit to invite practitioners to make trial of these medicines in more inveterate cases; where well-marked blotches, nodes, ulcerated fauces, and other characteristic symptoms of a genuine syphilis appear: Those patients who have not used mercury, or who may have employed it long ago, and had a relapse of their complaints, are the most unexceptionable for this purpose. We have been informed that "above one hundred bad cases stand attested as cured beyond all reasonable doubt:" But, on impartially examining the evidence brought forward respecting them, there is ground to conclude, that this declaration has not been verified by legitimate examples.

THE hopes of experimenters are sanguine; the public mind continues in suspense; the matter in question is of

very great importance, and cannot soon be decided by the observations of an individual: For these reasons, it is presumed, no umbrage will be given by this mode of soliciting gentlemen to employ the new medicines, in unequivocal cases of confirmed syphilis; and, if they do not wish to conceal the result of their experience from the world, to send such reports as they may please to communicate, either to the editor of this letter, at his own house; or directed (for him) to Mr. Callow, Bookseller, Crown-court, Windmill-street, near Golden-square; or to Mr. Cox, Bookseller in St. Thomas's-street, Borough.

IF any of these communications should be deemed inapplicable to the subject intended to be illustrated, they will be returned to their respective authors, and omitted in the publication announced on the opposite page.

WILLIAM BLAIR.

THE compliment which the author of this paper has paid me, by imitating me in the measure of a circular letter, shall not prevent me from remarking an inaccuracy in the first sentence—an inaccuracy of fact, I mean. No other would be worth notice. Few, if any, of the persons to whom he alludes, have *generally* affirmed the substances in question to be, “certain and speedy remedies against the lues venerea.” They relate their observations, call upon others to make trials, and wait in suspense the final result.

THE first sentence of the second paragraph may afford an instructive lesson to maxim-mongers. *The hopes of experimenters are sanguine—true.* But *the hopes of experimenters* are also *not sanguine.* Either proposition is right or wrong, as it is applied. The felicity of its application to the Plymouth experimenters, whose observations form so large a portion of the existing evidence, is well illustrated by Dr. Geach's letter, in which he says,

that he entered upon the use of nitrous acid with a feeling of distrust, almost of contempt. Will the writer fasten his reproach on the Woolwich experimenters? Or does he only mean, that there have been, since the world began, instances of sanguine experimenters, though the principal persons engaged in this enquiry were either not sanguine, or remarkably sceptical? Or what is it he would have with his maxim?—*The public mind continues in suspense.* Measures, however, as the author probably knew, had already been taken to put an end to this suspense, and I am glad that he has promised to join his endeavours. The reporters, no doubt, will thank him to shew that the cases, adduced here and elsewhere, are *illegitimate*. They will put up with the shame for the sake of the instruction.

EDITOR.

DEAR SIR, *Royal Hospital, Nov. 4, 1797.*

ALTHOUGH, when I sent to you my last letter and report, concerning the nitrous acid, I had not seen its power to remove venereal eruptions, yet I have since observed its efficacy in two instances, and several with gonorrhœa have been cured by its internal use, and by injecting, after the inflammation was gone, and the discharge began to thicken, with the nitrous acid, well diluted.

I HAVE the pleasure to add, that since the *thirteen* cases were transmitted, *thirty* patients, with buboes, chancres, and excoriations, have been cured solely by nitrous acid, whose cases Mr. Hammick, junior, is about to bring forward to you; and so convinced are we now of its efficacy, that mercury, in such cases, has been but little used in this hospital since the nitrous acid was adopted;

and if we are not disappointed in future, it will be, perhaps, further discontinued. Besides the firmness and softness of the cicatrices, we have observed that the fallow tinge of the countenance, attendant on infection, has disappeared with the more prominent symptoms of this disease. However, we have also remarked, that a certain quantity of the nitrous acid must be administered before the venereal appearances vanish—but this certain quantity we have not, as yet, been able, exactly to ascertain: neither do we see how we can well bring this experiment to the test, as much depends on constitution, whether scorbutic, or serofulous, much on the nature and activity of the virus itself, and much on the climate, as that of the East and West Indies. Neither can it appear strange, that a certain quantity is thus required to subdue this disorder, since we often find that several ounces of quicksilver ointment must be used before the symptoms yield, or the disorder be altogether eradicated.

If therefore we do not very soon succeed in very bad cases, we ought not to be discouraged, and give up this nitrous medicine, which, for want of experience, we may deem inadequate. It will be but candid to own, that in this hospital, we have sometimes been in doubt and suspense when the cure has not gone on so rapidly as we expected, and yet, by perseverance, the end at last has been obtained. Many practitioners, who have not such opportunities as we have in this public and great hospital, which is seldom without sixty or seventy patients in this disorder, might despair after a ten weeks trial, might abandon the medicine, and stigmatize it. In some instances we ourselves have despaired, especially when we first began to use it, and even discontinued it, and adopted the friction, but the friction aggravating the disorder, we returned to the nitrous acid again, and succeeded. We have

have observed, that the unction affects the mouth much sooner after the nitrous acid has been taken and discontinued, but this effect has not followed the nitrous acid itself, as was noticed in my first letter.

IN one instance, after the nitrous acid had been long used, and such a trial given of it, as to tire the patience of the sick, and exercise our own, a very small chancre on the glans, which for several weeks remained stationary, yielded to the friction. But why so small an ulcer should resist the nitrous acid, and very large and fordid chancres submit to it, I confess I know not—and this circumstance, already alluded to, in my first letter, has since been confirmed in one, and but one instance; and this incident is more to be wondered at, because the symptoms attending the lues, combined both with scurvy and scrofula, have been cured with the nitrous acid, and a foul bubo, with the gland enlarged and prominent, has healed up, in a marine, who is still in the hospital, and in good health.

MEN of the opposite opinion concerning this medicine will find it very difficult to prove, that the cases, sent by Mr. Hammick, were not venereal. We have proof enough to substantiate the facts, or if not deemed enough, we can call for, and obtain, the testimonies of the naval surgeons, who had attended the patients before they were sent to this hospital. These men, when cured, were returned to their respective ships, and none were sent back, on account of imperfect cures.

SEVERAL eminent practitioners, in this neighbourhood, were induced to visit the venereal patients when they first entered upon this nitrous and acid plan; have seen them when their cures were advancing, and when completed. Could all these practitioners be mistaken in what they saw? Will the judgment of the naval surgeons

be impeached? and can those only decide, who had no opportunity of examining any of the patients, or be the arbitrators in this matter? Must such pronounce that the disorder of so many seamen and marines was mistaken, and the nitrous acid incompetent? But if the cases so described, so attested, and transmitted by us were not venereal, it will be matter of satisfaction, as well as of reproof, if those who doubt, would name the disorder that could thus mimic, and assume the face of a bubo, a chancre surrounding the prepuce, a mortified penis, and disseminated eruptions. If it be said that scrofula might occasion all those appearances, or scurvy combined with scrofula, then, waving the power of the nitrous acid to cure the lues, let us rejoice that it will remove another very stubborn disorder.

ALTHOUGH I have noticed, yet I will not here bring forward for unerring proof, the virtue of the nitrous acid in gonorrhœa, because a notion has of late prevailed, that gonorrhœa will cure itself, and cease of its own accord, but I have a patient now, who has waited for this purpose full six months, in hopes of his disorder stopping, as the clown sat down by the river side, expecting when all the water would run off.

LET us not suspect that prejudice, and a predominant acid*, can spur on opponents to invalidate matters of fact, since all our endeavours have been without bias or acrimony, to establish, as far as we went, the power of a new medicine, to cure an old and stubborn disorder. We have indeed been somewhat chagrined, (and what we have felt within ourselves, we can readily pardon in others) when we have been unsuccessful, but we have not been provoked, because we were not the first to bring

* I dare not attempt to correct this palpable error by conjecture. Should it be *pride*? Ed.

this medicine into vogue, neither have we been envious at the rising reputation of others, nor emulous of fame, nor eager after fortune. Where we have been certain, we have been bold, and when in doubt we have been diffident.

As the faculty, at home and abroad, are now publicly solicited to ascertain, with all possible precision, the efficacy of this medicine in a terrible disorder, which for ages has yielded to no medicine hitherto known in these regions but mercury, it is to be hoped that the enquiry will be conducted with liberality and temper, as all are embarked in the cause of truth very interesting to the welfare of mankind. If this medicine, by united endeavours, and observations, should hereafter be found fully adequate to the removal of this disorder, in every stage, it will be happy for the community that such a malady may be cured without any injury to the constitution.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble, and obliged servant,

FRA. GEACH.

Royal Hospital, Plymouth, November 14, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

I DO myself the honour of sending you thirty-six cases, which I believe will tend to corroborate those already transmitted, and have the pleasure further to add, that George Hall, who was the first man sent to the hospital, and took the nitrous acid in April, and was discharged in May, is now in the marine barracks, and remains perfectly cured of his disorder, and in good health. Samuel Pope, seaman, Case 12, in the former Report, was found on the 10th of September. John Fail, seaman, Case 13, in the present Report, had no return of any venereal symptoms

symptoms on the 6th of November. James Deacon, Case 9, now sent, was well on the 10th instant; and Robert Harris, Case 13, last published, who had taken on the 28th day of Aug. when his case was transmitted, 164 drachms of the nitrous acid, was discharged from this hospital on the 13th of October, after his bubo had been perfectly sound a fortnight, and his health reinstated: the sum total of the nitrous acid taken by this man was *two hundred and fifteen drachms.*

HAVING brought forward the present cases in proof of the efficacy of the *nitrous* acid, I hope it will not be presumption to add, that the *sulphuric* or *vitriolic* acid has some claim to the attention of the public; as it has succeeded in the cases annexed, I hope that the efficacy of this medicine may have other trials, as the result may tend to evince still more the effect of such acids in the cure of the venereal disease, at least in some stages of it, and that the whole may be brought to a greater degree of perfection.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obliged servant, &c.

STEPHEN HAMMICK, Jun.

CASE I.

WILLIAM WATSON, serjeant of marines, 24 years of age, was received into the hospital on the 12th day of June, 1797, for a venereal complaint, which he had contracted about three weeks before; he had now, on the right side of the penis, a large chancre, with much inflammation, for which, he said, he had never taken any medicine, nor made any application to the part itself; he was that day ordered *acidi nitrosi ℥ij. syr. sim. ℥viii. aq. font. lb. ij. m. et bibat quotidie.* The chancre was dressed with

with the ung. sperm. cet. He continued his nitrous drink daily to the 19th day of July, when the chancre being healed, and the patient in every respect well, was discharged on that day from the Royal Hospital, in order to go on duty.

N. B. This man had never taken any mercurial preparation.

CASE II.

WILLIAM HARLAND, seaman, 25 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, on the 19th day of May, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about six weeks before, and for which he had used the mercurial friction, and taken various mercurial preparations on board, without any relief; a great enlargement of the glands, in the right inguen, was found, with some slight tendency, on the lower part, to suppuration, but the surrounding integuments were hard and tense; the following day he was ordered ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iss. ℥ss. ℥vij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat. quotidie. The bubo was fomented and poulticed twice a day. He continued his drink daily to the 31st of May, when the bubo (now ready to suppurate) was touched with the lapis infernalis, and on the 5th of June, the eschar was thrown off; he then recommenced the nitrous drink of the same strength as before; 12th the poultice was discontinued, and a dressing of spermaceti ointment applied; he continued the nitrous drink daily till the 31st day of July, when the bubo was completely healed; the enlargement and hardness of the other inguinal glands were gone; the man was discharged, in good health, on that day, from the Royal Hospital, to go in his ship.

CASE III.

MATTHEW TUCKERMAN, seaman, 30 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, at Plymouth, on the 20th day of June, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about two years since, for which he had been often in the surgeon's list on board, and had taken inwardly, and used outwardly, a great quantity of mercurial preparations, so as to produce three or four different times a copious ptyalism; four large deep foul ulcers were now perceived in the right groin, where the glands had sometime before suppurated; there was an hardness all around, and their edges were callous and inflamed; he was that day ordered ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥ij. fy. sim. ℥viii. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie; the part itself was ordered to be fomented twice a day, and then dressed with the ung. alb. He continued this nitrous drink daily to the 31st of July, when the ulcers were healed, the enlargement of the different glands entirely gone, and the man, in every respect free of his venereal complaint, was removed to another ward, as he was at times troubled with fits.

CASE IV.

JOHN WILKINS, seaman, 26 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, on the 11th day of June, 1797, for a venereal complaint of two months standing; he informed me that at first he had a gonorrhœa with its concomitant symptoms, for which he took some calomel pills; that the gonorrhœa ceased in a short time, and he returned to his duty; but soon afterwards he perceived a swelling and pain in the left groin, which continuing to increase,

increase, he again applied to his surgeon, under whose care he remained a month, but not getting better he was sent hither; there was found in the left groin a considerable enlargement of the glands, without the least disposition to suppurate; he had also a small chancre on the glans; the next day he was ordered \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{z} viiij. aq. font. $\mathfrak{℥}$ ij. m. et bibat quotidie. The indurated part was fomented, and he continued his nitrous drink to the 21st day of August, when the enlargement of the inguinal glands was entirely gone (a small suppuration in the lower part of the swelling having taken place on the 8th of July), the chancre early disappeared, not the smallest hardness to be felt; the man was discharged, in good health, on that day, to join his ship, viz. 21st of August.

CASE V.

THOMAS BAKER, seaman, 23 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 28th day of May, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about a month before; he said, at first a chancre appeared on the glans penis, for which his surgeon, on board, gave him a blue vitriolic lotion, and mercurial pills to take inwardly; that his mouth soon became sore, and in about three weeks his chancre healed; he then returned to duty, but soon after there was a swelling in his groin, which continued increasing about seven days, when he was sent hither. He had now an enlargement of several of the left inguinal glands, to a great extent, hard, and indolent; the next day he was ordered a fomentation and poultice, and to take \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{z} viiij. aq. font. $\mathfrak{℥}$ ij. m. et bibat quotidie. June 17, the bubo now very large, and ready to suppurate, was
touched

touched with the lapis infernalis, a large eschar was thrown off in four days. June 25, bubo dressed with the ung. sperm. cet. instead of poultice; went on with the nitrous drink. July 12, the wound was healed, but a great hardness and enlargement of the surrounding glands remained; enjoined to continue the drink and foment the part at night; this he complied with, and on the 28th day of August was discharged perfectly cured.

CASE VI.

JOHN PARROW, seaman, 20 years of age, was received on the 19th day of June, 1797, for the venereal disease, contracted about a month; he had taken mercurial preparations, on board, without effect. The whole glans penis was now covered with foetid and foul chancres; the next day he was ordered ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. ſy. ſim. ℥viiij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. To apply a dressing of ung. alb. to the chancres. The nitrous drink he continued to the 28th day of August, when the chancres were healed, and no vestige of the venereal disease was visible; he was that day discharged.

CASE VII.

RICHARD EVANS, seaman, 22 years of age, was received into this hospital the 19th day of June, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted more than eleven weeks since, during the greater part of which time he had been under the care of the surgeon, on board his ship, but not gaining ground, he was sent hither with a phimosis; the prepuce was much contracted and swollen, with a discharge of matter from between the prepuce and
glans;

glans; a bubo, which had suppurated about three weeks since in the left groin had never healed, and at present it looked foul, and discharged much; the next day he was ordered to foment and apply a poultice to the prepuce and groin, and to take ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. ſy. ſim. ℥viiij. aq. font. ℔ij. m. et bibat quotidie. 30th. Bubo cleaner, phymosis better. July 16, bubo cicatrized; the prepuce soft and free, with only an excoriation now to be seen on the glans. He took the nitrous drink daily from the 20th of June to this 28th day of August, when he was discharged, perfectly cured.

CASE VIII.

JOSEPH WILSON, seaman, 22 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 3d day of August, 1797, for a venereal infection, contracted two months since; at first he found a swelling in the left groin, for which his surgeon ordered some pills, and enjoined him to rub on his thighs at night a small quantity of mercurial ointment; the man persevered about 20 times, the bubo dispersed; his mouth was not affected with the mercury; the swelling of his groin soon returned, accompanied with a chancre on the penis; he took some mercurial medicine again, but as the bubo would not disperse, he was sent to this hospital; he has had a diarrhoea on him for the last seven weeks, and was much weakened and emaciated; he had now three large glandular swellings in the left inguen, with a chancre on the penis; the next day he was ordered ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. ſy. ſim. ℥viiij. aq. font. ℔ij. m. et bibat quotidie. For his diarrhoea some medicine was prescribed; he continued his nitrous drink daily to the 1st day of September, when the bubo was dispersed,

disperfed, the chancre healed, but ftill complaining of his diarrhœa he was fent from the furgical to the medical department.

CASE IX.

JAMES DEACON, feaman, 24 years of age, received into this hofpital, on the 26th day of June, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about two months fince ; had a gonorrhœa ; he applied to his furgeon, who ordered him an injection, upon which the difcharge ceafed, but foon after he had returned to his duty he found a fwelling in both groins ; he then rubbed about 20 times with the mercurial ointment, this produced a ptyalifm, which lafted three weeks, with a violent cough ; he was fent hither, and has now indurated glands in both groins, with an excoriation on the glans penis ; the next day he was ordered ℞ acidi nitrofi ꝑifs. ſy. ſim. ꝑviii. aq. font. ꝑij. m. et bibat quotidie, and to foment well the indurations with the common fomentations. He continued the nitrous acid daily to the 4th day of September, when the indurations of the glands were gone (three of them having fuppurated in the right, and one in the left groin, which difcharged but little, and foon clofed) without any hardnefs or tumour in any part ; the man was difcharged cured on that day.

CASE X.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, feaman, 26 years of age, received into the hofpital July 13, 1797, at firft fent to the medical department for a feverifh complaint, but there his fever being found fymptomatic, he was fent to the furgical ward ; on the 18th of July, he had an hernia humoralis, and he informed me, that about three weeks

weeks since he contracted a gonorrhœa, for which he threw up an injection; that ten days after the discharge suddenly ceased, and soon he felt a pain in his left testis, which increased to a great degree, attended with rigors and thirst; he complained to the surgeon, on board, but concealed the cause; on the day of his coming to our ward, he was ordered \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iss. \mathfrak{f} y. \mathfrak{f} im. \mathfrak{z} viiij. aq. font. $\mathfrak{℥}$ ij. m. et bibat. quotidie, and to apply a cold saturnine poultice to the part. 26th day of July, inflammation nearly reduced, fever gone; 3d of August, inflammation quite gone, but an enlargement and hardness of the epididymis remained. He continued the nitrous drink and fomentation daily till the 6th day of September, when the enlargement and hardness were gone, and the man, in all respects well, was discharged.

CASE XI.

MICHAËL DEWLIN, seaman, 22 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 11th day of June, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about six weeks since, during which time he had been under the care of his surgeon, on board, for a chancre on the glans, which had healed under a course of mercury, without ptyalism, but the enlargement of the inguinal glands remained; he had, when he became our patient, enlargements of the left inguinal glands, forming a large tumour, and where the chancre was, remained callous; the next day he was ordered \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} ij. \mathfrak{f} y. \mathfrak{f} im. \mathfrak{z} viiij. aq. font. $\mathfrak{℥}$ ij. m. et capiat quotidie, to foment twice a day the indurations. He continued his nitrous medicine daily to the 13th day of September, when the indurations were quite dispersed, (a slight suppuration of two of the glands having taken
E place)

place) and the man, in good health, was discharged from the Royal Hospital to join his ship.

CASE XII.

THOMAS BOND, seaman, 24 years of age, received into this hospital, on the 18th day of June, 1797, for a venereal infection, received six weeks since, for which he had not taken any medicine, nor made any application to the part itself; he had a very large inflamed bubo in the left groin, giving him intolerable pain; the anodyne fomentation was used, and the yeast poultice applied twice a day, and he took ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. sy. fim. ʒx. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. ℞ opii gr. ij. hor. fomni fum. July 1st, the bubo now arrived to a very large size and suppurated: the lapis infernalis applied: continue nitrous drink, opiate, poultice and fomentation: July 4, eschar thrown off about two inches and a half in length, one in breadth: still great inflammation at the edges and surrounding integuments, with a strong disposition to spread: drink, &c. continued: 10th, large discharge from the bubo, inflammation and pain less, appetite returned: 21st, bubo now cleaner, was dressed with the ungu. alb. instead of poultice: August 19th, the ulcer healed, but there remained an evident enlargement and hardness of the glands: dressing discontinued, fomented at night, and he continued the nitrous acid daily till the 11th day of September, when he was discharged cured, in order to join his ship.

N. B. This man never took any mercury.

CASE XIII.

JOHN FAIL, seaman, 22 years of age, received on the 20th day of July, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted four months before; he says, for the last three months he has been confined to his hammock, constantly taking medicines for chancres on the glans and prepuce; that his mouth had been sore, and continued so ten days; he became very weak, and wasted both in strength and flesh; his chancres appeared to yield at that time, but since, discontinuing the mercury, they have gained ground; he had now a chancre that preyed upon a small portion of prepuce that remained, and another on the glans penis; this man was so weak as not to be able to quit his bed, had a hectic cough and sweats, pain of the breast, nocturnal pain in his limbs, no appetite, at times diarrhoea, became more and more wasted and debilitated, and a venereal cadaverous appearance; the same day he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} ij. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . decoct. lignor. \mathfrak{ss} ij. m. et bibat quotidie; his cough allayed by an opiate at night; 28th, chancres clean, appetite improves, and other symptoms favourable; he continued his nitrous drink daily to the 12th day of September, when it was discontinued, as the chancres had been some days well, and the man's appetite good; pain of limbs abated, sweats and diarrhoea suppressed, and nothing but a slight cough remaining, the man, though thus far recovered, was deemed, and discharged, an invalide.

CASE XIV.

RICHARD WRIGHT, marine, 32 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 16th day of August,

1797, for a venereal infection, received ten weeks before; at first he had a gonorrhœa, which continued about nine weeks; then a phymosis came, with chancres on the outside of the prepuce; this man neglecting himself, had only taken one dose of cathartic pills, when he was sent hither; he had now a phymosis, three chancres on the outside of the prepuce, much inflammation and swelling of the penis, and a very foul ulcer in the right groin, where a bubo supplicated five days before; he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝓiiss. fʒ. sim. ℥xij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. Sept. 1, bubo and chancres were clean, phymosis yielding, but a great discharge of matter issued from the urethra, attended with great pain in passing his urine; he had also an enlargement of one of the left inguinal glands; 8th, chancres and bubo healed, and the glans was denuded, induration in the left inguen not increasing, but the discharge from the urethra great, the inflammation gone from the penis; he threw up the following injection, ℞ acidi nitrosi, gtt. iv. aq. font. ℥viij. m. f. injectio. 9th, has thrown up the injection, since yesterday, five times, it smarted much, but did not produce any inflammation on the penis; continued nitrous drink and injection; 12th, enlargement of the groin gone, gonorrhœa less; 16th, gonorrhœa nearly ceased, the prepuce is soft and well; continued the drink and injection regularly till the 25th day of September, when he was discharged cured.

N. B. This man never took any mercury.

CASE XV.

JOHN M'FARLON, marine, 21 years of age, was received on the 23d day of August, 1797, for a gonorrhœa of six weeks standing, the three latter of which he

he had been under the care of a surgeon, and had taken mercury, which affected his mouth; but his gonorrhœa increasing, he was sent to this hospital; he had now a gonorrhœa, attended for the last four days with a slight phymosis, and great heat of urine; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. sy. sim. ʒviij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et capiat quotidie. Sept. 1st, phymosis yielded, but gonorrhœa still profuse; 8th, inflammation of the penis and glans gone; continued the drink and used the following injection, ℞ acidi nitrosi gtt. iv. aq. font. ʒviij. m. f. injectio. He continued his nitrous injection and drink daily to the 25th day of September, when he was discharged, cured, to go on duty.

CASE XVI.

WILLIAM ROOK, seaman, 24 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 30th day of August, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about three months since; he said, that the first appearance was a chancre on the lower part of the penis, that soon a phymosis came on, attended with a discharge of matter from between the glans and prepuce, a chancre on the prepuce, and an enlargement in the groin; that he took some mercurial pills from the surgeon, and rubbed mercurial ointment, till a ptyalism was produced, which lasted a fortnight; the swelling of the groin, and chancres on the penis vanished, but no other benefit was derived; that since he had this disease on him, he had been removed to three different ships, and consequently under the care of three different surgeons; about ten days since, the phymosis continuing very bad, the surgeon on board divided the prepuce, an hæmorrhage ensued, and inflammation followed, although he took medicine and was attended to, yet getting worse, he was sent hither; a

man healthy till this venereal infection ; he had an extremely bad paraphymosis, great inflammation, and hardness of the part, attended with fœtor, livid color, and discharge from the divided parts, tending to gangrene, indeed nothing could have a more alarming appearance ; he was immediately ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝑij. ℥ij. ℥ss. ℥ij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. ℞ opii gr. ij. h. f. f. The suffering part was well fomented with a strong decoction of chamomile flowers, poppy heads, and althæa roots, and the yeast poultice was applied ; 31st, as yesterday, drink, &c. continued ; 2d, livid appearance and inflammation of the part less ; as he was costive, a dose of castor oil was ordered, drink, &c. continued ; 3d, inflammation much abated, livid appearance less, a discharge of matter from the incised wounds of the paraphymosis ; drink, &c. ordered ; 6th, inflammation gone, and granulations become healthy ; dressed with the ung. album in lieu of poultice ; nitrous acid continued ; 13th, paraphymosis quite gone, a chancre come on the glans near the frenum ; drink continued, opiate not ordered. He took his nitrous acid mixture daily to the 25th day of Sept. when the wound and chancre were healed (but scarcely any prepuce remained to cover the glans) and the man, quite well in other respects, was discharged to join his ship. This man's cure was astonishingly rapid.

CASE XVII.

EDWARD SHEHAN, seaman, 40 years of age, was received into the venereal ward, from the medical department, on the 17th of August, 1797, for a venereal infection of six days ; he said, four days before he perceived a chancre on the outside of the prepuce, for which
he

he had not taken any thing, nor made any application to the part itself; he had now a phymosis, two chancres on the outside of the prepuce, a discharge of matter from the glans and inside of the prepuce, and a small induration of one of the right inguinal glands; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥ij. sy. sim. ℥viii. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie, and a poultice applied to the prepuce. He continued his nitrous drink to the 26th day of September, when he was discharged, quite cured, from the Royal Hospital.

N. B. This man did not take any mercury.

CASE XVIII.

JOHN ENGLISH, seaman, 23 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 13th day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about six weeks; had suffered severely from the disease about two years since; had not taken any medicine for this last infection; he had a phymosis, a chancre just within the prepuce, a venereal scab on both elbows, and upper part of one thigh; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥ij. sy. sim. ℥xij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie; the nitrous drink he took regularly to the 2d day of October, when the chancre and phymosis were healed, and the venereal scales having fallen off, and left the integuments clear, he was that day discharged cured.

CASE XIX.

EDWARD DOWDY, marine, 40 years of age, was received into the venereal ward, Sept. 4, 1797, for a gonorrhœa, contracted about six weeks since, the last five

of which he had taken medicine for it, but without benefit; he had now a large discharge of matter from the urethra, with chordee and heat of urine; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝓij. sy. fim. ꝓviij. aq. font. ꝓij. m. et bibat quotidie, and to use three or four times a day the following injection: ℞ acidi nitrosi gtt. iv. aq. font. ꝓviij. m. f. injectio. He continued his nitrous drink and injection to the 3d of October, when he was sent, cured of this complaint, to the medical department, on account of a cough, which for some years had harrassed him.

CASE XX.

WILLIAM JONES, seaman, 21 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 2d of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about six weeks before; the first appearance was gonorrhœa, attended with the ordinary symptoms; also some small indurations of the glands in each inguen, for which he took, from his surgeon, some mercurial pills, and threw up an injection for the gonorrhœa; on his mouth becoming sore, the inguinal enlargements disappeared, but the gonorrhœa increasing, attended with a phymosis, which also growing worse, he was sent to this hospital; the next day he was ordered, acidi nitrosi ꝓij. sy. fim. ꝓx. aq. font. ꝓij. m. et bibat quotidie. He continued his nitrous medicine constantly till the 5th of October, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE XXI.

WILLIAM DAVIS, seaman, about 32 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 29th day of July, 1797, for a venereal eruption, which appeared about
three

three months since; before that time he had severe nocturnal pains; his whole body was now covered with eruptions, particularly numerous on his arms, and much elevated above the skin; these eruptions had resisted every thing on board; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝑiss. ꝑ. sim. ꝑviii. decoct. lignor. ꝑij. m. et bibat quotidie. August 24th, eruptions paler, nitrous acid increased to two drachms daily; 30th, several eruptions faded off, nitrous acid increased to two drachms and a half daily, which he continued constantly to the 2d of October, when every spot being obliterated, he was discharged cured.

CASE XXII.

SAMUEL MERRICK, marine, 25 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 7th day of August, 1797, for a psoas abscess open in the left thigh, and discharging much, and the man hectic; he has also marks in the left inguen, where there were, (according to his own report) in last December, two large venereal bubos, and for which he had been some months in Haslar hospital; three days after his coming hither, the ulcers of the groin broke up, and continued spreading in depth, and in circumference, till they became, in a manner, one large ulcer, and looked foul; on the 30th of August he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝑiss. ꝑ. sim. ꝑviii. decoct. lignor ꝑij. m. et bibat quotidie. Sept. 10th, ulcers looked clean, granulations arising; the drink was regularly taken till October the 1st, when the ulcers being healed, it was discontinued; the man's appetite improved under its course; the psoas abscess remained in the same state as formerly; the ulcers continued well to the 4th of November, when the patient died.

CASE XXIII.

MICHAEL BARON, seaman, 36 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 29th day of July, 1797, for a venereal eruption on the face, and over the whole body, attended with nocturnal pains of the tibia; he had these eruptions six months, and taken a large quantity of mercury, on board, without producing a ptyalism; the next day he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . decoct. lignor. \mathfrak{ss} ij. \mathfrak{m} . et bibat quotidie. August 13th, eruptions increased, nocturnal pains less, drink continued; August 29th, some of the eruptions disappeared, nitrous acid increased to two drachms daily; Sept. 7th, eruptions gone from the face, fewer on the body, and not prominent as before. He took daily the drink, to the 4th of October, when it was discontinued, as his eruptions and pains were removed, and the patient was sent to another ward, as he had a rigidity of the tendon of the biceps flexor cubiti, in consequence of a hurt received on board.

CASE XXIV.

NICHOLAS PEARCE, seaman, 27 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 8th day of September, 1797, for a hernia humoralis; he says, three months since he contracted a gonorrhœa, attended with a chordee, and pain in the urethra; he applied to his surgeon on board, who ordered for him, and he was nearly cured, when his ship was lost; his gonorrhœa increased, and four days since a violent swelling of the left testicle came on, for which he took a cathartic draught, and fomented; but getting worse, he was sent

to this hospital; he had now a hernia humoralis, with much inflammation, and some discharge of matter from the urethra; he was ordered a purgative, applied a cold saturnine poultice to the part twice a day, and took the following drink: ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iij. sy. fīm. ℥xiv. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. 14th hernia humoralis much reduced, pain and inflammation gone, gonorrhœa increased; drink and fomentation ordered, poultice discontinued; 26th, there was an enlargement of the testicle, gonorrhœa much increased; continued the nitrous drink, and used the following injection: ℞ acidi nitrosi gtt. iv. aq. font. ℥viiij. m. f. inj. He continued nitrous drink and injection to the 9th day of October, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE XXV.

PATRICK EDWARDS, seaman, 22 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, on the 13th day of September, 1797, for a venereal infection, received three months since; first appearance gonorrhœa, a smarting of urine, and a slight phymosis; had taken mercury from his surgeon, on board, without effect; his mouth became a little sore; he has also thrown up injections: at present he has a gonorrhœa, with pain of urine, attended with a chordee and some foul chancres around the glans penis; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥ij. sy. fīm. ℥viiij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. 21st September, chordee gone, gonorrhœa and chancres the same; nitrous acid continued, and the following injection ordered: ℞ acidi nitrosi gtt. iv. aq. font. ℥viiij. m. f. inj. He continued taking the drink, and throwing up the injection to the 12th day of October, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE XXVI.

EDWARD LEE, seaman, 46 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 19th day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted six days before, for which he had not taken any medicine, nor made any topical application to the part itself; he has at present chancres on the glans, and the whole internal part of the prepuce is excoriated; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. ʒj. sim. ʒx. aq. font. iijm. et bibat quotidie. He was forbidden to apply any thing to the part, only to keep it clean with milk and water. He took his nitrous acid drink daily to the 12th day of October, when it was discontinued, the man being perfectly well, and on the 16th was discharged.

N. B. This man never used mercury.

CASE XXVII.

ELI. HEATH, seaman, 28 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 29th day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about a fortnight since; the first appearance was a chancre on the glans, and an induration in the left groin, for which he took some mercurial pills, but desisted in about eight days, as it excited a ptyalism; the chancre cleaned under its course, but the induration increased; at present the chancre on the glans is become foul again, with a small bubo in the left inguen, tending much to suppuration; his mouth is still tender; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒiiss. ʒj. sim. ʒxij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. He was forbidden to apply any thing to the
chancre

chancre or bubo. He continued his acid drink daily to the 19th day of October, when the bubo was dispersed, and the chancre healed. He was discharged, cured, to join his ship.

CASE XXVIII.

WM. LINCH, marine, 23 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 14th of August, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about three months since, all which time he had been under the care of the surgeon on board; his mouth became sore from the mercury he took several different times, without benefiting him; he has now a large deep foul chancre, covering the whole point of the glans, with much inflammation on the penis, and a wart on the prepuce; the following day he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{z} viiij. aq. font. \mathfrak{ss} ij. m. et bibat quotidie; to apply to the chancre itself, a dressing of the ung. alb. Sept. 7, chancre looks clean, but has not healed; the wart dropped off; nitrous acid increased to two drachms daily; 19th, the wart sprouted again; chancre somewhat healed, inflammation of the penis gone; nitrous acid increased to three drachms daily; the wart was sprinkled with the pulv. fabinæ. He continued his nitrous drink daily to the 23d of October, when he was discharged perfectly cured.

It may be worth remarking, that the surgeon of the ship, under whose care the man was the above three months, assured me that he had ineffectually tried every method to cure this chancre with mercury and topical applications, and that he had never met with a chancre of that size so obstinate before.

CASE XXIX.

JAMES MORRIS, seaman, 25 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 29th of August, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted ten days since; he says, six days before, such a violent swelling came on of the prepuce, that he could not denude the glans, attended with great smarting, in passing his water; that three days since, he perceived a black spot on the right side of the prepuce, which caused him to apply to his surgeon, who ordered him to be poulticed, and gave him four pills to take, together with a laxative; that growing worse, he was sent to the hospital; he has now a sphacelation of the whole prepuce, and from the side where part of the prepuce has sloughed off, the glans also is seen sphacelated; the *whole* penis is livid, and has a fetor and appearance threatening the loss of the *whole*; the man is weak, and passes his urine with great difficulty, and in small quantities at a time; he was ordered to be fomented twice a day, with a decoction of poppy heads and camomile flowers, then to apply the yeast poultice, to take ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. ℥j. sim. ʒx. aquæ fontan. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. ℞ opii gr. ij. h. s. s. 30th, mortification spreads on the glans, has bled much from the penis in the night and yesterday; the difficulty of making water is gone; drink, &c. ordered; 31st, mortification still increasing; nitrous drink continued; September 1st, the whole of the prepuce sloughed off; the sphacelus of the glans does not spread; inflammation and livid appearance of the penis less; to continue as before; 2d, the sphacelus from the glans is a little detached; 3d, sloughs from the glans thrown off, more than half of it destroyed, the urine in consequence finds its

its way through the side of the urethra; nitrous acid, &c. as yesterday; 5th, fetid smell and livid appearance gone; ulcer looks clean; the man complains of hunger, although he has not yet quitted his bed; 10th, as the granulations look healthy, fomentation and poultice were discontinued; dressed with ungu. alb. instead of it; as he rests well, opiate omitted; nitrous drink alone ordered; Oct. 1st, the ulcer all around from whence the prepuce sloughed is healed, and that on the glans nearly so, with an healthy appearance, but he complains of a discharge of matter from the urethra; walks about as usual. He continued daily his nitrous acid drink to the 23d of Oct. when he was discharged, cured of his venereal complaint, and in good health, to join his ship.

CASE XXX.

HENRY BEECHY, marine, 18 years of age, received into this hospital, September 9, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted about a month, and for which he had never taken any medicine, nor made any application to the chancre on the glans, which has nearly destroyed the frenum; he has also a discharge of matter from the urethra, and a large and foul chancre on the dorsum penis, which is much swollen, and two indurated glands in the left groin; the following day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝑij. ℥ij. aq. font. ꝑij. m. et bibat quotidie; ordered to apply to the induration, twice a day, a cold saturnine poultice, and the ungu. sperm. cet. dressing to the chancres: 19th, the chancres look cleaner, although they have spread much, even under this course: gonorrhœa thicker, but the glandular swellings are increased much, and tend to suppuration;

tion ; continued the nitrous drink and poultice : 27th, inguinal enlargements are less, the chancres healing, gonorrhœa gone ; followed the nitrous drink : October 6th, swellings in the inguen reduced, poultice was discontinued ; took the nitrous drink regularly on till the 23d of October, when the chancres were healed ; no hardness to be felt in the groin ; the man was discharged in good health on that day.

N. B. This man never took mercury.

CASE XXXI.

WILLIAM FILTHAM, seaman, 34 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 9th day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted sixteen days since, for which he had taken five small pills, and applied to the part a little mercurial ointment ; his mouth was not much affected by it ; he was sent to this hospital with a number of foul chancres, deep around the glans ; and on the upper internal part of the prepuce there are a number more, the penis inflamed, and much enlarged ; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iiss. ℥j. sim. ℥xij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. The chancres were dressed with the ung. alb. He continued daily his nitrous drink to the 2d of November, when he was discharged cured.

CASE XXXII.

JAMES STOKES, seaman, 22 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, on the 2d of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted eight weeks since ; the first appearance was a gonorrhœa, and its attendant symptoms, which ceased on his using an injection,
on

on board; a swelling then came on in each groin, which dispersed on his taking some mercurial pills, that excited a ptyalism; he then returned to his duty, and he remained well about a fortnight; that ten days since a chancre appeared, half way down, on the right side of the penis, for which he had not taken any medicine, nor used any topical application; he says, he has had the venereal disease three times before; the last time he suffered much; the chancre, which is now foul, and large, occupies a great part of the right side of the penis; the following day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. ℥ss. ʒx. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. The chancre was dressed with the ungu. sperm. cet. September 17th, the chancre spreads, looks foul, and is much inflamed; the tonsils of his throat are enlarged and painful; nitrous acid increased to three drachms daily: 28th, the chancre increases; excoriations broke out on the scrotum, the throat painful, and a black thick crust covers the whole of the root and middle of his tongue, without pain, but has the appearance, like as if the tongue had been stained with coffee, or if he chewed juice of liquorice; nocturnal pain of his limbs deprives him of sleep till dawn of day; ordered to continue the nitrous drink, and a linseed meal poultice to the part: 30th, poultice discontinued, as he complains of its producing pain; the man is become very anxious to use the mercurial friction, as his complaints have increased so much since his taking the drink; nevertheless, knowing, from experience, the efficacy of the nitrous acid, he was persuaded to continue its use, and apply to the chancre the sperm. cet. ointment: October 7th, chancre has not spread these last two days, pains less, excoriations dryer, but the black crust on his tongue remains, and a small ulcer has broken out on his upper lip; the nitrous drink continued; 15th chancre

healing rapidly, excoriations less, pain in swallowing gone; drink ordered: October 23d, chancre healed, nocturnal pains, excoriations, and ulcer on the upper lip, well, but his tongue remains as before; drink discontinued: 28th, since forbearing the drink on the 23d, the black crust is nearly gone from his tongue, and the man being perfectly well, was discharged from the Royal Hospital on the 28th of October.

N. B. It is worthy remark, that this man's chancre and venereal complaints got worse under the nitrous acid for 35 days, and though the chancre was then very large, it healed completely in 16 days from its shewing a disposition; the quantity taken was 100 drachms.

CASE XXXIII.

JOHN HARVEY, drummer, 16 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 15th day of October, 1797, for a gonorrhœa, which he had contracted about a month since, whilst recruiting, and on his march it increased much; he had not taken any medicine, nor used any injection; he had with this gonorrhœa, pain in passing his urine, attended with a slight phymosis, and the penis was inflamed; the day following he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} ij. \mathfrak{f} y. \mathfrak{f} im. \mathfrak{z} viiij. aq. font. \mathfrak{H} ij. m. et bibat quotidie. 22d, discharge thicker, phymosis, together with the inflammation on the penis, and pain in making water gone; drink continued, and he was ordered to use the following injection: \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{g} tt. iv. aq. font. \mathfrak{z} viiij. m. f. injectio; he continued his nitrous drink and injection to the 2d of November, when he was discharged cured.

CASE XXXIV.

JOSEPH HAWKES, marine, 20 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, on the 15th day of October, 1797, for a gonorrhœa, contracted five weeks since, at Birmingham; on his march hither, his gonorrhœa nearly ceased, but a swelling of the right testis came on, and when he arrived at quarters, viz. twelve days since, he was sent to the infirmary, where he remained taking medicine, &c. till the day he was sent to this hospital, without gaining any relief. He had now a very large hernia humoralis, on the right side, a gonorrhœa, with much smarting; the same day he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iiss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{z} xij. aq. font. \mathfrak{H} ij. m. et bibat quotidie, to apply a cold saturnine poultice to the part twice a day. 20th, inflammation and swelling much reduced, but there remains an hardness of the spermatic cord, which is enlarged; poultice discontinued, drink prescribed. 26th, hernia humoralis quite gone, together with the smarting of urine, but the gonorrhœa is increased; nitrous acid ordered again, and he was enjoined to use the following injection: \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi gtt. vi. aq. font. \mathfrak{z} viiij. m. f. injectio. He continued his nitrous injection and drink daily to the 2d of November, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE XXXV.

LEVY STUBBS, seaman, 24 years of age, received into the hospital, on the 10th day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted six months, eleven weeks of which time he was in the hospital ship at Cork, where he rubbed such a quantity of mercurial

and the inflammation went off; the man now, instead of a paraphymosis had a phymosis, the prepuce was divided on both sides on board, and mercurial pills were given without exciting a ptyalism; he has still a phymosis, with ragged, callous, and inflamed edges, where the incisions were made, and a discharge of matter from the glans and prepuce; the next day he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iiiss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{z} xij. aq. font. \mathfrak{ss} ij. m. et bibat quotidie, a poultice applied to the penis. October 21st can denude the glans; drink ordered, poultice discontinued. He took his nitrous drink daily to the 9th day of November, when he was discharged in perfect health.

FAILURE OF THE NITROUS ACID.

WILLIAM DENHAM, seaman, about 27 years of age, was received into this hospital, the 29th day of July, 1797, for a chancre on the glans, for which he had rubbed on his thighs such a quantity of mercurial ointment, as to produce a copious ptyalism, on board: the chancre did not yield; now foul and deep, it occupies the side of the glans penis; his mouth is ulcerated from the mercury, and he spits freely; the 30th he was ordered, \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} iss. \mathfrak{ss} . \mathfrak{z} viiij. dec. lignor \mathfrak{ss} ij. m. et bibat quotidie. The chancre was dressed with the ung. sperm. cet. August 10th, chancre clean, mouth better, spitting less; ordered to continue the drink. 19th, mouth nearly well, spitting ceased, chancre healed to within the size of a common pea; continued the acid drink, and sperm. cet. dressing. September 1st, chancre the same, discharge of matter from the urethra; conti-

nued the nitrous drink, and he threw up the following injection: \mathcal{R} acidi nitrosi gtt. iv. aq. font. \mathfrak{z} viiij. m. f. inj. 4th, nitrous acid increased to two drachms daily. 11th, chancre the same size, discharge of matter from the urethra thicker; topical applications used to the part, and persevered in the drink. 19th, nitrous acid increased to three drachms daily; chancre as before. 21st, running from the urethra ceased, injection discontinued, proceeded with the nitrous drink. 25th, chancre the same; drink continued. October 2d, chancre the same, drink persisted in. October 4th, as the chancre has remained in the same state, (about the size of a small pea) with an healthy appearance, notwithstanding topical applications, ever since the 19th day of August, and the nitrous acid taken to the extent of *one hundred and twenty-six drachms*; the man solicitous to renew the mercurial friction, it was ordered, and he rubbed five successive nights two drachms of the ung. hydrargy. fort. a copious ptyalism followed, the chancre spread under its use, but in about six days it relented and healed. The man recovered his health and strength, and was discharged, perfectly cured, on the 9th day of November.

SULPHURIC ACID,

CASE I.

BARTHOLOMEW CONNELL, seaman, 42 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 27th day of August, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted nine weeks before; the first appearance was a chancre at the
lower

lower part of the glans penis; some mercurial pills had been administered on board, his mouth became sore, and about ten days after the pills were discontinued, and since that time the chancre had been spreading; the prepuce was much shrivelled, from a venereal infection which was cured in this hospital, in 1777. He had now a deep foul chancre on the glans, which appeared nearly to communicate with the urethra; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi sulphur. ʒi. ʒj. ʒij. ʒx. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. He continued this drink daily up to the 2d of October, when he was discharged, perfectly cured.

N. B. This man never complained of the drink disagreeing with him, neither was his health in any respect impaired, but improved.

CASE II.

JAMES WILSON, serjeant of marines, 22 years of age, received into this hospital, on the 18th-day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint contracted a month since; the first appearance was a gonorrhœa; he had taken some mercurial pills, on which the gonorrhœa ceased, and a chancre broke out. He was then sent to this hospital; has now a bad phymosis, great discharge of matter from the glans and prepuce, and on the inside of the prepuce, as far as can be seen, there are several chancres, also a large chancre on the outside of the prepuce; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi sulphur. ʒiʒs. ʒj. ʒij. ʒxij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie, to apply a dressing of ung. alb. to the part, merely to prevent the friction of his linen. 25th, worse; chancre spreads, discharge of matter from the glans more. He continued the sulphuric acid, and injected between the glans and

prepuce a decoction of althæa root. October 8th, chancre healing, appetite returning, phymosis yielding; continued the drink. 23d, he can denude the glans, where there are several chancres that look healthy; chancre on the outside of the prepuce healed; drink continued daily to the 6th day of November, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE III.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS, marine, 23 years of age, was received into this hospital the 25th day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint, contracted ten weeks since. He said that he had been on furlough to Wales, where he first contracted a gonorrhœa, for which, without advice, he took some cathartic salts; that in three or four weeks the running ceased; that four days after he perceived a chancre on the penis, and this was followed by another; for these chancres, it seemed, he had never taken any thing, nor made any local application. He had been seven days on his march, during which time his complaints were aggravated. The day after his joining quarters, he was sent hither; we saw a chancre just below the prepuce, on the upper side, about the size of a shilling, and the lower one, joining the pubis, still larger, both were painful, and very foul; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi sulphuric. ʒiſs. ꝥj. ſim. ʒxij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie, chancres were dressed with the ung. alb. October 5th, the chancres were clean; as he complained that the drink occasioned a diarrhœa, it was reduced from one drachm and a half to one drachm daily of the acid, which he took regularly without any inconvenience or complaint to the 6th day of November, when he was discharged, cured.

N. B. This man never used mercury.

Royal Hospital, 11th December, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

ACCORDING to my promise, I do myself the honour of sending you Mr. Hammick's, (jun.) cases of men who have been cured of gonorrhœa by the nitrous acid only, and some of them even without any kind of injection. Under the course of this acid, the appearance of the disease has vanished, and no swelling, nor ulcer has followed. The heat abated without either cooling, or mucilaginous drinks; no particular regimen of diet was observed, and no apparent ill whatever has been done to the constitution.

THE cure of gonorrhœa, often tedious under the usual mode of treatment, and sometimes injurious to the habit, has been, in those instances adduced, completed in three weeks, or a month. It remains only now to be ascertained, whether the several cures will be permanent or not; and although we have little or no doubt, respecting the permanency, yet the enquiry is interesting, and shall be made.

BUT whilst we thus set forth instances of success in gonorrhœa, by this medicine, and in the cases already exhibited, and to be laid before the public, yet it will be proper to add, that since we began in April last, to administer this medicine, we have been foiled in eight or nine instances; and although these unsuccessful cases did not seem to be differently circumstanced from others, in which this medicine had been efficacious; yet, after giving it to a considerable extent, without any great or satisfactory amendment, we thought it would be but justice to the patients, and candid to the cause in which we were engaged, not to push this medicine any farther, but relieve the sufferers by other means. The friction
therefore

therefore was adopted, by which the disorder indeed gave way, but sometimes very reluctantly.

ALTHOUGH about 50 cases, exemplifying the effect of this medicine, have been sent to you, yet many more, antecedent to the communication, and subsequent to it, might be subjoined if it were necessary to multiply instances. The failure of effect, in eight or ten patients, in eight months, in the practice of a great naval hospital, cannot surely much disparage the medicine. Mercury itself, the great catholicon in this disease, has sometimes been found inadequate, and its use has been suspended, but it has not therefore been much discredited, nor long disused.

PERHAPS it might be right to begin with the nitrous acid, and to carry it on to two, or even three hundred drachms, and if the disease does not relent at all, to use the friction, and after that, whether the malady be subdued or not, to have recourse again to the nitrous acid, as a restorative, for as such we have found it.

It is matter of satisfaction to find, that the nitrous acid has succeeded with several practitioners in this district. It is to be hoped, that many testimonies may be further produced, and that from a mass of observations, not only our own reports, and those of others may be corroborated; but that the power of the medicine may be further confirmed, under different discriminations of the disorder, and its use more universally extended.

AND now, Sir, suffer me to say, that both Mr. Hammick and myself are very sensible of the obligations we are under to you, and not only me, but the public at large are indebted for the activity you have shewn, for the trouble you have taken, so voluntarily upon yourself, and for the zeal you have manifested upon this important occasion.

I am, &c.

FRA. GEACH.

CASE III.

HENRY HOOPER, marine, 20 years of age, was received into the Royal Hospital, on the 13th of November, 1797, for a gonorrhœa, which he had contracted ten days before. He had not taken any medicine, neither had he used any injection; the day following he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. ſy. ſim. ʒx. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. 19th, ardor urinæ gone. He continued this nitrous drink daily to the 11th day of December, when he was discharged, perfectly cured.

CASE IV.

MICHAEL STAINES, marine, 22 years of age, was received into this Hospital, on the 13th day of November, 1797, for a gonorrhœa of four days standing, attended with great pain. He had not taken any medicine; the next day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒifs. ſy. ſim. ʒviiij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. 16th, paraphymosis came on, with excoriations on the glans; the nitrous acid was increased to two drachms and a half, which he continued regularly to the 11th day of December, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE V.

JOHN OATS, marine, 19 years of age, was received into the hospital, on the 22d day of November, 1797, for a gonorrhœa, which he had contracted nine days since, and for which no medicine of any kind had been administered; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ʒij. ſy. ſim. ʒviiij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie.

tidie. 28th, ardor urinæ gone. The nitrous mixture was continued daily to the 11th day of December, when he was discharged, cured.

CASE VI.

WILLIAM WALKER, marine, 25 years of age, was received on the 27th day of November, 1797, for a gonorrhœa of ten days standing. From his inattention, the discharge from the urethra had excoriated both glans and prepuce. He had not taken any medicine; the same day he was ordered, ℞ acidi nitrosi ꝑiiss. ꝑ. sim. ℥xij. aq. font. ℥ij. m. et bibat quotidie. He was enjoined to keep the excoriated parts clean with milk and water. December 3d, gonorrhœa quite thick and ropy, pain of urine abated; drink ordered up to the 11th day of December, when he was discharged, cured.

 TO DOCTOR BEDDOES.

SIR,

Kidderminster, January 13, 1798.

I HAVE the honour to send you a case of syphilis, which I was induced to treat with the nitrous acid, in consequence of an invitation published some time ago, in your circular letter to professional men.

THE case was so deplorable, and the success so complete, that you will allow me to be the more particular in stating it; and to observe, that in order the event might gain full credit with you, I requested Mr. Wheeler, a very deserving surgeon, in this town, occasionally to visit the patient with me, and mark the progress of the cure.

FRANCES

FRANCES BROMAGE; 27 years of age, the wife of a private in the 11th regiment of light dragoons, desired me to visit her, in January, 1797, for the first time. I found her much debilitated, having a very extensive bubo in each groin, of six months standing. She had been dismissed by the regimental surgeon, and sent home to her friends; where she was attended for two months, previous to my first visit, by an ignorant quack, who ordered nothing but rags dipped in Goulard water to be constantly applied to the wounds.

FOR nine months I treated her with mercury, cicuta, opium, bark, decoction of the woods, &c. &c.^w without any advantage. She grew more emaciated, and the bubos had a ragged cancerous appearance. On the 8th of October last, I began with giving her one dram of the red-fuming nitrous acid, diluted in a pint of water, with sugar, every 24 hours. On the 13th, I doubled the dose, which quantity she has taken ever since, without interruption or inconvenience. After having taken it a month, her appetite mended, the pain became more tolerable, the discharge decreased, and the bubos began to heal. She is now so well as to dress herself, and to walk about without any assistance, and has no complaint, but some remaining weakness from so long confinement. She has taken in all *one pint, seven ounces, and five drachms of the acid.* I directed her to drink it through the spout of a tea-pot, by which means it did not affect her teeth.

THIS is the only case I have had of making a fair trial of the acid—it being very difficult in private practice to make our patients adhere to rules for any length of time.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE CUSTANCE.

*Extracts of Letters from Dr. GEACH.**Royal Hospital, 24th November, 1797.*

DEAR SIR,

I am honoured with the favour of your letters, and beg to observe that seamen with gonorrhœa, unaccompanied with other symptoms of the venereal disease, are seldom sent to this hospital; as they are cured by the surgeons of their respective ships: neither do we very often receive, from quarters, marines so circumstanced; unless the marine infirmary be full.

It has happened, however, that we have had two seamen with gonorrhœa, who have been cured with the nitrous acid, and discharged to their ships, and have at present four marines with the same complaint only, who also had taken no mercury, but are getting well by the same nitrous medicine. Under this course neither seamen nor marines have hitherto had any swelling, or ulcer in any part. The gonorrhœa has gone progressively through its stages, as when mercury has been used, and no injection has been thrown up until the discharge became consistent, and that injection has been only the nitrous acid diluted; the proportion about four or five drops of the acid to eight ounces of water.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

FRA. GEACH.

Royal Hospital, 15th January, 1798.

DEAR SIR,

AS you desired that we would make trial of the *phosphoric acid*, in lues venerea, I now do myself the honor of inclosing a case by Mr. Hammick, junior, in which

that medicine has been successful: but the progress of the cure was singular enough. The first appearance of healing was in the middle of the ulcer, and the cicatrix, thus beginning at a central point, gradually extended to the extremities of the chancre; so that the usual order of healing was here inverted, and the edges were the last parts cicatrized. I do not remember to have seen this order in other cases from the internal use either of mercury or the nitrous acid.—But such a circumstance has occurred when the leaves of hemlock have been applied to a common ulcer in the leg. Each granulation, in those instances, has had its separate cicatrix, and the whole ulcer, thus coated, has remained long with those eminencies till at length the whole irregular surface has had one general scale, which at some distance of time has peeled off, and then the unevenness has not been visible.

THE man, who took the *phosphoric acid*, has had no pain in his head, no sore throat, nor eruptions of any kind since his ulcer was healed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

FRA. GEACH.

CASE.

JOHN WILEY, seaman, 21 years of age, was received into this hospital, on the 17th day of November, 1797, for a venereal complaint, which he had contracted about five weeks before; the first appearance was a chancre on the glans, and an induration in each groin, for which he used the mercurial friction, eighteen nights on board his ship, without exciting a ptyalism; the inguinal enlargements yielded, but when he was sent hither, he had a large, foul, and deep chancre, with irregular edges,

edges, occupying more than half the glans: he took phosphoric acid ℥ij. syr. simpl. ℥vi. aq. commun. ℥ij.—bibat quotidie. The chancre was dressed with sperma ceti ointment: 24th no visible alteration. 30th the chancre looked cleaner. Drink and dressing continued. December the 7th the ulcer began to heal, although it had not contracted in the smallest degree: the phosphoric acid was increased to two drachms and half daily, and this quantity he took on regularly to the 11th day of January, 1798, when he was discharged perfectly cured of his chancre.

Royal Hospital, 16th January, 1798.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED your very kind favour yesterday: previously however, to the receipt of it, I had written the enclosed letter, with an intention to send it that very day, together with Mr. Hammick's case of the patient who had taken the phosphoric acid. Permit me to thank you for this instance of your kindness, and for that which you so obligingly intend by your publication. I hope, by degrees we shall come to a certainty about the effect of the nitrous acid; but I am more and more convinced, that there is a necessity to administer, in some cases, a great quantity before the disorder will yield. In two instances the nitrous acid had an extraordinary effect, in giving a purple hue to the lips and to the whole countenance, which looked as if it had been wiped with a handkerchief impregnated with indigo. This appearance, confined to the face only, was accompanied with a violent palpitation of the heart, and accelerated circulation. Under this pressure, and with this appearance, the acid, for a few days, was discontinued. The symp-

toms then went entirely off without any medicine, or change of regimen; the cure was still progressive, but not more rapid than usual; health was not injured afterwards, neither was the appetite at all diminished, not even at the time of the discoloration. This is a striking proof of the effect of the nitrous acid, for which you may be able to account.

I here beg to subjoin Mr. Hammick's account of these two cases, which he had noted in the prescription books. " Charles Macarty, and Joseph Renny, " who had been under a course of the nitrous acid for " some days, (the quantity two drachms to a quart of " water, and six ounces of syrup;) on taking near a " pint of the mixture at one draught towards evening, " were seized, at midnight, with a vertigo, pain in the " head, throbbing of the heart, and of the carotid ar- " teries, tremor—The surface of the body, in the morn- " ing, appeared red; but the lips and face were of a " violet colour. These symptoms and appearances " soon went off: and, by a disuse of the medicine for a " few days, and on being enjoined not in future to drink " so great a quantity at a time, they never returned. " This effect has been noticed only in two instances. " But by these we see plainly, that the nitrous acid " ought not to be taken in doses too large at a time."

FRA. GEACH.

LETTER FROM MR. LAURENCE, SURGEON.

SIR, *Liskeard, Cornwall, 15th July, 1798.*

IN ready compliance with the request in your last obliging favor, I set down to communicate, as briefly as possible, the outlines of my small stock of experience in the use of the nitrous acid in venereal complaints. I hope

hope my conciseness will be excused, as long cases are unnecessarily tedious, and to describe every symptom would be to write a history of the disease itself.

J—— M——, a female, æt. 38, was placed under my care in January 1797. She had laboured under syphilis upwards of ten years: during this time she had taken incalculable quantities of mercury, from the hands of a number of practitioners, in the course of which salivation had been, more than once, excited. She had now discontinued every sort of medicines for several months; and from circumstances it was very improbable that there had been any recent infection.

When I saw her, the following was, briefly, her situation: from the joint of the right shoulder, there reached posteriorly, over almost the whole extent of the scapula, innumerable little sinuous ulcers, characterised by the hard and *livid* margin, so proper to the disease, and by that peculiar discharge which strikes an impression, sui generis, on the olfactories; the trapezius, was, indeed, a mere honeycomb;—she had nodes on the tibia of each leg, great stricture across the forehead, painful and restless nights, impaired appetite—in short, her general state of health was much deranged, and her aspect truly morbid.

I put her immediately on the use of the nitric acid, beginning with half a drachm, diluted to the taste, twice in the day, and dressed the ulcers superficially with the common unguentum ceræ. I purposely forebore the adoption of any other medicine or application, in order to give the acid a fair trial.

At the expiration of a week, I ordered the dose to be increased to a drachm *bis indies*, remarking no particular alteration in the condition of the ulcers; but the pa-

tient thought her head and shins were not so painful, and her two last nights had been better.

Pergat in usu acidi, ut antea præscripti.

At the end of another week, I saw her again, when you will readily guess the pleasure with which I noticed the following change in her symptoms: the edges of the ulcers were beginning to lose their *livid* appearance, and to substitute a *fresh florid colour*; three or four of the smallest were almost closed in; the fœtor of the discharge was also sensibly diminished; her nocturnal pains had been greatly alleviated; her sleep was comparatively good, and her appetite much improved.

As no collateral ill consequences arose from the acid, but, on the contrary, the best effects appeared to follow its use, I persisted in the employment of it until (I have great satisfaction in being able to say) a complete cure was effected; the ulcers being perfectly healed, the exostoses of the tibia and the stricture of the forehead thoroughly removed, and the general state of health fully re-established.

She came under my management the second of January, and was discharged from it the sixteenth of March, 1797. Thus, in less than three months, the cure of a case was completed by the nitrous acid, that had resisted the powers of mercury for more than ten years.

J—— W——, a poor ignorant man, had, in a moment of intoxication, caught the venereal infection; which did not make its appearance in an obvious form till some months after; during which time, being a married man, he had, naturally, communicated the disease to his wife. When application was made to me (in April 1797,) seven months after the unfortunate connection, the husband laboured under chancres on the
prepuce

prepuce and glans penis, together with a very disordered general state of system, and the woman had frequent discharges from, and pains in the genitals.

I considered this a good opportunity for another trial of the acid, more especially as no attempt had been made to obtain relief, and consequently mercury could not possibly be suspected of having any share in the event of the case, whatever it might prove. They were, accordingly, directed to take each half a drachm, diluted with the necessary quantity of water, twice in the day; which dose, at the end of the week, was augmented to a drachm twice in the day. In two months, these two persons were perfectly cured, and have remained well to the present time.

A young gentleman, a friend of mine, had for some time suffered under a syphilitic scabies, affecting many parts of the surface of the body; which yielded in a surprizingly short space of time to an exhibition of the nitrous acid.

I have also received the thanks of several military and naval friends for my recommendation of this remedy, which has removed their complaints after the usual methods had failed.

I am, dear Sir, &c.

A. LAURENCE,

LETTER FROM MR. MAY, SURGEON,

Dear Sir,

Plymouth Dock.

TO do justice to Mr. Scott's recommendation, though my expectations were by no means sanguine, I was determined to give the medicine a fair trial; my situation soon afforded me such an opportunity; and that no doubts

might be entertained, the most simple form was adopted, and every other medicine, excepting a laxative, and occasionally an anodyne at night, were most strictly forbidden. Externally nothing was ever used but a lotion of warm milk and water, to keep the parts as clean as possible. In the following cases a plain and simple statement of facts is given; and I think they serve to establish, in behalf of the medicine, a credit of the first importance in the cure of lues. That it will cure every case that may occur is not for me to decide, but I must at the same time observe, I have yet in no one instance failed.

If the medicine be properly prepared, I have no doubt of its success when persevered in, without harrassing the constitution in the manner that mercury is known to do. I have selected the eight following cases from a number of others, for no other reason but because I have had longer experience of their cures being perfect. The first of which has been upwards of 12 months, and the latter six.

The case of James Spratt, I think, is a very singularly striking one. The bubo was the largest I ever saw, and almost as hard as a stone; the inflammation, as I have observed, was very trifling. The change produced on the appearance of the chancres was soon evident, but the bubo for a long time remained unaltered; and when he complained of being tired, and nauseating the medicine, I was still determined, after a little time, to persevere; but finding an alteration in the course of so short a time, I was willing to remain a diligent observer of what was to happen, till I should see what further steps might be necessary. After the total dispersion of the bubo, I kept him in the hospital for some time, but finding no traces of his disease remaining, he was discharged

charged, and is to this day in perfect health.—At what period the venereal virus might have been subdued is difficult to say, but 'tis probable he had taken more of the medicine than was absolutely required.

During the course of the acid in the different cases recited, I observed a great regularity in the effects produced; that it occasioned a greater discharge of urine and perspiration; the bowels were sometimes lax, but more frequently bound, and griping was sometimes complained of. The anodyne at night relieved this complaint, so that I have since regularly directed it to be taken. Soreness in the mouth has not generally attended the exhibition of this medicine, and when it has, I am satisfied it was owing to the local action of the acid; as nothing like ulcer has been observed.

Were no other advantage to be derived from this medicine, its efficacy in stopping the progress of buboes to suppuration would be of the utmost importance. I have tried it in scrofulous swellings but in vain. I have no doubt but the cures of the cases recited might have been shortened by external applications, in conjunction with the acid, but this would have been foreign to my view, which was simply to give a full and impartial trial to the medicine recommended by Mr. Scott.

Should you be of opinion that these observations are at all worthy your attention, they are perfectly at your service to make what use of them you please.

I am, &c.

VAUGHAN MAY, Surgeon to his Majesty's
Ordnance.

CASE I.

JAMES SPRATT, gunner in the royal regiment of artillery, was received into the hospital on the 3d of

March, 1797, for the cure of a very large bubo in the left groin. The tumor I think was the largest I ever remember to have met with, but not very painful, or much inflamed. He had also several deep chancres on the prepuce, attended with great soreness, and inflammation. He was ordered a dose of salts, and directed to keep the chancres clean by frequently washing them with warm milk and water. He had taken no medicine previous to his admission. On the 4th, one drachm of the concentrated nitrous acid, diluted with 16 ounces of water, was ordered, which the nurse was directed to see him take in the course of 24 hours. On the 5th, I found he had perspired freely in the night, and his urine had been increased in quantity. His medicine was repeated. On the 6th, finding he made no complaints against his medicine, I directed two drachms of the acid to the same quantity of water. On the 7th, the chancres were perfectly clean, and healthy granulations covered the bottoms of the sores. The same quantity of the acid was daily continued, and on the 14th, the chancres were perfectly healed. The bubo remained unaltered to the feel, was very hard, but by no means painful. Medicine continued. At this time he complained of soreness in his mouth, his gums were red, and he spit considerably in the course of the day, but there was not the least appearance of ulceration in the mouth, nor was his breath at all offensive. He complained also of uneasiness in his bowels; his body was perfectly regular during the course of the medicine. He was now ordered a pill consisting of $1 \frac{1}{2}$ grain of opium at bed time. He continued to take his medicine regularly, without producing any effect worthy remark till the 20th, when he complained that his medicine made him sick, and that he could take it no longer. At this time

time no apparent alteration had taken place in the tumor, it remained hard and indolent, without much pain or inflammation.

THE acid was omitted, and the anodyne of course. On the 23d, the inflammation, which from the beginning had been trifling, totally disappeared. On the 27th, the tumor began to grow softer. On the 31st, it was much softer, and I thought I could feel a deep seated fluctuation, so that I had no doubt but it would suppurate. On the 4th of April it was still softer and decreased. On the 9th rapidly decreasing, and on the 14th totally dispersed.

CASE II.

HENRY SIMMS, gunner, on the 28th of April, 1797, was admitted into the hospital for the cure of a general excoriation of the glans, and a bubo. He had taken no medicines. After an opening medicine, on the 29th, he began with one drachm of the acid, as in the former case. On the 30th I found he had perspired freely, had made much water, and had two lax stools in the course of the night; his bubo had been very painful. He was particularly charged to keep the glans perfectly clean by frequently washing the parts with warm milk and water. May the 1st, the bubo was less painful, the acid was increased to two drachms. On the 4th, the inflammation ceased, the bubo was less, the pain totally left him, and the excoriation had a milder appearance. On the 8th, the parts were healing, and the bubo almost dispersed. On the 12th, the bubo disappeared, and the excoriation was nearly well. The sores were reduced to a small chancre on the end of the glans, which remained in one state till the 9th of June, to which time he regularly continued

continued his medicine, when he complained of being tired, and it was omitted. On the 12th he was discharged cured.

CASE III.

DAVID LEWIS, gunner, was admitted on the 4th of May, 1797, for the cure of several chancres, and bubo; he began the acid on the 5th, in the dose of one drachm, as before, which on the 7th was increased to two drachms. His urine and perspiration were increased. On the 8th the bubo was reduced in size, and the chancres put on a healthy appearance. On the 11th, he absented himself from the hospital and got drunk, in consequence of which, the prepuce was very much inflamed. The acid was discontinued, and a saline mixture with tart. antim. was given every eight hours.

NOTWITHSTANDING this irregularity, no traces of the bubo were to be observed on the 12th. On the 13th, a considerable discharge issued from between the glans and prepuce, which continued much inflamed and painful. His mixture was continued, he was ordered to foment the parts often, and to take gr. $1 \frac{1}{2}$ of opium at night in a pill. Under this treatment he continued gradually to grow better till the 31st, when the swelling being reduced, and perfectly easy, the acid was again had recourse to. The discharge daily lessened, and on the 10th ceased; but he was unable to retract the prepuce. His medicine was continued till the 25th of June, when he was discharged cured.

CASE IV.

JOHN ASHWORTH, gunner, had several deep chancres on the prepuce, and a large bubo in his groin; attended with much pain and inflammation. He was admitted into the hospital on the 13th of June last, and commenced taking the acid on the 14th, in the dose of one drachm and a half daily. On the 16th, the acid was increased to two drachms. His pain was lessened, and the inflammation much abated. His medicine was continued, and on the 24th, the bubo was quite dispersed: the chancres were clean and healing. He continued his medicine, without any thing particularly worthy of remark, till the 22d of July, when he was discharged cured,

CASE V.

JAMES MAYBURY, gunner, was taken into the hospital, on the 4th of August, 1797, for the cure of a very large bubo in his left groin, which was excessively indurated. On the 5th, he began with the acid as usual. On the 8th, it became softer, and on the 12th, was considerably reduced in size. The medicine was continued, and on the 19th, he was discharged perfectly cured,

CASE VI.

LEVI NUTTLE, gunner, was, on the 12th of September last, received into the hospital, for the cure of a large venereal ulcer just below the frænum. The acid was given as usual, and he was directed to keep the ulcer clean by often washing it with warm milk and water,
the

the prepuce was much swollen, and there was a considerable inflammation on the whole of the surrounding parts. On the 16th, the ulcer looked cleaner, and a much better discharge took place. He daily took two drachms of the acid, and the progress of his cure was regular and uninterrupted. He was discharged from the Hospital, cured, on the 17th of October,

CASE VII.

CHARLES RAVENCROFT, gunner, applied to me for the cure of a large, deep-seated, foul, venereal ulcer on the prepuce, on the 18th of September last. He began with the acid immediately. On the 23d, the ulcer was much cleaner, and the discharge a good one. Healthy granulations appeared, and the fore was in a state of healing. On the 29th, it was perfectly well; but he complained of a soreness about his ancles: this soon left him, and he was discharged, perfectly well, on the 4th of October. The acid was continued to the day of his discharge.

CASE VIII.

GEORGE WEBSTER, soldier artificer, was admitted into the Hospital on the 3d of October last, for the cure of gonorrhœa, a large ulcer on the prepuce, and incipient bubo. He was ordered a dose of salts; after which he commenced taking the acid. On the 8th, the ulcer was somewhat cleaner; on the 11th, it was perfectly clean and healing; from this time to the 15th, there was no alteration in the fore; but the swelling in the groin disappeared. On the 16th, the fore was not so clean as it had been; but on the 18th, it grew again cleaner. From this time to the 27th, appearances were very variable; and, on strict inquiry, I found he had been irregular, and neglected

neglected his medicine. He promised me to be more attentive; and I believe he kept his word. I now ordered him three drachms of the acid daily. On the 31st, the ulcer was very clean, and much contracted in size: the gonorrhœa still continued, though the discharge was much reduced in quantity. He continued to mend from the 31st, and was discharged from the Hospital, cured, on the 26th of November.

LETTER FROM MR. SANDFORD.

DEAR SIR,

Worcester, June 1st, 1798.

SEVERAL cases of venereal infection have fallen under my care, in different stages of the disease, since my last communications; and I have uniformly employed the pale nitric acid in the cure of them; in some I have been successful; in others, not so. In a patient that I lately attended with Mr. Russell, no permanent good effects were experienced after a long and impartial trial of it. The case was a gentleman about 30; who had an ulcerating bubo of the right groin, that had been opened by a surgeon at a distance from Worcester, and under whose care he remained some weeks after the operation; when he placed himself under the care of Mr. Russell, and at the time I first saw him, it was spreading in every direction, with foul, callous edges, and discharging, for the most part, a thin sanious matter; it was highly sensible to the touch, and extremely painful on the least motion; he had also two chancres on the pubes, that were as ill-conditioned (particularly one of them) and nearly as painful as the bubo. He had lately gone through a course of mercury by friction and the mouth,

and

and had taken some doses of nitric acid, and many quarts of decoction of sarsaparilla, bark, &c. &c.

As he seemed desirous of making a further trial of the nitric acid, it was again had recourse to: he first began with 1 drachm, then $1\frac{1}{2}$, and at last 2 per day, mixed in a quart of water, to which were added about 4 oz. of simple syrup. And here it may be necessary to remark, that when he took the acid *without* the addition of the syrup, it always disagreed with his stomach and bowels. After taking the medicine for a short time, he imagined the aspects of the bubo and chancres were greatly altered for the better; but these appearances soon vanished—the sores still remained obstinate and painful, and continued in this state without any *real* alteration for the better, during four or five weeks; in which time, about 7 oz. of the acid had been taken at irregular intervals, great caution having been necessary on account of the tender state of his bowels, and their disposition to colic and diarrhoea. He had been affected in a similar way when using mercury.

No progress towards a cure, either by mercury or the nitric acid, having been made in this length of time, he was recommended to try the effects of country air, to leave off all medicine, to live on a nourishing diet, and to keep the parts clean by simple dressings. If he did not get better upon this regimen, it was farther recommended to him to try sea-bathing, as soon as the weather would permit: this was in December last. I heard from him about six weeks past, and found he had, by the advice of a medical gentleman under whose care he had placed himself when he left Worcester, again had recourse to mercury, but without effect. At the time he wrote to me, he had, for the *third time*, begun upon the nitric acid; and I advised him to take the strong fuming spirit, instead

instead of the pale. Since which time I have not been informed, by himself, what effects have been produced by it; but heard, accidentally, that he was still in a wretched state of disease.

I gave it lately to two gentlemen in nearly similar stages of lues venerea; one of them had four chancres on the prepuce, with a purulent discharge from the urethra; the other had three chancres, situated as the former; in addition to which, he had a large and spreading ulcer on the left tonsil. They both took the nitric acid, and began with a dose of thirty drops, first twice, then three times a day. Their chancres they were directed to wash, twice a day, with a weak solution of lunar caustic, and afterwards to dress them with strong mercurial ointment, spread on lint. The acid gave the first-mentioned patient heart-burn, and other uneasy sensations in the stomach and bowels; these were corrected by ginger pills: sometimes diarrhœa was produced, which was checked by opium; but still he complained of pain and flatulence after every dose of the mixture, though it was composed of simple syrup and mucilage of gum arabic—two ounces of each to a pint of the mixture. His chancres, however, still continued virulent, nor was the discharge per urethram altered in any respect for the better, in quantity or quality.

AFTER ten days trial of the nitric acid, it was entirely laid aside, and I desired him to rub 2 drachms of strong mercurial ointment upon his thighs, every night, at bedtime. He had not pursued this course longer than a week, before the chancres put on a more healthy appearance, though precisely the same dressing was applied to them as before; in three weeks from this period, the chancres were completely healed, and he was perfectly cured; after using the mercurial friction a fortnight, his
mouth

mouth became sore, and a slight salivation ensued, when he was under the necessity of omitting it for some days, and afterwards made use of it only *every other* night; he took 1 gr. of opium at bed-time, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a gr. every morning.

THE other patient, who took the *same* acid, prepared at the *same* time, in the *same* dose, and mixed up as the former, except with the omission of the mucilage, after a fortnight's taking, began to experience its good effects in an evident degree: the *chancres* became clear, and began to granulate; though *these* had larger and deeper sloughs than those of the last mentioned patient; to the ulcer in his throat he used frequently in the day a gargle composed of yeast, honey and small beer, and contrived also, by means of a glass tube, that the acid mixture, every time it was taken, should come in contact with the ulcer on the tonsil; in a fortnight's time, he increased the quantity of acid to thirty drops, first three, then four times a day, and, after persisting in the use of it about six weeks, was completely cured, without suffering the least pain or inconvenience from the use of the acid; on the contrary, a glow and warmth were the constant and regular effects attendant on every dose he took.

I gave the pale nitric acid to a young lady, about 21 years of age, affected with dyspnoea and fluor albus, attended with other symptoms of debility, with more beneficial and permanent effects than any medicine she had before taken.

ANOTHER patient, whom I had lately under my care, derived considerable benefit from it. He had been afflicted with venereal pains for a year or two; and though he had taken mercury in a variety of forms, used mercurial friction, and taken guaiacum, &c. &c. he had
never

never been essentially relieved till he began upon a course of the nitric acid. After having taken it for three or four months, sometimes omitting it for a week, he is now more free from pain, and his general health in a better state than it has been for the last two years. He informed me, that every dose of the acid produced a warmth in his stomach, and that he felt it quite to his fingers ends. His countenance, too, appeared clearer, and his cheeks more florid. He never exceeded two drachms of the acid in 24 hours.

MANY practitioners having witnessed the salutary effects of the nitrous acid, *after* mercury had been taken and applied, for a great length of time, without removing *all* the symptoms, imagined that *this medicine* enabled the mercury, then latent in the habit, to remove disease, that it could not effect without the assistance of such an active auxiliary. Some have asserted that venereal complaints, *apparently* cured by the use of this medicine, have frequently returned with increased violence, whilst others have confidently insisted that the nitrous acid would never keep its ground, the repeated failures of cure by this means, within their own knowledge, appearing to justify such prognostic.

To the last class I must beg leave to remark, that if it has *certainly* been found successful in a few well-authenticated and clearly-marked cases, it proves that medical practitioners, as well as the afflicted, have been benefited by the discovery—the former by being made acquainted with a new and important discovery; the latter by the enjoyment of a complete removal of some diseases, and an alleviation in others; and this, too, from a remedy producing no ill effects on the constitution, as hitherto discovered.

UPON these principles it is assuredly more desirable to investigate the properties of this remedy, and to extend its uses still farther, than abandon the pursuit upon such slight grounds.

I am, &c.

W. SANDFORD.

P. S. SINCE the foregoing was written, I received the following account from the gentleman whom I attended with Mr. Ruffel, from whose letter the following extract is inserted:—"By means of the acid, which left little undone, and subsequently the bark, I am in every respect (except a weakness in the bowels) perfectly well."

Worcester, June 4, 1798.

NOTE OF MR. FIELD.

MR. FIELD presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Sandford.—If the enclosed cases will add any weight to the numerous testimonies in favour of the effect of the nitrous acid, they are much at the service of Dr. Beddoes, although not so accurate and circumstantial as they might have been, if intended for publication. The leading facts may be relied upon as in no degree incorrect or exaggerated.

Foregate-street, Worcester, 10th July, 1798.

ELIZABETH LAMBE, about 20 years of age, and Ann Broome, about 17, were both received into the House of Industry at Worcester, 15th Nov. 1797, being rendered incapable of procuring a subsistence, by the venereal disease; the former had been cured in the House, about a year and a half before, and had, as soon after as she could find opportunity, deserted. She had now several venereal ulcers on the external labia and perinæum, with a large
and

and offensive discharge. I ordered the parts to be washed frequently with a weak solution of cerussa acetata; and two drachms of diluted nitrous acid, with ζ vi of simple syrup, and a quart of water, to be taken at equal doses, every two days. She continued the use of it rather irregularly, owing to its sometimes exciting sickness, for two months, when she appeared perfectly well, and has continued so to this day, being now in the House. This girl had formerly, when very bad, been cured by mercury, and had, I believe, taken a small box, consisting of about ten calomel pills, before she began the use of the nitrous acid.

BROOME had not been ill so long, neither had the disease assumed such virulent appearances; she had a copious, but milder discharge, attended with small ulcerations, or chancres, on the internal labia, with much ardor urinæ, for which she first of all took a dose of natron vitriolatum, and some powders of nitre and gum arabic; and when the inflammatory symptoms had somewhat subsided, she began the acid in the same way as Lambe; which, after some little time, purged her a good deal. I then ordered four drops of tinct. opii to be taken with each dose; and, after continuing it about six weeks, she was perfectly cured, and remains well at this time, being now in the House. This girl, I believe, had never been diseased before, and had not taken, as far as I can learn, a single grain of mercury.

THESE girls were repeatedly seen by Dr. Milne, during the progress of the complaint, and may be examined at any time you will favour me with your company at the House of Industry.

T. B. a young man about eighteen years of age, first called me in the 18th of November last: he had

then a large and highly inflammatory bubo, which I opened the following morning, and immediately put him upon the use of the nitrous acid, in the proportion of ʒij. to ℥ij. of decoctum sarsaparillæ, to be taken every two days, increasing the dose, as it agreed well with him, to ʒiſs. per diem. He was extremely reduced in flesh and spirits, having suffered much from a concealment of his disorder, and assured me, he had taken nothing but a bottle of drops that some friend or acquaintance had given him, previous to my attendance. He took eight or nine quart bottles of the mixture, and, by the latter end of December, was quite well, and continues so at this time.

SUSANNA WRIGHT was brought to the House of Industry about the middle of April. She had a violent swelling of the labia, with offensive discharge and internal ulceration; she was ordered to lay on the part cloths wetted with a weak solution of hydrargyrus muriatus gr. iv. to ℥ſs. and to take the nitrous acid, as Lambe and Broome, although it constantly made her sick, even so as frequently to occasion vomiting. She persevered in the use of it about six weeks, and is now well at her accustomed labour.

LETTER FROM MR. DUNNING, PLYMOUTH DOCK.

DEAR SIR,

May 23, 1798.

THOUGH I have employed nitrous acid in nearly twenty venereal cases, I have not kept any memoranda: I will, however, relate a few circumstances from memory, which will be much at your service.

THE first case, in which I used it, was a node of some years standing, on the tibia. My patient had gone through

through long and repeated mercurial courses, without permanent benefit. By these, and the long tyranny of the disease, his constitution had been so much shaken, and every appearance about him such, I was really apprehensive he was on the verge of venereal hectic. His nights were most painful and sleepless; and he rose in the mornings almost as unrefreshed as when he lay down. This was precisely his situation at the period he entered on the nitrous acid. He was neither confined to his room, nor restricted to any rigid regimen. After having taken of this novel medicine from one to two drachms a day, for about ten days, the night pains sensibly abated, and soon were entirely removed. Several weeks, however, passed, I suppose, from the influence of long habit, before he got any thing like good sleep. He is at this time, and has been for several months, extremely well, and all his friends remark on his altered appearance.

To a gentleman who consulted me for foul extensive ulcerations on the glans penis and prepuce, which he told me were produced by his having applied the pulvis sabinæ on warts, I recommended a course of mercurial frictions; he rubbed on at least six ounces of ungu. merc. fort. and took every, or every other night, a grain of calomel. His mouth became considerably fluxed—the ulcerations, notwithstanding, at the end of three weeks, were fouler, more extended, and extremely irritable indeed.—The mercurials were now discontinued, and I gave him large quantities of bark and opium, with as little advantage; and these were therefore in their turn given up for a trial of the nitrous acid. The aspect of the fores (which now nearly covered the whole of the glans, and a large part of the prepuce) remained in the same state during the first fortnight, when they began to

clean away, and, at the end of another fortnight, were almost filled up, and cicatrized. At this time he was ordered to sea; and I have not since heard of him.

THE other cases in which I employed the nitrous acid were chancres and buboes; and I do not remember that it entirely failed me in a single instance; in a case or two, indeed, which were tedious, I thought the good effects of it remarkably assisted by alternating with it a few doses of calomel.—Obstinate perseverance was sometimes necessary; and if I had not had much faith, the medicine would have been relinquished and condemned. That it will not always cure, I can most readily concede; but I believe it will frequently cure (a desideratum of vast importance) when mercurials fail, or rather aggravate the disease. Several of my patients have referred to the use of it an increase of appetite and cheerfulness, to which if we add the circumstances, that it can be employed without confinement, without rigid restriction to diet, or without any material interruption to business or amusement, it becomes to many individuals, in a variety of situations, a medicine of immense consideration.

I will now beg leave to refer you to the feelings and observations of a gentleman who is under great obligations to the acid, and who has favoured me with the enclosed. His is one of those constitutions which so remarkably resist the action of mercurials—a second and third time he has been obliged to use nearly a pound of the unguent merc. fort. with doses of calomel frequently repeated before the mercurial impression could be produced; and his complaints (which were always ugly chancres) never yielded in the smallest degree till this
took

took place. The ptyalism then became always extreme, which, with sometimes violent diarrhœa, or rather dysentery, reduced him to a state of weakness and distress, that more than once alarmed me for the event. What a contrast this to his experience of the nitric acid! Many reasons concur why his name should be suppressed; but, besides that he is a gentleman of the strictest honour and veracity, I can speak to every circumstance related.

LETTER MENTIONED IN MR. DUNNING'S LETTER.

DEAR SIR,

HOWEVER painful to me the recollection of sufferings which have been the sad consequences of my unhappily forgetting at intervals of my life the virtuous principles implanted early in my mind by education, yet I feel it a sort of duty to relate, as well as I am able, and in compliance with your request, the benefit my health has more than once received from nitric acid administered to me under your care.

A venereal complaint from recent infection, occasioned, you may remember, my applying to you in August last. In no former case had I consulted any surgeon but yourself; and your observation had marked peculiar difficulty attending my cure. Indeed the extent to which it had always been found necessary previously to carry the mercurial course, now presented to my mind an alarming prospect; and though my case was urgent, you seemed even to hesitate at hazarding again a similar remedy. Thus circumstanced, upon your mentioning nitric acid as worth having recourse to, I readily consented to its being tried, and, on the 19th of the same month, began a course of that medicine.

FROM memory and reference to my journal, at this period I am enabled to state that during the first and second weeks of my taking the acid regularly, I found no material benefit from it except an increase of appetite, and a relief from the great anxiety and depression of mind, which accompanied the first symptoms of disease: and so little confidence was then placed in the ultimate success of a medicine of such easy operation, that before the third week of trial had expired, I began to question on the propriety of having recourse to some different remedy; but, fortunately, by your advice I was induced to persevere, and when I had done so about three weeks, the good effects of the acid became apparent from the alteration of the symptoms of my complaint.—The cure continued to advance rapidly, until, soon after the fourth week, it appeared to be so complete and obtained so easily, that my surprize was equal to any of my other sensations.

I BELIEVE the acid was continued for about a week after every symptom of disease had disappeared, and at the conclusion of the course my general health, so far from being impaired, seemed improved from the medicine, which had occasioned no interruption either of my business, any convivial society, or my usual exercises; from the latter, indeed, after the second week, and from a sparing use of diluting liquids, I thought the operation of the acid was promoted; and this idea subsequent and successful experience has confirmed.

THE result of the whole I need not here mention, it would ill become an address to a professional character—that the regular use of nitric acid has more than once succeeded in my cases, is a fact; that its good effects have not been confined to the cure of the immediate disease, but have considerably improved my general health,

is as certain: and I need not state to you the wretched state to which mercurials never failed to reduce me, and that, as I have sometimes suspected, without completely eradicating disease. It cannot have escaped your observation, that at every repetition of a course of the acid, a longer perseverance has been necessary, and that though when long continued, it has somewhat oppressed the constitution, yet it has never failed of compleat success with me. From the time of my first contracting the venereal contagion, I have never experienced so much health and vigour of body, or serenity of mind, as I do at this day, and I attribute the alteration to the efficacy of the nitric acid; which, as to my constitution, mercury does not possess.

18th May, 1798.

TO MR. DUNNING, SURGEON.

LETTER FROM MR. CUSTANCE, SURGEON.

Kidderminster, May 23, 1798.

TO DOCTOR BEDDOES.

SIR,

AS the case, which I had the honor to communicate to you in January last, has not been returned to me, I conclude that it accorded with the design of your circular letter. I beg leave to send you another proof of the good effects of the oxygene in venereal affections.

JOHN DANIEL, aged 33 years, applied to me on the 21st of last March. Upon examining him, I found he had a considerable bubo in the right groin, of three weeks

weeks standing, which was much inflamed, and very painful. He had also a small chancre on the prepuce, with a slight chordee. I began with giving him ʒij. of the nitrous acid daily, and ordered him to keep rags dipt in cold water constantly applied to the bubo: in about ten days the bubo broke, and in a month's time, all his symptoms entirely disappeared; the bubo healing without the smallest inconvenience, and remaining quite well.

I CALLED yesterday on Frances Bromage, the subject of the other case I sent you, and am happy to inform you she is now in good health, and has not had the slightest symptom of relapse.

I HAVE given the acid with good success in one case of chlorosis. In all other cases in which I have made trial of the acid, the patients soon got tired of taking it.

I am, Sir, &c.

GEORGE CUSTANCE, Surgeon.

Memorandums dictated to the EDITOR, by Mr. JAMES LYND, late Surgeon to the PHAETON, 22d June, 1798.

I AM sorry I cannot, in compliance with your request, furnish you with the particulars of the cases of syphilis, in which we tried nitrous acid on board the Phaeton, the journal being now at sea.

THE number was seven. They were selected as well marked cases of lues venerea. The acid was given as strong as they could bear it; and was continued for above
a fortnight

a fortnight with much attention. The mate administered the medicine with his own hands; and I often attended. The precise dose I will not pretend to state from memory; but I imagine it was not small.—The treatment failed in all the cases; and we had recourse to mercury which succeeded as usual.

I must in justice add, that in a bad case of chronic rheumatism, the symptoms were entirely removed by the use of the acid: and I believe have not re-appeared. The patient took no other medicine. The man had an ulcer of doubtful character on the prepuce, which also disappeared under the use of the acid.—The existence of the ulcer was the reason for administering the acid; for we were not positive that it was not venereal. I must add that my mate, a very judicious surgeon, was not quite satisfied with regard to the fulness of the above trials. The following facts relative to a different acid, in a different complaint, may be useful and acceptable.

JOHN HAZEL, aged 22, an irregular liver, was sent aboard a prize, from the Phaeton, and continued in the harbour some time: ashore he contracted the venereal complaint, with which he was sent on board. His symptoms were ulcers on the prepuce and glans. On the left groin was an immense bubo: he probably had neglected his complaint for some weeks. The bubo had suppurated and burst, with a vast discharge. The orifice spread, presenting a cavity sloughy and foul at the bottom. The discharge was now thin and scanty: system much reduced, with great emaciation.

HAVING met with your account of the effects of wood-sorrel in bad scrofulous sores, I had resolved to take the first favourable opportunity of trying the pulp of roasted lemon, in other bad ulcers. I therefore applied
a large

a large poultice consisting of the pulp of several roasted lemons, to the above prescribed bubo. The skins of the lemons were thrown away. My reason for this proceeding was, that in the account from Ireland, the sorrel leaves were directed to be macerated.

THE patient complained much of pain; but this pain did not last long. Having well secured the poultice, I administered an opiate, and ordered him to bed. The dressing remained on till next morning. I had awakened the patient to a sense of his very dangerous state: and he was therefore anxious to keep the poultice in its place.

BEFORE its application, the circumference of the ulcer was livid; but there was no slough. On removing the dressings, I was astonished to find that a circular slough had been formed *during one night*; and instead of the previous livor, the part looked of a healthy red; after two more dressings of the same kind, an appearance of granulation was observed in the bottom of the sore, which preserved ever afterwards its healthy condition. I did not apply the lemon pulp poultice three successive nights, but left some interval. I now gave the patient mercury, with wine, and a little bark, and fresh animal food. He rapidly recovered of his venereal symptoms, and returned to his duty a healthy man.

I HAVE followed the above practice in three other instances of foul neglected ulcers, (not venereal), with equal success. In these instances, I was also particularly struck with the quick removal of the surrounding livor.

NOTE FROM DR. ROLLO.

IT would appear that in certain constitutions and states of stomach, the oxygenated muriate of potash, when given in large doses, instead of producing its usual effects upon the constitution, runs off by urine undecomposed; in such cases, the patient generally complains of sharpness, and heat of urine, with a frequent desire to pass it; this fact was detected by the following simple process.—The urine of a patient who had for some days been taking 50 grains four times a day, and who complained much of scalding, &c. was evaporated until it afforded, on cooling, a mass of impure crystals mixed with animal extractive matter.—These crystals were separated and placed on filtering paper, and washed with a little alcohol, they were then redissolved in hot water, and suffered to crystallize a second time by cooling; by this means the oxygenated muriate of potash was obtained in crystals mixed with some ammoniacal salts, and common muriate of potash, and when thrown upon red hot coals, detonated with its usual vivid flame.

From this fact, it would appear that too large doses of this medicine are not only unnecessary, but prejudicial, as by exciting the action of the urinary organs too much, the whole or a considerable part may be carried off undecomposed, somewhat in the same manner as mercury is carried off, when it produces purging: to avoid this inconvenience, when detected, and which it may readily be by the process just described, the dose of the medicine should be diminished, and a small quantity of some acid, as the nitrous, muriatic, or even vinegar, given after each, by this means the salt must unavoidably be decomposed, and consequently rendered more active, both on
the

the system and disease, as we have found from experience to be the case.

Royal Artillery Hospital, Woolwich,

2d February, 1798.

*Cases from JAMES M^c GRIGOR, A. M. Surgeon to the
88th Regiment.*

SIR,

ACCORDING to your request, I transmit you, from the case book of the 88th regiment, an abridged account of those cases of venereal disease, where I have tried the nitrous acid. And I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES M^c GRIGOR.

CASE I.

SERJEANT FOX, aged 53, had venereal complaints of four months standing. In June, 1797, he was admitted into the regimental hospital, with several chancres, ulcers in the palate, and swellings of the frontal bones, and of the bones of his legs and arms. After undergoing a course of mercury, the chancres were healed, and the other symptoms disappeared. Two months after his dismissal, the ulcers of his throat and the nodes appeared again: he underwent another course of mercury, which not removing the symptoms, he successively used the Lisbon diet drink; the same with opium, and lastly, the compound decoction of sarsaparilla, opium, and mercury

mercury conjoined. His general health suffering much, bark, and different articles of nourishing diet, were ordered him.

THE disease seemed still to gain ground, till 26th January, 1798, when he first began the nitrous acid, and took one drachm daily.

February 1st. Ulcers in fauces look cleaner, and deglutition is more easy, but his gums are much affected by the acid, though he takes it through a pipe.

3d. Mends considerably, ulcers look very clean, nocturnal pains very severe, though swelling of the bones are in the same state. The acid has induced a considerable salivation.

5th. The ulcers look very clean, and narrow very much, every other complaint relieved, general health good.

6th. The salivation is now so considerable, that it is necessary to stop the use of the acid.

13th. Ulcers on fauces look worse, the gums are very tender, the acid is repeated to the quantity of one drachm daily.

16th. Sloughs have scaled off, and the ulcers look clean and healthy.

19th. The ulcers have a very favourable appearance, and cicatrization advances.

22d. Ulcers have entirely disappeared, very little pain of bones, and the swelling of them decreases.

24th. Appearances continue very favourable still, he complains of pains of tonsils which are swelled, but exposure to cold accounts for this. Gums are very much swelled, and there is some salivation. Repetatur acidum.

26th. The venereal symptoms continue to disappear, but the acid produces cardialgia, has induced vomiting and salivation, utatur tantum acidi ℥ij. quotidie.

March

March 2d. The cardialgia, &c. disappeared, gums less tender, & acidi ʒi quotidie.

6th. As the acid greatly affects his gums, the quantity is reduced to ℥ij. & pulv. cort. per. ʒij. quotid. in vino.

8th. The salivation being very great, the acid is stopped, but the ulcers have totally disappeared; he has no nocturnal pains, and the swellings of the bones are greatly diminished.

16th. Salivation is gone, and he is dismissed for duty.

N. B. This case returned in 6 weeks, with violent pain and swelling of the bones, but no ulcer of the throat. He was soon after sent to the royal invalides, and I have not since heard of him.

CASE 11.

THOMAS JORDAN, aged 26, of a scrofulous appearance, was admitted into the regimental hospital, 26th March, 1798, labouring under the secondary symptoms of syphilis. For 18 months past, he has been subject to nocturnal pains, nodes, and painful swellings of bones, particularly of *frons*, tibiae, and ancles, pain across hypogastric region, restlessness, loss of flesh and appetite, sweatings. Previous to his admission at this time, he had been much reduced from a long and severe catarrhal complaint, frequent cough, and habitual dyspnoea, which last has increased lately. He has been repeatedly salivated by mercury alone, and in conjunction with decoct. sarsap. comp. which he likewise used for a long time, without any material benefit. From the weakly and irritable state he was in, it was thought adviseable to begin the nitrous acid in very small doses, as in the following

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ing formula. R acidi nitrosi ʒʒs. aquæ fontanæ ℥ij. fyrupi simplicis ʒj. m. bibat quotidie.

THE acid produced no disagreeable sensation, but merely a sense of glowing heat in the stomach, and epigastric region: but he perceives no difference of the symptoms. R acidi nitrosi ʒi. aquæ fontanæ ℥ij. fyrupi simplicis ʒʒs. m. bibat quotidie.

THE immediate effects of the acid on the *primæ viæ* were now more permanent, but he took the quantity without inconvenience. The pains of his bones are easier, the griping across the hypogastric region is more moderate. He sleeps better with the assistance of an opiate at night, but his rest was generally disturbed by the cough, for which he was ordered a mixture with gum ammoniac. His gums are very tender, and bleed frequently in the morning; dyspnœa urgent. R acidi n. ʒʒs. aq. fontanæ ℥ij. fyrupi simplicis ʒʒs. m. Sumat per diem. The ammoniac mixture to be used as the urgency of the pneumonic symptoms requires.

May 1st. HE has taken the acid mixture with ease, but the venereal symptoms remain unchanged. Augeatur acidi quantitas ad ʒij. quotidie.

2d. HE has now been under the use of the nitrous acid, in different quantities, upwards of 5 weeks. The nodes are nearly as bad as ever; that on the forehead seems to be less painful; the others remaining in the same state. He has now œdema of his legs, although he does not stir out. Appetite for the most part unimpaired. R acidi nitrosi ʒʒʒs. aquæ fontanæ ℥ij. fyrupi simplicis ʒij. m. Utatur quotidie.

3d. It was continued in this quantity with little variety of the symptoms, except that it once, as he thought, produced head-ach some time after taking it. May 8th,

as he has now had a long trial of this remedy, and as its immediate effects on the system in general, and on the stomach and bowels in particular, were severe, and even hazardous, and without being of any service in the removal of the original affection, it was exhibited in a smaller dose, and given along with sarsaparilla as in the following formula. *R acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. decocti sarsaparillæ ℥ij. m. Bibat quotidie.*

17th. He took the medicine in this form for only a few days, without any material change, but being at this time invalided, as unfit for actual service, a further prosecution of the trial was prevented.

CASE III.

JOHN WOOD, a grenadier, aged 31, was admitted into the hospital 17th of March, 1798. At the time of his admission he had several venereal ulcers on the glans penis, of but a few days duration. *R acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. aquæ fontanæ ℥iſs. tincturæ aromat. ℥i. ſumat quotidie. Laventur ulcuſcula lotionē ſaturnina.*

March 19th. There is no difference in the appearance of the chancres. The acid affects neither bowels, gums, nor any particular secretion.

21st. His chancres look cleaner. *Repetatur miſtura acida.*

23d. Chancres look clean and narrow, gums very ſlightly affected. *Continuetur acidum.*

25th. There is a ſlight ſalivation, chancres healing. *Pergat in uſu acidi.*

28th. Salivates conſiderably, ſores quite cicatrized. *Pergat ut antea.*

April

April 4th. The chancres continue healed; the salivation, which is considerable, continues. Siftatur acidum, et utatur gargarisma domesticum.

9th. The salivation is now removed, there is no appearance of any venereal symptom, and he was discharged, cured.

CASE IV.

SERGEANT M'GRUTHER, light company, aged 26, in the course of the last four years has often had venereal complaints, which had been removed by mercury. April 5th, 1798, was admitted into the hospital with gonorrhœa, swelled tonsils, and several small ulcers in the fauces. He has likewise some small ulcerations on the perinæum, and in the neighbourhood of the anus. He acknowledges having had a clap three months ago, when in England; but of this he thought he was cured, and says the sores of his throat, and about the anus, have appeared but a few days ago.

April 6th. R acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. aquæ fontanæ ℥ij. Sacchari com. ℥ij. m. Sumat quotidie. Utatur injectione domesticæ astringente quater indies. Applicetur cataplasma cal. tonsillis.

8th. Fauces look clean, tonsils less swelled, parotid glands are now tumified. Acid has no particular effect on any secretion.

10th. Acid griped him a good deal.

14th. There is little difference in the appearance of the ulcers in the fauces, the swellings of the parotids have come to suppuration externally. The gonorrhœa is nearly stopt by the injection.

16th. Complains much of the acid griping him, ulcers clean. Pergat in usu acidi, et utatur sæpe infuso ferminum lini.

18th. Gonorrhœa gone, swelling of fauces subsiding, and ulcers contracting. Pergat.

19th. From exposure to cold, there is an increase of swelling near his neck ; but the ulcers in the pharynx are not perceptible.

22d. The ulcers have totally disappeared ; there is but little swelling ; the acid has no particular effect on him. Pergat.

26th. The swelling is gone, and he is dismissed for duty.

CASE V.

THOMAS ROONY, light company, aged 30, was admitted a patient, into the regimental hospital, 6th April, 1798. About nine months ago this man was cured of lues venerea ; but after his cure, he cohabited with his wife, who had likewise taken some medicines, but had never been cured. He had never felt well, and now complains of swelling and pain near the verge of the anus ; he is otherwise in perfect health. R acidi nitrosi ʒiss. in aquæ fontanæ diluti q. s. Bibendi per diem.

April 9th. Acid gripes him slightly.

11th. Swelling and pain greatly abated. Pergat in usu acidi.

14th. No swelling or pain continues.

18th. Dismissed, cured.

CASE VI.

Mr. M——, aged 24, for old venereal complaints, which had resisted many of the remedies in common practice, in February last began the nitrous acid, in doses of one drachm daily, afterwards two drachms, and lastly, two drachms and a half. The effect of it in the smallest quantity was greatly increasing the secretion of urine. In the largest dose it griped and occasioned costiveness; it was latterly conjoined with decoct. sars. comp. and he was recovering from the pains of his bones and ulceration of his throat, when the further use of it was put a stop to by his exposing himself to cold, which induced pneumonia, and has since ended in phthisis pulmonalis.

CASE VII.

Mr. F——, a few days after being exposed to venereal infection, on 4th July first observed four chancres on the prepuce. On the 8th, they were touched with argent. nitrat. being foul and sloughy; and on the 9th, he began the acid in doses of one drachm, then one drachm and a half, and latterly, two drachms and a half of the acid. This last dose occasioned much sickness. On the 20th, having now taken about two ounces of the acid, the chancres entirely disappeared. He continued the acid till the 22d, when every venereal symptom seemed to be eradicated, and the use of the acid was put a stop to.

CASE VIII.

SAMUEL BELL, Captain Vandeleur's company, aged 45, for five weeks has had gonorrhœa, with several chancres on the prepuce, and a large one on the dorsum penis. He first applied July 9th, 1798. At this time there was so much stricture on the preputium, that the chancres under it could not be seen. The discharge from them was very considerable, the whole penis very much swelled and inflamed, and the fore on the dors. penis was very foul, larger than a shilling, and spreading. He had extreme pain and restlessness. Applicetur hydrar. nitrat. rub. ulceri. et cataplasma emolliens circa penem, et sumat misturam sequentem per diem. ℞ acidi nitrosi ℥iſs. aquæ ℥ij. m.

July 10th. Inflammation of penis is lessened, the large ulcer has thrown off a black slough, and the inguinal glands are swelled on each side.

11th. Ulcer looks clean. Acid has no particular effect. ℞ acidi ℥ij. quotidie.

14th. Ulcer looks clean, but spreads; acid occasions costiveness. ℞ pulveris rhei, cremoris tartari, āā ℥ſs. m. capiat statim. Sumat acidi ℥iſs. post operationem pulveris.

18th. Has now no pain; there is much less inflammation, though he cannot yet retract the prepuce; there is very little discharge from the chancres under it, very little running; the ulcer on the dors. penis looks clean, healthy, and fills up from the bottom.

21st. Largest ulcer looks clean, and contracts around the edges. Acid has for some time occasioned cardialgia, and if taken in large draughts, makes him sick. ℞ acidi ℥iij. quotidie sumend.

22d. The acid, in the dose ordered yesterday, occasioned much sickness and vomiting. *R* acidi *z*ij. quot. The ulcerations under the prepuce have disappeared, and a cicatrix has nearly covered the whole of the largest ulcer.

23d. Every venereal appearance is removed; but he is ordered to continue the acid for some time.

ON taking a review of these eight cases, every thing appears to me to be highly favourable to the acid. In five cases it was the sole means of effecting a cure, which, at the present time, appears permanent and solid. In *Fox's* case it flattered us for a time, with a prospect of its effecting a cure; and though it finally failed, it considerably mended his general health. His habit was so materially injured previous to the use of the acid, that it is very doubtful if any medicine could have cured him.

THE same may be remarked of *Jordan's* case, where the acid had more diseases to encounter than the venereal; it had to oppose diseases occasioned by mercury.

THE cases wherein it succeeded may be thought slight, but they were well marked cases of pox, though in their first stage: and it cannot be expected, that mercury would have effected a more speedy cure, and most certainly it would not have effected it with less injury to the constitution. Regarding the *modus operandi* of the nitrous acid, I shall not hazard any thing. I may here mention, that in three venereal cases, all with the secondary symptoms, I have used the oxygenated marine acid. In one case it succeeded; in another it entirely failed; and in the third case, for a time, the symptoms disappeared, and a cure seemed to have been obtained; but in two months after, the patient had a return of all his symptoms, and at present is using the nitrous acid, and apparently with great benefit.

THE acid which I used was the common nitrous acid of the shops.

THE cases have all been treated by myself and my assistant Mr. Bruce, and have occasionally been seen by Mr. Woodthorpe, garrison surgeon of this island.

THE permanency of the cure, in most of the cases, cannot at this time be doubted; but should at any future period any thing appear in any of them, you may be assured I will not fail to send you an account of it; as well as of some other cases, which at present I have under the nitric acid.

JAMES M'GRIGOR.

LETTER FROM DR. CARMICHAEL.

DEAR SIR,

SOON after I heard of Mr. Scott's report of the power of nitrous acid over the lues venerea, I began to prescribe it in various stages of that disease; and although I have in no instance been able to effect a cure, I have more or less persisted in this practice. To this I have been induced by the attention which has been called to this subject, by the numerous cases laid before the public, where this new medicine is reported generally to have proved a speedy, safe, and effectual remedy. I have sometimes ordered the nitric, sometimes the nitrous acid, generally from the specific gravity of 1.550 to 1.000; but in their effects I have not been able to distinguish any difference. In one case I prescribed the hyperoxygenated muriate of potash, in compliance with the recommendations which have been given of it; but the result of that trial was not such as to induce me to give it to others,
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even if I could have prepared it with less trouble or risk to myself. Those to whom I have given the acid have observed, that its use was attended by a sensation of warmth at the stomach, an improvement of the appetite, and, in general, an increased secretion of **urine**.

ALTHOUGH my attempts to cure venereal complaints by nitric or nitrous acids have not been attended with that success, which the reports of others led me to expect, I am nevertheless ready to admit, that this new remedy is not altogether destitute of powers in such cases. Of what those powers are I shall state to you the following reports; and I hope the unprejudiced will admit the trials to have been sufficient.

THE diluting medium, which I have directed, has been either water alone, or water gruel, which I recommended with the intention of more accurately ascertaining the effects of a new medicine. In most of the cases, where success is reported to have attended the use of the acid, considerable quantities of sugar have been given, by way of rendering the medicine more palatable; but it is not improbable, that this addition may be of more consequence than has hitherto been suspected. The reports of Dr. Geach, and Mr. Hammick, when compared with mine, confirm this suspicion. Those gentlemen and myself have given the acid in nearly equal quantities; they have added larger portions* of syrup; I have diluted with water, or water gruel only: they have seldom failed to cure the disease, while in no one instance have I succeeded.

* From eight to twelve ounces of simple syrup daily, which of pure sugar is equal to from five ounces and a half to half a pound.

RECENT cases of the venereal disease seldom came under my notice. In those which follow, the constitutions of my patients were affected. In one instance excepted, the primary disease had yielded to mercury; but the quantity given proving insufficient to eradicate the infection, the throat, skin, and bones had become affected.

IN the excepted case, a poor female had laboured under syphilis for five years, without using any remedy. She was reduced to the utmost distress. The genitalia were in one continued ulcer, and the skin was covered with scabs, which, in some places falling off, left beneath foul ulcerations. She was much emaciated. Her appetite and strength were greatly impaired, and pains of the head and extremities deprived her of rest. She took of the nitric acid, at first, $\mathfrak{z}\text{iss}$, and afterwards $\mathfrak{z}\text{ii}$, properly diluted, for six weeks; but her sufferings were in no respect mitigated. It was therefore omitted; and she took of oxygenated muriate of potash, from $\mathfrak{z}\text{vss}$ to $\mathfrak{z}\text{vj}$, beginning with doses of five grains, four times a day, which were soon increased to a scruple at the same intervals. From this remedy she did not experience more relief; but as her appetite and general health were somewhat recruited by rest and a more generous diet, I determined to make a further trial of oxymuriated kali*; and for this purpose I proposed a solution of potash, impregnated under strong pressure, nearly to the

* In the common way of preparing this salt, a very small quantity of crystals is obtained; but where strong pressure is used, the whole, or nearly the whole, of the potash may be oxygenated or crystallized.

point of crystallization, with the fumes of oxygenated muriatic acid; and of this excessively volatile and unpalatable liquor she took ℥ij daily, for three weeks, but without deriving from its use any of those good effects which report had so loudly extolled. Hopes of cure by this method were now abandoned, and the disease soon yielded to mercurial friction.

THE next case, which I shall notice, was that of another female, who had ulcerated throat, and considerable degree of inflammation of the tunica conjunctiva of both eyes spreading upon the cornea. The upper cluster of glands of the left groin was considerably enlarged, and she had a slight discharge from the vagina. The inguinal induration was evidently the produce of fatigue from walking, a day or two previous to my seeing her, and entirely subsided in a few days after; but her other symptoms were permanent. She took of the nitric acid ℥iſs, diluted with water gruel, and persevered in its use for six weeks; but her throat had not altered in appearance, and her ophthalmia had evidently gained ground. The acid was therefore laid aside, and mercurial friction soon effected a cure.

SARAH KEELING, when she applied for relief at the Birmingham General Hospital, had her tonsils extensively ulcerated, her shoulders and face occupied by a copious eruption, and on each tibia a very painful enlargement. Five months had elapsed since the origin of her complaints, and she had taken no mercury. The nitric acid was directed in doses of ten drops, six times a day, diluted with water gruel, and soon increased to double that quantity. At the end of three weeks, the enlargements of the tibiæ suppurating, she applied to be
admitted

admitted into the House. On the first night after admission, and on that only, she rubbed about $\mathfrak{z}\text{i}$ of mercurial ointment upon the inside of her thigh; but on the day thereafter, she recommenced the use of the acid, and persevered for three months, and for a considerable part of that time, took $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, daily. Her sore throat, eruption, and ulcerated tibiae, were now healed; but pains of her head, shoulders, and legs, which originated during the use of the acid, gave her much uneasiness. She remained in the House three weeks longer, taking the acid, without any alleviation of her pains, when she was made an out-patient, and took Peruvian bark and salt of steel, but without benefit. Mercury was at last had recourse to, and her pains were removed, and her health re-established.

THOMAS KEELING, when he applied to me for relief, had the back part of his throat and tonsils extensively ulcerated, and complained of excruciating pains, which affected his head, shoulders, and extremities. He informed me, that his throat had been sore for six weeks, but that, two months previous to his present complaints, he had had a small sore on the prepuce, which had soon yielded to the means which had been employed. For his present complaints he had taken no medicines.

I directed him to take fifteen drops of nitrous acid, in half a pint of water gruel, four times a day, which was augmented to a hundred and twenty, and soon thereafter to a hundred and eighty drops in the same time. At the end of six weeks, the sores of his throat looked cleaner, and in size were somewhat contracted; but his pains were not alleviated; and although he persevered for a month longer, his ulcerations were but little reduced, and his pains were equally distressing. After such
a trial

a trial, I could not persist longer in a plan, which held out such prospects.

WILLIAM VALE had extensive ulceration of the tonsils, and back of the throat, and a copious eruption, occupying especially the face, shoulders, breast, and arms. These symptoms had appeared six weeks previous to his application to me; but he had used no means for their removal. As in the last case, he took first sixty, then a hundred and twenty, and at last a hundred and eighty drops of nitrous acid, diluted sufficiently with water gruel, in the space of twenty-four hours. After eight weeks perseverance, the back of the throat was considerably better; but the tonsils, still ulcerated, had contracted a knotty, irregular, callous appearance; and the eruption, with some trifling variation, continued as when I first saw him. He continued the same plan for three weeks longer, without further perceptible advantage, when I recommended to him to use mercury. I saw no more of my patient for three months, when he applied at the Hospital to be cured of what he imagined to be rheumatism. His throat was better than when I last examined it, and his eruption was less copious; but pains of his head, arms, and legs, which he had had for two months, were become so distressing, as to demand all his attention. He had not used any mercury, as had been directed. I had no inducement to try the acid further in this case; he was therefore directed mercurial frictions, and was rapidly recovering, when it was found necessary to discharge him from the House, on account of repeated irregularities. I remain,

Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

Birmingham, 10th July, 1798.

J. CARMICHAEL.

To Dr. BEDDOES.

THE

THE EDITOR, having requested Mr. HAMMICK to try ointment of oxygenated muriate, received from him, in consequence, the following memorandum:

WITH regard to the oxygenated muriate of potash, as an antisyphilitic by way of inunction, I can say nothing favourable, having tried it in three cases, with primary symptoms of that disorder, without success. In each of these cases, the patients rubbed in two drachms of the muriate, mixed with equal parts of hogs-lard, on their thighs, for more than thirty nights successively, without producing any amendment. In fact, under this treatment, their disorders evidently gained ground; and they complained that the potash made their thighs very sore, and that much of the salt remained on them after the axunge had disappeared.

Three Cases of lues venerea, treated with the nitrous acid, by Mr. Charles Brown, Surgeon, in a letter to Thomas Beddoes, M. D.

DEAR SIR,

I DO myself the honour, in compliance with your request of the 18th instant, of sending you the detail of three cases of lues venerea, which were treated with the nitrous acid; two of them cured, the other much relieved.

NOTWITHSTANDING many unsuccessful cases have appeared in a recent publication, yet I hope to see this new remedy, in our future enquiries, retain that celebrity to which it is justly entitled. I am well aware of the number of inlets to fraud and deception, in all that comes

comes under the head of *project* in medicine, to be too ready to give my assent to new remedies, which are too often hastily consigned to oblivion, before sufficient time has been allowed to establish their repute.

It is to your unremitting attention, so conspicuous on all occasions, where the object is to restore health, aided by a *Blair*, and other such congenial characters, that this antisyphilitic has been rescued from premature neglect; and though it might have failed in many instances (perhaps more from inattention on the part of the *practitioner*, than from a want of power inherent in the medicine to overcome the disease); yet *all* agree in these points, that it *mends the appetite, strengthens the constitution, and on many occasions supersedes mercury.*

CASE I.

T. G. had laboured under a venereal infection five weeks when he applied to me.—On each side of the frænulum penis was an ulcer, very ragged, and extremely painful. The glans penis was excoriated all over; and there was a large discharge, extremely foetid, from behind the prepuce. The tonsils were ulcerated; he had copper-coloured eruptions all over his body, but more particularly in his face. He assured me, he had taken no medicines whatever; and I have every reason to believe he spoke the truth. I began with acidi nitrosi ziss in a quart of water, which I directed him to drink *ad libitum* quotidie.—At the expiration of twelve days, he was much better in every respect. His pains were mitigated, his appetite was sharp, and his spirits, which before were much depressed owing to his situation, became exhilarated. He urged me to give him a gargle for his throat; accordingly I directed him to use the following,

lowing, ℞ hydr. muriat. gr. iſs. falis. amm. crud. ꝑiſſ aqua puræ ℥j. m. pro garg. ſæpe utend. On the 15th day, I increaſed the doſe of the acid to ꝑij. This quantity he continued taking a fortnight longer, when he was perfectly well. The ulcers healed rapidly, and the diſcharge diminiſhed every day. No particular regimen was obſerved. He went into the warm bath every other morning, which I think accelerated the operation of the acid. It is worthy of remark, that this man, previous to the infection, laboured under dyspeſſia and cardialgia; but theſe ſymptoms went off as the others abated.

CASE II.

MARY GOWAN put herſelf under my care, January the 22d, 1798. Her ſymptoms were as follow: She had a bubo, almoſt ready to burſt, in her left groin. The *velum pendulum palati* was quite eaten away, and the tonſils much ulcerated. She had two large chancres on the left *labium pudendæ*, with dreadful nocturnal pains, chiefly confined to the calves of her legs. There was a copious diſcharge from the urethra. I began with giving her ꝑij. acidi nitroſi, daily. After twelve days, as the amendment was but ſlow, I augmented the doſe to ꝑiſſ, without its affecting her bowels: this quantity ſhe continued taking daily, till the 28th of February, when ſhe was quite free from all ſymptoms. Under the foregoing treatment, the contents of the bubo were abſorbed.

CASE III.

Mr. W. P. applied to me, February 16th. He had two very deep and extenſive venereal ulcers behind the glans penis, with ragged and hardened edges. A great
I diſcharge

discharge from the urethra, and a pain in the back part of his head, which at intervals drove him almost to distraction. He had a node on his left leg, and an incipient bubo in his right groin. After taking of the nitrous acid zij . per diem, for three weeks, he found no amendment. His bowels were much griped, and he was frequently sick at the stomach. I was willing to give the acid a fair trial, and accordingly requested of him to continue it a fortnight longer, which he did, but with little or no alteration, excepting that the bubo disappeared. I directed him to inhale twenty quarts of oxygene gas, moderately diluted, daily, which he did for twelve days, when the enemy shewed a disposition to remove. The acid was accordingly exhibited again, and the vital air given at the same time; and, in less than a fortnight, he was quite well.

WITHOUT making any more observations at present, than that I am fully convinced the inhalation of oxygene gas accelerates the operation both of mercurials and the nitrous acid,

I remain, Sir,

Your very much obliged

humble servant,

No. 9, Ely-Place, Holborn.

CHARLES BROWN.

To Dr. BEDDOES.

LETTER from Dr. CURRIE, Physician, at Liverpool.

DEAR SIR,

Liverpool, 1st October, 1798.

I AM truly sorry I have occasioned you the trouble of writing so often to me, by neglecting to comply with your wishes respecting the nitric acid; but the truth is,

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my experience of its effects in lues is not so extensive, or so uniform, as to enable me to speak with confidence on a subject, where accurate conclusions appear to be so difficult. Nevertheless, since you desire it, I will give you a short account of what I have observed.

I BEGAN to use the nitric acid in lues, at our Hospital, in the beginning of 1797. In the two first cases, there were ulcerations on the penis, and open buboes in the groin, but no decided evidence of the system being affected; and the disease was in each case of less than three months standing. In the third, the disease had been in the habit upwards of a year; the surface was covered with venereal eruptions; the throat had been affected, and the glands of the neck, on each side, had been indurated, and were in a state of open ulceration.—The patient had undergone a course of mercury in the Hospital; but, after pushing it as far as her system would bear, she had been discharged, about six weeks before, with little or no amendment in her symptoms. The last six weeks, she had been in the country, on a milk diet, and her health was somewhat recruited. I paid much attention to these three cases, and have minutes by me respecting them, of considerable extent. The two first were males.

EACH of the men took a pint of water daily, gratefully acidulated with the nitric acid; a drachm being at first used in each pint, and afterwards a drachm and a half; but this last proportion appearing to affect the bowels by griping, the original proportion was returned to, and the patients took a pint and a half of the acidulated water daily; i. e. a drachm and half of the acid, as already mentioned. In the case of the female, we never exceeded a drachm, her bowels being very irritable.

IN five weeks, every symptom of disease in the two men was gone; and I presented them to the Board, as remarkable instances of lues being cured without the use of mercury. They attended at my house weekly, for some time; but, being sailors, they went afterwards to sea, and I have never heard of them since.

IN the female, the same happy progress continued for nearly a month; the eruption on the skin diminished, the nocturnal pains in the head and limbs went off, and the ulcerations in the neck assumed a healing appearance; her general health, also, improved rapidly. But at this period, her progress towards a cure stopped; and though we persisted in the acid some time, it did not recommence. It was therefore, at the end of seven weeks, abandoned, and recourse had again to mercury, but in small doses, gradually increasing them, however, till ptyalism commenced. At first, there were indications of benefit from this new course of mercury; but these speedily failed; and her general health suffering severely, we were once more compelled to abandon it; the ulcerations in the neck having, during its use, evidently spread and become more morbid. The nitric acid was had recourse to, as before. During this second course of the acid, her health again improved, and the venereal symptoms again appeared to give way. But, after a few weeks, these favourable indications failed us; we abandoned the acid, and resorted to mercury once more.— It would be tedious to particularize farther. With the mercury, sarsaparilla, and mezereon, and opium, were successively combined; but in vain. Her health giving way, the sores enlarged, and once more we returned to the acid. At length we combined the acid with mercury, in what are called alterant doses, and with evident benefit. At the end of eight months, however,

the ulcerations continued, though much diminished. Despairing of any farther benefit from these combined powers, we abandoned them altogether, and after a proper interval, put the patient on a course of the mineral solution of De Valengin, (from which, in obstinate venereal affections, I had before seen extraordinary effects) and during this course the ulcerations speedily healed, and the cure of the patient became complete, the treatment having occupied a space of upwards of ten months. In obstinate cases of this kind, it is usual to suppose, that some scrofulous or other taint has combined with the venereal virus, and this may have been the fact in the present instance; the result will, however, afford encouragement in similar situations.

THE encouragement, arising from the three cases just mentioned, led me to try the nitric acid in a variety of other cases. In some of these, my success has apparently been complete; in others, there has been evident benefit without a perfect cure; and in others, it has seemed to fail entirely. It is not a little curious, that in some of the cases in which I have succeeded, the symptoms were what are called secondary, and the disease in its most rooted and obstinate state. One of my patients, whose name is Elkins, has drawn out his own case, the particulars of which are shortly these:—About four years ago he was affected by lues, with the usual symptoms, for which he underwent a course of mercury, and was supposed cured. In about nine months afterwards, however, the disease appeared in his throat, and in obstinate pains in his head, &c. He was again salivated, and with similar good effects. Twelve months after this, having been for a considerable time subject to what was supposed to be rheumatism, the disease appeared again, and resisted the long-continued and repeated use of mercury, under a
practitioner

practitioner here, of the first eminence. He was at length obliged to abandon it, having been reduced to a state of extreme weakness. About three months after this, he was admitted a patient into our hospital, and under my care. At this time he had a thickening of the pericranium in two different places, the most severe pains, especially in the night, in the bones of his head, arms, and legs, and a large increasing node on the right tibia. All his symptoms were at this time increasing; and having taken so much mercury in vain, he was in a state of extreme despondence and depression.

WE prescribed the nitric acid, and his sufferings abated from the third day; and being continued, the thickening of the pericranium and the node of the tibia entirely disappeared, with all his other symptoms. He took the nitric acid, in all, to the quantity of eight ounces in eight gallons of water, which he drank in sixty days.

ELKINS has been nearly a year discharged, and has never had any return of his complaints. This case has made some noise, and I have endeavoured to attract the attention of several of my brethren to it, as decisive of the influence of the acid in this destructive disease.

ON the other hand, there are a still more considerable number of cases, in which the acid has entirely failed me, or produced only partial benefit; and at present, though I always order it internally, with mercurial inunctions on the skin, I do not trust the cure to it alone *in the first instance*. Combined with mercury in this way, the constitution seems to support the action of the metal better, and the cure to be accomplished more safely and more speedily. In several instances where, after a course of the nitric acid, it has been thought adviseable to have recourse to mercury, a very small quantity of the ointment (in one case two drachms only, has produced complete pty-

alism. This has occurred so frequently, that I do not think the conjunction accidental.

THE nitric acid has never been pushed by me to the extent, in which it has been used by others; in many of the cases, in which it has apparently failed, I cannot pretend to say, that it would not have succeeded, if pushed to a greater length; but I have not thought it proper to carry it to any extent injurious to the stomach or bowels, while the salutary effects of mercurial inunction remained untried. In the quantities in which I have prescribed it, it has been uniformly salutary to the constitution, in this respect its action contrasting very happily with that of mercury. In the cases in which it has apparently succeeded (in my hands) in the cure of lues, I have not known a relapse to take place; but as the patients have been chiefly seafaring persons, it is not in my power to trace their history subsequent to our parting. In one case of the primary disease, in the hospital of the 20th regiment, the assistant surgeon, who thought it had effected a complete cure, found the disease break out in the throat, at the distance of four months, and finally removed it by mercury.

I HAVE experience of the effects of the nitric acid in complaints of the stomach, hypochondriasis, asthma, and some other diseases, as well as in hepatitis; but as your enquiries are directed to its agency in a single disease—lues—I forbear to enter on other points.

BUT you will ask whether I can mark, by any particular effects, the circumstances attending its salutary operation in lues?—I think I can. In the cases in which it succeeded, it evidently irritated the system in the following respects:

THE gums were always affected with tenderness and redness, and the action of the salivary glands increased.

This

This affection may indeed be considered as depending on its local action; for it took place in one case, where, for the sake of the experiment, the acid was taken into the mouth, but not swallowed. This state of the gums, &c. was not attended by foetor, as during the action of mercury, neither did it increase as the acid was continued, but in a little while disappeared. This affection of the gums and salivary glands did not always appear in the cases where the acid failed.

2. In every case in which it succeeded or operated beneficially, there was a considerable increase of urine, and this discharge became turbid; sometimes of a whitish and sometimes of a brownish hue; it amounted to about eight pounds in the twenty-four hours. But the discharge of urine did not go on increasing under the continued use of the acid; on the contrary, it ceased like the increased discharge of saliva. The affection of the kidneys seemed to precede the affection of the salivary glands; but both the one and the other occurred by the fifth day at latest.

3. THE patients had their appetites improved, and felt a greater alacrity of spirits.

4. IN all of them the pulse was rendered more frequent, and the animal heat towards evening increased from one to two degrees, which in the night was generally carried off by more or less of sensible perspiration.

I THINK that these symptoms have not appeared at all, or not in combination, where the acid has seemed to be inert.

BUT I wish to speak with the diffidence becoming my imperfect experience; and I would not willingly have spoken at all in this stage of the enquiry, had not there appeared a danger of the attention of medical men being wholly withdrawn from the investigation of a subject, which, though difficult, seems to me not only curious in

itself, but likely to produce important consequences to the healing art. To assist in preventing this, I am willing to offer a testimony, which is certainly imperfect, and which in some respects may ultimately be found erroneous.

You are welcome to make what use of it you please.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's, with much esteem,

J. CURRIE.

Case communicated by Mr. Wilmer, Surgeon, of Coventry.

JAMES PAYNE contracted a gonorrhœa at Christmas, 1796. Soon after a chancre appeared on the penis. He rubbed in ung. hydrargyri more than two months, which affected his mouth. During this process the chancre healed; but soon afterwards a large ulcer was formed under the penis, and several others on different parts of his body.

APRIL 10th, 1798, having been diseased nearly two years, and much emaciated, he was admitted a patient in the Coventry General Dispensary. At this time, both his shoulders were covered with ulcers more than four inches in diameter. The discharge from them was very putrid.

℞ acidi nitrosi ℥i. aquæ puræ, ℥ij. m. bibat quotidie.

THE fores were dressed with the following lotion:—
℞ zinc vitriol. ℥i. ceruf. acetat. ℥i. aquæ ℥i. m.

16th. GENERAL health much improved, appetite better, the fores less painful, and the edges disposed to heal. Nitrous acid continued in the same dose.

20th.

20th. THE acid increased to two drachms, the process of healing appearing to have been stationary the last two or three days.

FROM this time he mended rapidly, and on the nineteenth of June he was dismissed, cured.

Another Communication from Mr. WILMER.

SIR,

Coventry, Sept. 21, 1798.

THE circumstances of the following case will be best made known, by transmitting to you the very accurate journal of the patient, previous to the time he came under my care.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

BRADFORD WILMER.

To Dr. Beddoes.

Patient's Journal.

“ FIFTEEN days after having had a suspicious connection, I perceived an excoriation at the bottom of the frenum, and two small chancres on the prepuce. Mr. Cam applied to them a mercurial dressing. The next day a small boil arose on the inside of the prepuce, which soon burst, and flattened into a large sore. To these was now applied the aqua phagedænica. I took, as directed, a mercurial pill every night and morning. The chancres now appeared very virulent, and the larger ulcer not at all mended; the pills purged me; but my general health was not materially affected. The pills were now changed for the solution of sublimate,

I

“ which

“ which I continued the same length of time, with a de-
 “ coction of bark. From this medicine I did not per-
 “ ceive any visible effect. The chancres still continuing
 “ virulent, Mr. Cam fumigated them with cinnabar.
 “ This treatment increased the irritation so much, that a
 “ phymosis was the consequence. Having now given
 “ the sublimate solution a sufficient trial, friction with
 “ mercurial ointment was recommended, and I rubbed
 “ in a drachm every night. In about a week after be-
 “ ginning with the friction, the upper chancres were
 “ evidently much mended, and my constitution materially
 “ affected by the mercury. The chancres did not con-
 “ tinue to mend the second week, although I rubbed in
 “ night and morning a drachm each time. This pro-
 “ duced great weakness, faintness, and sickness. For
 “ some time I had perceived a tenderness upon touching
 “ the glands in the groin, and on the right side a swelling
 “ began. At the end of the second week of rubbing in,
 “ the mercury fell upon my bowels ; but notwithstanding
 “ this circumstance, I continued the application of the
 “ ointment as before, the swelling in the groin some-
 “ times appearing to increase, sometimes to diminish.
 “ A surgeon of the Romney fencibles being now at He-
 “ reford, his opinion was taken. He considered the
 “ swelling as occasioned by the irritation of rubbing in
 “ the mercury, and under the idea, that the medicine had
 “ ceased to act on the venereal virus, recommended warm
 “ bathing, and some purgatives, for a week. As no ma-
 “ terial alteration took place at the end of that time, by
 “ desire of both the gentlemen who now attended me, I
 “ returned to the frictions, and took a pill of calomel at
 “ night. The pill so affected my stomach the following
 “ morning, that I took no more, and continued the fric-
 “ tion only for a little time longer, when it again fell
 “ very

“ very severely upon my bowels, and for that reason,
 “ joined to Mr. Cam’s opinion that the bubo would not
 “ disperse, I dropped it. In a few days after leaving off
 “ the friction, Mr. Cam judged the bubo sufficiently
 “ ripe, and he opened it with a lancet. It contained a
 “ good deal of a yellowish matter. No mercury was
 “ taken for three weeks after this, during which time
 “ the chancres perfectly healed. At this time I had a
 “ very painful ulcerated sore throat, which got well
 “ without any mercurial remedy, and was therefore sup-
 “ posed not to be venereal. The edges of the bubo soon
 “ became very ragged, and in some parts much swelled.
 “ Mr. Cam now thought the calcined mercury, mixed
 “ with opium, might probably agree with me better than
 “ friction, which always so much affected my bowels.
 “ Accordingly, I took a pill night and morning for about
 “ nine days; this also very severely attacked my bowels.
 “ During this course there happened a second suppura-
 “ tion, about half an inch from the upper edge of the
 “ bubo. Confinement, &c. having now reduced me very
 “ much, my friends desired I would call in Doctor
 “ Campbell. He declared his hopes, that no more mer-
 “ cury would be necessary; and seemed to think, that
 “ strength of constitution only was wanted to heal the
 “ wound. In pursuance of his advice, I got into an
 “ airy situation, and in about a fortnight, or little more,
 “ my general health being much improved, *two new ul-*
 “ *cers*, which now remain, made their appearance. Dr.
 “ Campbell now recommended, if Mr. Cam considered
 “ these as venereal, to have recourse again to friction.
 “ But mercury, in whatever way it was applied, having
 “ so constantly affected my bowels, Mr. Cam advised me
 “ to try the nitric acid.

“ The

“ THE acid was tried for three weeks, in which time
 “ the fores certainly improved, though not in a way to
 “ promise a speedy cure.

“ DURING this process, the carrot poultice was applied
 “ to the ulcers. Mr. Ruffel, of Worcester, was now
 “ consulted. He advised me to discontinue the use of the
 “ acid; he directed an alterative electuary, mercurial
 “ dressings for the fores, and Goulard's extract to the
 “ bubo, for the purpose of drying them up. This plan
 “ was pursued a fortnight, when, finding myself much
 “ worse, I determined to place myself under Mr. Ruffel's
 “ immediate care, and for that purpose went to Wor-
 “ cester.

“ ARRIVED at Worcester, I took a mercurial pill, pre-
 “ pared with crude mercury, night and morning, and
 “ rubbed in two drachms of strong mercurial ointment
 “ three evenings, without any material amendment; then
 “ took the solution of sublimate, but finding my stomach
 “ very materially affected, left it off. I continued eleven
 “ days without any mercurial medicine, and in this in-
 “ terval some sinuses, connected with the bubo, were
 “ opened by Mr. Sandiford, whom Mr. Ruffel brought
 “ with him for that purpose. I drank daily a quart bottle
 “ of decoction of mezereon, guaiacum, and sarsaparilla.
 “ The fores now appearing worse, I again had recourse
 “ to mercurial ointment, and during eight successive
 “ evenings I rubbed in a drachm. The fores now ap-
 “ peared considerably better; my mouth became sore;
 “ but my bowels were again so much affected, that I
 “ was obliged, on the ninth evening, to desist from the
 “ friction. I resumed it, however, the night follow-
 “ ing; but found my bowels so much affected the next
 “ day, that I was obliged to discontinue it. The fores
 “ continued a day or two improving, but in less than a
 “ week

“ week relapsed. The night after leaving off mercury,
 “ I began again with the nitric acid. In the first week I
 “ took nine drachms, diluted with fyrup and water.
 “ The fores became visibly mended. In the next week
 “ I took seven drachms; having in that time a violent
 “ head-ach, it was thought adviseable to lessen the dose.
 “ The ulcers and lower edge of the bubo continued
 “ mending slowly, but the upper edge ulcerated again with
 “ additional virulence. The third week, I took a drachm
 “ and a half of the acid each day; the virulence seemed
 “ to increase, and the fores in general put on a worse
 “ appearance. I continued the acid one day longer; but
 “ finding every thing worse, left it off entirely. The
 “ day after this, I began with the extract of hemlock,
 “ and the bark, which I continued five or six days; but
 “ found the fores so much worse, and the pain so much
 “ increased, that I was obliged again to have recourse to
 “ mercury, and rubbed in, that and the four following
 “ evenings, half a drachm of the strong ointment. Find-
 “ ing the fores not mended, and the pain but little abated, I
 “ increased the ointment to a drachm the three following
 “ nights, when I was attacked with considerable griping
 “ and violent sickness, the fores still not improved, and
 “ my mouth not affected with the mercury. I continued
 “ the friction half a drachm per diem, for six days longer,
 “ without finding myself materially affected. The se-
 “ venth day I rubbed in a drachm; the pain still continu-
 “ ing undiminished, and the fores appearing worse, left
 “ off the mercury, and began an antiscorbutic diet, infu-
 “ sion of malt, &c. Finding this purge, I left it off,
 “ and continued without medicine for the next ten days,
 “ when the fores getting worse, I left Worcester, and
 “ came to Coventry.”

Mr. Wilmer's continuation.

WHEN I first saw the patient, he appeared of a fallow complexion, with a pulse quicker than natural. In the right groin was a large phagedænic bubo, in a spreading state. Its edges were swollen, indurated, and of a purple colour, in some parts undermined. The surface was either in a sloughy state, or raised up by unhealthy granulations; some of which were ulcerating at the top, and soon became sloughy in their turn. Another deep ulcer, of a round form, about an inch and a half in diameter, was situated opposite the symphysis of the ossa pubis.— This had a more malignant appearance than the other: both discharged a considerable quantity of sanious matter, of an offensive smell, and were attended with so much pain, that his nights were generally past without sleep. Mercury and the nitrous acid had at different times been useful in the case; but, on account of the effects of the former on the bowels, it could never be continued long enough to subdue the disease. The use of the acid had been given up without any very substantial reasons. When the patient left off both, and tried the effects of country air, the bark, restoratives, &c. his health became manifestly worse, and the disease gained ground.

UPON reviewing the circumstances of this case, it was not easy to decide upon what was proper to be done, and there remained only a choice of difficulties. It appeared evident, however, that unless mercury or the nitrous acid could be pushed to a much greater extent than they had hitherto been, very little chance of success remained.— I determined to begin with mercury. Before the use of this, as it was probable the effects it had on the bowels
arose

arose from a peculiar irritability of the nerves of the alimentary canal, I proposed to reduce them to a torpid state by large doses of opium. Accordingly, beginning with a grain, the dose was gradually increased, till he took eight grains daily. When this point was gained, he began the use of mercury.

He was ordered to rub one drachm of strong mercurial ointment into the legs, every night. This was continued sixteen days, when he had employed two ounces of it. At this period, he was better in every respect; the pain was less; the surface of the sores had assumed a healthy appearance; their indurated edges had softened, and were in a healing state; and the diameter of both sores was lessened so much, that if he could have proceeded with the remedy, no doubt of its success remained. But it unfortunately happened, that the mercury now affected his bowels with more violence than ever. It produced, at the same time, sickness, extreme debility, irregular pulse, a sense of tightness across the breast, gripings and tenesmus. These symptoms continued, though with diminished violence, several days, during which time the sores continued to mend as much as they did under the exhibition of mercury. But as soon as the bowels had recovered their proper action, and the bad effects of the remedy were removed, they began to spread again very rapidly. Small pustules arose in the indurated parts of the margin of the sores, which, breaking at their apex, produced a small ulcer, whose irregular edges, extending their dimensions, soon united with others in their neighbourhood. The pain and restlessness continued, notwithstanding the almost constant use of opium. I was of opinion, that if mercury could be introduced into the system without producing such poisonous effects in the bowels, it would still be our remedy. As

it was possible it might be returned into the intestines (according to the theory of the celebrated author of *Zoonomia*) by a retrograde action of the intestinal absorbents, I recommended, that he should go into another course, rubbing into the arms only, the absorbents from which have no direct communication with those of the bowels.

AFTER an interval of twelve days, in which time the opium was continued, joined to a decoction of *sarsaparilla* and bark, he began to rub into the arms one drachm of the ointment. This was continued eight successive nights. The sores were now becoming worse, and the external use of mercury was changed for *Plenck's* mixture, one large spoonful of which was taken three times a day, nearly three weeks. At this time, the general appearance of the ulcers was, on the whole, better; but they were evidently extended in size. Friction was again had recourse to, and continued eight days longer. During the time the patient was under my care, he had, at different times, rubbed in more than four ounces of strong mercurial ointment, and had taken more than three hundred grains of triturated mercury. Though at first he received so much benefit, the good effects were of short continuance. His bowels were frequently much affected, his general health worse, the sores more extensive and painful; that upon the pubes was much deeper, and its edges hard, cracked, and had an appearance nearly cancerous*. To check the local acrimony, the sores had been carefully dressed twice a day; and various applications, such as hemlock, char-

* A case of this kind, which proved fatal, is recorded in the *Medical Transactions of the College*, Vol. II. page 340.

coal, solution of sublimate, nitrated silver, opium, &c. used without any perceptible benefit.

ON the 1st of March, the patient began with nitrous acid. Taking first a drachm (by measure) of the strongest which could be procured, the quantity was soon increased to a drachm and three quarters; and in this dose it was continued five weeks; at the end of which time, the large ulcer was healed, and the other reduced to a smaller size, and much improved in its appearance. A nausea being now felt, and a considerable straightness across the breast, attended with difficulty of breathing, the use of the acid was suspended a few days. It was then resumed, and continued nearly five weeks longer, without any of the inconveniencies before experienced. At the end of this time, a part of the sore still remained unhealed, though it lost its malignant complexion. No progress had been made during the last fortnight, although the nitrous acid was diligently continued. It was therefore left off, and a decoction of the bark substituted in its place. In three weeks after this, the sore was completely healed.

DURING the use of the acid, the appetite was mended, and the secretion of urine much increased; but the patient became much thinner than when he began it. The only application to the ulcers, whilst he took the acid, was the pulp of boiled turnips, made into a cataplasm with linseed meal. In a letter lately received from the patient, he says, "he now continues in good health, and the cicatrices have every appearance of remaining sound."

THE Editor has been favoured with the two following extracts of letters, which, though not designed for publication, and still less for a medical collection, he inserts with the greatest pleasure, in hopes that they may lead to farther trials in the West Indies.

EXTRACT of a LETTER to ———, Esq. BRISTOL.

DEAR SIR,

May 14, 1798.

I HOPE, ere long, to have the pleasure of informing you of the good effects of the nitrous and muriatic acids, in cases of syphilis, and yaws, which have so long eluded the efficacy of mercurials, to the reproach of physic; there are cases under my care of the worst kind, which I have selected for the purpose of giving it a fair trial; and I am pleased to inform you they are all getting better, although they have only been taking it a fortnight. I have only to regret you did not send me a quantity. I have only two or three ounces, which is not enough for my present purpose; I have some difficulty in procuring it from St. Kitt's, as it is a medicine, the efficacy of which is not sufficiently known in this part of the world. I shall pay every attention to it; and my next order for medicines from England will be composed principally of the above acids. I have to observe, that it has not been administered, but where repeated courses of mercury had failed.

Your's sincerely,

AND^w. M. CROSSE.

—————, Esq. Bristol.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Dr. ANDREW M.
CROSSE, of the Island of NEVIS, to ———, Esq.
of BRISTOL, dated 27th JULY, 1798.

THE nitrous acid is a valuable medicine in this part of the world. For your information I shall give one case only of its good effects.

A BOY, about twelve years old, on your estate, named WILL, was, about three months ago, attacked with an inflammation in one of his eyes, and with an ulcer in the foot. The complaint went on, every day getting worse; so much so, that I was induced to take away some blood. He was blistered and purged, sea-water was administered, local applications to the diseased parts, alteratives, salivations, and, in short, every means were made use of, to prevent the loss of his eye, without the least benefit; on the contrary, he continued every day worse, in so much that he became ulcerated from his neck, over several parts of his body, down the whole course of the extremities; the sores were as large as the palm of my hand, rather superficial, discharging a thin, watery humour. Upon hearing of the efficacy of the nitrous acid, I was induced to give it a trial, beginning with sixty drops, and increasing it to a hundred and twenty, every day, mixed with a pint of water sweetened with molasses, together with keeping the sores clean, and applying the vegetable acid, once every day, to the sores about the body, as every thing of the ointment kind had the appearance of making them worse. It is now about two months since he was under the course of this medicine, and my patient is now well, grown very stout, his skin of a glossy and shining appearance, which was before scurfy, as will always be the case among

negroes in an unhealthy state; whether this disease may be called scrofula *, syphilis, or yaws, I do not pretend positively to determine; but I am rather inclined to believe the latter, as boys of this age are more apt to contract the yaws than any other complaint, and because we know of no disease, that will put on one regular and uniform appearance in different temperaments; and had it not been for this valuable medicine, you would have had a miserable spectacle to have maintained on your estate; whereas, on the other hand, you are in the possession of a valuable slave.

* It is very difficult to suppose, that this was a case of scrofula. Between yaws and syphilis it may, perhaps, not be so easy to decide.

EDITOR.

OBSER-

(149)

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CASES

PUBLISHED BY

MR. BLAIR.

1832

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CASES

OF

MR. B. B. B.

THE following severe Strictures come from a person extremely conversant in venereal complaints. He withholds his name at present, thinking it irrelevant.—The attentive reader will easily guess it.—EDITOR.

THE reports of the experience of the Author (Mr. Blair) are divided into three Sections.

SECTION THE FIRST.

“ TWENTY-THREE EXPERIMENTS WITH THE ACID OF NITRE, THE CITRIC ACID, AND THE OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH, IN PRIMARY SYMPTOMS.”

ON examining these twenty-three experiments, we shall find, that in twenty-one of them, the nitric, or nitrous acid, has been administered; in *one* only, the oxygenated muriate of potash; and only *one* again in which the citric acid had been exhibited; and even that last solitary instance not under the eye or inspection of Mr. B. One more, in which the nitrous acid had been given, is afterwards subjoined; making, in all, twenty-four experiments on primary symptoms.

1st CASE “ was that of George Kelly, aged 30, who
 “ was admitted into the Lock Hospital on the 30th of
 “ March, 1797, with a glandular swelling in his right
 “ groin, which *seemed* inclined to suppurate. He con-
 “ tracted the venereal disease two months before, and
 “ at that time had chancres; but when he applied to
 “ me, they were healed; his mouth was also affected by
 “ mercurial medicines, which he had previously taken.—
 “ April the 4th, I prescribed him three measured
 “ drachms of the common fuming acid, in a concen-
 “ trated state, diluted with a quart of water. This
 L 3 “ quantity

“ quantity was ordered to be drank, by a cupful at
 “ a time, every twenty-four hours.”

Now here it appears, from the 30th of March, the day he was received at the Hospital, that not any thing was ordered for him till the 4th of April.

“ 6th of April, the acid was increased to *four* drachms
 “ a day, *as it agreed perfectly well.* The acid was not
 “ omitted till the 24th; and he was dismissed, apparently
 “ cured, on the 27th, and has not been heard of since.”

Is it not reasonable to imagine, that, had the disease appeared again, the man would have applied for admission into that Hospital wherein it is said he had been apparently cured by taking the nitrous acid only twenty days? so that the very first case, from the author's own experience, is a case of apparent success.

CASE II.

“ JOHN LEWIS, in the 18th year of his age, was
 “ admitted under my care, at the Lock Hospital, upon
 “ the 16th of September, 1797; three months before
 “ which time he had contracted a gonorrhœa, and was
 “ soon afterwards affected with a tumour in his right
 “ groin. The swelling continued to get worse by de-
 “ grees, and was in a state of suppuration when I first
 “ saw him; he had also a slight phymosis, but no other
 “ complaint whatever. On the 16th, 18th, and 20th of
 “ this month, he rubbed in a drachm of mercurial oint-
 “ ment, as I had not then determined to use the new
 “ remedy: this must therefore be considered as so much
 “ the more favourable for his cure with the acid.”

How does Mr. B. purpose to make this out? By what means can *be* thus decide, when this is only the second Case with primary symptoms, in which he has made use
 of

of the new remedies, and cannot therefore possibly have had experience enough to justify this last assertion.

“ SEPT. 21, I directed him to take the following medicine daily, viz. of the nitric acid, two drachms, and of simple syrup, four ounces, mixed with a pint and half of water. A cataplasm, made of the cold saturnine lotion and linseed meal, was applied to the bubo. OCT. 25. *Quite well*; but the medicine was continued regularly till the 2d of November.”

HIS discharge from the Hospital is not mentioned; but he must have been discharged; for he says,

“ UNFORTUNATELY, however, he returned to me, at the Hospital, in twenty-eight days, having numerous venereal spots upon his face and body, with nocturnal pains in his limbs, and an ophthalmia tarfi. The eruption was undoubtedly decisive, whatever might have been thought of his other symptoms. I therefore put him upon a regular course of mercurial inunction, and discharged him, perfectly well of every complaint, on the 20th of January following. I did not observe that the cure was effected by less mercury, or in a shorter time, than is usual in secondary affections.”

WHEREFORE was it expected? It were to have been wished (after the power the acid had evinced the first time the man was at the Hospital) that the nitrous acid had been given for these eruptions: then something satisfactory might have been made out concerning the antisyphilitic power of the acid in this case.

CASE III.

“ THOMAS PHILIPS, aged 20, came under my care, on the 28th of September, 1797, having slight chancres, small warts, and enlarged inguinal glands, disposed to suppurate: he had been infected three months, and

“ had used some mercury before he applied to me. On
 “ the 5th of October, and every day afterwards, he
 “ took two drachms of the concentrated nitrous acid, pro-
 “ perly diluted and sweetened, up to the 30th of Nov. when
 “ the bubo had got worse, and required the pus to be dis-
 “ charged by a caustic. His medicine had been regularly
 “ continued ; but *it now gave him pains in his limbs*, as
 “ well as the *cold sensation* and nausea. The warts were
 “ more exuberant, and the ulcer in the groin had in-
 “ creased.”

THAT “ two drachms of concentrated nitrous acid,”
 taken by a lad of 20, should have excited nausea, is easily
 understood ; but that it should have produced a *cold*
sensation, with *pain in his limbs*, merits further eluci-
 dation.

“ DEC. 4th, the plan of cure was now altered : mer-
 “ curial ointment was directed to be rubbed in. On
 “ the 31st, he omitted the inunction, and left the
 “ Hospital four days after. *His constitution was con-*
 “ *siderably affected with erethismus by employing the*
 “ *mercury.*”

CASE IV.

“ GEO. HUGHES, aged 22, contracted the venereal
 “ disease, about the middle of September, 1797, at which
 “ time he had a glandular swelling in each groin : the
 “ same tumours remained on the 12th of October, when
 “ he was admitted into the Hospital ; but they had burst,
 “ and were covered with scabs. A warm linseed poultice
 “ was applied to the buboes, and the nitrous drink was
 “ administered as in the former case. Nov. 27th, the fores
 “ nearly healed. Dec. 4th, the groins ulcerating again,
 “ and do not yield good pus ; the simple cerate and acid
 “ continued. 6th, having made no farther progress,
 I left

“ I left off the acid, and ordered mercurial ointment to
 “ be rubbed into his thighs, every night. January 13th,
 “ dismissed, cured, after using 59 drachms of the oint-
 “ ment, containing a third part of mercury.”

HERE the acid nearly healed the fores, although they began again to spread. Ought not the acid to have been continued some little time longer? for it required 59 drachms of mercurial ointment to perfect a cure, after the acid had advanced the patient so much towards it.

CASE V.

“ W. B. consulted me on the 13th of October, with
 “ a chancre under the meatus urethræ, and a phymosis,
 “ of three weeks duration. At that time I relied more
 “ on the favourable reports which had been given of the
 “ nitrous acid, than upon my own experience. I was
 “ therefore tempted to prescribe the acid mixture, with a
 “ saturnine lotion and cataplasm. Nov. 4th, the *phymosis*
 “ *was quite gone*, and the *ulcer under the glans still*
 “ *healing*; but on retracting the prepuce, a fresh ulcera-
 “ tion was perceived upon the corona glandis: the acid
 “ was continued; but the daily quantity of it was now in-
 “ creased to three drachms. Fifteen fresh ulcerations are
 “ breaking out on different parts of the glans, and the
 “ old fores are spreading. I now directed the acid to be
 “ left off, and calomel pills to be taken daily; but the
 “ patient, having by some means discovered, that I was
 “ making trial of a new medicine, told the apothecary to
 “ whom he had taken my prescription, that he was dis-
 “ satisfied; he afterwards did not chuse to consult me any
 “ more. I cannot tell what was the sequel of this case;
 “ but there is no reason to felicitate the philo-acidi on its
 “ progress to the 15th of November. This was the
 “ first (and will probably be the last) private patient
 “ with

“ with whom I have ventured to hazard my reputation
 “ by trusting to a *new-fangled scheme*.”

Does not this last sentence breathe prejudice enough to throw discredit on the whole book? Such a declaration as this, in the commencement only of the trial of the “ new-fangled scheme,” where Mr. Blair grows irritated (irritated he must have been, or otherwise he never would have committed himself by such an unguarded expression) because a private patient (wanting confidence) quits him. What can we expect after this? Surely, that in all the subsequent cases, the nitrous acid will be given with a great bias against it.

CASE VI.

“ ROBERT CARR, in the 25th year of his age, was
 “ admitted under my care, at the Lock, October 26th,
 “ 1797. His complaints were, a very badly ulcerated
 “ and inflamed prepuce, filled with large warts. It was
 “ eight months since he contracted the disease. Dr.
 “ Pearson sent him to my house, before his admission: I
 “ then directed him to take the acid mixture, of the
 “ usual strength (two pints a day) until he had produced
 “ a letter for the Hospital.”

WHAT is the usual strength of the acid mixture? for nothing like a general rule has yet been given.

“ Nov. 2d, *free from pain*. 13th, much worse, in all
 “ respects; the acid omitted; a saturnine lotion ordered
 “ to be injected within the prepuce; the cataplasm re-
 “ peated as before. 16th, the *warts highly inflamed*, and
 “ *very luxuriant*. 18th, *I removed the whole of the pre-*
 “ *puce, and the warts* which were attached to it. 24th,
 “ the patient goes on properly. Dec. 4th, he was well
 “ *enough* to be discharged.”

It cannot certainly be supposed, that he was discharged cured, when, on the 18th only, these “ highly inflamed “ and very luxuriant warts, together with the whole of “ the prepuce,” were removed; and on the 4th of the following month, it is said, he was well enough to be discharged. Now he had not had any thing to take since the removal of the prepuce: but perhaps this is Mr. B’s general and superior method of curing very luxuriant and highly-inflamed warts. The acid was only administered to this patient seventeen days.

CASE VII.

A Case of Success.

“ W. GREEN, 26 years of age, applied to me on the “ 26th of October last, having buboes of two years con- “ tinuance, and ulcerations in the scrotum. He had “ taken no medicine during the last twelve months. “ A cold saturnine poultice was immediately applied to the “ fores; and the patient was ordered to drink the acid “ mixture, every day, as in the preceding instance: he “ continued it to Nov. 28, when perfectly cured. 30th, “ left the Hospital.”

CASE VIII.

Of THOMAS BARRAT, not a defined case of lues venerca.—First, nitrous acid, given with some success; then Dover’s powder; and, lastly, mercurial inunction, from the 27th of November, up to the 8th of January following. “ He was dismissed, well, on the 11th of “ the same month. On the 3d of May, he called upon “ me, to say, the muscular pains in his arms and thighs “ have been very bad these two months past. Regarding “ them

“ them, however, as a *rheumatic affection*, I did not
 “ admit him into the Hospital again.”

Quere. If the last pains were rheumatic, were not
 the first so also; and what was nitrous acid expected
 to do?

CASE IX.

“ JEREMIAH PEACOCK was admitted as a patient,
 “ on the 9th of November last. His original symptom,
 “ a year ago, was a gonorrhœa, which, after some
 “ months, was followed by ulcerations within the pre-
 “ puce. He had these complaints on his application to
 “ me, besides a phymosis, and holes through the præ-
 “ putium, of two weeks continuance, for which he had
 “ never taken any medicine. A linseed cataplasm, and a
 “ saturnine lotion, were used externally, while the
 “ nitrous mixture was taken internally. This plan was
 “ pursued, without any alteration, till the 20th, when
 “ warts were arising from within the prepuce, and
 “ through the ulcerated holes. 27th, the ulcers got
 “ wider, and the warts more luxuriant, so that I found
 “ it necessary to *remove all the diseased parts by a free in-*
 “ *cision.* The acid was now omitted. He got better in a
 “ few days, and, on the 11th of December, was nearly
 “ well. Finding himself apparently freed from the
 “ disorder, he left the Hospital before I intended to dis-
 “ charge him.”

IN this case, as soon as the diseased parts were re-
 moved by a free incision, the acid was omitted, although
 this patient had taken it only eighteen days, and it agreed
 well. For what reason could the acid have been dis-
 continued? unless it was, fearing it might effect a cure,
 which may be now attributed to it.

CASE X.

" THOMAS PRICE, 23 years of age, was made a
 " patient in the Lock, on the 9th of November. He
 " contracted the venereal disease six months before; and,
 " at the time of his admission, had a considerable *quantity*
 " of enlarged indurated glands in each groin. He began
 " the nitrous acid on the 12th, when the buboes shewed
 " a disposition to suppurate: one of them *ruptured*, and
 " discharged some pus, on the 16th; but it healed spon-
 " taneously, in four days. 23d, the buboes were larger,
 " and more painful: a cold saturnine poultice was ap-
 " plied to them. 27th, *they were both getting smaller*;
 " but one of them enlarged again on the 30th. He con-
 " tinued to take the acid regularly, till Dec. 4th, two
 " drachms in each day, and then omitted it. By having
 " recourse to mercurial inunction, the swellings were
 " lessened within a week, and went on well till the 23d
 " of December; at which time the patient quitted the
 " Hospital."

To this patient the nitrous acid was only administered
 from the 12th of November to the 4th of December,
 notwithstanding the patient had received benefit from its
 use; yet the mercurial inunction was substituted for
 the acid.

CASE XI.

" THOMAS NORTH, for enlarged, painful, and inflam-
 " ed glands in each groin, in a disease of five weeks con-
 " tinuance, began, on the 12th of November, the nitrous
 " mixture, sweetened and diluted as before mentioned,
 " which he took daily, until the 14th of December. At
 " this time, no progress had been made; but the buboes
 " were both of them increased in magnitude, and one

“ was beginning to suppurate. Mercurial ointment was
 “ then ordered, and at length a perfect cure was accom-
 “ plished.”—But how long it was before that perfect
 cure was accomplished, is not specified; but it appears to
 have taken some length of time, as one of the buboes
 suppurated under the mercurial course. The nitrous
 acid taken by this patient for 31 days only.

CASE XII.

JOHN WILLIAMS was apparently cured (of “ chancres
 “ on the middle and upper part of the penis, with indu-
 “ rated glands in each groin) by the nitrous acid; but
 “ returned, in somewhat more than a month, to the
 “ Hospital “ with numerous broad syphilitic blotches on
 “ his breast and face; also a venereal sarcocele, and an
 “ ill-looking ulcer on one tonsil: he said, his throat be-
 “ came sore a month ago; but that his eruptions had
 “ appeared only a week.”

WHETHER the acid would have had sufficient
 power, to remove these appearances, was not, unfor-
 tunately, determined; for he was immediately ordered
 the mercurial inunction, and left the Hospital in little
 more than two months, and promised to return if any re-
 lapse should occur. Since that, he has not been heard of.
 This man had had chancres six months previous to his
 admission and treatment by the nitrous acid; which
 chancres “ he had endeavoured to get rid of by some
 “ *trifling means,*” but had taken nothing for three months
 before Mr. B. saw him. It is to be lamented, that we
 are not informed what these *trifling means were*: I have
 no doubt these trifles were local and escharotic appli-
 cations, and then we may know with justice where to
 place the origin of these secondary symptoms, without at-
 tributing

tributing any failure in the antisyphilitic properties of the nitrous acid.

CASE XIII.

JOHN STEVENS, to whom the nitrous acid was only given from the 23d of November to the 18th of December, when it “disagreed with him, so that he was unable “to retain it upon his stomach any longer.” Then the mercurial ointment was ordered, without any attempt to render the nitrous mixture more palatable, either by reducing the quantity of the acid, or rendering it bland by adding simple syrup. Whether there ever had been any syrup allowed to this patient in his mixture, is doubtful; and it would have been more correct to have stated (and stated it ought to have been) what quantity of the acid was daily given; for this patient’s complaint had mended before the mixture had ruffled his stomach.

CASE XIV.

MR. BLAIR says, “I do not consider this case worthy “of special notice, on any other account than as it was “of that kind in which the nitrous medicine has been “very strongly * recommended. It certainly did no material good in this instance; and I have observed “other *scrofulous* subjects use the acid with as little advantage. Indeed, I cannot say, from my present experience, that I think the remedy is at all adapted “to these glandular complaints.”

* “From the whole, it clearly results, that, where the “constitution is broken, the habit feeble or scrofulous, “the cure should always be attempted by the nitrous “acid, *in preference to any other medicine.*—Dr. BEDDOES’ “Reports, p. 84.”

Now

Now Mr. Blair has evidently misunderstood the meaning of this passage from Dr. Beddoes, who does not recommend (if I understand rightly) the nitrous acid, in preference to any other medicine, for the *cure of scrofula*, but that the nitrous acid ought to be administered, in preference to any other medicine, for the cure of the lues ven. when combined with a feeble or scrofulous habit. Has not Mr. Blair often seen, in his practice, the dreadful consequences that follow courses of mercury in scrofulous and debilitated habits? and would it not be a most desirable object to cure the lues ven. in those habits by the acid, even though it "did no material good" to the scrofulous affection?

CASE XV.

REQUIRES only to be given in Mr. B's own words, to point out, in the clearest manner, that the cause of the failure of the oxygenated muriate of potash, in this case, was solely owing to the inflammatory state of the system, brought on by an *injudicious overdosing* of the medicine.

"NICHOLAS BROWN, in the 25th year of his age,
 "had intercourse with a woman of ill fame, about the
 "middle of January last. Three days afterwards, one
 "of his groins became lightly inflamed, painful, and in-
 "creased a little in bulk every day. A week before I
 "saw him, a gonorrhœa came on, and both his groins
 "swelled. When he was admitted into the Hospital,
 "the tumor on his left side was as large as a pullet's
 "egg, and suppurating; the other was in an indurated
 "state: he had not taken any medicine whatever for his
 "present disorder.

"This was regarded as an unexceptionable case (with
 "primary symptoms) for the trial of the oxygenated
 "muriate

“muriate of potash: I therefore ordered five grains,
 “made into a pill with conserve of roses, to be taken
 “three times on the 4th of January, and increased *every*
 “day after. *Nothing* was applied to his buboes: and he
 “was kept in a clean ward, separated from the other
 “venereal patients. 15th, *through a mistake, the man*
 “*omitted his pills the four last days.*”

WE are led, from this strong mark of inattention, (to
 use no harsher language) to think, that no one was
 much interested in the due administration of the me-
 dicine.

“HE had now increased their number to *fourteen* in a
 “day, without any manifest advantage: his system was
 “not yet affected by the medicine. 18th, a more
 “copious secretion of saliva; but the patient’s mouth
 “was not at all sore, nor his gums swollen. His pulse
 “beat 94 strokes in a minute; his tongue was not at all
 “affected by the potash, nor could I discover any other
 “sensible operation. 22d, in all respects the same as on
 “the 18th, except that the quantity of his urine was
 “augmented. 25th, the pills have been employed regu-
 “larly; he now takes *twenty-four* in a day; his tongue
 “has at length become furred and whitish; his pulse is
 “increased in frequency; and he complains of the pills
 “having given him a *violent head-ach*; but his venereal
 “symptoms are not in the least amended. 27th, yester-
 “day, and to-day, the pills have caused such a *burning*
 “*pain in the stomach*, with *sickness*, and a sense of weight,
 “that he cannot bear them any longer. His daily
 “quantity has been augmented from *two* to *twenty-six*
 “pills, each of which contained five grains, so that, in
 “the whole, he took three ounces and thirty-five grains,
 “without any advantage whatever. His pulse, at *the*
 “*last*, beat 110 times in a minute, and were irregularly in-
 M “*terminating*

“ *terminating*. The head-ach, &c. continued to be very
 “ distressing, and the buboes were become larger than
 “ when he first was admitted. From these circum-
 “ stances, Mr. B. was induced to try a mercurial course,
 “ which he bore *very ill*. Purgings and gripings were
 “ brought on by a very gentle mode of treatment. On
 “ the 21st of April, he was discharged, well, except
 “ a slight induration in the groin. 7th May, he re-
 “ mained in the same state.”

No wonder the buboes became larger, when inflammation had been induced to such a high degree.

CASE XVI.

A very imperfect one; introduced to discredit the use of the citric acid, which had been given on board of ship; but the citric acid has not been much extolled by the advocates for the new remedies even on shore; and I believe those, who are well acquainted with the quality of the citric acid supplied to the ships of war, will never think of giving it as an antisyphilitic; and moreover, had it been the recent juice, no inference could have been drawn from this case, as the patient was at the “ same time using mercury;” and what is still more remarkable, this is the only case produced, in which the citric acid had been given; and even this was not given by Mr. B. himself.

CASE XVII.

So defective, that it is not deemed worthy of notice: but, as far as it goes, in favour of the nitrous acid.

CASE XVIII.

Nitrous acid only administered six days, and its effects destroyed by being *overdosed*: two drachms daily in a quart of water, *without syrup*, to a *young woman* of nineteen.

CASE XIX.

THE nitrous acid given a month and two *days*, without producing any beneficial effects. ℥iij. a day to a female 19 years old only.

CASE XX.

“ PHILLIS CHAPMAN, 21 years of age, was admitted into the Hospital, October the 26th, 1797.
 “ She was infected with gonorrhœa, a month before she applied to me, which was followed by an enlarged inguinal gland, and swelled nymphæ. October 28th, she began the nitrous acid, two drachms daily, *sweetened* and diluted. In *five days* she began to amend. Nov. 16th, the swellings were entirely gone. The acid was continued as before, till the end of the month, when I dismissed her, *cured*.

“ THIS case, if no relapse occurred, may certainly be numbered among the cures; but, in Hospital practice, it is no easy matter to ascertain who remains well, although the presumption ought always to be on the favourable side, when patients do not return again.”

As this patient did not return again, so, in proportion to the credit given to the permanency of her cure, must stand or fall all those, who have been dismissed as apparently cured, whether by mercurials or other substances.

CASE XXI.

No inference can be drawn, as the nitrous acid was only administered eleven days; two drams daily, and then omitted because venereal spots were appearing; as if these, or any other appearances of syphilis, could probably be prevented by so short a trial of any remedy. A specimen of the candour of our author.

CASE XXII.

A CASE of success.

CASE XXIII.

ELIZABETH KING: Acid only given from 26th November, 1797, up to 11th of December, when the mercurial inunction was commenced, together with topical red precipitate ointment. Mr. B. says, 18th of January, "Extreme debility and erethism obliged me to order a generous diet, and Peruvian bark, in conjunction with mercurial ointment. 24th, she was dismissed, cured." Had there been a sincere wish of proving the efficacy of the nitrous acid, on the 18th of January was a noble opportunity, instead of persevering in the mercurial course; for, on the 18th, this patient was labouring under such extreme debility and erethism as obliged him to order a generous diet, with Peruvian bark, in conjunction with mercurial ointment; and yet we find, on the 24th, this extremely debilitated patient dismissed, cured, notwithstanding the mercurial inunction had been continued. This, and indeed the greater part of the cases, shew the greatest singularity of judgment, as well as of practice, in Mr. B.

CASE XXIV.

THE venereal disease not accurately enough marked to merit attention. Although almost cured by the nitrous acid, yet care was taken, that the acid was discontinued in time to give the credit of the cure to mercurial friction for eight days.—Shame ! shame !

 SECTION THE SECOND.

“ TWENTY-SIX CASES OF CONFIRMED SYPHILIS, WHEREIN
THE ACID OF NITRE WAS EXHIBITED.”

CASE I. of confirmed syphilis, was that of THOMAS MAIN, for whom we find the nitric acid was only prescribed seven days, and failed from being *overdosed*. Is it not rather extraordinary, that a gentleman so anxious (as Mr. B. professes himself to have been) to bring this medicine to the test of truth, should not (after having overdosed his patient) have tried the acid in reduced proportion, and also have added some syrup ? for here were *four* drachms of the nitric acid given daily, in two pints of water, without syrup. Of what age this patient was, we are not informed ; but, whether old or young, none or very few stomachs can bear *four* drachms of nitric acid daily in two pints of water ; yet this case is brought forth to the public, as one of failure of the nitric acid.—To prove the overdosing of the medicine, I shall only quote Mr. B.’s words, viz.

“ APRIL 10th. I directed *four* drachms of Mr. Cox-
“ well’s nitric acid, diluted in two pints of water, to be
“ taken daily. *This quantity was too much to begin with ;*

“ and he had very great difficulty in taking it. 13th, he
 “ complained *heavily* of the pain, nausea, and coldness
 “ which the acid produced in his stomach, every time he
 “ drank it, and told me ‘ the mercury had done him
 “ good, but that this medicine had not.’ *Notwithstanding*
 “ the uneasiness he endured, the acid was continued in the
 “ same proportion till the 17th, when the pain, &c. became
 “ so insupportable, that it would have been cruel to insist on
 “ his persevering.”

This patient was afterwards cured by mercurial in-
 unction.—Coldness and pain produced: a man ought to
 know the proper dose of a medicine before he prescribes
 it; and when he reports effects, should be able to distin-
 guish such as are real from those that are imagined.

CASE II.

JOHN MACAULEY took two drachms daily of the
 nitrous acid, *without* syrup, in a quart of water, from the
 11th of May to the 8th of June, for venereal eruptions.
 When the nitrous medicine was omitted, as it is said,
 “ the spots were manifestly getting still worse;” yet, on
 the 23d of May, prior to that, “ the acid agreed well,
 “ and the spots were fading:” these spots, after the dis-
 continuance of the nitrous acid, required *fifty-one drachms*
 of mercurial ointment to complete a cure. The acid
 agreed well in this case; and the patient had not taken
 it a month. The omitting it seems rather premature.

CASE III.

SHALL be transcribed fully, that the public may form
 their opinion, whether it is in favour, or not, of the
 nitrous acid: at all events, it plainly demonstrates how
 very

very fallible mercury is, even after permanent cures have been supposed to have been accomplished.

“ THOMAS DEATH, 24 years old, contracted a gonorrhœa in November, 1794, which was afterwards succeeded by a bubo and venereal eruptions. On the 8th of August following, he became my patient at the Lock, and passed through what I deemed a sufficient course of mercury to effect a permanent cure: but, it should be observed, that his mouth could scarcely be affected by the mercury during this treatment. He was discharged from the Hospital in the beginning of October, 1795. Exactly two years afterwards, he was re-admitted, with several nodes on each of the tibiæ, and an enlarged nose, besides fixed pains in his joints. October the 6th, I directed two drachms of nitrous acid to be mixed in a pint and a half of water, and sweetened with eight ounces of simple syrup, to be drunk every day; at the same time he used the warm bath, twice a week. 11th, I was obliged to reduce the acid mixture to only half its original strength, on account of its having disagreed very much with his stomach. 16th, *his nose is well, and his pains are alleviated*; but the nodes are not yet diminished. I again desired the acid mixture to be made as strong as at first. 19th, *he still gets relief in his pains, the nodes begin to lessen, and his medicine agrees pretty well.* 26th, *the nodes are getting smaller every day.* Nov. 2d, *he still takes the acid with advantage.* 6th, Nocturnal pains in his shins have lately broken his rest, and dispirited him. The next time I went to the Hospital, he had gone away, and has never again been heard of.”

CASE IV.

ALTHOUGH the nitrous acid appeared to procure some amendment, yet the disease was not sufficiently characterized, to decide the efficacy of the "new-fangled scheme."

CASE V.

For WILLIAM PULKER was prescribed the nitrous medicine (without any given proportion or form) from the 28th of October to the 27th of November, when a mercurial course was commenced, and completed a cure.— Here I beg leave to submit, whether any credit ought in justice to be given to this case, when it is admitted, that this patient "had gone three times into the warm bath," without Mr. Blair's knowledge. That a patient could go three times into a warm bath, without his surgeon's order or knowledge, shews a great want of attention somewhere; and may we not naturally suppose, that, after a declaration like this (and others to be met with in the pamphlet, as "through a mistake, the man omitted his pills the last four days," and "by an oversight it happened, that a patient's ulcerated blotches had been dressed with a cerate in which red muriated mercury had been mixed,") the patients have not, in every instance, taken their medicine as prescribed? And they may have heard also, that they were trying a new medicine, and had been thereby *also* prejudiced against the medicine, and have said they had taken it, when, perhaps, too often they had not.

IN this case, in seven days only, by the use of mercury, nodes, pains, and eruptions, were nearly well; and, in fourteen days, the patient had "no ailment whatever."—
Credat qui vult.

CASE VI.

OCTOBER 26. "Went twice into the warm bath without my order;" and again, "I am informed he has had a salivation some time."—Who can pay any attention to such slovenly practice?

MAY it not be supposed, that in all those cases, Mr. Blair was equally ignorant whether the nitrous acid was, or was not, taken? "The eruptions on his face are of a dubious nature; but I *begin* to suspect they are venereal." Some of his recent complaints, such as "pustular eruptions on his arms and face, seemed to be venereal;" and yet this is mentioned as a venereal case, in discredit of the nitrous acid.

CASE VII.

THE acid prescribed from 13th of November to 18th of December, when the mercury was had recourse to, and effected the cure. In this case, some benefit was derived from the acid.

CASE VIII.

No satisfactory conclusion can be drawn from this; but we will give it fully:

"JOHN BRANGDON, 33 years of age, was admitted Nov. 16. The history of his case *renders it doubtful whether it was venereal or not.* Four years before, he had chancres: they got well, and were followed by no other symptoms, till within the last four months, when a firm and painful swelling came on one of his shins. For this complaint, I ordered the nitrous acid: he

“ he took it till the 4th of January, and then left the
 “ Hospital. The pains were *much alleviated*; his
 “ *node was greatly reduced, but not entirely gone*; the acid
 “ at last made him giddy after taking each dose; other-
 “ wise it produced no disagreeable effect. May 7th, he
 “ returned to inform me that his leg has been very pain-
 “ ful, during the late cold winds and changeable weather.
 “ The node remained as large as it was five months
 “ before.”

CASE IX.

THE nitrous acid at first proved of much service; only ninety-two measured drachms administered, when mercury was employed to complete a cure.—Here *pustular* eruptions again as proofs of venereal affection; probably arising from plethora, as is common in youth; or, as some would say, from hyperoxygenation of the system. This is another case *very soon* cured by changing from nitrous acid to mercurial ointment.

CASE X.

DISEASE not defined; but the case merits to be seen, as, in the last paragraph, the prejudice of the author is very manifest:

“ ROBERT BLYTHE, aged 27, contracted the lues
 “ venerea, about the middle of July, 1797. His *first* and
 “ *only* symptom (he says) was an eruption; however
 “ that may be, he had no other venereal complaint
 “ when he applied to the Hospital, Dec. 21. The acid
 “ mixture was given: it *agreed well*, and *made the spots*
 “ *disappear considerably in six days*. January 2d, he was
 “ *still getting better*, but eloped that day, without leave:
 “ this

“ this imperfect memorial will strengthen the other
 “ proofs of the *temporary good effects* which may be
 “ *sometimes* produced by the nitrous acid.”

CASE XI.

NITROUS bathing, according to Mr. W. Scott's method, was tried from the 19th of February to the 8th of March, when, finding no essential advantage from this plan, the nitrous bath was laid aside; and, *after* the patient was considered as radically cured of his syphilis by mercurials, the nitrous drink was ordered during the last nine days of his stay at the Hospital, which agreed well with him, and improved his appetite; and, on the 3d of May, he was dismissed from the Hospital.—We suppose, the reason, why the nitrous acid was given in this case *after* the patient had been considered as radically cured of the syphilitic affection, was, that he had at that time a serofulous affection, which was not materially amended by the mercurials taken for the cure of the lues,

CASE XII.

HENRY BEZANT, on the 14th of October, began by taking a drachm and half of the nitrous acid, diluted and sweetened, *while the sores were dressed with yellow basilicon*. On “ the 8th of November, the acid was
 “ augmented to two drachms daily. 21st, the symptoms
 “ were more and more aggravated, the medicine griped
 “ his bowels, and the plan henceforth changed; the
 “ sores were *now* dressed with ceratum lapidis cala-
 “ minaris, in which was mixed some red nitrated mer-
 “ cury; and two grains of calomel were given him
 “ every

“ every night. On the 4th of January, his cure was
“ perfect.”

IN this case it appears, that, as soon as Mr. B. changed the nitrous acid drink for calomel pills, he also changed the *yellow basilicon ointment* (with which the sores had been dressed whilst the nitrous acid had been given) for *ceratum lapidis calaminaris*, in which was mixed some red nitrated mercury. Had the case been truly venereal, this alteration would not have struck us; but, as “ the general history the man gave of his case *was too confused and incoherent to be worth recording,*” and as his complaints were “ *several creeping ulcers*” over the tibia, we should have regarded this case as more perfect, had no change been made in the topical applications: but Mr. B. seems disposed to give mercury every possible advantage.

CASE XIII.

THE nitrous acid was taken for thirty-two days, the latter part of which time the patient grew worse; but at one time, he received benefit from its exhibition. Mercurial ointment was then ordered; but he absconded without a cure: but the *rapid* good effects in this and many other cases, *immediately* on the use of mercury, are remarkable!

CASE XIV.

NITROUS acid only exhibited *five* days; during which, the patient only took ten drachms of the acid, and yet this case is produced as one of the failures of the medicine! It is also a little singular, that Dr. De Valangin and others should have been treating this case unsuccessfully, and that, under the care of our author, it should

should have begun to yield in *three* days, under the daily use of four grains of calomel, and one of opium.— Providence seems to favour this man: even the most common medicines work wonders in his hands.

CASE XV.

NITROUS acid only administered from the 15th of December up to the 10th of January following, when mercurial ointment was directed. During the nitrous acid course, an ulceration of the velum palati had healed.

CASE XVI.

NEITHER in favour of mercury nor the nitrous acid. The patient, under treatment by mercurials, had suffered *three* relapses, and had been *thrice* salivated; and as it has only been four months since she was dismissed, apparently cured, it is still doubtful whether the cure be permanent or not. Bath three times again, without Mr. B.'s knowledge. Would any other man, after encountering such difficulties with mercury, have dared to assert, that this case demonstrates the total insufficiency of the nitrous acid?

CASE XVII.

WHEN the nitrous acid plan was commenced in this patient is not specified, or the quantity given; but it must have been before the 2d of November, 1797, as on that day the nitrous potion agreed very well, and afforded her a little relief. 16th, an ulceration on her shoulder had now quite healed; it was taken till the 30th, when the acid was relinquished. Mercurial friction adopted: but this patient also “ eloped from the Hospital.”

Hospital." This case shews in how confused a manner all things are reported by our author. The patient contracted the disease in July, 1797 ; four months after this, she went under the care of Mr. B. and yet, by the 2d of November, which is but four months from the very beginning of July, the nitrous acid had afforded her some relief.

CASE XVIII.

Obscure ; not worthy of any comment. What it proves, if it tends to prove any thing, is in favour of the nitrous acid treatment.

CASE XIX.

This patient had been *seven* times salivated (within these two years) and was under the influence of mercury on the 9th of November, 1797, when she first applied for relief at the Lock Hospital, and was apparently cured by the nitrous acid. The reason of her admission into that Hospital is *modestly* expressed in the following words : " She would probably have fallen into the hands of " *ignorant* persons, if *I* had rejected her. She was admitted." The Dr. adds, " similar equivocal cases are very frequently sent to the Lock : " of this I think we have here sufficient testimony.

CASE XX.

SARAH FRAMPTON, 18 years of age, took the nitrous acid, two drachms daily, in a quart of water, for the space of eighteen days, though it appears " she " thought proper to elope (*without a cure*), after rubbing " in 105 drachms of mercurial ointment." In such a case, where 105 drachms of mercurial ointment were
not

not powerful enough to effect a cure, what could have been expected from the exhibition of the nitrous acid for 18 days only?

CASE XXI.

As the acid disagreed, the patient only continued it *four* days.

CASE XXII.

NITROUS acid only ordered for 18 days, and then discontinued, as it disagreed. It does not appear in either of these two last cases, what quantity of acid was ordered, or whether there was any thing joined with it to make it more palatable.—Some enormous dose, perhaps, in both cases?

CASE XXIII.

THE nitrous acid appeared at first to produce a marked advantage in this case; but the cure was obliged to be finished by mercury. The acid was taken somewhat more than a month, and the woman was made an out-patient, scarce any eruptions being perceivable. Another convenient re-appearance of eruptions, and an attack of severe pain in the shin-bones, brought her back to the Hospital, when she was *most happily cured* by mercury.

CASE XXIV.

MARY SYMONDS did not reap any benefit from the nitrous acid-drink or bath: but not much or any good could have been expected; for she only took 17 drachms of the acid, and used the nitrous acid bath from the 7th of May to the 22d.

CASE XXV.

NOTHING can be decided concerning it ; for, by the recital of the case, it appears, that Elizabeth Turner was admitted on the 28th of April, and yet on the 7th of March she was taking two drachms of the acid daily. Here is such a mistake concerning dates as must render this history and its result quite imperfect.

CASE XXVI.

Of JOHN NOWLAND, who, as Mr. B. says, had been discharged "as an invalide, unfit for service, from the Plymouth Hospital, after taking a four medicine for two months." Nothing can be said of this case, unless the circumstances were more accurately known, than from the patient's vague report.

 SECTION THE THIRD.

"ELEVEN TRIALS WITH THE OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POT-ASH, IN ADVANCED STAGES OF THE LUES VENEREA."

CASE I.

THOMAS COOPER, 20 years of age, in the advanced stage of the disease, and in other respects a very bad subject, being hectic and emaciated to the last degree, was so *overdosed* with the oxygenated muriate of potash, that he could only continue the medicine for the space of twenty days ; and what could have been expected in such
a de-

a deplorable case in so short a time? and, notwithstanding, this is produced as a fair case of failure of the medicine. To prove its being *overdosed*, we will give it in Mr. B's words; who says,

“ OCT. the 17, five grains of potash were made into a
 “ pill with conserve of roses, and taken twice the first
 “ day; it was directed to be increased to three pills the
 “ day following, four the next day, and one more every
 “ succeeding day; he continued to augment the *daily*
 “ proportion, until he arrived at *fourteen* pills (70 grains)
 “ when he could not bear them any longer without the
 “ greatest difficulty: *they* occasioned a *violent pain of his*
 “ *stomach, bowels, and head*, on the 27th of October, and
 “ were so very obnoxious to his feelings on the 6th of
 “ November, that he discontinued taking them: at this
 “ time he had swallowed as many pills as contained *nine-*
 “ *teen* drachms and two scruples of the potash.”

CASE II.

OXYGENATED muriate of potash exhibited for thirty-two days, when, not obtaining relief from its use, mercurial ointment was ordered the patient to rub in. The result of this case is not known; for this patient “ unexpectedly eloped.”

CASE III.

THE oxygenated muriate of potash given only from the 18th of January to the 12th of February, when it was omitted, and a complete cure performed, by the 3d of May, in the usual manner; thirty calomel pills, and sixty drachms of mercurial ointment having been then employed. In this case, the oxygenated muriate of pot-

ash, when *given in pills*, produced a sense of heat and weight in the stomach and bowels, although the patient afterwards *bore it well*, whilst given in *double the quantity* when *dissolved in water*. Is not the reason obvious? for, unless great caution be taken when the medicine is given in the latter manner, the patient gets but little of the potash, and the effect in this case seems to warrant the inference. We should like to see Mr. B. explain it otherwise.

CASE IV.

THE potash given, from the 18th of January till the 8th of February only, without advantage; and after that, it demanded nearly two months to establish a cure with mercury.

CASE V.

WHY the oxygenated muriate of potash was discontinued in this case, merits explanation? On no other apparent cause can it be explained, excepting it was dreading a cure under its administration.

CASE VI.

OXYGENATED muriate of potash was overdosed, as the following account clearly demonstrates.

“ ESTHER BUCK, aged 33, was made a patient at
 “ the Lock, on the 4th of January. The symptoms
 “ under which she then laboured were a painful node
 “ upon the inferior part of the right tibia, a small ulcer
 “ in the roof of her mouth, and a slight ozæna. She in-
 “ formed me, that her first symptom, two years before,
 “ was a discharge from the vagina; that this was suc-
 “ ceeded by the node, about five months afterwards;
 “ that she had no intervening complaint whatever, and
 “ that

“ that her mouth and nose did not become affected
 “ till five or six weeks previous to her admission into the
 “ Hospital. She also said that her husband had been
 “ diseased two years, and was at that time (January,
 “ 1797) under the care of a medical gentleman.

“ THIRTY grains of oxygenated muriate of potash
 “ were given, in the form of pills. The patient aug-
 “ mented the daily quantity by degrees, till the 29th,
 “ when she took twenty-eight pills, containing *an hun-*
 “ *dred and forty grains of potash*; they occasioned a *con-*
 “ *fusedness of intellect*, and a *giddiness* in her head, when
 “ she had taken *only fourteen* a day. The node was then
 “ in more pain than ever; the *ozæna* was worse, and
 “ the palate no better, when she had arrived at twenty
 “ per diem. The pills caused a *vomiting*, and *pain* in
 “ her stomach, to an *alarming degree*; her pulse, how-
 “ ever, was not more than *ninety-two*; her tongue was
 “ not white; she did not perspire; but a copious se-
 “ cretion of urine took place. By a little management
 “ and caution, she was enabled to increase them to the
 “ amount I have before suggested. About this time,
 “ a gonorrhœa came on, and increased considerably. The
 “ *ozæna* got better, by often using a saturnine lotion;
 “ the ulcer on her palate remained stationary; the tibia
 “ lessened a little, but continued very painful, while her
 “ pulse and secretions were not materially altered.—
 “ February 1st, thirty grains of the powdered muriate of
 “ potash were given *four times*, and ordered to be re-
 “ peated daily.—5th, the solution of potash in *water*, has
 “ agreed; the palate is nearly healed; the nose quite
 “ well; her pulse and secretions remain much the same;
 “ but her tongue is not yet affected by the remedy: the
 “ only new occurrence was an ardor urinæ, the two last
 “ days. Just before this period, I had been favoured

“ with a communication from the surgeons of Wool-
 “ wich Hospital, concerning the cause and the remedy of
 “ this heat in the urine of patients taking oxygenated
 “ muriate of potash; in consequence of which, I de-
 “ creased the daily quantity of that remedy to *only thirty*
 “ grains. On the 8th, the heat and secretion of her
 “ urine were lessened; but she had taken ninety grains
 “ during the last two days. I directed it to be continued
 “ in the same proportion.—12th, her nose has got worse
 “ these four days.—15th, again her nose is better; but
 “ the gonorrhœa remains undiminished. I therefore
 “ ordered a vitriolic injection.—17th: this day she has
 “ had a violent pain in her head, with giddiness, vo-
 “ miting, and purging: the medicine was now entirely
 “ discontinued. The gonorrhœa has lessened; her sali-
 “ vary glands are not at all affected; her tongue is not
 “ yet white; her pulse beats 100 in a minute.—26th,
 “ the vomiting and looseness are better; but the pain
 “ and giddiness are still excessive; her pulse has risen to
 “ 106; venereal eruptions are appearing under the hair
 “ in the nape of her neck. I suspended all medical
 “ treatment, in order to see the farther progress of the
 “ symptoms; but she went out of the Hospital, and re-
 “ turned no more.”

THE letter alluded to above, from Dr. Rollo to Mr.
 Blair, serves to strengthen the observation, that the
 effects of the oxygenated muriate of potash have been
 rendered abortive, in many cases, by the injudicious
 over-dosing of the medicine.

DR. ROLLO says, “ It would appear, that in certain
 “ constitutions and states of the stomach, *the oxygenated*
 “ *muriate of potash, when given in large doses, instead of*
 “ *producing its usual effects upon the constitution, runs off*
 “ *by urine, undecomposed. In such cases, the patient gene-*
 “ rally

“ rally complains of sharpness and heat of urine, with
 “ a frequent desire to pass it.” This fact was detected by
 a simple process, which is then related, and may be
 seen on consulting Mr. Blair’s pamphlet.

CASE VII.

HAD this patient’s constitution not been so de-
 ranged at first by the largeness of the doses of the
 oxygenated muriate of potash, we have every reason
 to suppose it would have been successful, if rightly
 managed.

“ ELIZABETH HANDY, 33 years of age, was taken
 “ into the Lock, January the 18th, at which time she
 “ had a gonorrhœa, with nocturnal pains in her shins,
 “ and syphilitic eruptions. I ordered her the pills of
 “ oxygenated muriate of potash, as in the last case. No
 “ alteration of any kind took place before the 29th of
 “ January, when the nocturnal pains were aggravated.
 “ She then had increased the number of her pills to 12
 “ in a day. February the 2d, the quantity of her urine
 “ was augmented; she had a white tongue; her pulse
 “ was *very* feeble, and beat 88 times in a minute; the
 “ pains were as yet not alleviated, nor was there any
 “ amendment in the other symptoms. The potash was
 “ hereafter used in powder, half a drachm four times
 “ a day. 5th, her pulse was rendered much more fre-
 “ quent (104); her tongue was very white; a diarrhœa
 “ had come on these two days past; she perspired a
 “ little; and her urine was increased. The preceding
 “ letter from Dr. Rollo induced me to diminish the
 “ quantity of potash, this day, from an *hundred and*
 “ *twenty*, to *only thirty* grains; I also ordered a grain of
 “ opium to be taken at bed-time, for three nights.

“ 12th, her pulse was very feeble, and beat 124 in
 “ a minute; an extreme degree of erethism and tremor
 “ came on, accompanied with *severe pain in her head,*
 “ *confused intellect, disordered stomach,* and other inconve-
 “ niences arising from the medicine; her gonorrhœa also
 “ was greatly increased, although she had hitherto used
 “ an astringent injection; but the venereal spots *now*
 “ *looked paler;* the oxygenated muriate of potash was
 “ omitted, in consequence of the unpleasant symptoms it
 “ had occasioned. 15th, all the complaints last men-
 “ tioned had gone off, and even the gonorrhœa was
 “ lessened, without having used any of the injection these
 “ three days. Her gums and salivary glands were un-
 “ affected by this treatment. I could not but think the
 “ new medicine was, in this case, inefficient, and there-
 “ fore directed a course of mercurial ointment. All her
 “ venereal complaints gave way in a short time; and on
 “ the 26th of April, I discharged her, perfectly well.”

CASE VIII.

NOTHING could have been expected; for the nitrous
 acid was only given a week, and the oxygenated mu-
 riate of potash twelve days. As the potash in this case
 was given more cautiously, it therefore did not disagree.

CASE IX.

APPEARS to have been the most impartial administra-
 tion of the new medicine to this patient of all Mr. B's
 cases. The acid was given for forty-two days; and the
 muriate of potash was taken to the quantity of seventy-
 six drachms; and from neither was any relief obtained;
 and then an apparently perfect cure was obtained by
 mercury. But here it may be observed, that the ulti-
 mate

mate cure by mercurial ointment was surprisngly rapid, and that the inaccuracy of Mr. B's reports has so often appeared, that one cannot but receive with the greatest caution every circumstance related by him.

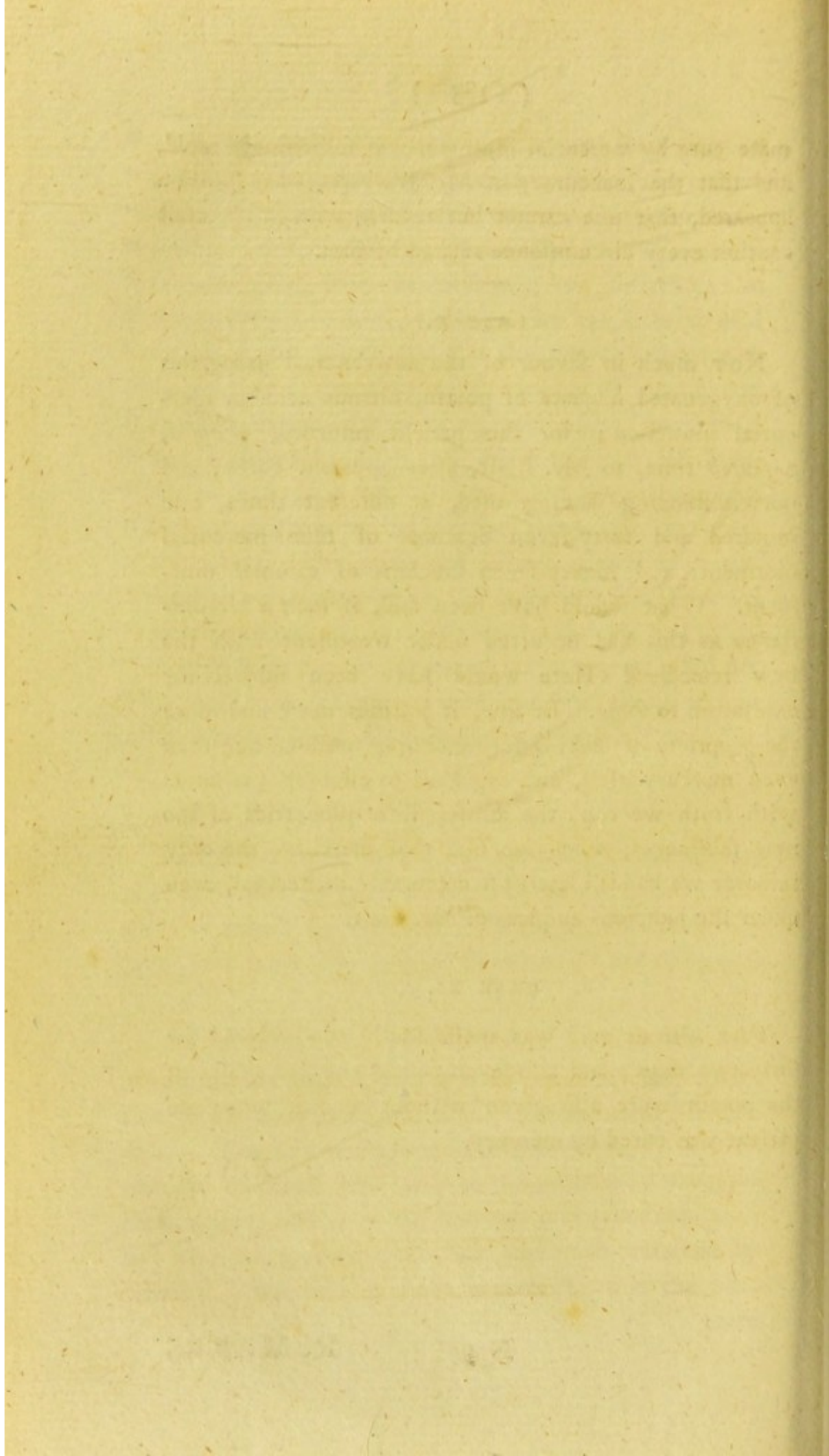
CASE X.

NOT much in favour of the antivenereal properties of oxygenated muriate of potash, nitrous acid, or mercurial inunction; for this patient returned, *relapsed*, a *fourth* time, to Mr. Blair, after apparent cures; and notwithstanding having used, at different times, one hundred and forty-seven drachms of blue mercurial ointment, and ninety-seven drachms of calomel ointment. What would have been said, if such a circumstance as this had occurred under treatment with the new remedies? Here would have been subject for exultation to some. In fine, it justifies more and more the propriety of seeking for something more certain than even mercury itself, and urges us to establish (as far as with truth we can) the antisyphilitic properties of the new substances, when we find that mercury (the only resource we had till lately) so deplorably ineffectual, even under the judicious auspices of Mr. Blair.

CASE XI.

THE nitrous acid was ineffectually administered for forty-two days; and also seven ounces and five grains of the potash were also given without benefit, when the patient was cured by mercury,

X. Y. Z.



REMARKS

ON

VARIOUS QUESTIONS

THAT HAVE ARISEN

DURING THE INVESTIGATION

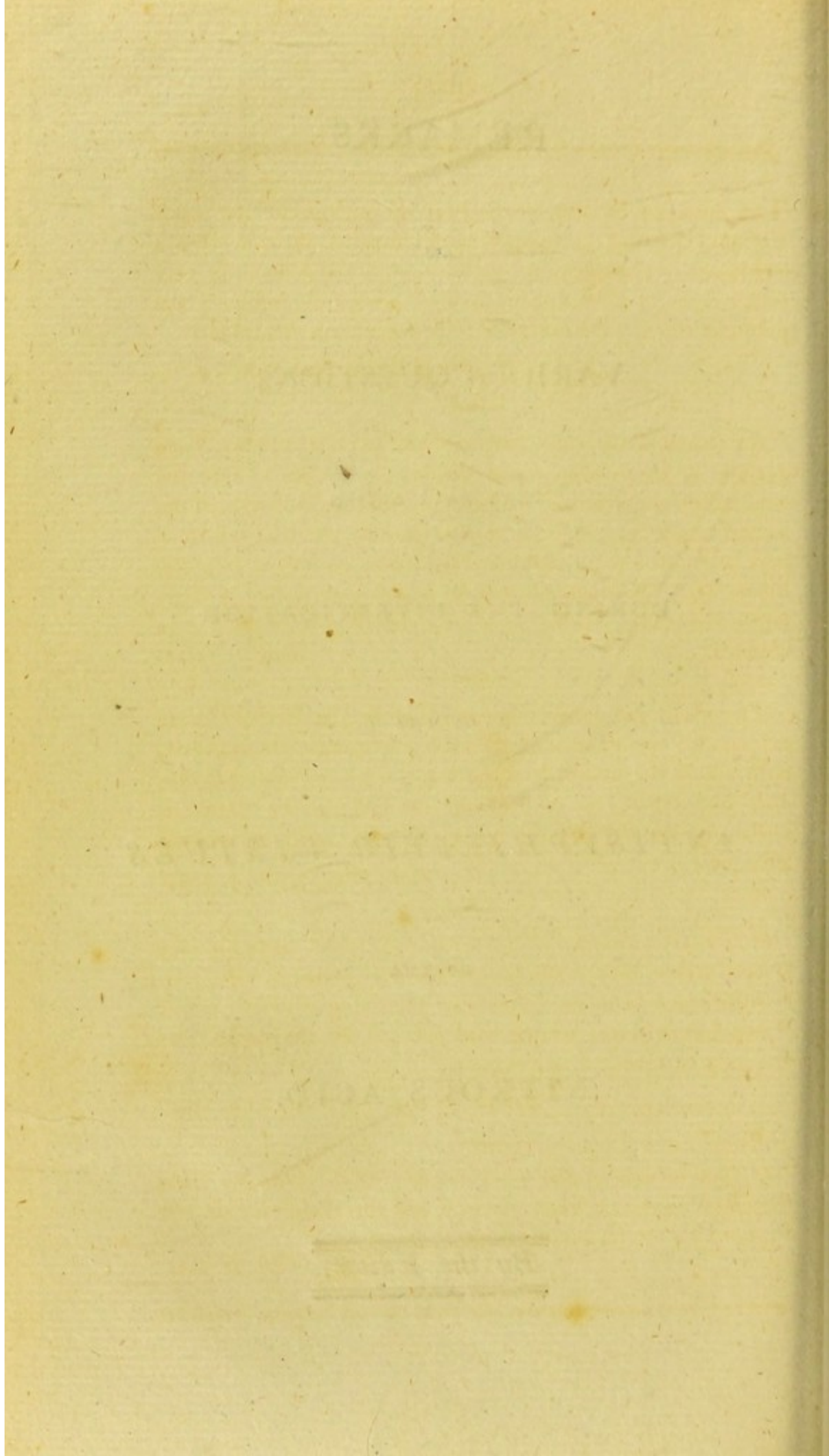
OF THE

ANTISYPHILITIC VIRTUES

OF THE

NITROUS ACID.

By the Editor.



THE situation of this gentleman, as surgeon to the Lock Hospital, afforded him opportunities superior to most others; and his known character for industry, ability and integrity give such weight to his testimony as must powerfully influence the public in the decision hereafter to be formed on this subject.

British Critic, July, 1798, p. 75.

ALTHOUGH the cases here recited, sixty in number, seem decisive of the inadequacy of the new medicines to cure the venereal disease in any of its stages; yet as the subject is of the utmost importance, and an opinion contrary to that which is here attempted to be established is held by persons of respectability, Mr. Blair contents himself in this publication with relating the facts, leaving it to his readers to draw their conclusions.

Ibid. p. 75--6.

THE manly and decisive tone in which he (Dr. Ferriar) finally delivers his own opinion on the subject of pneumatic medicine, with which the public have been so long and so idly amused, does him credit; as well as his decision on the value, or rather the inutility, of the nitric and other acids in venereal affections.

Ibid. August 1798, p. 128.

“ A SUMMARY view of the attestations which have hitherto been borne to the efficacy of the new remedies” is given with much candour, but at the same time with occasional and just strictures on the evidence and on the conclusions which have been drawn from it.”

Medical Review, Sept. 1798, p. 152.

“ THE success of the new remedies in the cases we have quoted above, is small indeed; and the remainder do not afford a more favourable result.”

Ibid, p. 164.

I.

Observations on some Passages of a Publication entitled, Essays on the Venereal Disease, and its concomitant Affections, illustrated by a Variety of Cases. Essay I. Part I. &c. By William Blair, A. M. Surgeon of the Lock Hospital and Asylum, and of the Old Finsbury Dispensary.—Johnson, and other Booksellers. 1798.

I HAVE mentioned my reasons for noticing this production; they still appear to me irresistible. There are others which would render such notice highly proper. Commendations which cannot fail to have weight with a certain portion of the public, I have already placed under the reader's eye. These demonstrate its effects on professed critics; men, no doubt, of extensive information, and not to be suspected of rashness, inattention, favour, or malice—much less of cabal or collusion, which, in such a question, would be villainy of a dye little less deep than assassination. Since with judges who thus exercise their authority over literature in the genuine spirit of the elder Brutus, it ranks so high, what must be its impression on readers remote from the sources of information, and too unsuspecting to search for traces of misrepresentation or mistake? On this account alone, therefore, would it not be right, if this impression be a false one, to try to remove it from the minds of weak brethren, lest they should be deterred from resorting to probable means of rescuing their patients from pain and death?

ONE circumstance is forcibly stated by the writer, and his eulogist. But I know not whether it will have great influence, except with the inconsiderate. The Lock Hospital cannot be denied to afford its surgeons noble opportunities,

portunities. But mere opportunity is of very ambiguous import: it may amount to much; it may amount to almost nothing. Had those whom various causes have helped to opportunities, been by them alone enabled to settle important questions in the science of animal nature, our art had scarcely been what it now is. If opportunity of observation confer medical wisdom, how shall we find terms reproachful enough for the memory of those innumerable possessors of opportunity, who not only have hid their treasure during life, but suffered it to descend with them into the grave?

IN reality, will common sense allow us to give credit on the score of opportunity, before proof is exhibited of talents for using it well? Without such proof, to pretend to authority is to beg the question. A surgeon of the Lock may easily in no respect but opportunity be superior to a village apothecary. His patrons can bestow the appointment: but can they bestow also the moral and intellectual qualities necessary to turn it to the advantage of mankind? And will those who have the requisite qualifications fail to find opportunity to exercise them on a disease so common as syphilis?

I HEAR, indeed, the Essayist's "*known character for industry, ability and integrity,*" mentioned in a tone which will sometimes pass with the unwary for proof of these qualities, where no other exists. But "*known,*" how, and to whom? by the testimony of numerous disciples? or the more unequivocal testimony of useful writings, like Pott, Hunter, Default; or known but in private, and not from having undergone a severe probation? The Editor's acquaintance with modern medical literature must be very imperfect, if such honourable notoriety existed. And no other is to the purpose: for what physician, surgeon, or apothecary, stands so forlorn

in society as not to be able to procure a larger or smaller number of vouchers for his "*industry, ability and integrity?*"

How, then, without a public test, is the Essayist distinguished above his brethren?—It seems not, indeed, to have been with the critic an hour propitious to niceness of discrimination. The second quotation will shew that, in the very next page, within the compass of a single sentence, the Essayist is described "as attempting to establish an opinion," and yet as "contenting himself with leaving it to his readers to draw their own conclusions."

If it be true that the mass of medical men had no ground for presuming favourably or unfavourably of the author, it remains to enquire into the evidence afforded by his work. To talk of former merits, when a new performance is in question, would indeed, at best, be but trifling.

WHY, among the quotations which form so large a part of the Essay, such numbers are tricked out in italics and capitals not their own; whether any alarmist arts are played off against the proposed innovation, merely as such; and what signs appear of a disposition not only to push every trifling *argumentum ad hominem*, but to cavil about syllables, let others pronounce. In these matters, incapable as they are of pointed proof, conviction will follow previous feeling.

THOUGH, in the ardour of his humanity, Mr. Scott did speak of nitrous acid as what he *thought* might some time supersede mercury; though, after seeing a human being as helpless as the trunk of a tree, and perhaps in nearly as great torture as if he had been on the rack, rise sound and easy from his bed, Mr. Baynton put a query involving a dubious supposition; who would

envy, or who would deign to celebrate, a triumph over a *verbum ardens*?

BUT the close examiner will, I believe, be surpris'd on finding that these expressions, so often quoted and re-quoted, are by no means what the Essay would make of them. They are not offered, as deductions from facts, for public acceptance. Terms, implying doubt, are largely intermixed; and, on occasion, the author appears to aim at provoking his readers to smile at his pious wishes. It is exceedingly remarkable, that where he states the question respecting the "new specific," and first quotes Mr. Scott, p. 12, the Essayist should leave out a string of words which reduce the substance of the passage from a mature opinion to a hope. Here is the passage. The words omitted are those distinguished by Italics. "*In some of my dreams for the improvement of the condition of man, I even imagine that the poison of syphilis may, in a great measure, be extinguished over the face of the earth.*" By the second time of quotation, p. 31, the reader may have been so disgusted by the extravagances unjustly imputed to Mr. Scott, as to be induced to skip over the paragraph.

IT has seldom happened that an interpretation so uncandid*, or so uncircumspect, has been fixed upon "*imagination*" not merely harmless (for they are too guardedly expressed to mislead) but capable of animating research by the brilliant prospects they display. It would, perhaps, be possible to prove, that in this way, improvements in medicine have actually arisen.

Mr. Baynton's *query* appears as undeserving animadversion as Mr. Scott's *imagination*. Its tendency seems

* "MY present design is to investigate the real merits of this new plan of treatment, with all possible candour and circumspection." Essay, p. 14.

to be to extend the views of practitioners to the analogy of nature. Hence the query may have its use, even though there should not exist proper evidence of the cure of confirmed lues by American or other vegetables.

“Mr. Baynton and Dr. Beddoes seem disposed to conclude that the *nitric acid is a specific in venereal affections.*” (Essay, p. 56.) It is hard upon Mr. Baynton to be made a thorough-paced believer in a particular specific, merely for asking whether another specific besides mercury may not exist in Europe. As to myself, I subscribe to this opinion, if limited to certain cases. As a general inference, I have never ventured to embrace or avow it.

It is ascribed to me on the ground of a sentence, which the reader will find sufficiently beset with terms implying doubt: “For some scrofulous ulcers we seem to have found a new specific in sorrel; for venereal and hepatic affections, in nitrous acid, such as we possessed before in mercury.” I suppose it is no forced construction to make the words *some* and *seem* understood in the latter clause of the sentence. This was doubtless my meaning; and to avoid repeating verbs, pronouns, and adjectives in the same sentence, is perfectly conformable to established custom. By *such as mercury*, I mean *similar in effect*, not *equal in degree of action*. This would be too absurd, when all Europe afforded but two cases.

EVEN at a later period, when much evidence had accumulated, I did not risque a general inference; I restricted my expressions to the testimonies actually before me; proposing the collection of hundreds of cases, and stating it as an undetermined problem, *how far the cure of lues could be justifiably entrusted to the nitrous acid, in the first instance.*—Circular Letter of Sept. 5, 1797.

BESIDES this suppression of terms used to distinguish conjectures from inductions of facts; besides this generalisation

ralisation of limited phrases; this sinking of the most pointed passages in the authors whose sentiments are professed to be exhibited*, (as if to obtain a short-lived victory over self-fabricated extravagancies) there are still statements in the Essay, which tend to change entirely the spirit of what those authors have written.

IN characterising the evidence that had been produced at the time of the appearance of my Reports [*Reports principally concerning the Effects of Nitrous Acid in the Venereal Disease. Johnson. 1797*], I said that “there
 “ was already in favour of the nitrous acid a far greater
 “ fullness and variety of testimony than has ever
 “ been produced in favour of those other substances that
 “ have at various times been proposed as substitutes for
 “ mercury. From the whole, it clearly results, that
 “ where the constitution is broken, the habit feeble
 “ or scrofulous, the cure should always be attempted by
 “ the nitrous acid, in preference to any other medi-
 “ cine.” Page 83, 84.

UPON this, I am told that I am undoubtedly mistaken; that, by my own reckoning, not much above 100 cures were attested, and that Nicholas Poll mentions the cure of 3000 syphilitic patients, *uno quasi et eodem tempore*, by decoction of guaiacum, and that other such testimonies in behalf of other pretended antivenereal substances, might easily be produced.—Essay, p. 58.

IF this criticism have any sort of foundation, I have been at least unfortunate (for I was not careless) in my language. I intended nothing less than to compare the *number* of cases asserted to be cured by the nitrous acid, and by any other medicine, not mercurial. I had in

* “HAVING exhibited the substance of what has been already published by practitioners in support of the new plan,” &c. Essay, p. 107.

view the explicitness of the greater number of reports, the attestation of at least two medical men to this majority, and their occurrence in public hospitals, where they attracted the occasional observation of other practitioners. Thus I conceived the evidence came abroad, more worthy of credit; and such was the sense I hope my words will be found to convey.

IN saying that I thought (as I still think) that in scrofulous and feeble constitutions, where injury may be apprehended from the use of mercury, the cure of lues venerea ought to be attempted by nitrous acid, I could, as has been already remarked, have no thought of recommending the nitrous acid in scrofula.

I CANNOT exactly say, that, in the following instance, my sentiments are mistated. But as those who read the Essay, and not my Reports, will probably carry away a false conception, I hope I may be allowed to do myself the justice of confronting the two passages.—In Dr. “ Beddoes’ Reports, page 86, an allusion is made to ‘ a
“ *case of syphilis where oxygen gas was thought beneficial,*
“ and he refers to the third Part of his Considerations on
“ Factitious Airs, for the particulars of that case, which
“ are related in a letter from Dr. Thornton, of London,
“ dated May 5, 1795. As I have lately heard it affirmed,
“ that oxygen gas has cured the lues venerea without the
“ aid of any other remedy, it may not be amiss to subjoin
“ an abstract of the case referred to,” Essay, p. 92.—In
the Reports, after endeavouring to shew that no sufficient
reason existed for supposing antisyphilitic remedies to act
by their oxygen merely, I refer to this case, as inconclusive
in favour of the opposite opinion, adding that
“ the circumstances are indistinct,” and that “ I think
“ the quantity of air too trifling for any effect.” Reports,
p. 86.—The pretensions of oxygen gas, however, ap-

pear still worthy of experimental scrutiny; and the pneumatic hospital, at length about to be established, will determine their justness.

I HAVE reason to know, that several of the contributors to my Reports (without regretting that the author of the Essay differs from them) feel dissatisfaction at the manner in which their opinions are represented, and their words taken up. They are at hand to right themselves, if they do not consider as beneath them a mere personal dispute. But as this is not the case with the most meritorious party in this affair; and as a Section, principally devoted to him, contains a most extraordinary cluster of the Essayist's usual candour, I shall lay it before the reader, with some very concise remarks.

“ Mr. W*. Scott, in his first letter, confesses that
 “ in some cases he ‘ had failed altogether; but in those
 “ cases mercury had long been given to little purpose, the
 “ bones were highly diseased, and the habit probably of
 “ a peculiar kind.’—If it be said that this confession does
 “ not tend to lessen the merits of the remedy, inasmuch
 “ as mercury itself, the grand specific, had likewise
 “ failed; it may be replied, that a medicine which has
 “ such superior powers, and is so much more effica-
 “ cious † than mercury (as many affirm) ought to evince
 “ its infallible † virtues ‘ in all the forms of syphilis, and
 “ in every stage of its continuance.’ But I fear something
 “ will soon be made public which is still more dis-
 “ advantageous to the novel system of practice; for Dr.
 “ Beddoes ‘ HAS RECEIVED FROM MR. SCOTT IN-

* IT should be H. (HELENUS). Mr. S.'s hand has oftener than once deceived the compositors and correctors.

† WHY all this tautology? and the climax up to *infallible*?

“ INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPRESS WHAT HE SAYS
 “ ABOUT THE EFFECT OF BATHING, AS HE IS NOT
 “ SATISFIED WITH HIS TRIALS.’ Medical men will
 “ doubtless be impatient to know the cause of this re-
 “ tractation !” Essay, p. 114, 115.

ONE cause immediately precedes this sage observation. A second, no doubt, is, that Mr. Scott would not for a moment run the hazard of misleading the public.

I CANNOT but wish that the author had named some among the “ *many*,” who assert the superior general efficacy of nitrous acid, or its infallibility. If blind adherents, who more frequently bring disgrace on a good cause than even unfair adversaries, hold this language only in private, the circumstance makes nothing to the question. But among those who have published their observations or opinions, it would be difficult, I imagine, to discover “ *many*,” or even any, who have employed this hyperbolical style. Besides those already named, the surgeons of the Plymouth Hospital, and the gentlemen of Woolwich, are the principal. Of these, the former profess to keep themselves in suspense respecting the general question; and though the latter avow high expectations, yet they are content to expect. Thus Mr. Cruickshank: “ If these remedies should be found,
 “ from further experience, to be adequate to the cure of
 “ this disease in all its stages, the advantages which
 “ they possess over mercury are so great and important,
 “ that they must soon supersede its use.” See Dr. Rollo on Diabetes, II. 201. This is not pronouncing that, upon the then evidence, they ought to supersede its use. Though some readers of the Essay would perhaps carry away a persuasion that this had been pronounced; and I am afraid, on comparing Mr. Cruickshank’s words, as they are exhibited with Italics, p. 39 of the Essay, with

p. 114, which I have just quoted, they would think that the phrase, "*being far the most efficacious and certain,*" relates to mercury and the new remedies comparatively considered; whereas they concern only nitrous acid and the oxygenated muriate of potash. Dr. Rollo, in his Preface to Vol. II. says indeed, that these substances are "likely to turn out" preferable to mercury. But is he, who represents a thing as promising to become such or such to be fixed down as absolutely responsible for the event?

"Some gentlemen (continues the Essay, p. 115) took umbrage at the following expression in my circular letter of the 17th of October last: *We have been informed that above 100 bad cases stand attested as cured beyond all reasonable doubt: But, on impartially examining the evidence brought forward respecting them, there is ground to conclude that this declaration has not been verified by legitimate examples.*---It may now be asked, whether the truth of this observation does not begin to appear? Mr. S. is not satisfied with his trials, and wishes to suppress what he has said about the effects of nitrous bathing; although, a few months ago, he was of opinion that his cases were DECISIVE, and that they afforded THE MOST SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE in favour of his acid bath, which was STILL MORE EFFECTUAL THAN ITS INTERNAL USE."

So then, Mr. Scott's precipitancy in regard to one method of treatment, is to bastardise not only the fruits of his own experience in another mode, but those also of the probably more ample experience of others! To this incredible logic I do not recollect that my reading has furnished me with a parallel, except in an advertisement of Velno's Vegetable Syrup, which (by insinuation)

warns

warns the public against the use of *aqua fortis* in the venereal disease, because the muriate of barytes given to horses for the farcy, had occasioned their sudden death*.

“ IF Mr. S. has pronounced too positively and prematurely on one part of his experience, may we not justly apprehend that he has on the other also?”
Essay, p. 116.

SUCH a rule for the imputation of error, would bear too hard, I fear, on human infirmity. Shall he who has transgressed one article of the decalogue, have all the crimes it forbids laid to his charge? The remark appears to suggest at least a reason for Mr. Scott's haste to retract; viz. that he might escape such observations. But he has not, it seems, been in time.

“ I have repeatedly been told, that some of the medical practitioners in Edinburgh have seen *relapsed* cases,

* HERE is the main part of this precious document. I find my spirit so subdued by occupation with the Essay, that I can stoop to copy a quack bill.

“ CHEMICAL QUACKERY.”

“ As a sect is now arising, in the bosom of the Faculty, which established practitioners call CHEMICAL QUACKS, and it practices principally with chemical poisons, such as *aqua fortis*, called *nitric acid*, *muriate of barytes*, &c. it may be proper in a person who uses a bland and effectual preparation of vegetables in similar cases, without danger, and without exchanging an apparent and temporary cure for perpetual ailment and infirmity, to apprize the public, that the Society of Health in Paris has tried the most celebrated of these medicines first on two horses in the farcy; that they were both apparently cured, and in about a fortnight both dropt down dead; and the Society gave notice that the medicine is dangerous.”—Copied from a Cambridge Intelligencer.

“ which were formerly thought cured in the East
“ Indies.”

How treated? by nitrous acid? Alas, if so, it is too like the history of mercurials. Possibly, the East India practitioners have seen *relapsed* cases formerly thought cured at Edinburgh. If we knew but something of the treatment and of the proportion of the said *relapsed* cases!

WEARY and humiliated with this altercation between *You said so*, and *Nay*; but *I said so*, I finish with two remarkable circumstances respecting the original facts related in the Essay.—The author's circular letter bears date October 16, 1797: at least, this, I suppose from p. 35, to be the date of that which I transmitted to my publisher, by whom the original was not returned me. I see Oct. 17th mentioned in the Essay as the date. But a day signifies not much; and there may have been two editions. However this be, the nature and extent of the author's experience, when he *denounced* * the new practice on the 16th or 17th of October, 1797, deserves the attention of all who would form a just opinion concerning the evidence in this great question. They will discover, perhaps with astonishment, that his trials had been hitherto but few, and the results or progress not entirely unfavourable. I can reckon them up in a short compass.—I reckon by the dates.

* THAT it was nothing less than a denunciation, appears from the motto no less than from the circular letter itself.—The motto was, “ *Attaquer une erreur est le droit commun à tous les hommes; en médecine, c'est un devoir: Et celui qui s'est consacré à la conservation des citoyens ne doit pas craindre de s'élever contre les préjugés dont il connaît les dangers; surtout quand il peut leur substituer une vérité utile.*”

CASE I.

Page 125. April 4—Dismissed, apparently cured by nitrous acid—had previously taken mercury—not heard of since.

CASE II.

P. 164. April 10—Medicine taken from the 10th to the 17th only—prescribed at first in the dose of 4 drachms—patient complained heavily of pain, nausea and cold in the stomach; saying the mercury (previously taken) *had done him good, but that this medicine had not.* What wonder!

CASE III.

P. 166. May 11—Pustular eruptions only—2 drachms of nitrous acid produced gripes and sickness at first—then agreed well—continued to the 8th of June—after rubbing in 12 drachms of mercurial ointment, spots fade rapidly—cured by the ointment.

CASE IV.

P. 126. Sept. 21st—Bubo—slight phymosis, preceded by gonorrhœa—rubbed in a drachm of mercurial ointment on the 16th, 18th, and 20th—on the 21st, began the acid—2 drachms—by the 25th of October, quite well.

CASE V.

P. 128. October 5th—Nitrous acid—2 drachms occasioned vomiting, pain in the bowels, and general tremor—with more syrup, it agreed well. By the 16th of October, one bubo lessened a little.

CASE VI.

P. 240. October about the 6th—No effect of the nitrous acid specified previously to Oct. 16th.

CASE VII.

P. 209. Oct. 6th—Nitrous acid (2 drachms) at first caused violent pain and sickness every dose—on adding 8 oz. of syrup, agreed well—Oct. 12th, spots faded—17th, ulcerations of palate healed—Till Nov. 2d, getting better—afterwards, *omnia in pejus ruere*.

CASE VIII.

P. 167. Oct. 6—Two drachms of nitrous acid much disagreed—medicine sweetened, and next reduced to one drachm—Warm bath—Oct. 16, his nose is well, and his pains are alleviated—The patient's elopement cut short the trial.

THESE are, I think, all the cases before October 11th, 1797. Those occurring between the 11th and 17th could throw no light on the powers of the medicine. Though three out of five exhibited favourable, or not unfavourable appearances about the date of the circular letter, (Essay, pages 130-2, 188), and the two other cases afford no contrary presumption whatever (pages 157, 222.)

ON considering this abstract, or recurring to the original, many readers would certainly pronounce that the treatment with the nitrous acid was full of promise; no reader, I believe, would pronounce it discouraging. How, then, is the contradiction between the observed facts and the circulated judgment to be explained? Whether the author resolved to dash at reputation, without considering that reputation is of two sorts, I know not. I have not a certain clew to his motives*.

* WAS he in haste to anticipate some other person in the condemnation of nitrous acid and the muriate? Did he find it necessary to dispatch *his* circular letter, lest *mine* should have so much the start as to catch up the choicest communications?

But I doubt whether any court of medical literature, exact, intelligent, and just, would concede much to the almost unvaried catalogue of subsequent disappointments. Any one who chooses may doubtless have as many failures as patients.

The reader will examine the charge of slovenly practice brought forward against the Essay by my correspondent. Should that not be deemed valid, these reports may have their use in directing those who will be at the pains to study them, what mode of proceeding they ought to avoid. The oxygenated muriate of potash, for example, was administered in pills. Mr. Cruickshank, who gave it in a liquid form, has found, that if a certain impression be made on the stomach, the salt will pass off in the urine undecomposed. (See above, p. 109.) Now possibly such impression may be best avoided by a certain degree of dilution. Moreover, when either the muriate or acids operate so roughly as in many cases described in the Essay, they can hardly be expected, upon the analogy of mercury, to cure the venereal disease.

It is pity the author did not turn his knowledge of the action of mercury to a more satisfactory account. Under mercurial courses, the symptoms sometimes appear aggravated or stationary. Then, according to the state of the constitution, or without any clear indication, the prudent practitioner varies his plan. He perhaps substitutes opium or the bark for mercury, changes the mercurial preparation, or, it may be, enlarges the dose.

I have been informed, that the oxygenated muriate is not unfrequently seen to produce eruptions, and that these eruptions disappear without injury, even though the medicine be persevered in. Perhaps the eruptions which struck the Essayist as singular, and seem to have induced him to desist from the muriate. But mercury

sometimes produces effects not very different.—See Hunter, p. 370.

MY readers have heard a vague whisper about relapses. It is a question scarce inferior in importance to that of the first removal of the symptoms.

THE Letter and Essay both object to primary and recent cases, as indecisive, because spontaneous recovery sometimes takes place.

Now each of these objections will apply to mercury. There is, as yet, no reason to suppose the balance of relapses against the new remedies. And the natural cure might be equally alleged against the mercurial treatment, if the number of cases, some of which we must suppose incurable by nature, did not obviate the objection. But I imagine the number of primary cases, reported as cured by nitrous acid and by the oxygenated muriate, now entirely excludes *this* suspicion. Indeed I do not see how it could stand against the cases in Dr. Rollo's and Mr. Cruickshanks' work and my Reports, taken together. Some passages in the following letter will afford satisfaction on one, at least, of these points.

LETTER FROM MR. HAMMICK.

Royal Hospital, Plymouth,

DEAR SIR,

March 30, 1798.

ACCORDING to your request, I now do myself the honour of stating to you the number of patients cured in *my* wards, by the nitrous acid, *since the communication of cases in November last*. It appears that thirty-seven men have been discharged to their respective ships, or to quarters, cured, by the acid *alone*, of different stages of the venereal disease; that fourteen of the above number had not taken any medicine, neither had they made use of

of any topical application; but the others had used different preparations of mercury on board their ships, some of them to a great extent, under which their disorders gained ground, and their health became manifestly impaired; sixteen men only have been received into those wards, during the above time, for gonorrhœa; of which, five had all the appearances and symptoms of the gonorrhœa virulenta; the remaining eleven, of the benign class; and I have the satisfaction of declaring, that *all* of them were cured by the nitrous acid drink, without the aid of bleeding, purgatives, regimen, or any of the common methods of cure. In all these cases of gonorrhœa, (as soon as the heat of urine, chordee, and other inflammatory symptoms went off), we threw up an injection, composed of from four to sixteen drops of the nitrous acid, in eight ounces of water: no disagreeable symptoms ever followed its use, neither were we obliged to have recourse to any other method of cure.

BUT whilst I am thus extolling the use of the nitrous acid in these cases of success, let it not be supposed that I mean to say that it has not failed: it has failed in many instances; but this failure of the nitrous acid has been in not conquering the symptoms at *first*; for, when once removed, they have *never*, to my knowledge, occurred again; neither did any of the patients, before they were discharged, complain of any disorder about them; and as the greater part of the men belong to ships constantly in and out of this port, is it not natural to suppose, that, had the disease broken out anew, they would have been sent to this Hospital? for, since we first began to give the nitrous acid in April, 1797, and notwithstanding the number of men who have been discharged, cured by it, we have never yet seen nor heard of any one man in which the disease had appeared again in any form whatever;

ever; and rest assured, Sir, should such a case occur, I will immediately do myself the honour of transmitting the particulars of it to you: but we will for a moment suppose that the disease had made its appearance again in two or three instances; ought that to discourage gentlemen from giving the nitrous acid? Do we not too often find the venereal disease appearing again after the best conducted courses of mercury, under the most eminent of the profession; yet that does not discourage the use of mercury; ought it therefore to hold good with regard to the nitrous acid, which (it is agreed upon all hands) does not injure the constitution, under the longest courses, in the most debilitated and scrofulous habits? From the whole of the observations we have been able to make, it appears that the nitrous acid succeeds better in chancres, indurated and phagedenic buboes, excoriations about the anus, scrotum and pubes, phymosis, warts on the prepuce and glans, blotches on the face and scalp, than in the other symptoms of this disorder; and we think the most advisable method to be pursued in almost all cases is, to begin with the nitrous acid; and if, after three weeks or a month's continuance, it should be found that the symptoms have not relented; then it would be right to discontinue the acid, and give mercury in some form or other, for a short time (not so long as to produce a mercurial habit), and then to begin anew with the acid. In several cases, the symptoms appear to yield very slowly to mercury, where the nitrous acid had been previously given unsuccessfully; more particularly in five cases, the penis has swollen to an alarming size, and required the mercurial course to be pushed on to an unusual extent before the disease gave way. The nitrous acid has never in any instance produced the smallest disposition tending to ptyalism. The largest quantity we
have

have ever given was to one Thomas Skinner, a marine, of a truly scrofulous habit, who was received for a very large phagedenic bubo, with phymosis and chancres, who took, in four months and five days, 307 drachms of the acid, when he was discharged, cured of this complaint, although he was deemed unfit for the service, on account of the scrofula.—It is a matter of great surprise to hear, that some practitioners at a distance have not been able to cure syphilis, in any of its stages, by the acid. It is to be hoped, time will elucidate this mystery, and shew the reason of their failure, who have not to contend with the prejudices of seamen, the desire of avoiding the service or their ships, feigning complaints, and retarding their cures, in order to remain in an hospital.

BEFORE closing this letter, I cannot avoid addressing an earnest request to the gentlemen who have been pleased to say, that “we have not attended to those criteria by which the venereal is so easily distinguished from other diseases,” to state, for our satisfaction and improvement, what the disease is, which we are daily accustomed to receive into this Hospital, and which we have always considered and treated as venereal.

I am, &c.

STEPHEN HAMMICK, Jun.

To Dr. BEDDOES.

As Mr. Hammick has given me no subsequent account of any relapse; and as he could not be unmindful of his conditional promise, it must be concluded that no relapse has come to his knowledge.

THE insinuations, therefore, derived from the possibility of spontaneous recovery, and from the non-per-

permanency of cures, are, in the present state of our information, of no avail against the new medicines.— There is a particular statement (Essay, p. 218, 219), which might be interpreted in disparagement of the treatment by nitrous acid in the Plymouth Hospital. But that statement is grossly erroneous. It is this: John Nowland, after being apparently cured of gonorrhœa and phymosis, had, on the right tibia, a swelling six inches long; on the left, a node not larger than a goose's egg. In both legs, he felt excruciating nocturnal pains. He became the Essayist's patient, March 23, 1798. " I ordered him one drachm of the nitrous acid, " diluted with a quart of water, to be taken daily. It " was increased to two drachms on the 27th of March, " and agreed perfectly well. No amendment took place " in his symptoms until April 5th, when his pains had " become easier. I now applied blisters to each of the " nodes, which reduced their size considerably*. 13th, " the pain still diminishes, and the acid gives him an " excellent appetite. 19th, I repeated the blisters. They " again reduced the nodous swellings: the pain in them " is very trifling. 27th, the nodes have lessened more " and more: they are at present quite easy. I con- " tinued the acid till the 7th of May; at which time, he " informed me of his having been previously treated in a " similar manner at the Plymouth Hospital. His ac- " count was, that he had been admitted there in the " beginning of December last, and that he was dis- " charged as an invalid unfit for service, *after taking* " *a sour medicine for two months.*"

* MAY one not ask, how it could be so positively ascertained that this effect was produced by the external, rather than the internal means? Is it not to be lamented that blisters were used before it could possibly be known what the acid would do?

“ THAT

“ THAT the nocturnal pains had in this case been
 “ totally removed by the acid, was evident * ; but how
 “ long the patient would continue well, was very un-
 “ certain. I judged, partly from my late experience,
 “ and partly from the man’s account, that his relief
 “ would probably be only temporary ; I therefore did
 “ not choose to dismiss him without endeavouring, by a
 “ course of mercury, to procure him *permanent* relief.”—
 Mercurial ointment was rubbed in, one drachm in 24
 hours ; but his gums were soon affected ; and his
 mouth and bowels became so extremely bad, after 15
 drachms, that the ointment was left off, and the fourth
 part of a grain of muriated mercury given night
 and morning. It is added, that “ his nodes were now
 “ still more lessened,” (*what ! without blisters ?*) “ and
 “ indeed one of them had intirely disappeared ; his pains
 “ also had quite left him. The ptyalism at present
 “ amounts to about one pint in a day.”—The use of
 muriated mercury commenced June 7th, and the preface
 to the Essay is dated June 21st.

IT were to be wished that this man could have been
 cross-examined into confession of the truth. Then, per-
 haps, the nitrous acid would not have been deprived of
 the honour of a brilliant cure of confirmed lues. For
 how widely Nowland’s account departed from the truth,
 will be manifest from the following document :

* YET a determined adversary might dispute this concession to
 the acid. For, besides the possibility of nodes and pains going
 off spontaneously, why should we have two powers for the
 operation on the nodes ? Are not blisters said to remove pains,
 and to diminish swellings ? (Hunter, p. 356.) Why, then, may
 not they have eased the pains here too ? “ *because they were
 better before the blisters were applied ?*” Then why might not
 the nitrous acid have likewise diminished the nodes ? as it has
 done in other cases.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. HAMMICK.

ON consulting the prescription book in which John Nowland, who has been said to have taken a four medicine here for *two months*, was entered, we find that the above patient was received into this Hospital on the 7th of December, 1797, put on the nitrous acid drink the 8th, invalided about the 16th, and that he quitted the Hospital on the 29th of the *same* month, having taken the drink only *twenty days*, instead of *two months*. Nothing can point out the deplorableness of this man's case, at that time, better than his being invalided in about ten days after his arrival here, it being a general rule not to bring any men forward as objects for survey, unless they have been more than thirty days in the Hospital, excepting very miserable and apparent cases.

I am, &c.

STEPHEN HAMMICK, Jun.

Royal Hospital, Plymouth, Sept. 10, 1798.

ON what false statements credulity imputes cures and failures to different practices, is shewn by the daily history of medicine and quackery. The following pretended relapse was lately notified to me as an objection to the use of nitrous acid. It may find its way into print as a document to this effect. A gentleman with venereal ulcers of the fauces, and a general copper-coloured eruption, applied to me. I did not think the opinions of the patient and of those who surrounded him, would permit me to attempt the cure without mercury. I therefore ordered mercurial inunction, and the nitrous acid

acid internally. The cure proceeded with extraordinary rapidity. The patient, who was more careless of his health than any person I ever saw, exposed himself to cold and wet, and, in spite of my remonstrances, quitted me at the end of the second week, supposing himself so nearly cured as to be able to superintend his own treatment. After an interval of some months, I have been informed that this gentleman has experienced a relapse, after the nitrous acid treatment.

It has been said over and over again, that slight circumstances are often characteristic. There is no reason why the maxim should not apply to books, as well as persons. I will therefore, in taking leave of the Essay, notice a very minute circumstance indeed, and leave it with the public to decide, how far it betrays that spirit of exaggeration in which the whole First Part seems to me to be conceived.

IN reliance on the promise of a large supply of cases from Dublin, I had announced the appearance of "*a first and perhaps a second century of cases,*" in March last.—Section Sixth of Chapter Second of the Essay quotes my words, and then concludes, "I am anxiously expecting to see these two hundred cases collected by Dr. Beddoes; not doubting that farther light will be thrown on this interesting enquiry." p. 95.

Do not "these two hundred cases" shew how the writer has profited by Falstaff and his men in buckram?

II.

Of the unfavourable Experience of others.

FEELING it impossible to avoid noticing the subject of the preceding section, I could not notice it slightly, nor would I affect the tone of complaisance. On the present head I may be very concise. Mr. Benjamin Bell has strongly warned the public against the nitrous acid. He attests, that “ the most distressful consequences have
“ ensued in all the instances in which he has known this
“ acid to be depended upon for a cure, the disease having
“ rapidly gained ground in all of them.”

TAKING it for granted, in spite of what Mr. Adams (*on morbid Poisons*), Mr. John Bell (*Discourses on Wounds*) or any other may contend, that Mr. B. Bell's clearness of head and talents for observation equal his industry, a general declaration of this nature can avail but little with thinking men. Mr. Bell speaks of “ every trial which he has made,” and “ all the instances he has known.” But he drops not a hint of their real number, nor of their circumstances. He may alike mean five, ten, fifty, or a hundred. How can such an account as this stand in the face of exact details?

IN the Reports, and in the present collection, will be found unfavourable attestations from authors to whom I am intimately convinced, that it would have been far more agreeable to report full success. From a persuasion that the particulars attending failures are necessary to the precision of practice, I have spared no pains to draw out attestations of this nature. Besides authors of communications, I have met with two surgical practitioners,

tioners, who have informed me that they could do nothing with nitrous acid. The abilities of both I rate highly. One informed me, that he was not satisfied as to the regularity of his patients, or his own method. The other expresses himself in the following terms: “ The
 “ whole of the cases in the five printed sheets you have
 “ sent me are surprising; especially as I cannot find in
 “ my own practice, or that of my neighbours*, any
 “ similar facts. In the single case I mentioned to you
 “ in my last letter, where I was exceedingly flattered by
 “ the first effect of the medicine, I was afterwards very
 “ much disappointed. The general health of the man
 “ was so very much improved, that I was deceived into
 “ a supposition that the specific disease was giving way,
 “ till it appeared manifestly, that not the smallest ground
 “ whatever had been gained. In other cases I have as
 “ yet succeeded no better.

“ I suspect, however, from comparing my notes with
 “ the printed reports, that I have not given the medi-
 “ cine in doses sufficiently large. Nor do I know how
 “ I can do it; for all my patients, after a week or two’s
 “ trial of ʒiſs daily, complain most grievously of sickness,
 “ vomiting, diarrhœa, &c. &c. and most of them refused
 “ to continue it.”

OF the author of this letter, and of others, I am persuaded that they will so far hold themselves in suspense, as to try the new remedies again and again, where they have no other resource, provided the successful cases reported, should, for the most part, appear to them free

* THE experience of one person, included under this term, is contained in the present volume. Two others are named,

from suspicion of error and fraud. They will reflect, that on the introduction of the best remedies, unfair practices have thrown a cloud over their reputation, and that their early use has been attended with difficulties. But experience has dispersed these clouds, and smoothed these difficulties.

THE effect of instances already on record, in exciting a suspicion of want of perseverance, will be strengthened by facts in the present collection; and in this point of view I consider the case, of which the description fills the principal part of the following letter, as remarkably instructive:

LETTER FROM DR. CLARKE, OF NEWCASTLE.

Newcastle, October 7th, 1798.

DEAR SIR,

AGREEABLY to your desire, I transmit you the following case, extracted from my register of patients in the Infirmary.

WILLIAM DAWSON, aged 29, was admitted on the 26th of October, 1797. Three months ago, he says, a chancre appeared upon the glans penis, which spread gradually, and became a very foul ulcer. It has now destroyed two-thirds of the prepuce, and at least one-half of the glans penis, insomuch that the orifice of the urethra cannot be distinguished by the eye. The ulcerations have a sloughy bottom, and hard tucked-in edges. His voice is hoarse, and his throat is sore, but *not* ulcerated; and he observes, that he has lately caught cold. The only medicine he has taken, he calls the *American Tincture*, which appears to be a solution of hydrargyrus muriatus. He took 20 drops of it twice a day, for five weeks; but, for three weeks before coming

to the Infirmary, he was irregular in its use. One drachm of the *nitric acid*, mixed with eight ounces of water, and four ounces of syrup, was ordered to be taken at separate draughts daily. Nothing was applied to the ulcerations but a little lint, spread with *unguentum ceræ*. On the 30th of October, the *nitric acid* was increased to two drachms in the above vehicle. Although the medicine has been given regularly by the apothecary's pupil, to prevent every risque of deception, the ulceration of the prepuce is larger, and that of the glans penis still foul. The acid agrees well with his stomach and bowels; he makes about three pints of urine daily; his pulse is only 88, and his hoarseness better; he looks more healthy. The nitric acid was increased to three drachms daily, in a pint and a half of water, and half a pint of syrup. November 14th, he has taken the above quantity of acid daily, and has found no other inconvenience from it, than having had sometimes two loose stools in a day. This effect, however, was soon removed by an occasional opiate. The ulcerations have improved rapidly since the increased dose of the acid was taken. The fores now look clean, and the edges are much softened. He makes about four pints of urine in the 24 hours. His pulse this day beat 100; but he had been out a walking. Four ounces of blood were taken; but, upon cooling, it did not appear the least fizy. November 21st, the ulcer continues to heal—Pulse 88—Urine three pints daily—Appetite good—He is strong and healthy. November 23d, the fore is healing fast; the orifice of the urethra is now complete, though at first it could not be observed. Urine clear, about two quarts daily. November 29th, the fore is nearly healed; but the under part of the prepuce is still hard, and looks full; he has taken, regularly, three drachms of the nitric acid

daily. December 1st, the nitric acid was increased to half an ounce. Dec. 15th, no improvement in the sore for three or four days past. The nitric acid was ordered to be increased to four drachms and a half, daily. Dec. 18th, the sore almost perfectly cicatrised; but under the new cuticle there remains some little hard eminences. The appetite is good, his stools regular, and his pulse natural. January 1st, 1798, he says, that, four days ago, a core, or piece of unsound flesh, came out with the dressing from the part where the frænum was formerly inserted. It is now a small, deep, foul ulcer, with a sloughy bottom. Although I was much disappointed at this appearance, it was still determined upon, that he should persevere regularly in the use of the *nitric acid*. January 8th, the aspect of the ulcer is much improved, and has filled up more than one half. Jan. 15th, the sore is perfectly clean, but has not filled up much since last week. From this time, the sore continued in a healing state, and was perfectly cicatrised on the 25th of January, on which day he was dismissed from the Infirmary. He returned three weeks afterwards, and continued perfectly well. As he lived in the neighbourhood, he was desired to return if the complaint recurred; but it is now the 2d of August, and he has not yet made his appearance. During the time of this patient's residence in the Infirmary, he took, without the least intermission, 308 drachms of the nitric acid, prepared by a very accurate chymist in this town. It never shewed the least effect in accelerating the pulse, nor occasioning the least tenderness in the mouth. It was drunk through a glass tube. He soon improved his appetite; and, during the remainder of the course, he was in full health and vigour. But at the same time I am of opinion, that a cure would have been more speedily

speedily effected by a well-conducted mercurial course. It will naturally strike you, that, in particular cases, much perseverance may be required before the nitric acid begins to exert its influence. At two periods, during the treatment of this patient, had it been laid aside, and mercury substituted, the case would have apparently afforded a strong instance of the inefficacy of the acid. Owing to the impatience of the attending apothecary, I have been prevented from ascertaining the effects of the nitric acid in a case of confirmed lues, where no mercury had been taken previously; because the disease had not yielded in fourteen days, in my absence he laid it aside as useless; and, to my disappointment, when I paid my next visit, the patient was under a mercurial salivation.

IN private practice, the cases being very urgent where I have been consulted, I have not trusted to the *nitric acid*, and therefore have prescribed mercury. But in a few desperate cases of long standing, where, from neglect, and from trifling practice at first, mercury had failed in removing the disease, I have had recourse to the nitric acid, but, I am sorry to say, without success. In one case, the bones were carious, and the ulcers seemed to partake both of scrofula and syphilis. Sixteen ounces of the nitric acid were taken regularly; but as it had no effect, the patient, at his desire, was put upon a course of mercury, which removed some of the symptoms, and suppressed others. The *nitric acid* was again had recourse to, but disagreed with the bowels. I am, with much esteem,

Yours truly,

JOHN CLARK.

P. S. Since extracting the case of W. Dawson, I received yours of Sept. the 27th. If the case appears tedious, you have full liberty to abridge it in any manner
you

you please. The patient has not again appeared at the Infirmary; he lives only five miles from this place: I therefore judge that no relapse has taken place.

MR. KENTISH, in a letter accompanying the above communication, remarks, “ I saw and attended to the
 “ progress of the case Dr. Clark sends you. I have like-
 “ wise seen some others in which the acid has been
 “ useful, particularly when the patients had pushed the
 “ mercurial courses too far. It has appeared to me, that
 “ the morbid actions excited by mercury are more
 “ readily subdued by its use, than by any of the methods
 “ now in practice; and if the patient does not get im-
 “ mediately well under its use, it enables the system to
 “ bear a renewal of mercury; at all events, it must be
 “ looked upon as an useful auxiliary: and I beg you to
 “ accept my portion of thanks for having excited such a
 “ general investigation of its powers.”

CASES not truly syphilitic, though treated as cases of confirmed lues, are likely to do some discredit to medicines of a character not yet established, however little (on failure) they may affect the reputation of mercury.

MR. HUNTER'S assertion, (*Tr. on the Venereal Disease*) that the venereal disease is suspected to be present in many cases where the nature of the disorder is not well marked, applies, I think, less to local than to constitutional symptoms; for, though he in one passage considers blotches and ulcers in the throat as signs the most certain that occur in any stage of the venereal complaint, yet in other places he has expressions, calcula-

lated to prevent intire confidence in these appearances *. He even advises to suspend the judgment in cases of doubt, unless there have been "preceding local symptoms within the proper date;" thus making the primary, a criterion of the secondary state; and, in general, external circumstances so fully corroborate the symptoms, that practitioners never feel more assured of having discriminated justly, or are perhaps more rarely mistaken, than in primary affections. The following, though not an unsuccessful instance, will assist in proving, that, if we lay the principal stress upon secondary cases, power over the venereal complaint, and want of power, may often be very erroneously ascribed, both to nitrous acid and to other substances which have been, or may be, tried in consequence of the virtue imputed to nitrous acid. I think it right to state the case fully; and I am able to do it with scrupulous accuracy.

ABOUT seven years ago, X. Y. contracted a chancre; and being then, or shortly after, upon a journey, and in the habit of living freely, neglected the usual remedies. In the course of a couple of months, the chancre had enlarged itself considerably, his throat was become ulcerated, and his breast, arms, and head, covered with

* As p. 321--22. Ulcers of a different nature "shall have the appearance of being venereal; and what are really venereal shall resemble those that are not."—"No man will be so rash as to pronounce what a disease is from the eye only." p. 380. "Blotches on the skin are common to what is called scorbutic habits."—"Most of the symptoms of the venereal disease, in all its forms, are common to many other diseases."—"Lues venerea is perhaps subject to less variety than either gonorrhœa or chancre, and its mode of cure is of course more uniform; although the disease be less easily ascertained, at least for some time." p. 332.

copper-coloured spots, which the physician he then consulted had no difficulty in pronouncing to be venereal. By his direction, he underwent a course of mercurial frictions, which occupied nearly three months, owing to the difficulty experienced in impregnating the system with the quantity proper to operate effectually. As soon as that was done, the symptoms gradually went off. Some of the spots returned after he had discontinued the use of mercury, but soon disappeared of themselves. His physician pronounced him perfectly cured, and he thought himself so.

ABOUT nine months afterwards, X. Y. had an attack of the scarlet fever; after which, the spots returned, fewer in number than before, but alike in colour and in size, attended also with a slight soreness of the throat. He consulted a practitioner of experience, who, in the absence of primary symptoms, had little hesitation in considering this as a case of secondary syphilis. By his advice, X. Y. again resorted to the use of mercury; but, from the difficulty formerly attending the use of frictions, he was induced to prefer the internal exhibition. This he continued for about two months, with the occasional use of the warm bath. The soreness of the throat was removed, and some alteration produced in the spots. They disappeared soon after, upon his going into a more southern climate.

IN the summer of 1793, one or two spots appeared again upon the breast, unattended with any other symptoms. They were shewn to Dr. Cyrillo, of Naples, who was clearly of opinion they were not venereal.

IN the winter of 1796, and the spring of 1797, X. Y. being returned to England, was much confined to sedentary employments, in the damp air of new buildings, and frequently exposed to wet feet. Spots, which appeared to

him similar to the former, began to shew themselves about the navel, and soon spread so as to form a kind of zone round the body. They were also scantily sprinkled over his arms, but particularly large and distinct in the palms of his hands. A small one appeared above his right eye, and one behind his right ear. They were attended with stiffness of all the joints of the fingers, and soreness of the lower ones when rubbed, with aching pains in the wrists, and in the lower part of the back, about the os sacrum; with weakness and inflammation of the eyes, stupefying head-achs, and general weakness or torpor of the system. There was no soreness of the throat, and no formation of nodes. The pains were not increased by warmth, and were easier in bed.

X. Y. finding the above symptoms stationary for some months, again consulted a medical friend, who, from the whole history of the case, as well as the appearance of the spots, inclined to the opinion that they were indicative of a renewal of secondary syphilis, and recommended a recurrence to mercurial remedies.

THEIR internal and external application was accordingly again resorted to, during two or three months. Soreness of the mouth was sometimes slightly produced, but could never be kept up for any length of time, as the mercury was always carried off by a severe diarrhoea. Yet the spots on the head and in the hands, and the stiffness of the fingers and soreness of the joints were removed, the eyes strengthened, the head-ach somewhat diminished, and the general apathy of the system much abated.

THE spots on the body were unaltered, and the pains in the back, accompanied more or less with head-ache, soon returned, increased perhaps by dejection of spirits from the failure of so many repetitions of the mercurial treatment.

IN the latter end of the summer, *my* opinion was asked on the probable efficacy of the nitrous acid. I had no hesitation in advising the trial of so safe a course, believing that the general health could not fail to be greatly improved, whatever might be the issue as to the disease. The want of any one distinct symptom led me to doubt whether the affection was of a syphilitic nature. The spots were of a lighter yellow than I had ever seen in undoubted lues venerea. Of two experienced surgeons, who by my desire examined the patient, one pronounced the complaint to be venereal: the other, with me, rather disbelieved than doubted this opinion. The spots, by reason of their shade, were not decisive, though we were told that they were as dark as at the commencement of the last mercurial course, when the stiffness of the joints was relieved. Exposure to cold seemed to account satisfactorily enough for the pains.— Under this uncertainty, 60 drops of nitrous acid, in a quart of water, mixed up with about 6 oz. of sugar, were prescribed. Ten drops per day were added to the dose, until it had reached 100 drops, using also the hot-bath at 96, for an hour every morning, so as not to perspire afterwards. At the end of the first week, the pains in the back, and also in the legs and wrists, which before were heavy and dull, became more acute. The spots seemed to look redder. The acid produced increased insensible perspiration, and agreed perfectly with the stomach, much improving the appetite.

UPON leaving off bathing for a day, but continuing to take the acid, the spots resumed their former colour.

IN the second week, the dose of nitrous acid was gradually increased to 130 drops, and the use of the bath continued. The spots extended themselves, and the pains were somewhat diminished, which the patient thought

thought might be owing to the fineness of the weather, as they were always subject to some variation from that cause. The spirits and appetite continued good.

AT the beginning of the third week, the patient being desirous of taking an excursion, and no sufficient reason existing for continuing on the same spot, I advised, merely for convenience sake, the substitution of oxygenated muriate of potash, in the place of the nitrous acid. This was taken, at first, in doses of three grains, two doses per day; but, in the course of six days (the duration of his absence) was increased to 24 grains. The pains had increased at first, but at his return, were much the same as when he set out.

DURING the fourth week, he augmented the dose from 30 to 60 grains per day, taking it in small doses at intervals, as suited his convenience, and using the warm bath for an hour in the morning, every other day. The pains were troublesome, and attended with a slight cold, and inflammation of the fauces.

IN the two first days of the fifth week, the dose was increased to 80 and 90 grains, and the use of the bath continued. But the pains and swelling of the fauces being upon the increase, although the cold was gone, the patient attributed it to some inflammatory power in the muriate, and lowered the dose to 40 grains in the subsequent days of the week, when the inflammation subsided.

NEITHER the spots nor pains having been in any degree removed or diminished, but rather increased under the use of the muriate, it was thought hopeless to proceed with it. Mercurial frictions, combined with the internal use of nitrous acid, were next tried.

THE patient employed an operator to rub in of the unguentum fortius as much as the skin would take,

take *, for one hour in the morning, and one in the evening, and took 100 drops of nitrous acid per day, using the warm bath every second day. The mercury passing off through the bowels I advised discontinuing the use of the acid at the close of the sixth week.

DURING the seventh, the rubbing in was continued as before, and small doses (25 to 30 drops) of laudanum taken to stop the purging, which it effected. At the conclusion of this week, the patient complained that his thighs, arms, and legs, where the frictions had been performed, were sore, but that no taste was yet sensible in the mouth, nor did there appear, during the frictions, much diminution of the ointment laid on: he however persevered, during the eighth and ninth weeks, with the frictions, once a day, adding thereto the internal use of mercury. He took two, and sometimes three of the pilulæ hydrargyri daily, containing $1\frac{2}{3}$ grs. of mercury each, adding small doses of opium, and of the mistura cretacea, to keep the stomach in order.

ALL this produced but a very slight soreness of the mouth; and it being impossible to go on with the frictions any longer, from the inflamed surface, the internal dose was increased and continued during the 10th week, the mouth continuing slightly sore. The pains had been variable during the whole of this time, and no alteration was produced in the spots.

ALL hopes of filling the system with mercury by the usual means being now at an end, I advised a trial of the method of fumigating with the calx of mercury, adopted by Mr. Abernethy from the Chevalier Lalouette.

AN apparatus was constructed, consisting of a box or pulpit, 2 feet 6 inches diameter, and 4 feet 6 inches

* The use of this unlimited quantity was the patient's own act and deed.

high, with a door in front. The patient seated himself in it, naked; and the whole body, excepting the head, was inclosed. The joint at the neck was made tight, by a kind of purse of oiled silk, upon which wet cloths were laid. Before the patient entered, a heated iron, 4 inches square, and 2 thick, was placed upon a chafing dish (without charcoal) at the bottom. When the door was shut, the whole was sufficiently tight to retain the fumes of the calx, which were sprinkled upon the heater through a thin tube from without. The patient's flannel drawers and under-waistcoat were subjected to the operation with him; and care was taken, when he came out, to rub off as little of the calx as could be avoided. Half an oz. of the calx, prepared according to Mr. Abernethy's directions, was used each time, in about twenty minutes; and the heat was not greater than sufficient to induce a very slight perspiration.

THE patient underwent one of these fumigations daily, and continued the use of mercury internally, in the same doses as before, during the eleventh week. The same slight degree of foreness of the mouth was maintained, but not increased. The spots grew lighter coloured, but the pains were not affected by this treatment.

THE patient, now nauseating the internal use of mercury, determined, of his own accord, to try strong doses of the nitrous acid, with the fumigation. I advised him to combine with them the inhalation of oxygene gas. The twelfth week, he fumigated once a day, and gradually increased his daily dose of nitrous acid, from 100 to 210 drops, in a quart of water, inhaling about two quarts of oxygene at the time of fumigation. This was continued the earlier part of the 13th week, and produced costiveness, and an unpleasant oppressive sensation

upon the stomach; to relieve which, I prescribed aloetic pills, and advised a diminution of the dose of nitrous acid. The oppressive sensation upon the stomach and diaphragm, attended with sickness and head-ach, remained to the end of the week. The spots had regained their original colour, and the soreness of the mouth was entirely gone. It was therefore concluded, that this method of exhibiting the mercury, like the former ones, had ceased to produce any effect. The pains in the back and legs had sensibly diminished under this latter treatment.

X. Y. remained under my care only another week, during which he took slight doses of the nitrous acid, mixed up with preparations of spices (*aqua cinnam. aqua piment. syrup zinzib.*)—He said, he still felt a constriction of the diaphragm, which he attributed to the large doses of nitrous acid he had before taken.

When he left me, I could not observe that any alteration had been effected in the spots; and he now informs me that they still remain the same, but that he is almost free from pains, and enjoys his general health as well as at any period of his life. He has taken no medicine whatever, since he left me, which is now three-quarters of a year.

ALTHOUGH this is to be put down as a cure in which nitrous acid probably bore a share, yet, from the impression I received at the moment, and from subsequent reflection, I am disposed to think that the pains arose from the damps, to which the patient has not been exposed since his recovery. I can give no satisfactory account of the spots; but it is obvious to conjecture, that they may bear the same relation to venereal blotches, as certain ulcers, which appear after chancres are healed, bear to chancres.

IF conclusions, deduced from the treatment of confirmed lues, are thus liable to fallacy on account of the occasional obscurity of the disease, this state of the disease also presents a considerable difficulty of another kind. Mercury, not very unfrequently, scarce palliates, or does but palliate for a short time. In the late publications, the quantity of examples is by no means inconsiderable, though but a small number of practitioners have related their experience. The Essay, if I count right, has no less than seventeen out of thirty-seven cases of confirmed lues, which exhibit the failure of mercurials. It seems, therefore, as if a vast deal of evidence respecting confirmed lues, and that often of a questionable nature, must be adduced, before the public can come to any decision on the comparative merits of the different methods. I shall assign a still more general reason below, why secondary, deserve at least no greater attention than primary, cases.

THE irregularity of patients has probably been sometimes a source of disappointment from the use of nitrous acid. Much here depends upon tractability and the management of the mind. I cannot say I have ever found it difficult, except in one instance, to get invalides to continue the nitrous acid as long as I thought necessary; and I have carried it to as large doses, and as long continued, as any body. Those who have more to do with patients of a less cultivated class, must experience more of this difficulty.

WHENEVER the symptoms appear obstinately stationary or retrograde, the substitution of some analogous substance offers itself as a resource. Chemistry presents a long succession of oxygenous saline stimuli, which it would be needless to enumerate. It would seem, from some of the preceding facts, as if the sulphuric and

phosphoric acids deserved trial. We are, indeed, far from knowing that they are generally inferior to the nitrous acid. The attentions, necessary in administering mercury, point out clearly, that measures should be taken for preventing sickness and purging, when the new remedies produce these inconveniences. In most cases, I imagine the addition of syrup or spice, with the use of opium, will be effectual.

IF it be proved that these bodies are real antisyphilitics, it remains, where they fail in an adequate dose, and without producing violent effects, to enquire into the more hidden counteracting causes. The remarkable discovery of Mr. Cruickshanks, relative to the transition of oxygenated muriate into the urine, which no doubt will be more amply detailed in Dr. Rollo's work on the *Diabetes Mellitus*, may be regarded as a pledge of success in this enquiry. To estimate the effect of counteracting causes, is essential to all philosophy; and the new saline antisyphilitics have too many recommendations to be abandoned on the first clamour of disappointment, or in compliment to surgical authors and surgical practitioners, who may fear lest their own consequence should be diminished by the introduction of remedies, so much less hazardous, and probably of more easy management, than mercury.

THE search after latent differences in instances of syphilis, apparently similar, will tend to introduce an accuracy of distinction hitherto unknown, however desirable, in general medicine. Every reflecting practitioner, I apprehend, must have regretted that all diagnoses in diseases have been hitherto founded on gross appearances; whereas the different operation of the same remedies daily demonstrates the dissimilarity of cases, pronounced similar. But the dissimilarity depends on

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concealed motions, and combinations of motions, which we must learn how to detect, before our art can attain to any tolerable certainty.

III.

First Questions to be solved.

COARSE preliminary experience, such as is retailed in most medical writings, has a number of questions to solve respecting the use of nitrous acid, and of substances supposed analogous in the venereal disease. To confine the investigation (in compliance with a proposal already made, and of which we shall hear again) to secondary cases chiefly, would be to sacrifice public utility to the fastidiousness always manifested by persons who affect peculiar lights, whether on this or any other subject. We cannot be long deceived by the natural course of the primary disorder. Spontaneous cures are by no means frequent; and what diminishes the risque, is, that where chancres disappear without medicine, secondary symptoms will often break out.

THE great mother-problem is, *whether these remedies will do any sort of good in the venereal disease.* It is to be hoped, that few observers will enlist under the new or the old practice, and wage a controversial war with the factious rage of Guelphs and Ghibellines. Reasonable men will attend to nature and testimony, with the desire of availing themselves of the separate or joint advantages of mercurials, and of acids, or neutral salts.

THE subordinate questions are various: *Whether the treatment recently proposed can be substituted for the old; and under what circumstances? Whether the powers can*

*be more advantageously employed in conjunction than separately; and under what circumstances?—*Not only would a well-established affirmative to any one of these queries vindicate from the charge of futility the labours of those, who have exerted themselves in this field of enquiry, but would bring out a conclusive answer, deserving more than ten times the labour yet bestowed.

MANY of the cases, now and formerly put into possession of the public, bear on the first point. But a case treated, among others, in a clinical ward of the Edinburgh Infirmary, with a particular view to demonstrate to the students the real effect of nitrous acid, goes, of itself, very far towards proving, that the new substances have real antivenereal efficacy, similar in the ultimate result to mercurials. It was a secondary case, with venereal ulcers of the breast.

DR. HOPE, Professor of Chemistry, mentioned to me this case.

THE following memorandum, which I obtained his permission to insert in the present collection, contains the substance of what I learned from him. It has passed under his inspection, and may be depended upon as accurate.

E. B. was admitted into the Clinical Ward of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, on the 19th of November, 1796.

THERE were several sores, of a venereal aspect, around the nipple of her right breast, which were attended by a painful sensation of itchiness and burning heat.

SHE ascribed the complaint to her having suckled a child, the offspring of diseased parents, which died at
the

the age of five weeks, having its body covered with a loathsome eruption. Her own infant, to which she gave suck after the death of the other, became affected with ulcers in the mouth and throat, and soon died.

DURING some days, that were allowed to pass without the use of any remedy for her complaint, the sores remained unchanged.

Nov. 23d, Dr. H. directed her to take \mathfrak{z} i. of the acidum nitrosum dilutum, Edinb. Ph. diluted with \mathfrak{ss} i. of water, in the course of the day. The quantity of the acid liquor was gradually augmented to \mathfrak{ss} ij. containing \mathfrak{z} iv. of the same diluted acid.

Nov. 26. The painful sensations from the sores were considerably diminished.

Nov. 29. The sores had begun to heal, and were somewhat contracted in size; and, by the 9th of December, all the ulcers were whole, and the parts completely skinned over.

DEC. 12. The catamenia appeared, for the first time since her delivery; and she had some head-ach and sickness. The acid liquor was discontinued.

DEC. 15. Some degree of pain and burning heat returned to their former seat; and, Dec. 16, the recently-formed skin appeared redder than usual. She was ordered to recommence the use of the acid liquor, in the same quantity as before.

DEC. 19. Sensation of burning heat, and redness, were entirely gone.

FROM this time, she remained free from complaint, and continued the use of the acid liquor to the 28th, when she ceased to take it.

JAN. 5, 1797. She again began to feel the itchiness, and burning heat around the nipple. They increased;

and, in a few days, the parts became red and superficially ulcerated.

JAN. 9. The acid liquor was directed as before. In two days, the uneasiness from the breast began to decline; and, in five or six, it was entirely removed. At the same time the ulcers began to heal. They were skinned over, and the parts exhibited a healthy appearance, on the 19th.

SHE persevered in taking the acid liquor for three weeks, and remained free from complaint.

RATHER sooner than had been intended, she was dismissed from the Hospital, on account of irregular behaviour, apparently cured.

IN about three months, she returned to the Hospital, with her breast very nearly in the same state, both as to pain and ulceration, in which it was at her former admission. She came under the care of Dr. Gregory, who immediately had recourse to mercury. In a fortnight, her breast got well; but the mercury was continued, in such quantity as to affect her mouth considerably, for three weeks longer.

THE woman remained well for about ten months; at the end of that period, the itchiness returned, in a slight degree, to the parts around the nipple. It gradually increased. The sensation of burning heat also soon arose, and the superficial ulcerations quickly followed.

ON the 12th July, 1798, she was, for the third time, received into the Clinical Ward, and, for the second time, under Dr. Hope's care.

IN addition to the affection of the breast, she had slight pains about the head, shoulders and limbs, which were most felt during the night.

JULY 13th. She was ordered to take gr. v. of the superoxygenated muriate of potash, twice a day. The dose

was

was gradually augmented, till, on the 18th, it amounted to gr. xij. thrice a day.

JULY 22d. The sensation of burning heat was much less, and the fores were considerably contracted.

JULY 24th. The fores were all skinned over; but the sensation of heat still, in a slight degree, remained.

JULY 28th. The breast appeared perfectly sound; yet some itchiness was felt occasionally.

THE pains about the head had left her some time; those of the shoulder and limbs still plagued her.

AT this time the Clinical Ward was shut, and E. B. passed to the charge of Dr. Hamilton; when, according to the plan which Dr. Hope had designed she should follow, she was put upon a course of mercury and decoction of sarsaparilla.

ON Sept. 10th, she was dismissed, apparently cured.

WHETHER the joint or sole employment of the new remedies shall become a common practice or not, there are situations in which an operation such as is ascribed to them is greatly needed. Mr. Hunter, who mentions the treatment of mercury as a signal proof of human levity, and ingratitude, p. 335, does yet virtually acknowledge the pursuit of other specifics to be thus far rational, viz. in slight cases, where it may be inconvenient or improper to give mercury on account of some other disease, p. 367; where mercury, by exciting unrestrainable evacuations, produces little or no effect on the diseased actions; where the quantity of mercury would be too much for the constitution to bear; and where, having been administered till the local symptoms have yielded, confirmed lues has broke out, and been in vain treated by variety of mercurials.

IV.

Of Relapses.

ON this topic, as it stands connected with nitrous acid, I have nothing farther to say. I cannot help lamenting, however, that critical observers, possessed of ample opportunities, should have so much neglected the investigation of relapses.

AFTER studying the most celebrated works on lues venerea, the enquirer will find that the whole doctrine of relapses is to be built up from the very foundations. Yet it would be curious and useful to determine *by what external and internal causes they are favoured, and whether it is indifferent**, in respect to the danger of relapse, by what means the syphilitic actions have been superseded. I know what opinion prevails respecting muriated mercury; I have attended to Mr. Theden's large experience; and I perceive that in the constitutional case related by Mr. Hunter to shew that guaiacum, externally and internally applied, has "considerable specific power over the disease," p. 367, the venereal sores broke out again in a fortnight. Yet I find it difficult to persuade myself, that this point has ever been thoroughly examined.—Mr. Hunter may have been in the same situation with regard to guaiacum, as he says our ancestors were with regard to mercury. He may not have known the most advantageous way of administering it. Nor does it appear that he observed the rule he himself lays down in

* Does the suspension of symptoms by some diseases prove the negative? or has not this suspension continued long enough to break habits of action?

secondary cases, and which is found necessary in the cure of intermittent fevers, and other periodical disorders, viz. the continuance of the medicine some time after the symptoms have vanished. Mr. Hunter's words seem to imply the contrary. " In about four weeks, all the eruptions were cured, and he was allowed to stay in the hospital some time longer, to see if he would continue well; but in about a fortnight he began to break out anew, and, in a very short time, was almost as bad as ever. I began, a second time, the guaiacum internally; but it had lost all its powers, or rather the constitution was no longer affected by it," p. 368. From this relation, he appears certainly not to have continued the medicine so long as he advises, (p. 352) after the sores were healed. The same thing may be collected from Dr. Rutherford's words; who, describing the speedy effects of nitrous acid, says, " sometimes the disorder recurred soon after the discontinuance of the medicine;" and that, in one instance, where an apparent cure " had almost at once" been effected by the acid, it had no effect after a relapse had taken place. This should render practitioners attentive to Mr. Hunter's maxim, *the sooner the symptoms yield, the longer should the remedy be continued afterwards.* It is only by equal management that we can determine, whether medicines capable of destroying the syphilitic actions have an equal or an unequal power to prevent their return.

V.

Miscellaneous Facts.

I HAD constantly kept in view the two first cases of lues venerea which were treated by nitrous acid in this country, both being remarkable in different ways.

MR. H. had informed me, Aug. 30, 1797, that he continued well, but that he had an itching and an eruption. About the date of that letter, I saw him, but could not find that he had any venereal symptom, the eruption having nothing of the character of venereal blotches or pustules. Till within these few weeks, I understand, he continued free from complaint. Having desired my friend Mr. Baynton accurately to ascertain his situation, I am this day, Oct. 30th, 1798, favoured with a note from that gentleman. The particulars will probably afford satisfaction to those who labour to decry the new treatment. But perhaps equitable judges will see, in the unpleasant part of the history, only a proof of the tendency of long established habits of syphilitic action to return; and in the other, particular evidence of the power of a medicine, which could restore a constitution so broken by a disorder undoubtedly venereal, and suspend the disease almost two years.

NOTE from MR. BAYNTON.

TO DR. BEDDOES.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE had an interview with Mr. H. and am sorry to inform you, he is now labouring under many venereal symptoms. He has an ulcer in his throat, a

thickening of the left ala nasi, with copper-coloured stains on that part, general itching over the whole of his body, and occasional pains of the sternum and tibiæ. He is nevertheless in pretty good general health, has acquired much flesh, and still says, the nitrous acid “ saved him from destruction.” He laments, however, that his stomach and bowels will not now bear it in any dose or manner.

I am, dear Sir,

Your sincere servant,

Oct. 30, 1798.

THOMAS BAYNTON.

THE author of the Essay thinks the report of the other case, in which mercury was so largely administered without effect, rather in favour of nitrous acid. In this opinion I can scarce acquiesce. When given alone, it seemed of no service; and what appeared to me an ineffectual exhibition for some weeks, led me to request Mr. Baynton to keep Mr. H.'s expectations very low. I have already stated (*Reports on Nitrous Acid*) that a node having at last appeared, it was removed under the use of mercurials and nitrous acid; but the patient having taken cold, ulcerations took place in the fauces. The subsequent history, as given by an accurate medical correspondent (Nov. 5, 1798) is this:

“ THE patient persisted in the use of mercury and the
 “ acid (with the removal of all his symptoms) until the
 “ cold weather set in, which seemed to reproduce the
 “ swelling and pain in his ancles, similar to what he had
 “ experienced the preceding winter, and to which I was
 “ inclined to think the acid had contributed. During the
 “ interval between Christmas and April, he remained
 “ free

“ free from appearance of local disease, and his health
 “ tolerably good ; yet he did not regain flesh or strength
 “ in such measure as afforded conviction of his recovery ;
 “ and my fears were then confirmed by his again ema-
 “ ciating as before, with renewed discharge from the
 “ nose, and appearance of a copper-coloured ulcer or
 “ slough on the posterior part of the throat, extending up-
 “ wards, behind the velum pendulum palati, higher than
 “ could be seen. He then recommenced the mercurial
 “ inunction, three drachms every night, with one grain
 “ of opium at bed-time, and four grains of crude mer-
 “ cury twice a day, which were triturated with more
 “ than common attention. His loathing of sarsaparilla,
 “ mezerion, and every sapid medicine, was such as
 “ threatened to destroy his remaining appetite, and
 “ forbid their trial. I therefore determined to persevere
 “ in the use of mercury only, until some result, or the
 “ want of it, should induce me to change measures,
 “ and without confinement or observance of regimen,
 “ except what the consequences might render necessary.
 “ The beneficial effects of the process became quickly
 “ apparent ; in three weeks, the local affections were
 “ removed ; but he has continued the mercury through
 “ the summer, and until a month since, without any
 “ other apparent effect or influence than the increment
 “ of his flesh, strength and appetite, to a degree never
 “ experienced before since the commencement of his
 “ disease, and which has given the first comfortable
 “ assurance of his perfect cure.”

ABOUT twelve months ago, a syphilitic case of the
 kind most deserving compassion came under my care. I
 was informed that a gentleman believing himself freed
 from

from a venereal infection, under which he had laboured some time before, married; but found himself seized, after a pretty considerable interval, with the secondary symptoms of the disease. His wife was also infected; and, if I could trust the obscure account I received of these occurrences, I should suppose (contrary to what is now received) that the first offspring of this connection received the complaint before birth, and not in passing through the vagina. However this may be, the child very early shewed symptoms, unquestionably venereal. These were relieved by mercury, but hardly removed; and they have recurred (viz. venereal ulcers, violent pains of the bones, thickening of the tendons, &c.) with great severity during his progress to manhood. Mercurials, being frequently administered, relieved the symptoms less and less, and acted with more and more severity on the bowels and salivary glands. At last, the surgeons, to whom the patient applied, despaired of being able to administer it in any form with advantage. The appearances, when the case came under my inspection, were these. The fauces were every where pitted deeply; the uvula had been nearly half eaten through; but I could discern no existing ulceration. There was, to a very great degree, what is called *stuffing of the head*, arising probably from the thickening of the membrane investing the nose and frontal sinuses. What his feelings were, will best appear from an extract from his own journal.

“ Nov. 5th. Sunday.—Went into the bath this morn-
 “ ing—Scarce any pain at all in the morning; but,
 “ towards the afternoon and evening, experienced the
 “ usual pungent, gnawing sensations (though but slightly)
 “ in the throat; and at the same time a kind of vi-
 “ brating

“ brating pain attacked my right leg, which for a while
 “ continued rather uneasy.

“ 6th. Mond.—Just before I rose, and whilst I was
 “ dressing, the shin of my right leg, and the upper part
 “ of my left, ached a little. At no part of the morning
 “ was I totally free from pain; suffering either in my
 “ limbs or throat, though in neither to any great de-
 “ gree. From noon till bed-time, tolerably easy.

“ 7th. Tuefd.—My left side was principally affected
 “ this morning, from the hip to the ankle, and also the
 “ left side of the throat; the right side but slightly
 “ touched. The ponderous sensation, which used to feel
 “ as if bearing upon my nose, was not so great to-day.
 “ Towards evening, my pains rather abated. An easy
 “ night succeeded.

“ 8th. Wed.—When I awoke, an intense pain seized
 “ my left thigh, which continued, without intermission,
 “ nearly all the morning, and did not entirely abate
 “ during the whole of the evening. The right side but
 “ gently affected. The throat scarce ached any in the
 “ morning, but did in the evening. My head felt
 “ clearer to-day, and my respiration through the nasal
 “ passages considerably freer.

“ 9th. Thurs.—Went into the bath this morning. As
 “ I was riding the greater part of the forenoon, and
 “ rather violently, it in some measure prevented me
 “ from watching, with my usual circumspection, the
 “ progress of my complaints. The exercise operated, as
 “ it generally does with me, in causing a great perspira-
 “ tion, which so enfeebled and fatigued me, as to divert
 “ my attention from my common pains. My legs were
 “ the parts chiefly affected to-day; my throat not much.
 “ An easy night.

“ 10th. Frid.—Much better to day, in many respects.

“ My

My legs enjoyed a good deal of freedom from pain, which was felt chiefly in the right hip and thigh. The gnawing in my throat rather moderate, and it appeared much cleaner.

“ 11th. Sat.—Rose after a good night’s rest, unbroken by pain, which fixed its seat on the left side during the morning, and towards evening visited the right, but not in so great a degree. The left nostril was as particularly troublesome as the right was easy, during the forenoon, but afterwards grew quiet. I thought I perceived more plainly symptoms of a foul ulcer, which I had for some time apprehended to be there. The same side of the throat continued subject to the usual pain; but the healthy appearance it had promised yesterday to wear, did not seem diminished. When my throat ached, that part of my head at the top which might be thought to stand perpendicularly over the part in the throat or mouth affected, was always accompanied with a similar gentle gnawing, sometimes on the side, at others on the back; and when the pain approached nearest to the roof of my mouth, then the centre ached; it is a difficult task to attempt to describe the sensation, and I fear but ill accomplished.

“ 12th. Sund.—My legs were subject to a shooting pain all day; my thighs tolerably easy, and my throat quite so in the morning, but very painful towards evening. Nose not affected in the same manner as yesterday. Not much pain in the night; it generally was in that thigh that I lay upon, and seemed as if proceeding from relaxation or weariness.

“ 13th. Mond.—Much pain in my throat and legs, but little in the thighs. Nose still clear and easy. Discharge of urine to-day.

R

14th.

“ 14th. Tuesd.—Better to-day. My throat did not
 “ gnaw and smart so much, and the pricking pains lay
 “ chiefly in my knees and the parts of the leg adjacent.
 “ Thighs rather freer from pain than usual. The most
 “ diseased nostril flowed with a small quantity of blood.

“ Wednes. 15th.—The pains still continued in my
 “ legs, much the same as yesterday. My throat ex-
 “ perience a great relief. My nose appeared cleaner,
 “ yet subject to the oppression, though not to impede the
 “ action of respiration.

“ 16th. Thurs.—My throat and nose enjoyed nearly
 “ a whole day of ease. My legs ached a little in the
 “ morning, and more in the evening. Scarce any pain
 “ in my thighs.”

THIS journal was kept from the time the patient began
 to take the nitrous acid in the dose of two drachms
 daily, diluted, and sweetened to his taste. He continued
 till he had taken six ounces. The journal, towards the
 close of this first trial, shows that the night and morning
 pains were much diminished, and indeed almost entirely
 removed.

My reasons for discontinuing the acid at present were
 these. The patient could not continue long under my
 immediate inspection; and, as I had at my command
 a convenient apparatus for mercurial fumigations ac-
 cording to the method of Mr. Lalouette, I thought it
 but just to give the chance of the benefit to be derived
 from it, especially as he was not likely to enjoy it else-
 where. But the fumigation acted like mercury in other
 forms. The salivary glands and bowels were almost
 immediately affected; and no abatement of the symptoms
 took place.

IN about nine days after laying aside the nitrous acid, the night-pains had returned with marked increase of severity. It appeared therefore, upon the whole, that there was a chance of alleviating his complaints, which were always worst in winter, by the continued use of nitrous acid. That it might have the greater effect, I advised that the acid should be dropped occasionally, and resumed.

IN the beginning of June, 1798, I received the following information :

“ IN replying to your first query, I should be ungrateful to the acid, and perfidious to my own feelings, were I to hesitate in pronouncing it as my decided opinion, that the acid has operated upon my pains as ‘*distinctly palliative* ;’ to say that it has eradicated, or even subdued them, is out of my power ; but my reason for believing that it has been efficacious in imparting considerable relief, is by viewing the contrast between the *present* state of my pains and *that* in which I first commenced the use of the acid ; and the tolerable degree of ease which I enjoy now, preponderates in favour of the medicine. I am unable to assign the superiority of power, in my case, either to the acid or the mercury. My principal reason for declining to advance any thing decisive, or preferring one to the other, is, that at the time I used the mercury, being much younger, my attention had not been so sufficiently awakened to the magnitude of the danger to which I was exposed, as to excite that spirit of observation which has vigilantly remarked the progress of my pains last felt, and the effects of the remedy last adopted and still in pursuit.

One grand advantage I may with safety affirm the

“ acid possesses, that its influence never was directed
 “ to the depression of my spirits ; but the mercury ever
 “ exercised its dominion over them, and that to such ex-
 “ tent as required me frequently to relinquish its use for
 “ a time.”

IN this state of things, I felt desirous not only of se-
 curing the ground that seemed to be gained, but of
 advancing farther. I therefore found means to provide
 my patient with a quantity of perfectly good oxygenated
 muriate of potash, and desired him to take it in gradually
 increased doses, as directed in Dr. Rollo's work on
 Diabetes, which was put into his hands.

ABOUT a month ago, he informed me that, under
 this course, his sufferings had been by no means so much
 diminished as during the first five months of the current
 year. I must add, however, that a medical gentleman
 assured me, at the same time, that justice had been by no
 means done to the remedy.

I HAVE given the nitrous acid in several other ve-
 nereal cases ; but, as the opinions of the patients obliged
 me to give mercury at the same time, I shall not pro-
 duce the particulars. The quantity of mercury was
 always small, while the acid was given in full doses.
 In one case, after taking the acid about a fortnight, the
 patient left me, and put himself under the care of a
 surgeon. In the rest, a complete cure was effected.

APPENDIX.

Nº. I.

ACCOUNTS of American antisyphilitic vegetables will be ~~received~~^{received} with little interest as supposed echoes of ancient exaggerations. But as there has been, in the Essay, and in the preceding pages, question of the reality of their existence, and as the following narrative is in itself remarkable, I shall give it a place in this Appendix. In 1794, there was published at Madrid, by Francisco Balmis, M. D. Army Surgeon, a pamphlet containing the history of many trials of two American plants, an Agave and a Begonia, in various stages of syphilis.

THE account bears that, in 1790, Nicholas Viana arrived at Mexico, and presented to the Council of Health there a new remedy for the venereal disease. He required the knowledge of it from an Indian, his relation, whose family had used it in Acapuacano, time immemorial. It consisted of two indigenous American plants, the efficacy of which Viana affirmed that he knew from an experience of 36 years. By order of the Council, the new remedy was first tried in the Hospital of St. Boromeo Di Dio, where 27 patients were cured of the venereal disease. Twelve men and six women, whom Viana had treated in private practice, were declared cured by the physicians and surgeons of the hospital. Afterwards, 40 male, and 20 female patients, suffering under various forms of lues venerea, were committed to Viana, under the inspection of a number of

practitioners. 25 were cured in 32 days; 5 were nearly well; and a woman, affected with the leprosy likewise, was cured! At a subsequent meeting of medical men, it was ascertained, that of the remaining 29 patients, 10 had become perfectly well, 13 were much better, and 6 had received some amendment. It was now determined to entrust the remedy to skilful practitioners, in order to simplify its application. The choice fell first on Dr. Jave, Physician to the Hospital and afterwards on Dr. Balmis, immediately on his return to Mexico. On his way, he had every where heard the praises of the new remedy, but felt great distrust of its powers himself.

VIANA, and the physicians who first used it, employed three formulas; one was a sudorific decoction, made of 2℔ of Pulque, or a liquid prepared by fermentation from the herb Maguey (Agave), 3 oz. of the root, 2 oz. of viper's flesh, 1 oz. of Castile roses, which were boiled down to one half. This decoction was drunk every other day, warm in bed, and sweating promoted by other means. Next, recourse was had to clysters consisting of a pound of decoction of aniseed and fenna, drachm and half of the powder of Begonia, and drachm of colocynth. These were given the alternate days. In nine days, the following decoction was prescribed: An ounce and half of the root of prunus (which prunus?) 2 drachms of sassafras-wood and willow bark, a drachm of citron gum and resin of log wood, were boiled down, in two pounds of water, to one half.

Dr. Balmis justly censures these three formulas. He caused 3 ounces of the Agave to be boiled down to one half, and administered the decoction, as a sudorific, in larger or smaller doses, for a longer or shorter time

According to circumstances, till a cure was effected. He also ordered 2 scruples of Begonia-root to be added to half a pound of some emollient decoction, and given as a Clyster; or else, in case of constipation, he gave the Begonia internally in pills, and, to delicate patients, in decoction. When other medicines were indicated, they were employed, and the Begonia sometimes for an emetic. When the evacuation by sweat or purging was too great, the remedies were omitted. In this way a great number of persons, of all ages, were cured of lues, even children and pregnant women; nor was any mischief known to arise from the treatment. Within half a year, 323 recovered under Dr. Balmis, and 17 under Dr. Jave.

THE author was now ordered to Spain, to try the new remedy. He carried with him 2500 lb of the Agave, and 750 of the Begonia. In the hospitals at Madrid, under the inspection of various physicians, he instituted a multiplicity of trials, which are related in the second, third, and fourth chapters of the work. A tabular view is given of the quantity of medicines employed. Of the sudorific decoction, from 25 to 75 oz. were found necessary to the cure; of which from 4 to 9 oz. were given at various intervals. The quantity of Begonia powder used in clysters was from 90 to 800 grains. For each, from 24 to 50 were taken. The clysters were repeated according to circumstances. Most of the patients were cured; some remarkably soon, and many in the most deplorable state. The Agave is described in the seventh chapter, as *Agave Americana, hexandria, monogynia, foliis dentatis spinosis, fuste ramoso*. The Begonia is a new species, which the author names *Balmisiana*, after his own name. It is used alone by the natives of Ocuila and Acapuacano in syphilis. Its most

sensible effects are vomiting and purging. Uses not dissimilar to those of mercury, in scrofula, diseases of the skin, and obstructions, are ascribed to the Agave.

APPENDIX.

N^o. II.

Cases by Dr. Ramsay, of Newcastle upon Tyne.

RICHARD WILKINSON, inhabitant of Newcastle, 23 years of age, an in-patient, admitted March 1, 1798, on account of a deep venereal ulcer of the glans penis and preputium—Disease of three weeks standing—Had taken no medicine, except a single bolus with gr. iij. of calomel, before he applied for relief at the Infirmary. On the 2d of March he began to drink, daily, ℥ij. of nitric acid, in water. On the 7th, it was increased to ℥iij. daily. The ulcer appeared greatly diminished on the 19th; but a slight swelling appeared in one of the inguinal glands. Leeches were applied to it.—April 24th, suppuration has taken place in the groin. Ulcer of the penis quite gone.—May 7th, the diseased gland having gradually and completely healed, and having no symptom of his original complaint, he was dismissed.—He was requested to return to the Infirmary upon the slightest return of any symptom. He was seen in June, still well. The acid had no sensible operation, except increasing urine.—N. B. Part of the prepuce was obliged to be removed, which considerably retarded the cure.

WILLIAM CHICKEN, ætat. 35, an out-patient—Ulcer of the throat—Bones of the palate and nose carious,

carious, and often discharged in small portions—Was first affected with venereal symptoms about two years ago. He began to take small doses of hydrargyrus cinereus, with the decoction of mezereon, 12th October, 1797, and continued this plan till the 4th of December, without producing any benefit.—He afterwards began to take the nitric acid in the usual way, first $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$. then $\mathfrak{z}\text{ijj}$. daily, in a pint of water. After long and patient perseverance for nearly two months, no symptom being mitigated, and an eruption appearing on the head, he left it off. By the use of muriated barytes, and decoction of bark, his strength recruited, and the ulcer of the palate healed. A discharge from the nose, however, still continues, (Oct. 6th, 1798.)—N. B. He began to take 8 drops of muriated barytes daily, and increased them to 40.

EDWARD TURNBULL, ætat. 36—An in-patient, admitted June 21st, 1798—Glans penis totally destroyed—Throat deeply corroded by ulceration—Skin covered with circular scabby eruption—Disease of nine months duration. He had used mercury, he said, in different forms, with the effect of increasing, instead of relieving his complaint.—21st June, he took $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$. of nitric acid in water, and continued it daily till the 9th of July, without the least advantage. As he was griped in his bowels by the acid, it was not increased in quantity.—9th July, Began to take a grain of hydrargyrus cinereus, and \mathfrak{ss} . of decoction of mezereon, daily.—By the 20th of July, the ulceration of the throat was much diminished, the eruption had begun to disappear, and his general health was much mended. His medicine having produced ptyalism, he imprudently left it off entirely for
some

some time, when inflammation returned to all the formerly diseased parts. He is again (Oct. 6th) pursuing the plan of hydrargyrus cinereus and decoction of mezereon, and I hope will receive permanent benefit.

APPENDIX.

N^o. III.

Case by Mr. Bowles.

Dear Sir,

You will find, by adverting to your publication, that, in my account of cases treated with nitrous acid, I have mentioned the exhibition of mercury in the two cases which were most evidently venereal, and that no material benefit had followed the use of it: the other patient (Ann Thaven) had the hydrarg. nitrat. ruber applied in large quantities to her leg, but did not try mercury in any other form. You will judge best, whether this could have acted by absorption as mercury on her system. The following case is that which I promised to send you, wherein perceptible effects followed the use of nitrous acid. I remain

Your obedient humble servant,

FRA. C. BOWLES.

Queen-square, Oct. 12, 1798.

WINIFRED MASON, ætat. 30, was admitted under my care at St. Peter's Hospital, in November, 1797. She had at that time several venereal ulcers on the abdomen,

abdomen, arms and legs. To add to her misfortunes, she was nearly seven months advanced in pregnancy. From some enquiries respecting the disease, I had reason to believe that she had taken a small quantity of hydrarg. muriat. several weeks before her admission, which removed a foreness of the throat.—Nov. 19th, she began to take, daily, a drachm of nitrous acid, in a pint of water, sweetened with syrup. In three days, this quantity was increased one half; and, on the 1st of December, it was farther augmented to two drachms and a half. The ulcers were dressed with a simple ointment, as before the commencement of the nitrous acid. In a week after this medicine had been used, the ulcers improved in appearance, and, in a month, were all cicatrized; meanwhile, a violent hemicrania came on, which was my principal reason for increasing the acid to the quantity above mentioned: this symptom, however, gradually increased so much as to produce occasional delirium. After continuing the acid until the middle of January, 1798, and finding that she nauseated it extremely, I proceeded no farther in the trial.—Calomel was then exhibited, every night, in pills of three grains, joined with one of opium. In the course of a fortnight, the head-ach yielded to this medicine, and no other was found necessary to complete the cure. At the beginning of February, she was delivered of a healthy child,

APPENDIX.

N^o. IV.*Letter from Mr. Hammick.*

Royal Hospital, Plymouth, Oct. 31, 1798.

Dear Sir,

I BEG leave to state generally, that, since I had the honour of writing to you in March last, we have given the nitrous acid in a great variety of cases, both with primary and secondary symptoms of the lues venerea, to a greater number of which cases mercury had been unsuccessfully given on board their respective ships, previous to their admission into this Hospital. The advantages derived from its exhibition have been such as to give us sincere pleasure, and induce us to persevere in its continuance, though not perhaps to such an unlimited extent as when we first entered on its use, which I believe has been invariably found to be the case with all new medicines; for time and experience, the surest of all guides, have now enabled us nearly to say, at first seeing our patient, where this medicine will, and where it will not, effect a cure; and, from the observations which we have daily made, we have not the least hesitation in declaring it boldly, as our opinion, that this medicine will stand the test of *unprejudiced* exhibition, and will continue to be given with *permanent* success to the greater number of venereal cases that occur, notwithstanding the opposition and prejudice that have been prematurely raised against it.

STEPHEN HAMMICK.

APPENDIX.

N^o. V.

THE author of the following report is a medical gentleman, well known to me. Out of delicacy to his patient, he has chosen that his name should be withheld.

T. B.

Dear Sir,

As I am obliged to write entirely from memory, it will be almost impossible for me to give an accurate detail of the symptoms of my patient, or of his habits of life. He is now at a great distance from me, and I am unacquainted with his address; otherwise I would procure from him a statement of his own case.

M. P. applied to me for advice, in May, 1798. He informed me that, about four months before, he had been infected in London. His symptoms were, first, a discharge from the urethra, and afterwards chancres on the glans penis. On application to a practitioner, mercurials were administered to him, internally and externally, for about six weeks. The discharge stopped, the chancres healed, and he thought himself perfectly cured. He continued well for about two months, and removed into the country. Shortly after his journey, he was a little alarmed by the appearance of blotches on different parts of his body, particularly about his forehead and on his legs. He at first considered his complaint as scorbutic, and, in consequence, took some old

woman's remedies. Not finding the eruption disappear, and, in addition, feeling wandering pains in different parts, he applied to me, suspecting his symptoms to be the secondary ones of lues venerea. I thought this case a fair one to make trial of the nitric acid in, and began by giving him a drachm in three doses. Finding it perfectly agree with him, I increased it, the second day, to two drachms. After continuing to take this quantity, daily, for about a fortnight, the blotches began to disappear, particularly from about his forehead, and the nocturnal pains ceased. In about three weeks, very few remained. Being obliged, about this time, to sleep frequently from home, he became infected with the itch. For this he applied, externally, sulphurated ointment mingled with a little calomel, and continued to take the nitric acid. The itch pustules, and few remaining venereal blotches, disappeared together; and, in about five weeks from the time of his commencing to take the nitric acid, he was perfectly cured. It is now two months since I have seen him; but I hear that he is married, and continues perfectly well. On the authenticity of this case you know you can rely, as I can have no motive to deceive.

Yours, &c.

Dec. 4, 1798.

H. D.

To Dr. BEDDOES.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N^o. VI.

*A Case in which the Mother seems to have infected her
Child before Birth :*

From *Hufeland's Journal of Practical Medicine,*

Vol. IV. St. 3. 1797.

“ A SINGLE observation has, in general, but small
“ value, because, with whatever accuracy it may be
“ made, no general inferences can be deduced. How-
“ ever, single observations occasionally deserve atten-
“ tion; and in our time, when it is assumed as com-
“ pletely demonstrated that venereal parents beget
“ weakly, but not infected children, and that the disease
“ is communicated to the children only when the mo-
“ ther has ulcers in the passages, the following oc-
“ currence appears to me not entirely uninteresting.
“ This may excuse its publication.

“ IN February, 1795, a country girl, aged 20, ap-
“ plied to me. She had venereal ulcers in her throat,
“ and in the vagina, with fici near the anus and labia
“ pudendi. She said, she had been infected by a girl
“ with whom she had slept. She urgently asked for
“ speedy help, and desired I would enable her to
“ preserve secrecy, as no one knew of her complaint but
“ her mother, and her father would use her ill. The
“ bad throat she had since contracted from cold.

“ I PRESCRIBED Hahnemann's *soluble mercury*, and
“ a ptisan for internal use, and sublimate, partly in a
“ lotion and partly in mucilage, and honey of roses, with
“ extract of walnut husks, for touching the ulcers in
“ the throat.

“ IN

“ IN a fortnight, the mother brought me word that
 “ all went on well. The throat was nearly, and the
 “ ulcers of the pudenda quite healed; but the little
 “ lumps had not quite disappeared. They had still some
 “ left of the internal medicines; but the other were all
 “ gone. By my calculation, the internal medicines
 “ should all have been used: I asked, therefore, how any
 “ came to be left, and was told that they went against
 “ the patient, and that she could not pay that attention
 “ to herself which I had directed. Upon my earnest
 “ representation that external means alone were inade-
 “ quate, and that the patient, though all the symptoms
 “ should disappear, would, sooner or later, fall into
 “ a wretched state, the mother herself promised that my
 “ directions should be exactly observed, took the pre-
 “ scription, and departed.....
 “
 “For a long time I heard nothing of
 “ the girl, till after a full half year, when the mother
 “ came and told me her daughter was married, and
 “ extremely well. On enquiry, I found that all the
 “ symptoms had been removed by the use of the external
 “ means, and that none of the internal medicines had
 “ been touched. This fair avowal made me anxious
 “ for the future; and I proposed to watch the
 “ party.....This attention was needless. In July
 “ (1797) the mother returned, and informed me that
 “ her daughter had been all along very well, and, four
 “ weeks ago, had been delivered of a child. The
 “ child had appeared plump, but had at birth a scurf,
 “ which increased every day, and rendered it very
 “ miserable. The midwife had given the mother and
 “ child variety of domestic remedies, but all in vain.
 “ Her daughter was not quite right. She wished I
 “ would

“ would order her the old lotion again, as she had gotten
 “ fresh lumps about the anus.—Struck with the account, I
 “ sent the mother away without advice, and desired to see
 “ her daughter and the infant without delay. In two days
 “ they appeared. I learned and observed what follows :
 “ The child much emaciated, has much thirst, is con-
 “ stantly restless, cries much, sleeps little, and has com-
 “ monly green stools. The abdomen was somewhat
 “ tense. *Immediately after birth*, a reddish scurfy erup-
 “ tion had been observed ; and, soon afterwards, the child
 “ had become raw wherever the skin made folds ; and
 “ at the same time pustules broke out, from the size of a
 “ pea to that of a small bean, which suppurated first, and
 “ then dried up. Now the child was covered all over,
 “ partly with suppurating pustules, and partly with dry
 “ scurf. The raw places discharged much, and the folds
 “ of the skin looked at bottom white and fatty. The
 “ face was wrinkled and bluish ; the eyes were dull ;
 “ the eye-lids not inflamed ; the mouth clean.

“ SINCE the venereal affection, the mother had found
 “ herself perfectly well, not having observed the least
 “ preternatural appearance ; nor had her husband com-
 “ plained of any thing about his genitals, which must
 “ have been the case, had any part of the vagina been
 “ diseased. Within eight or nine days, she said, such
 “ lumps as before had appeared again. They gave her
 “ no pain, nor was she in the least indisposed ; but it
 “ might grow worse, and her husband come to the
 “ knowledge of her former complaint. Therefore she
 “ would do what was proper.

“ FROM this account, I judged the foci of the mother,
 “ and the cutaneous ailment of the infant, to have the
 “ same origin. But as preconceived opinions easily
 “ lead into error, I rejected this idea, and instituted

“ a second careful examination, according to the strictest
 “ rules of art, in order to determine, with the utmost
 “ certainty, whether the infant’s complaint was not to
 “ be deduced from some other cause. But I discovered
 “ nothing different, and was obliged to declare the
 “ disorder venereal, and treat it as such. I therefore
 “ prescribed, for the mother, mercurials internally,
 “ ordered a proper diet, gave her a decoction of the
 “ woods for her ordinary drink ; and for the child,
 “ I prescribed several visceral clysters daily.

“ I KNOW not whether the disorder of this child
 “ will be generally admitted to be venereal or not.
 “ On careful examination, I could find no motive
 “ for doubt. Therefore, for the sake of information, or
 “ correction, I can only offer to attend to every ob-
 “ jection that may be offered. Were the infant
 “ actually infected, it could be no otherwise than *in*
 “ *utero*, as, at the time of birth, the mother had not
 “ the smallest local affection about the pudenda. In
 “ such case, the fact doubtless deserves attention.”

So far the author of the communication.—In the
 case that occurred to me, the recital of faint and obscure
 recollections led me to surmise, that the mother of my
 patient was not locally affected at his birth ; and that
 he never had any but a constitutional disease. The
 case which I have above partly abridged and partly
 translated, was then quite unknown to me. But I
 have long been convinced, that medical men have too
 little attended to the connection between the living
 actions of the mother and the foetus.

APPENDIX.

N^o. VII.

Dear Sir,

IN compliance with your request I send you the result of the cases which I transmitted to you about twelve months ago. The cure has been permanent in all, except No. II. Page 27.—See above.

ON the 24th of September last, this patient again applied to me. I discovered in the throat two small callous ulcers, which the patient supposed might have subsisted about six weeks.—The possibility of a fresh infection was positively denied. I ordered the nitrous acid in the quantity of \mathfrak{z} iss. in the day. After one week no improvement had taken place. The difficulty in swallowing, and pains in the head, had rather increased. The dose was augmented to two drachms in the day, with a grain of opium at bed time. At the end of the second week, the ulcers were considerably enlarged—deglutition extremely difficult—the pain in the temples and right ear intolerable—speech hardly articulate from the soreness of the throat and fauces. A profuse ptyalism had taken place, the only instance of it I have met with from the acid; but without any of the fetor and excoriation attendant on ptyalism from mercury. As the disease was evidently gaining ground, and even appeared to be aggravated by the acid, I thought it unjustifiable to persist. Mercury, in moderate doses, was administered, and in twelve days every symptom of the disorder had disappeared.

THE failure of the acid on this occasion is the more remarkable, as the symptoms yielded to it readily, when

formerly administered. May not this be accounted for upon the supposition of a quantity of mercury still remaining in the system at the time of its first exhibition?

As some cases are recorded of gonorrhœa, supposed to have been cured by nitrous acid, I take this opportunity of submitting the following, in which very opposite effects were experienced from it. In February last, Mr. A. contracted a gonorrhœa and chancre on the prepuce, both of which yielded in the course of a few days to astringent injections and local escharotics. Upon mentioning the antisyphilitic properties of nitrous acid, he became desirous of trying it, being averse to mercury, as his health had suffered greatly from a recent course of that remedy—indeed from the great irritability of his bowels and salivary glands, it was extremely difficult to administer it in tolerable quantity, and he was still apprehensive that the former disorder was not entirely subdued.

THE acid was ordered in the dose of ziss. in the day. The good effects on his general health were immediate; but in less than a week, his gonorrhœa and ardor urinæ, which had totally disappeared, were as bad as ever, which obliged him to desist. I advised him to resume it when the gonorrhœa should have subsided; and accordingly in about twelve days he began again with one drachm a day, but with precisely the same effect in reproducing the complaint. About this time his attention was withdrawn from this disorder by a fever of three weeks continuance, during which the gonorrhœa had again entirely subsided. The acid was now ordered a third time, in the dose of one drachm, with mucilage of gum arabic; and a third time found to be equally friendly to his general health, and equally efficacious in

reproducing the ardor urinæ and gonorrhœa, notwithstanding so long an interval.

I remain, Dear Sir, &c.

Clifton, Dec. 17, 1798.

A. CARRICK.

To Dr. BEDDOES.

APPENDIX.

Nº. VIII.

*Letter from Mr. Symes, Surgeon, Bridgewater, dated
October 15, 1798.*

A YOUNG man, aged 19, contracted a venereal complaint in Dec. 1797. On the 2d of January, 1798, he applied to Mr. Anstice*, who found him with chancres on the glans and prepuce, and a swelling in his groin. He was directed to take a mercurial pill every evening, and to rub a drachm of the unguentum hydrargyri fortius into his thigh in the course of the day. A mixture of mercury and mucilage of gum arabic was also given. These remedies were continued till the 26th, during which time a slight salivation took place. Nocturnal pains in the head were felt, and an ulcer discovered in the throat. As the symptoms did not at all decrease, and the strength of the patient failing, it was determined to have recourse to the nitrous acid; and on the 4th of February, a mixture composed of acid. nitros. ℥iſs. ſyr. ſimp. ℥iij. diluted in water, was given daily. The ulcers soon began to heal, the swelling

* Mr. Symes's partner, I believe. *Editor.*

subsided, the patient recovered his strength, and by the 8th of March all medicines were discontinued, and he appeared perfectly cured. He has had no return of his complaints since, and is now perfectly well.

APPENDIX.

N^o. IX.

Case by Mr. Sandford, Surgeon, Worcester.

J. A. Æt. 26, contracted the venereal disease in the form of gonorrhœa—after some time a venereal ophthalmia came on, for the cure of which he took mercurial medicines, and used suitable applications under the direction of Mr. Cole, by whom he was admitted an inpatient of our Infirmary, Sept. 2, 1797; he lost the sight of his right eye in consequence of the violence of the venereal ophthalmia, a circumstance that I believe generally happens when this affection takes place—if the disorder be really occasioned in the way Astruc imagines, viz. “The patients having inadvertently washed their eyes with their own urine whilst labouring under the virulent gonorrhœa*.” The inflammation of J. A.’s eye subsiding, and the other symptoms appearing subdued, he was discharged from the Infirmary November the 14th following.

HE applied again for admission June 9, 1798, and was received on my day of taking in patients, and consequently then became my patient. He informed me that

* See Chapman on the Venereal Disease, 2d Edition, 8vo. p. 176,

for many weeks past he had been attacked with severe pains in his head and limbs, and that some sores had lately made their appearance on his yard, which he did not at first attend to, thinking them only caused by the heat of his body and fretting of the skin of that part. These excoriations, as he described them to be, appeared on examination to be chancres of a very foul and malignant aspect; on my charging him with having contracted a fresh complaint, he assured me in the most positive terms, that he had not been connected with any female since his dismissal from the Infirmary. A poultice of bread and milk, with yeast spread on its surface, was applied to the penis, and he was ordered to take the following mixture within the space of every twenty-four hours.

R. Acid. Nitros. ʒij.
 Syr. Sacchar. ℥vj.
 Aq. distill. ℥ij. m.

After having taken the above regularly for six or seven days, the pains in his head were considerably relieved; about the same time the poultice was laid aside, and the chancres, which now appeared much cleaner, were dressed with a simple cerate *only*, composed of wax and oil, in order to try if the nitrous acid taken internally and alone, without the assistance of mercurial, or any other active external application, would affect any change in them, or promote their disposition to heal; at the first, and during a few of the following dressings, the discharge from them was very great and corrosive, in consequence of which he was directed to renew the dressings four times a day, and afterwards thrice a day, and to wash the sores at each dressing with a soft sponge dipped in milk and water. In the course of a fortnight I had the satisfaction to observe those chancres put on a healthy

aspect, and begin to granulate: their callous edges gradually softened and disappeared, and the inflammation and tumefaction of the prepuce, that accompanied these appearances, soon subsided.

THE patient persevered in the use of the acid in the dose at first directed (its good effects being still so evident, and the complaint rapidly advancing towards a cure, I did not think it necessary to increase it) till August 25, 1798, when he was discharged cured.

IT will scarcely admit of a doubt (if this patient's assertion may be relied upon, and I have no reason to suspect him of falsehood) that the symptoms under which he laboured on his second admission into the Infirmary were truly *secondary*, nor will it be disputed, I presume, by any impartial judge, that the cure of them was effected by the nitrous acid alone. I desired, if he should have any return of his complaints, that he would again apply to me, which he promised to do. I have heard nothing of him since.

Worcester, October 16, 1798.

MR. BLAIR, whose essays on the venereal disease I have lately seen, has, I observe, amongst other more important cases, thought proper to notice the few outlines I sent. I presume, that, notwithstanding his insinuations and critical remarks, it would have been difficult for him, had he seen the cases, to have invalidated the facts there stated; and had Mr. Blair, or any other unprejudiced surgeon seen the case termed fistula in ano in that collection (merely because it had been so styled to the patient by the medical gentleman that attended him previous to his admission) he would, I think, have agreed with me, that the disease was assuredly syphilitic, of which I must still believe the sinuous ulcers,
described

described in the Reports concerning the nitrous acid, were as certainly secondary symptoms.

W. S.

APPENDIX.

N^o. X.

I HOPE it will not be improper to add one observation more concerning *Essays on the Venereal Disease*. After my Strictures had been sent to the publisher in London, and indeed after part had been printed off, I received from the Essayist a letter, composed in a strain of deference, worthy of a perfect courtier, and abounding in excellent general remarks. That the question should be decided by fair experiments, not by high authority, by palpable evidence, not by premature conjectures, is undoubtedly my wish; and these, though I had less happily expressed them, are the very sentiments with which I had already prefaced my remarks on the Essay.

DOUBTLESS also, on being told, that if in a work in which there is question of you, there should appear to be any thing personal, disrespectful, uncandid, or otherwise improper in regard to yourself or your correspondents, the writer hopes he shall be at all times ready to offer a suitable apology; it is impossible not to be touched by sentiments so honourable; and to regret that you have any ground for a charge against the person by whom they are thus handsomely avowed.

BUT I am engaged in an enquiry, in which those whom it concerns have need of truth, not of complaisance. The question having been once carried before the tribunal of the public, by the author of the Essay, in a controversial shape, I think it would be betraying the cause of human society

society to sink illustrations of the evidence from private considerations. That the new substances have not only a degree of real antivenereal power, but such a degree as will often avail where the more usual means would not serve, or would destroy, appears to me to result clearly from the whole of the evidence. And I am thoroughly convinced, that gross injustice has been done to the subject itself, and to several who have ably treated it. What therefore, under this feeling, I have opposed to dashing conclusions, or petulant mistatements, I shall not either retract or soften. I submitted to an ungrateful office. But somewhat of benefit may result from the undertaking. If good judges coincide with me in opinion, their indignation, I think, may render young authors more cautious how they lightly treat sincere reporters, and questions of the highest interest.

IN consequence of such improper conduct, much individual suffering may easily have been needlessly endured. As there are many whom slight reasons for inactivity will satisfy, enquiry has probably been checked, and the mischief, resulting from misrepresentation, must have reached far beyond the circulation of the Essay. For the eulogists of the author—those who vouch for his qualifications, and who, it may be, are of his private acquaintance—snatch at every occasion of propagating his opinions, almost making it a crime to think differently, and holding up the issue of the enquiry as an example to disparage even the most paltry of medical projects. Such was the tone they adopted when they first spoke of the Essay; and this tone they still venture to maintain.

“ The power of the gasses in curing consumptions,
 “ palsy, and a thousand other complaints, and of the
 “ nitric and other acids in superseding the use of mer-
 “ cury in the venereal complaints have been so highly
 “ ex-

“ extolled, [*by whom?*] as that of the tractors is now ;
 “ and as a much greater number of cases have been al-
 “ ledged to establish their efficacy than are here pro-
 “ duced ; and yet when the prejudice which novelty and
 “ some accidental circumstances and cures had excited
 “ were dispelled, and the experiments came to be re-
 “ peated by a greater number of persons, their reputa-
 “ tion diminished just in proportion to the number of
 “ persons who used them, and the experiments that were
 “ tried.”—*British Critic*, Nov. 1798. p. 501.

THOSE who attend to the progress of the present in-
 vestigation may think it a little singular, that so hardy
 an assertion should have gone abroad, about the same
 time with the much improved second edition of Dr.
 Rollo's treatise on the Diabetes Mellitus—a work which
 discloses many arcana of the animal œconomy, and in
 particular adds some scores of syphilitic cases to the credit
 side of the account of nitrous acid, and that of the oxy-
 genated muriate of potash.

I AM sorry that the interrupted manner, in which this
 collection has been printed, did not allow me to take
 advantage of Dr. Rollo's publication. It will doubtless
 circulate as widely as that which I am now bringing to
 a conclusion ; and on this account I shall not annex any
 abstract of its contents. But there is one point which,
 as it must be interesting to every attentive reader of both
 works, I shall not entirely pass over. I mean the com-
 parative power and advantages of the nitrous acid, and
 the oxygenated muriate of potash.

THE recommendation of nitrous acid is, that it is
 cheap and easy to be had.

ITS disadvantages are considerable. It has an unplea-
 sant effect on the teeth. The patient who takes it for
 the cure of the venereal complaint, is obliged to swallow
 a great

a great bulk of liquid. It is reported (even when sweetened) not very unfrequently to produce sickness, pain in the stomach, and diarrhoea, in which latter case its effect on the disease is probably weakened or destroyed.

THE oxygenated salt will probably soon cease to be scarce, or very dear. I have been supplied with it in a state of the greatest purity by Mr. Hoyle, jun. of Mayfield, near Manchester, at two shillings the ounce, taking a quantity not less than a pound; and at this rate I hope that it will soon be generally afforded.

THIS one inconvenience is balanced by advantages in every other respect. In bulk, in taste, in its effect on the stomach and bowels; it seems upon the whole superior to the nitrous acid: though, as we have seen, it cannot with success be administered absolutely at random, with respect to quantity or form. But its management is probably more easy than that of the acid.

OF the efficacy of the acids when compared with one another, nothing can as yet be said. We possess testimonies in favour of several; but it will probably be long before the others are tried as extensively as the nitrous. I endeavoured, wherever I could, to obtain reports concerning this, because I understood that numerous experiments with the oxygenated salt were going on at Woolwich; and I wished practitioners to have extensive means of forming their opinion.

ON the most impartial view which I am able to take of the facts, I am inclined, with some hesitation, to decide in favour of the oxygenated salt. But it seems to me desirable to have the comparison carried further. With this view I have solicited Mr. Hammick, of the Royal Plymouth Hospital, who has seen so much of the effects of nitrous acid, to use the oxygenated salt extensively. If his should be added to the respectable authority

rity of Mr. Cruickshank, in favour of this latter medicine, little doubt, I apprehend, would remain on the question. I have also endeavoured, and I hope with success, to procure trials of both these substances in the fivvens.

It is not my intention to continue a separate collection for venereal cases. But the work, described in the following advertisement, of which the first volume is in the press, will be open for the reception of medical facts of this and every other kind. I earnestly request the assistance of observers towards its support.

In February, 1799, will be published,

BY THOMAS BEDDOES, M. D.

VOLUME THE FIRST OF

*CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHYSICAL AND
MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.*

Principally from the WEST of ENGLAND and WALES.

FOR the exposition of a design, which, if certain obvious conditions be fulfilled, cannot fail to meet with approbation, few words will suffice. It is needless, in the present day, to argue at large in behalf of the preservation and multiplication of facts.

DIFFERENT medical practitioners, whom the author of this prospectus either met in the country, or knew as Hotwell patients, favoured him from time to time with a variety of interesting oral communications. From the
manner

manner in which some of these were related, it was evident that they were in danger of being lost.

A WISH to save for the public observations calculated to enrich medicine, suggested the undertaking, here announced. In furtherance of this wish, it occurred that occasional correspondence, personal intercourse, and facility of transmission, might create in favour of a *West-country publication*, an interest which the Edinburgh and London collections do not every where excite.

THE reader is requested to take the term *West-country* in a sense unusually large. He may, if he pleases, extend his conception to the space comprehended between the Land's-end, and a line running from the confines of Wales, along the N. NE. and E. borders of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Wilts, and Hants. It cannot be expected that a sentiment, productive of co-operation, should prevail over this whole country. The grand reliance must doubtless be upon gleanings near home. Nevertheless, important information from the greatest distance will always be as welcome as from the adjacent parish.

HITHERTO the plan has been mentioned only to such persons as were known to have immediate communications in their power. By all such it has been approved—by some very warmly—by others so far as to induce them to grant their aid.

HENCE the editor considers himself as nearly secure of a volume for 1798; and of another for 1799. For future years, the supply must chiefly depend upon the inclination which shall be produced at the outset among professional and philosophical men.

IT is not proposed to confine the work strictly to medical papers. With the philosophy of inanimate matter, which bears in so many points upon his art, no practitioner

itioner of medicine should be unacquainted. Nor does any thing seem more demonstrable, than that every liberally educated individual should be initiated in the philosophy of animated nature. An extensive series of experiments in the first volume will furnish a striking example of connection between these branches of knowledge. And the utility of keeping them together ought perhaps, on all occasions, to be held up to contemplation.

Other means of rendering the collection interesting appear to the editor to lie within his reach. He entertains further views, relative to it, and is in hopes ere long of finding assistance in the task of providing materials and superintending the press. But these particulars he begs leave to defer for a short time.

It is his wish that the profits (if any accrue) should go to a public purpose. As the *Institution for investigating the medicinal powers of factitious airs* will very speedily be set on foot, and as the subscriptions scarcely form a fund adequate to that great and difficult object, it is proposed that the profits of the two first volumes should be destined to its enlargement; and that, afterwards, they be given to some infirmary within the district—the particular infirmary to be determined, each year, by lot.

CLIFTON, August 29, 1798.

* * * Communications may be addressed to Dr. Beddoes, or to Mr. Cottle, Bookseller, Bristol.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N^o. XI.

I FIND in the new French edition of Dr. Swediaur's treatise on syphilitic complaints a fact, which deserves to be taken into consideration along with the report Appendix N^o. VI.

“ THERE is,” observes this author, “ another question of great importance which I durst not decide in the former editions of this work—Whether syphilis can be communicated to children by generation; or, to speak more exactly, If an infected father can communicate the disease to the child by the semen, during the act of generation; or, If an infected mother, having the genitals perfectly free from disease, can communicate this virus to the foetus by the circulation. A remarkable case, that occurred a few years ago at London, cleared up this point, and proves that the disease may sometimes pass from father to child in the semen.

“ A SOLDIER in the dragoon guards was affected with a syphilitic ulcer of the throat, which long resisted mercury. During the treatment, he cohabited with his wife, who never had any venereal complaint, and is still in perfect health. The infant which was the fruit of this connection was, some weeks after birth, seized with a syphilitic ulcer of the throat, in the very spot where the father had his. I have seen father and child: they are now perfectly cured.”

“ I AM informed that there is at present a reigning family in Europe, of which all the children are born
5 “ with

“ with the syphilitic germ, none having survived till it
 “ was determined to administer mercury to the animal
 “ that furnished milk for the support of the last born.”—
 He then, for want of positive facts, supposes that the
 syphilitic complaint cannot be communicated from the
 mother to the foetus in utero.—*Traité complet des Mala-*
dies Syphilitiques. Paris. 1798. p. 9—11.

OF the case concerning which Dr. Hope furnished me
 with a verbal account, I have since found a full report
 by Dr. Albers, a German, who probably was, at the
 time of writing it, a student at Edinburgh. The ex-
 periment being so particularly decisive of the power
 of nitrous acid over the complaint, as also of the similar
 ultimate effect of nitrous acid, of mercury, and oxy-
 genated muriate, I shall take the trouble to translate the
 report of Dr. Albers :

“ ELIZABETH BARELMY, ætat. 32—Nov. 19, 1796.
 “ The nipple of the right breast is surrounded with
 “ an ulcer of unequal breadth, from one-third to two-
 “ thirds of a thumb. Half an inch above this are two
 “ other ulcers, about the size of a sixpence. The pus
 “ is thick and yellow, the edges elevated and inflamed.
 “ She complains of shooting pains in her throat, which
 “ appears somewhat red and inflamed; but not a vestige
 “ of ulceration can be discovered. In other respects,
 “ healthy.

“ SHE attributes her complaint to an infection re-
 “ ceived a month ago from a child, which was born in
 “ the eighth month, and, five weeks afterwards, died of
 “ a loathsome general pustular eruption, that appeared
 “ but a few days before death. She immediately per-
 “ ceived pain in her right breast, but nevertheless con-

T

“ tinued

“ tinued to suckle her own child at the left. This, too,
 “ died a few weeks after, with ulcers in the mouth and
 “ throat. The mother of the first child suffered before
 “ and at the time of its birth, from the same complaints,
 “ without knowing of what kind they were.

“ Nov. 20th. The patient complains of some head-
 “ ache. She had a solution of soda vitriolata \mathfrak{z} ss in
 “ water.—Nov. 23d. Head-ache gone. Appearance of
 “ the ulcers the same.

“ R Acidi nitrosi \mathfrak{z} i.

“ Aq. font. $\mathfrak{℥}$ i. M. Sumat in die.

“ Nov. 24th. The patient took \mathfrak{z} ij of nitrous acid in
 “ one pound of water, in the day.—25th. No unpleasant
 “ sensations from the medicine. Continue.—26th. The
 “ patient declares that the pain in the ulcers is con-
 “ siderably less. Applic. unguent. simpl. ulcerib. Cont.
 “ acid.—29th. The small pains in the throat gone.
 “ Ulcers less. Sumat liquoris acidi $\mathfrak{℥}$ ij. in die.—
 “ Dec. 1st. Less discharge from the ulcers. No incon-
 “ venience from the medicine. Continue.—3d. One of
 “ the small ulcers above the nipple entirely healed; the
 “ other diminishes, and gets a healthier look daily. The
 “ patient thinks the urine increased. Continue.—
 “ Dec. 6th. The other small ulcer healed. The other
 “ nearly so. Continue.—Dec. 9th. Large ulcer much
 “ diminished. No inconvenience from the medicine.
 “ Continue.—13th. All the ulcers completely healed.
 “ The surrounding hardness nearly gone. The patient
 “ complains of some head-ache. Catamenia regularly ap-
 “ peared yesterday. *Medicine discontinued.*

“ 15th Dec. The day before yesterday she felt some
 “ pain round the nipple. The new skin over the ulcers
 “ appears somewhat redder than before. Catamenia

“ gone. *Medicine repeated.*—17th. Pain and burning
 “ round the nipple less since the repetition of the medi-
 “ cine. Continue.—19th. Pain and heat gone. Con-
 “ tinue.—25th. Breast well in all respects.—28th. Yester-
 “ day, having taken a dose of the acid liquor from some
 “ oversight weaker than common, she felt nausea, and
 “ vomited, and still has a sense of weight in the sto-
 “ mach. *Omit the medicine.*—29th. Stomach complaints
 “ gone.—Jan. 8th, 1797. For these five days, has felt
 “ an itching round the nipple, which increased, till
 “ yesterday, when she felt a burning in the part. In
 “ the night she scratched her breast, which now is
 “ without the cuticle, and looks inflamed.

“ R Acid. nitros. ℥iij.

“ Aq. font. ℥ij. Bibat in die.

“ 9th Jan. The pain and heat round the nipple, as
 “ well as the redness, diminished. Sumat liquor.
 “ acid. ℥ij. cum acid. nitros. dilut. ℥iv. in die.—10th.
 “ Heat and pain decrease: but round the nipple there is
 “ a superficial ulceration. Continue.—11th. Pain in the
 “ breast less. Feeling of heat gone. Ulceration less.—
 “ 14th. The patient feels no more pain in the breast;
 “ and, since yesterday, the burning is diminished. Con-
 “ tinue.—15th, 16th, 17th. The ulceration diminishes.—
 “ 19th. The ulcer completely healed. The whole skin
 “ round the nipple has a natural look. Continue.—
 “ 30th. Breast continues quite well. The patient dis-
 “ missed, with directions to continue the medicine a
 “ month longer.”

THE reason why this report ceases here, is because it
 was sent to Germany before the first relapse.

