

An account of the discovery and operation of a new medicine for gout.

Contributors

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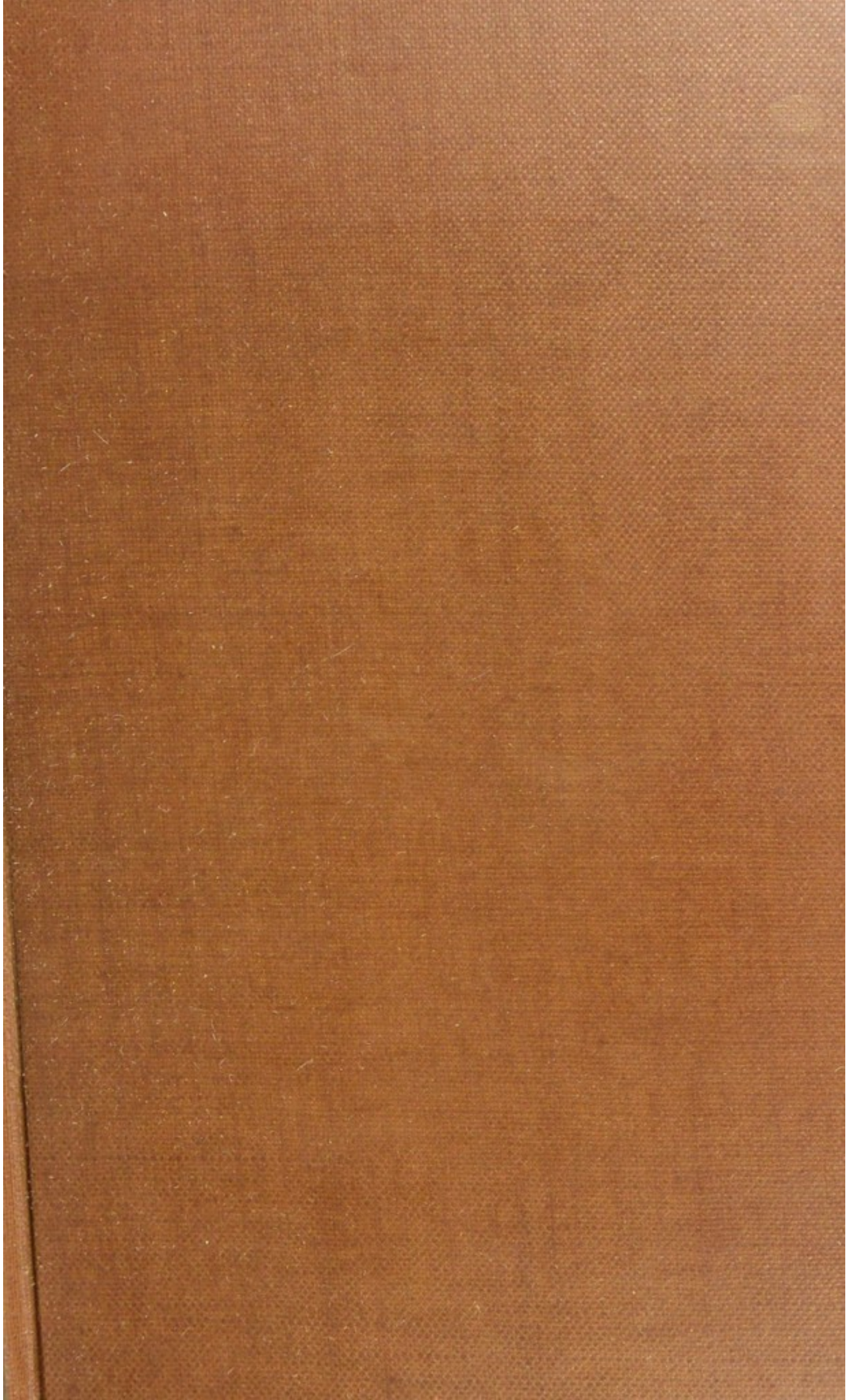
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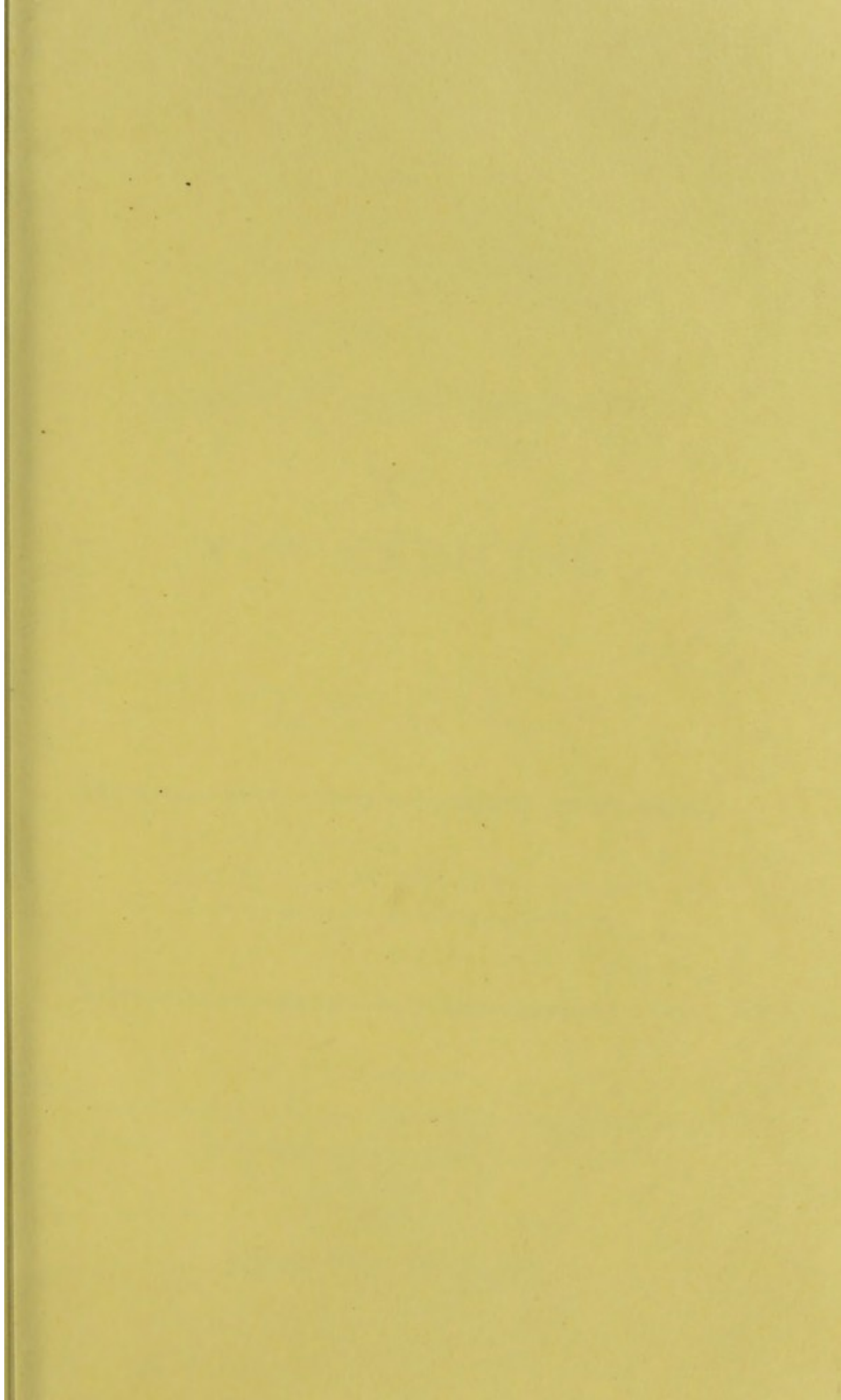
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BEDDOES

AN
 ACCOUNT
 OF THE
DISCOVERY AND OPERATION
 OF A
 NEW MEDICINE
 FOR
 G O U T.

“ THE TIME APPROACHES,
 THAT WILL WITH DUE DECISION MAKE US KNOW
 WHAT WE SHALL SAY WE HAVE, —————.”

Shakspeare.

L O N D O N:
 PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD,
 BY J. G. BARNARD, GEORGE'S COURT, CLERKENWELL.



1805.

[*Price Four Shillings.*]

ACCOUNT
OF THE
DISCOVERY AND OBSERVATION
OF
NEW MEDICINE
BY
DOCTOR

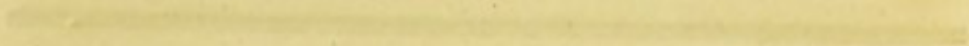
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MEDICINE



“ The discovery of every new *specific* (or substance capable of correcting given morbid actions of the system) affords a new reason for believing in the existence of others.—
.—We have analogies enough to persuade us, that there is no lesion of organization, induced by the powers of the living body modified in one way, which the same powers, differently modified, may not repair; and that, by dint of frequent ventures, some happy hand will draw from the lottery of Nature a remedy for each of those diseases, which at present most baffle the physician and torture the patient.”

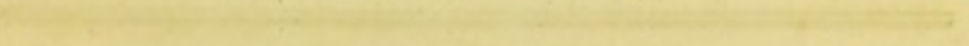
BEDDOES *on* FACTITIOUS AIRS, *Part V.* 1796.

(pp. *****86)




The discovery of water was made by the
 captain of the vessel who was sailing
 along the coast of the island of
 St. Vincent. He had been ordered to
 search for water and he had been
 unsuccessful in his search. He had
 been told that there was no water
 on the island and he had believed
 it. He had been told that the
 island was a desert and he had
 believed it. He had been told that
 the island was a waste of land and
 he had believed it. He had been
 told that the island was a place
 of death and he had believed it.

Barrow on the coast of the island of
 St. Vincent.



AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
DISCOVERY, &c.



EVERY person who has been subjected to the tortures of GOUT, must be supposed to lament that medical science hath not been able to devise an effectual alleviation of those very distressing sufferings. Whoever should be so happy as to succeed in such a discovery, would deserve ill of the community if he withheld it from general notoriety. And, notwithstanding physicians may have been, hitherto, foiled in their researches for this desidera-

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tum,

tum, some recent discoveries of the properties of disregarded simples*, give hope at least, that this calamity may find its appropriate antidote. Whether the discovery of a remedy for the paroxysms of Gout or for the disorder itself, be the effect of accident, or the result of profound investigation, would be, to the afflicted, indifferent; and the public claim to its benefits equally obligatory on the discoverer. But, when we have seen that a new discovery in medical physiology, of the highest value†, should require the skill and the perseverance of a JENNER, to remove prejudices, and to mature it to public advantage; how shall the writer of the following narrative, unsanctioned by a professional education, even dare to mention, much less expect to induce a justly-sceptical world (the race of gouty valetudinarians) to believe, what from experience *he* believes, THAT GOUT MAY BE

* Digitalis, &c.

† Vaccine Inoculation.

CURED? Of himself he is convinced that he is incompetent to an undertaking so new, and so arduous; but he has availed himself in the first instance of the assistance of two regular physicians, who are sufficiently respectable in the districts where they reside: and, by them encouraged to venture on this task, he does not feel himself at liberty to shrink from what they enjoin as a reasonable duty. If he be successful---he is sure of his reward: if he fail---the consciousness of having intended well shall console his disappointment. The benevolent may give him some credit: those who believe *patience*, and *flannel* must be the eternal alternatives in Gout, may call him a visionary. Yet from those who through his means, are relieved, without subsequent injury, from a single fit of that distracting malady, he shall not despair of receiving thanks. And, though he enjoy the strongest assurances that such a medicine is at length discovered

and developed, in the simplest class of the productions of nature, he will not ask others to take this on his mere assertion; but will invoke their indulgence while he unfolds what has created and confirmed his faith,---leaving them to deliberate, and to “give their verdict according to the evidence; and true deliverance make.”

The writer is in middle life, that is, in his forty-fifth year, unconnected with business; and, like many others in the same situation, he has been a victim to the demon of gout; whose very dalliance is torture, and whose frequent embraces are more odious than death. But, by drinking the extracted juice of a ripe fruit, he found the effect to be a gradual diminution of the extreme sensibility of the inflamed part, and this perceptible in a few hours; the angry swelling, more tardily receded: yet not so slowly but that in a few days he found himself enabled to
ride

ride and walk; and in a short time his health was completely restored. The medicine seemed to effect as much in so many days, as nature or rather the passive plan would have done in so many weeks; and the constitution remained quite unimpaired by the attack.

By this statement he is aware that he has rendered himself obnoxious to the question that will here surely arise in the mind of all the well-informed sufferers by gout, as well as in that of their physicians, viz. "*Whence this hardiness to tamper with the thread that suspends the sword?*" And he feels it incumbent upon him to attempt to answer it, that the idea of a rash tamperer may not accompany the reader through the subsequent narrative.

In the retrospect of his life he finds that he had an early aptitude to attempt to discriminate some of the more obvious qualities

qualities of vegetable substances by the appearances they exhibited to the eye: so much so that he could, very generally, resolve for himself, and point out to his comrades, that such a tree bore sweet or sour apples, &c. by the configuration of the leaf, or the twig. He will not here stop to speculate on the cause of this propensity, or on the degree of perfection which it attained. He is satisfied that it has been the source of much gratification to him; though he has sometimes been sharply bitten for the moment, in consequence of the urgent desire he always felt, to taste the fruit, or the leaf, or the bark, of any new, or untried plant, that he chanced to meet with. And it will be equally fruitless to lament that his destinies have forbidden this inclination to be cultivated in the genial soil of medical and botanic science. Nor will he presume now to inquire whether nature, in her ample magazine, have provided an adequate
cure

cure for the casual evils that are scattered in the paths of life: or, if the conscious appetite, naturally, embraces *these* with avidity---while, with disdain, it rejects the deadly. For, he thinks it sufficient to the present purpose to state, that fourteen years ago, when under the affliction of an acute rheumatism, he first tasted the fruit above-mentioned. Its unforbidding flavour prompted him to a larger trial than he usually bestowed on unknown, or “forbidden fruit.” The operation this had on him did not make him fancy that “forthwith up to the clouds” he “flew,” but it soon inclined him to surmise that his disorder had abated of its virulence in consequence of it. The fruit was again resorted to; and his pains almost immediately subsided on the second trial. Some six months afterwards, the same enemy again took the field. The preserved juice of this fruit was his only auxiliary, and his considerate resource. His foe was soon

B 4

dislodged.

dislodged—and has never again intruded on his repose. By this experience, he was convinced that the fruit was not deleterious—and he knew, before, that the “birds of the air” fed on it greedily.

At the age of between thirty and forty he became subject to gout. In the summer of 1798, he was attacked with a fit of extreme severity. The sufferings which this brings on will need no comment to those, that have felt the pangs occasioned by this obdurate intruder: while those more favoured, who have never suffered by its baleful depredations, will be unable to conceive its tortures, even by means of the happiest pencil and the most vivid colouring. Though pretty well aware that the faculty could not relieve him, yet the pain was so extreme, and the inflammation so high, that it seemed like indiscretion not to obtain their advice. A practitioner*

* Mr. John Causer, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

of good repute, visited him three mornings successively: and, with the frankness that marks an honourable profession, told him, that it was not in his power to do him any good—that, though the fit was severe, it had no alarming symptoms—and that patience was all he should prescribe. Left in this distressing situation, the remedy formerly used for rheumatism, occurred to his recollection. “He tasted,” (though warily at first) and he was not disappointed. The following night he slept considerably, which he believes would have been impossible under ordinary cases of the paroxysm: and in the morning felt very little pain, though his feet had every appearance of ardent gout. This happy effect induced him to continue the medicine to the complete removal of the fit: and it will, he hopes, be sufficient to counterbalance all idea of indiscriminate rashness that the *coup d'oeil* might have excited.

In five or six days after the first exhibition of this remedy for his gout, he went thirty miles, on a visit to a friend, in a gig, where he stopped two nights. When he returned to Stourbridge, he found Mr. William Slark, sen. a respectable tradesman, No. 10, Cheapside, London, who, travelling in the country, had called on him. Mr. Slark observing that the writer drank, with his beverage, a preparation from this fruit, an explanation took place. And this interview is mentioned as a connecting link in tracing out the regular progress of the narrator's experience, and the impulsive steps that have brought him before the public. For, Mr. Slark said that he was himself somewhat subject to rheumatic complaints; and requested a few bottles, if it could be spared. He had some. In November was received from him the following letter:

“ London,

“ *London, Nov. 22, 1798.*

“ SIR,

“ I have been so well since my journey
“ that I have had no occasion for the
“ tincture. But I have a case to mention
“ which fell accidentally in my way. I
“ called last Tuesday was a week at a house
“ on business. I found the master* laid
“ up with severe gout in both hands and
“ feet, in distressing pain, and wrapped up
“ in flannels; his legs and hands swelled

* Mr. Hicks: who then kept the Swan Inn, at Clapton, near Hackney.

This person the narrator visited both in the summer and autumn, of 1801; and was told by him even more than Mr. Slark had said, *viz.* that “ before the
“ medicine arrived, the gout had seized his stomach
“ to such a degree, that he was black in the face;
“ and his friends expected that he would not live an
“ hour.” He added also, that since the foregoing application of the medicine, then three years after, he had had but very little gout; next to none at all, comparatively with what he had for many years before been tormented by. He then kept the Spread Eagle, at Homerton.

“ very

“very much: he sweat with pain. I gave
 “a bottle of the tincture; and called
 “yesterday to see him. I found him so
 “much recovered that he had got on
 “again his shoes. And he told me that
 “he had never found such speedy relief
 “in his life (for he had frequently had
 “gout before.) He sent this evening for
 “a second bottle; and has dressed him-
 “self to-day, and walked down stairs with-
 “out help. This bottle, I doubt not, will
 “perfectly cure him: of which I will in-
 “form you in my next. I think this a
 “capital cure, for I never saw a man so
 “bad in my life.”

This corroboration of the utility of the
 medicine, was sufficient to determine the
 narrator to be provided for his own se-
 curity—the good effect of which precaution
 he soon experienced. For his next perio-
 dical fit of gout (soon after Christmas)
 a few days after he had been much chilled
 with

with the frost, which was then uncommonly severe, seized him violently in both feet, where the operation of the cold had been the most severe. The concomitant appearances of swelling and discolouration were rapid; and exhibited the most intense gout. But, being provided with the remedy, which he now took freely, he was not at all, this time, prevented from walking from room to room—he was not kept awake in the nights—and in less than ten days, he felt no inconvenience from the disorder. He can say, what he believes few men could previously say, that he had a full, and highly apparent fit of *painless* gout! And this induced him to continue to medicate his beverage with this extract, which had become pleasant to his palate, and invigorating to his frame, for a considerable time afterwards. The consequence of which was, (he knows no other reason) a melioration in his next liable period of gout; which had been usually twice a year: for
this

this was slight, and did not confine him a single moment.

If he had now conceived an idea that this medicine, properly applied, might greatly retard, if not wholly prevent, the recurrence of gout; he hopes this will be considered as a natural extension of faith, fostered by the premises, rather than “the “baseless fabrick” of empirical whimsey. Those who reason from analogy will tolerate the presumption, if it were such—but he has experienced, in his feelings, an ample remuneration for the hazard: for he enjoyed, in consequence, a quiet interval of two years and a half without any gout. He has heard it said, that a gouty man would do wrong to be cured of his gout—that the recurrence of the fit purifies the body, and preserves it from every other disorder. Without offering any opinion on this point, he will only declare, that for more than three years he has had but one fit of
gout;

gout; and that fit very inconsiderable with regard to pain. That his health is better in many respects, and in no respect worse than it used to be before this treatment. His feet, in particular, that he has been forced to nurse for months together in cloth shoes—and on which, at best, he could not hobble without pain, are now as elastic as they were at the age of twenty. He has regained a general alertness and activity that for a long time he was a stranger to—and those that knew him four years ago will bear it witness. His diet, which was temperate, by no means abstemious, has continued exactly the same under the use of the remedy, as it was before.

But not to speak of the present till the past is disposed of, he will revert to the autumn of 1799, when Mr. Brown of the Crown-inn, Stourbridge, (at whose house the narrator then was) in the night was seized with gout in one foot; with

so much severity that it was with difficulty he could get down stairs in the forenoon. To him the remedy was recommended. It was taken: and the next day he was about the town, and in his usual business, in his boots. Mr. Brown had had gout before.*

The

* Since that period he has given the following testimony.

Stourbridge, April 15, 1801.

“ I, the master of the Crown-inn, certify that I
“ have received speedy, and efficacious relief in the
“ gout, by a tincture given me by Mr. ————,
“ and am willing to testify the same, for the benefit
“ of others if required. Witness my hand,

“ ROBT. BROWN.”

On the 9th July 1802, Mr. Brown received a letter from a gentleman of family in Buckinghamshire, requesting information about his knowledge of the medicine for the cure of gout—for the gentleman was himself gouty; and it had been recommended to him by Dr. Beddoes. A short time after Mr. Brown answered him thus.

“ Sir,

“ The medicine you allude to is I believe a certain
“ cure for the gout. It cured me about three years
“ ago, nor have I felt any symptom of the disorder
“ till

The phœnomena already stated, and so strongly marked in physical effect; could not fail to open a new field of ideas. If philanthropy may be allowed ever to warm the human breast, the benevolent might here feel a glow: and the fire could hardly be elicited from a source more

“ till within a few days previous to receiving your
“ letter, which was very severe for several days. A
“ neighbour coming to see me, told me he had a bot-
“ tle of the medicine which he immediately gave me.
“ At Sundries I took three wine glasses the same af-
“ ternoon mixed with double that quantity of water, af-
“ ter which I had a comfortable night's repose; re-
“ peated the same the next afternoon, and in the
“ morning was perfectly easy, and have continued so
“ ever since.

“ I have omitted to answer your letter till this
“ time, to see if I should have a relapse, but I have not.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ROBT. BROWN.”

This new proof of its efficacy on Mr. Brown, and his continued faith in the remedy, was unknown to the writer until some time in the September following: and it may be well supposed that it did not damp his ardour in the pursuit of what he had before thought a duty to mankind.

pure. Here is a plant that not only the pharmacologist but popular practice has been ignorant of: yet powerful to alleviate one of the most excruciating "shocks that flesh is heir to." The writer's intention is not to heighten the imagination, but to state facts. He is too well convinced of his strength to attempt a *coup de main*. His wish is to provoke an inquiry that shall be dispassionate, scientific, and liberal. That being accomplished, he trusts in the prediction, inspired by the knowledge of himself, that his department will be conformable to the public decision.

It is not probable that much would be said in favour of that man, who had, with his fellows, been long immured in a bastile, and should discover a private passage by which all might escape; yet should exultingly, steal away through it himself, and leave his companions still to languish in the dolorous abode. Nor would his discretion

cretion deserve better if, by too great precipitation, and indiscreet clamour, he should proclaim the joyful tidings to his fellow prisoners: for it might give an alarm, and that retreat be cut off for ever. The discoverer of this remedy has judged himself, to be in a situation in some measure analogous to this; and he has thought that it deserved a circumspect attention: for, he has been advised to make it indiscriminately public; and he has been solicited to sport it as a patent, that is, as a quack medicine. But he has rejected both; and for the following reasons. The first plan, it is his opinion, would dress it in the garb of insignificance; and, consequent, neglect. If some few, who would not despise truth although it were clad in a *cheap* garment, should be desirous to ascertain, by their own experience, whether this medicine really possessed virtue; yet, having never witnessed the requisite preparation of it, they would be in doubt

whether they exhibited it properly themselves, and, thereby, be deterred from the attempt: or, by inattention to the process; or, an improper dose, find no benefit from the application of it; they might think it worth nothing. It would not be the business of any one to provide a magazine where, in genuine excellence, it might be had recourse to by those that would wish to give it a reasonable trial. And as to the second expedient, he was never ambitious enough of the name of quack-doctor to come forward in propria personæ that way. Moreover, he believes that the greatest number of sufferers from gout have an intellectual palate, too nicely pampered to relish advertised medicines, unless their regular physicians are willing to prescribe them: and thus in the catalogue of "Gout cured by God's blessing," it might counteract that general consolation that it is hoped it will, if discreetly managed, one day afford.

The

The only rational alternative that suggested itself was, to state its pretensions to enlightened—experienced—careful practitioners; and to submit it to their investigation and decision. If it would not sustain that ordeal with credit, it was apprehended that no public mention ought to be made of it. For if it did really possess virtues, those physicians would be sure to recognize them: if it contained any deleterious property, they would not let it go undetected—and, by their ultimatum, interdict the poison, or, mature the benefit. To such it has been submitted—and they are not named without authority. Dr. Bradley, of Westminster, was the first; and Dr. Beddoes, of Bristol, the second: and, after repeated trials, and considerable experience by them; and at their suggestions, this relation is submitted to the public. They were of opinion, that a detail of the rise and progress of the discovery, would give satisfaction to the gouty inquirer;

inquirer; and facilitate a measure which they are pleased to call good.

To prevent unfair trials, and prejudiced or fabricated reports; and that the medicine may be withheld, until its utility shall be fully established, under the strict guardianship of medical caution and experience, it has been thought best that, it should, for the present, remain under the controul of a few practitioners in different quarters of the kingdom. Two are already in full possession of a knowledge of the remedy, and the mode of administration. A quantity has been lately forwarded to a practitioner of great eminence, at Liverpool. When a few others are fixed upon in convenient situations, of which the public will be duly apprized, a sufficient opportunity, it is hoped, will be afforded for that part of the faculty and the public, which shall feel interested in having the pretensions of this remedy ascertained,
to

to satisfy themselves completely on that point. It is the discoverer's wish, that as many persons in and out of the profession, as possible, should witness the success of the new treatment. But there is indeed another, and an insurmountable reason for the restriction. The stock in hand will be sufficient for the fullest demand of six or eight physicians in the fullest practice and the most favourably situated for attending gouty patients: but by no means adequate to a promiscuous administration of it; which it is feared, would dissipate the medicine, without maturing the experience that would lead to a satisfactory decision of its merits.

Whenever the public shall become satisfied of the utility, that is the *safety*, as well *efficacy*, of the remedy in gout and rheumatism; supposing it capable of reaching both complaints in their acute, as well as chronic form, a full discovery shall be made on such conditions as may appear reasonable.

able. To be a little more explicit on this point, the invalids and the medical persons, with whom the discoverer has communicated, all agree, that in case his expectations are realized, he shall be intitled to an ample remuneration, either from public bounty or the liberality of individuals. If he were in greater affluence, he trusts there would be nothing dishonourable in expecting something like an adequate compensation on the presumption of having, without the slightest hint or analogy from books or persons, put human society in possession of so great a blessing.

The writer will not make any comments on the experience and the opinions of Dr. Bradley and Dr. Beddoes. They will add what appears to them right from what they know of the remedy: but he will subjoin a few cases that have fallen under his own notice, apart from their observation, since his coming to town, and first
 commu-

communication with Dr. Bradley. He is happy in being at liberty to give the names of the parties. He adopts this permission with pleasure, that whoever is in doubt may be satisfied by personal inquiry, so far as that can give satisfaction. In answer to any cavil that an anonymous statement might give rise to, if a statement can be called anonymous, which contains so many respectable names.---It was judged preferable, (whether the idea be just or otherwise) that the discoverer should not for the present bring forward his name, that the reader's attention might not be drawn off from the cases and testimonies of various practitioners, to enquire " Who is this Mr. ——— ?"

CASE

C A S E I.



MR. EDWARD JACKSON, of *Edmonton*, six miles from *London*, house painter, plumber and glazier, and a member of the Loyal Association, aged about thirty-six, for seven or eight years had been subject to two or more fits of gout in the year; some of which had confined him two months to his bed, and four from his business. He was violently seized, in both his feet and hands, on the 22d of August, 1801. His pain, for three days, was so extreme, that his complaints reached the neighbouring houses, in one of which a lady, who had gone there for the benefit of the air, and who shortly before had been on a visit to the family where the reporter lodged---and who had in consequence known what he used for gout---mentioned it to Jackson's family. They immediately applied for some of the medicine.

It

It was furnished with directions how to use it. On the second day after, this patient was visited. He was found sitting on the side of the bed, with his feet on the floor; but without the least possibility of moving, or of using his hands, which, as well as his feet were very much swelled and discoloured, but nearly free from pain; and he expressed the most rapturous emotions at the circumstance: though they yet bore evident marks of the most horrid gout. Four days after this the visit was renewed. He was then sitting by his parlour window, in a cheerful mood: the swelling and the deep red colour very considerably abated; he could walk about the room a little; and began to get the use of his hands---though he could not yet feed himself. He was now perfectly free from pain: nor had he any relapse of it since the last visit. He was astonished as much as pleased at his situation; for the violence of the paroxysm, and his experience in gout, had

had made him predict a long confinement. Six days afterwards the visit was repeated; and the patient was at the inn, where he had gone on business, reading the newspaper over a tankard of porter: he was now able to walk about the town without crutches or stick. It should be added, that this patient slept considerably the first night after he began to take the medicine, and that his sleep was refreshing.

It is a fact well known at Edmonton, that Mr. Jackson's gout always attacked him with tremendous fury; and, that he suffered much subsequent constitutional derangement. Indeed, he confessed himself most severely injured in his business, by reason of his frequent and long confinements: but his hopes, fortunately for him, now assume a more cheerful aspect. At the period of his half-yearly attack last winter, he felt symptoms of approaching
gout;

gout: but by an early application of the medicine, it went off without any fit or disability. In about six months more, the time of his summer fit, the gout appeared in one foot: he had not any of the remedy by him, nor did he send for any, thinking it might go off: yet, when he found it increasing, in about three days he sent for the medicine, being then so bad that he could not walk. In two or three days more he was quite recovered, and went about his business as usual; but getting wet and cold by going out early one morning, and in consequence of much fatigue through the day, it seized his hands, and quite disabled them; but taking the medicine freely, he had little pain, though he was hindered from business for eight or ten days.

This case seems to strengthen the idea that the medicine duly administered, will protract the period of the gout's return, as well as curtail the paroxysm and assuage its



its rancour; if not, in time, totally de-
prive it of its power. And it has restored
to Mr. Jackson, a considerable share of
bodily vigour, of which the gout's long
usurpation had deprived him.

CASE

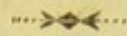
C A S E II.

In *Edmonton*, above mentioned, lives a Mr. BOULTON, aged from 50 to 55, by trade a butcher: a man more regular in his habits, than butchers often are; and diligent in his calling. For twenty years he had been subject to gout; seldom less than one, often two fits in the year. About the 8th September, 1801, he was seized with gout in both his feet; which confined him to his bed. Mr. Jackson, above named, informed him what relief he had found, and advised him to procure some of the same medicine which he had himself taken. But Mr. Boulton declined; saying—That for a long time past he had been trying so many things, without effect, that he had made up his mind to let the gout have its own way in future. After lying in this state about ten days,
his

his gout increased in violence—rising to one of his knees, and considerably contracting it. This gave him fresh alarm; as it never had operated on him in that manner before. Mr. Jackson again renewed his persuasions; and an application was made for the medicine on the Saturday morning. The next Wednesday he was visited by the reporter. He was in his shop, among his customers. He said, that on the Sunday he could walk about his room: and, on the Monday, went to Smithfield Market, to buy cattle. This effort, he replied, was against the advice of his friends, but his business was so circumstanced that he could not well avoid it; and as he felt no pain, he was in hopes that it would not hurt him. He went in his market cart. When he returned, it being nearly night, he said he was alarmed at the re-appearance of his gout, and thought that he should pay dearly for his temerity; but, by taking the medicine a
little

little more freely, his pain had again subsided before morning; and, that he was then, comparatively, well. The next Monday after, though a rainy day, he was again at Smithfield Market in his boots; and no bad consequences ensued.

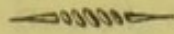
C A S E III.



About the 16th of October, 1801, Mr. HALE, a considerable Tradesman, No. 3, *St. Ann's Church-yard, Doctor's-Commons*, was attacked with Gout in both feet and hands, with such severity, that he was confined to his bed. On the 19th, through the interference of Mr. Slark, mentioned in the former part of this narrative, he requested a supply of the medicine. The next day after it was administered, he could walk in his room—and the third day he felt no pain whatever from the complaint though his hands and feet had a swelling and red appearance still left: and in less than ten days he was about his business, without his gouty shoes. He had, for many years, been subject to violent fits of gout—and he remarked, that the symptoms preceding this fit had been such, as foreboded a long and severe confinement.

CASE

C A S E IV.



On the 29th October, 1801, the daughter of Mr. DAVIS, No. 11, *Old Swan Lane, Upper Thames Street*, solicited some of the medicine for her father, who was in distressing pain with gout in both feet, and one hand; Mr. Davis had just heard by a friend from *Edmonton*, that such a remedy was in existence. The medicine was given: and the next day (after a lapse of about eighteen hours) this patient was visited. He was sitting in his parlor, and free from pain. His hands and feet, to appearance, full of the most angry gout; for they were greatly swoln and discoloured: but, in himself, he was comfortable; and he could suffer the parts to be felt, and even pressed with the hand, without inconvenience. He said that his gout had been most particularly severe for two days before he took the medicine:

but that within six hours after he began it, his pains had subsided and he slept. On inquiry, it was found that he had taken the medicine with considerable latitude beyond what had been prescribed. Yet, the result was the most speedy of all the cures that had been witnessed. This strikingly shews the propriety of putting this medicine into discriminating hands, that the most appropriate doses, may be accurately known. At evening, the 2d of November, (four days after) which was a very stormy day in London, this patient was again called on, principally to see if the weather should re-induce the gout, or in any way affect the patient. His wife said that he was wonderfully well, and at his warehouse, where he had been most of the day. A week after he was seen by the reporter; and he was then perfectly well. Mr. Davis had been subject to gout before.

CASE

C A S E V.

The following case gives some apparent countenance to the supposition, that this medicine may prevent the recurrence of gout; as well as wholly take away its rigor. Mr. JOHN WHEELER, coal-merchant, in *Fleet-street* (but whose house is at *Hammersmith*) had been for a considerable time subject to frequent fits of the gout. He had often had two or three fits in the year. About the beginning of June, 1801, he first drank the medicated beverage, having then symptoms of approaching gout: but he has not had a fit of gout since that time (now March, 1802.) Whenever he descried the harbingers, he invariably had recourse to the medicine; and, as invariably they have disappeared. On those occasions he took

a wine glass or two of the beverage; generally in the evening: and he has declared, that *he* is persuaded it is by that alone, that he has been so long without his gout. He is a person of good discernment—which, with his experience, gives weight to the opinion. This is the only case where the medicine has been taken with a special view to the prevention of gout; except in the discoverer's own person. The fact also urges the expedience of a liberal inquiry into the intrinsic merit of this medicine, and the best manner in which it may be used.

The foregoing case (it being now November, 1802) requires an addition. Mr. Wheeler was attacked with gout about the 18th of May last. Its appearance was considerable in his feet, attended with disability; though not so much as to prevent

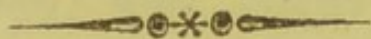
vent him from walking in his room; but having a little of the medicine by him, and soon procuring more, he had but a very inconsiderable degree of pain; and his confinement was not of long continuance. It is to be remarked that Mr. Wheeler took the medicine only when he felt the approaches of the gout, and then but sparingly: and there is authority to say, that his opinion of its utility is not lessened by this further experience of its operation. He has to this time remained free from further gout.

*The two following Cases, though inconclusive,
are not without interest :---*

CAPT. DELANO, of the Frederick, bound to Lisbon, whose house is at *Edmonton*, made application for some of the medicine, on the 24th February, 1802. He had felt the approaches of gout for several days; it was then in one foot so much, that he could not walk, or wear his shoe. His vessel was on the point of sailing—and he expressed much concern that he should most likely lose his voyage by reason of his gout. The medicine was given him with a comforting prediction that it would enable him to proceed—which he did, without any gout, except a slight affection in one hand. He had been subject to gout for many years.

He

He moreover told the narrator, on the 29th November, 1802, that he thought he had been longer without his gout than was usual with him; that he had had no fit, and but slight symptoms since he took the medicine last February; yet the quantity he then had was very limited: and what he did take, he acknowledged, was taken irregularly.



On the 8th of March, 1802, Mr. HENRY YEATON, a master-lighterman, near *Dock-head*, was furnished with the medicine. He had had the gout for several days; and was then thought to be mending; though in one foot, which was red and swelled, it was still very painful, and he was confined to his bed. He had been subject to long fits of gout in all his limbs, and sometimes in his stomach; and

and of frequent recurrence. Within twenty-four hours after he first used the remedy, he was released from his attack: and it has not again troubled him to this time; though it is an interval of much longer duration than he used to experience between his fits.

The following Case of LUMBAGO, (a bad sort of Chronic Rheumatism) is subjoined, in confirmation of the Discoverer's first experience of the salutary properties of this Medicine:---

Mrs. TOOKE, No. 18, *London Wall, London*, aged thirty-seven, and the mother of six children, was, about the first of August, 1801, suddenly seized, while getting out of bed in the morning, with great pain low down in the small of her back and about the hips, attended with much disability of moving. It was judged to be what is called Lumbago. She soon became much enfeebled and dejected. The latter was supposed to arise, in some measure, from the recollection of having been a few years before seized in a similar manner, and for a fortnight, or more, rendered incapable of rising from her chair,

chair, or turning herself in bed, without assistance, and distressing pain; and her convalescence lingered through several months. She was advised to try the medicine that had been so successful in gout: and it was administered. Before evening she had regained most of her usual spirits, and the pain and disability of walking, were considerably removed. The next morning she felt but little inconvenience from the complaint; and the third day she was perfectly well. To prevent a recurrence of the disorder, she took a small quantity of the medicine daily for some time. And as she had for many years suffered, during the Autumn, Winter and Spring, very much from general rheumatism, and as it was then perfectly convenient, such use of the medicine has been continued, with but little interruption. The consequence has been (unless some other unknown cause intervened) that she had no
rheu-

rheumatism during the last winter, or at any time since she first took the medicine: and she now has much more solidity in her flesh—is much fatter—and much more florid in her complexion, than she had been for years before. During the last Summer she left off, and has not again used, the extra flannels that she had constantly worn for several years, on account of those complaints. She now exhibits an animated picture of good health: and attributes to the medicine the efficient merit of this pleasing alteration.

London, 30th Nov. 1802.

A CASE OF GOUT

*Communicated by Mr. E. T. LUSCOMBE, of
the ROYAL SCOTS GREYS.*

Mr. JOSIAH BRIDGE, Surgeon in the ROYAL NAVY, aged forty-one, was, at *Sydenham*, in *Kent*, on the 7th of October, 1802, violently attacked with the Gout, to which he had long been subject. The shoulder was first affected, and he could not move his left arm to his head; first from the violence of the disease in the shoulder, and then from its attacking the elbow. From thence on the 10th, the hand on the same side became inflamed and very painful. On the 13th, the right knee was severely attacked. Foreseeing, by experience, his future sufferings, and having frequently heard me state the relief I had seen gouty patients receive during the time I was with Dr. Bradley,

Bradley, and attended the Westminster Hospital, from the use of a newly-discovered Antiarthritic Medicine, then under trial and investigation by him: Mr. Bridge solicited me to procure it for him. Having consulted Dr. Bradley, &c. and having visited him on the 15th at twelve o'clock, he said,—and I reduced it to writing by the side of his bed (in which he had not been able to turn himself since the 7th) from his own mouth:---The pain and inflammation in the left hand is rather diminished,—the shoulder very sore; the pain, inflammation, swelling, and inability to perform voluntary motion is, he said, beyond doubt *increasing* in the right knee. Both feet, particularly the right, are becoming affected, and there are strong symptoms of approaching gout in the right hand. Bowels regular; pulse sixty-five, irregular, small, and extremely weak; (he had, half an hour before, taken a bason of rich animal soup) more weak

weak than either of us have commonly met, except in cases about to terminate in death, or syncope. Since 1792, he has never passed a Winter without gout.' And he added, I have every reason to expect, unless the medicine relieves me, *that I shall have at least, a three month's fit.* His habit is apparently plethoric; and he is a stout man, except being lame from the effects of gout. He has lived, for the last ten years, in the same kind of way as *most* officers in the navy. I gave him, a quarter before One o'clock, *p. m.* a proper large dose, *i. e.* a wine glass at least of the medicine. He felt almost instantly a glow in his stomach, which increased and spread to the thorax and abdomen, and from thence to every part of the body. In half an hour his pulse rose to seventy, more firm and full. In less than two hours his pulse flagged. He dined at two o'clock; after which, and a glass of brandy and water, his pulse

pulse improved. At ten minutes past three, I gave him a second dose of the medicine. At four o'clock, pulse forty in the first half minute, forty-two in the second. I then left him, as he expressed himself "quite comfortable." I directed that he should take the medicine every hour and half, and apply it externally as well as internally. I allowed him a tumbler of brandy and water in the evening, and directed that he should take as much beef tea with spice, sago with brandy, &c. as he chose; but prohibited wine, beer, and vegetables. I visited him on the 16th at one o'clock. He had taken the medicine most regularly (as I had directed the day before, and twice in the morning;) had passed as *good a night as he had ever done in his life*, was free from all pain, except in the back from laying so long in bed. The inflammation in every part *gone*. The swelling abated, and capability of performing voluntary motion *returned*. Pulse se-

venty; bowels regular; appetite good. After a twelfth dose of the medicine he was enabled to rise to take his dinner, and actually eat heartily of roast goose. I left him at five o'clock (pulse eighty and regular) singing "O be joyful" from his soul, and entertaining an high opinion of the medicine—or was I less pleased. To be more satisfied with it is impossible. I directed him to continue the use of it four times in a day, and his diet as yesterday. I visited Mr. Bridge on the 18th at eleven o'clock. Pulse seventy-two natural. *The gout*, as he declared, *cured*. No pain, no inflammation, or scarcely any swelling. He was directed an aromatic stomachic medicine in the forenoon, and the gout medicine twice after dinner—to use moderate regular exercise, and to avoid wet and cold,—and not to take more than two wine glasses of brandy with water in twenty-four hours.

Croydon, 29th Oct. 1802.

Mr.

Mr. BRIDGE's CASE

Continued, with some Observations.

(BY THE SAME.)

ON the 25th he had had no return of Gout, and a healthy state appeared to be established; a weakness of the left wrist was the only complaint now present. On the 30th the affection of the wrist had become considerably better, the external use of the medicine being continued. Mr. B. was so completely recovered, as to be enabled, on the 1st of November, to undertake a journey of one hundred and fifty miles to *North Curry*, near *Taunton*, in *Somersetshire*.

To have selected any person on whom a more fair trial of the powers of the newly discovered medicine could have been made, was, I believe, impossible. Mr. Bridge's father and grandfather were both

martyrs to the Gout, and believed it to be hereditary in the family. Mr. B. experienced a severe attack before he had attained his seventeenth year; since which he has been ever subject to the disease; but during the last ten winters he has never escaped a severe paroxysm. For five years past he has been regularly attacked in the month of October, and suffered a confinement, generally extending to six months, never falling short of three. The effects of the Gout have been in him remarkably severe; when surgeon of his Majesty's ship *Petterell*, he was obliged to leave his ship for the hospital at *Minorca*, and his health has never been sufficiently restored to enable him to return to active service.

The paroxysm was as violent as it could well be; and at the time he commenced the use of the medicine, the disease was evidently becoming more general
over

over the whole system. The debility was very great, and most observable in the very irregular and much weakened action of the heart and arteries. It was, however, by means of the medicine, together with a suitable diet, counteracted with the greatest ease and safety: and the paroxysm of Gout overcome in less than sixteen hours.

I am firmly persuaded, from the unvarying result of every experiment, of the efficacy of the newly discovered medicine in the cure (and perhaps prevention) of fits of the Gout; and I trust it will hereafter be found equally useful in other diseases of the same class, many of which, at present, oftentimes resist the most approved plans of treatment, and am convinced it will prove a most valuable addition to the *Materia Medica*.

East-Bourn Barracks,
4th Nov. 1802.

*A further communication from Mr. Luscombe,
respecting Mr. Bridge's case.*

To Mr.—

SIR,

SINCE I made my last report to you of Mr. Bridge's case, I was informed by his daughter that she believed her father had had a relapse of gout after he went into *Somersetshire*. I thought it of importance to myself, as well as to your medicine, to have the fact ascertained: and wrote to him to request a full account of his health, as well as to state honestly what brought on the relapse, and whether the medicine cured it, &c. &c. In answer, I have this moment received from him the inclosed letter, which I wish may be printed with my other reports, if it is not too late for the press. But should that be the case, I believe you will be pleased to see Mr. Bridge's sentiments of the medicine under his own hand.

I am, Sir, &c.

EDWARD T. LUSCOMBE.

East-Bourn Barracks,

Dec. 2, 1802.

To

To Mr. E. T. Luscombe.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

SOON after my arrival here (which was on the 6th instant) I was seized with a *slight* fit of the Gout in my left arm, I believe about the 10th or 12th, which lasted on me but a few days, and I have not the least doubt but it was brought on through the fatigue of my journey; but I have now the pleasurable satisfaction of acquainting you, that complaint is entirely removed, as I feel no symptom of it at present: and was it not for a cough, (which I attribute likewise to my journey) my health would be perfectly restored. And as to that truly valuable gouty medicine you was so obliging as to recommend to me, I cannot too much extol its efficacy, as I am fully convinced it has acted with

wonderful success in removing that complaint from me,

I remain,

My dear Friend,

Your's, most sincerely,

J. BRIDGE,

*North Curry, near Taunton, Somerset,
29th Nov. 1802.*

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

BY DR. BRADLEY.



To Mr.—

SIR,

AS I approved of the manner in which you commenced your trials of the virtue and efficacy of your Gout Medicine, (an account of which you say you are publishing) I can have no objection to giving an opinion on the subject. If however, the whole of my information had been derived from the cases which I have personally witnessed, I should have thought them too few, and the time of trial too short, on which to found an opinion that might go before the public. But since Dr. Beddoes, at *Bath* and *Bristol*, the region of gout, has found the same results with myself; and since Mr. Luscombe, now one of the surgeons of the second regiment of dragoons, whose attention was first
turned

turned to the subject, by the experiments I was making while he attended the Westminster Hospital, confirms our experience; I shall make my first report without farther delay. Mr. Luscombe indeed informs me, that he has met with one case in particular, which appears to him to be so very strong and well marked, that he proposes to send you the particulars of it, with the names at length, and liberty to publish it if you think it necessary. The opinion that the gout is incurable;---that it is a blessing to a man instead of a misery;---that it frees the constitution from other complaints;---that all attempts to cure or alleviate it, inflict much greater injuries than the disease itself;---that patience, flannel, and the rooms at *Bath*, are the only safe remedies, is so generally entertained, that gouty patients rarely consult medical men on that disease, unless at Watering Places. It is therefore from *Bath*, *Buxton*, *Matlock*, and the Sea Coast that

you

you must obtain experience, rather than *London*; for to such places people go on purpose to think and talk of chronic complaints, whereas in *London* they have something else to do. I mention these, among many obvious causes, of the smallness of the number of cases, in which I have been able to try your remedy in *London*. The result of my experience is,

1. That the medicine is safe and innocent in the doses in which you recommend it. This point I ascertained on first receiving a supply of it from you in May 1801; by taking it myself, and also by administering it to patients labouring under acute rheumatism; in which cases it always alleviated the pain, without producing any disagreeable effects on the constitution.*

* I also saw the case of Mrs. Tooke, which I understand you intend to publish, and in which the general health of the patient has been astonishingly improved by the occasional use of the medicine.

2. Having

2. Having observed how often the real merit and virtues of a valuable remedy are obscured or frustrated, by the recommenders extending its uses too widely; I became desirous of ascertaining the description of cases in which the good effects of your medicine could be most certainly predicted. This inquiry led me into an opinion that regular, acutely inflammatory, and painful attacks of gout, were the cases to which its use should generally be confined: as in these I had never seen it fail to produce the desired relief. On the contrary, when the constitution is exhausted by years, intemperance, and disease; when the joints are become rigid, or the organization of them materially changed; when the functions of the stomach, also, are nearly abolished, and the gout makes its assaults upon that organ or the head only; I thought it might injure your discovery to recommend it under such slender hope of success. For these reasons I have
been,

been, perhaps, more cautious than many other practitioners might have thought necessary; and have seldom advised the use of your medicine, except in inflammatory and painful cases of gout attacking the feet, knees, hands, &c.

There is, however, a very common state of the disease, and in this state it constitutes perhaps one of the greatest miseries of life. I mean the wandering, irregular and uncertain gout. This attacks the sufferer at no regular periods, nor in any certain parts; but sometimes in the knees, elbows, shoulders, loins, stomach, or head; and has no certain course or duration. The slightest irregularity in exercise or diet; or unpleasant news, is sufficient to induce a paroxysm; so that the sufferer is kept in a state of perpetual anxiety and apprehension. To be able to reduce this form of the disease, which is perpetual misery, to regular annual paroxysms, which might
in

in general leave to the patient eleven months of vigorous health; ought to be esteemed no inconsiderable degree of cure. I have seen a successful case of this kind. The Gentleman is engaged in an active line of business, in Westminster. Three or four additional miles of walking, a late hour, a few extraordinary glasses of wine, or a slight anxiety about his business or his family, would bring on one of his half formed fits.

Observing the commencement of a paroxysm about the beginning of last December, which time I consider as the *regular* gouty season, I advised him to nurse the paroxysm, and by a few glasses of Madeira or hock, to endeavour to bring on the regular inflammation in the extremities. He succeeded, and the violence of the pain, seconded by my encouragement, overcame his scruples about the danger of tampering with gout, and he was relieved by your remedy in about thirty hours. The
swell-

swelling and weakness continued in some degree about a fortnight, or three weeks, and he has had no gout since, which is nearly an interval of twelve months. When my experience is more diversified; I shall have no objection to send you a continuation of my observations,

And am,

Sir,

Your's, &c.

THOMAS BRADLEY, M. D.

Parliament Street.

2nd December 1802.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

EFFECTS

OF

THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED

MEDICINE,

IN

GOUT,

BY

THOMAS BEDDOES, M. D.

Therapeia *radicalis* et usquequaque perfecta, qua quis etiam a diathesi ad hunc morbum foret liberatus, adhuc in Democriti puteo latet, atque in Naturæ sinu reconditur, nescio quando aut a quibus in lucem extrahenda

——— A longâ cogitationum serie, quas hunc rei impendere tantum non sum coactus, inducor credere ejusmodi remedium quandoque inventum iri.

SYDENHAM.

I wish it were as easy to discover, as it would be safe to use, a remedy for gout.

HEBERDEN.

OBSERVATIONS.

TO the author of the few following observations it is nothing unusual to be complimented with written or personal communications from unknown persons, who believe themselves to have fallen upon some useful discovery in medicine, or in other parts of knowledge. These communications, it may well be supposed, produce the most opposite feelings. None was ever attended by a quicker and more distinct rising of repugnance, than that which has occasioned the succeeding reports. A professed stranger to medicine offers a remedy for gout. The offer bears upon the face of it ignorance of that host of facts which has induced the generality of medical

men to be little more than quiet spectators of this disease in its common severe form, and which seemed to furnish *a priori* refutation of the pretensions of a gout-medicine, though it came forward under more promising auspices.

There are several ways in which most fits of the gout can be stopped or mitigated; but experience, (full and fair experience, it would appear,) has caused them all to be discarded: the consequences either immediate or remote, having more than counter-balanced the ease they might have procured at the time. From the facts hitherto collected, it seems to result, that a constitutional disposition to gout can only be corrected by regimen. And when the patient has arrived at a certain time of life, or has fallen into a certain state of debility, even regimen, unless the change be very cautiously made, will produce diseases as fatal as those which the
gout

gout brings on, or such as are even more speedily so. A substance capable of preventing or removing gouty inflammation, and leaving the constitution just where it was before, would be a most valuable acquisition; but it is a thing more to be conceived as possible than to be expected from analogy.

A remedy both for fits of the gout and for the disposition to gout is another possibility. The discovery of such a remedy is an event, to which various respectable medical writers from SYDENHAM down to HEBERDEN, have looked forward. But how much does this imply? SYDENHAM felt in himself, and discerned in his patients one grand characteristic of the gouty diathesis. He saw that it was attended with impaired power of digestion, though he fancifully extends his idea of concoction far beyond the functions of the first passages. Modern physicians, by com-
F 3
paring

paring the appearances, which dissection discovers in the dead body, with those observable during indisposition, are able to fix upon the liver, as an organ commonly vitiated in gouty subjects; and though the signs of disorganization may not be so apparent in the stomach and in the rest of the viscera, subservient to digestion, yet the history of invalids proves that those important parts are equally affected with the liver. When we shall be able to distinguish their sound state from the unsound better than we are at present, equal injury will be detected in the stomach and its other appendages.

It appears therefore how much is implied in that sort of removal of the disposition to gout, which would alone induce any one to resort to a medicine for the purpose. Not only must the return of the fits be prevented, but the healthy state of the digestive organs be restored. To
change

change the disposition to gout to a disposition to something no better, and in danger of turning out something worse, is a transfer which no mortal in his senses would accept, much less seek.

Under these impressions, who will wonder that my first movement should have been to commit the letter, which brought me notice of this new gout-remedy to the flames, and trouble myself no further about the contents?

The candour, however, which breathed in the statement, and the readiness avowed by the discoverer, to trust the character of his remedy to the decision of medical practitioners, prevented so rude a dismissal of the subject. A second communication brought me an abstract of the facts, related in the first part of this pamphlet; and, in addition, a positive opinion in favour of the safety of the remedy from Dr. BRADLEY—a man, I believe,

believe, as little likely to speak rashly as any one belonging to the profession.

This passed early in October, 1801. I had soon opportunities of mentioning the supposed discovery to some, whom it deeply concerned. Of course I did not venture to recommend the remedy, but produced the discoverer's and Dr. BRADLEY's communications; being very willing to superintend the trial, if any one should choose to venture upon it on these grounds.

The cases, of which I have had personal experience or information from medical correspondents, are not very numerous. But they naturally fall into two classes: one, in which a deficiency of the remedy, its very recent exhibition, the employment of other medical means at the same time, or speedily losing sight of the patient, left the result uncertain; another in which these causes did not operate to such extent. I shall begin with the former class.

All

All the cases of gout that we can produce, even those of several year's standing, may be considered in one point of view as imperfect. Should any one assert that SOLON's rule respecting happiness—

——— *decique beatus*

Ante obitum nemo supremaque funera potest

ought to be applied to a remedy for the gout, I shall not contest the point. Indeed I should strongly recommend it to keep a constant eye upon those, who have used the remedy. But their state previous to taking it, their habits, conformation, family history, and other peculiarities must be taken into the account, otherwise we shall be unable to judge what good or evil to impute to the remedy. These may be sufficient to account for an accession of apoplexy, dropsy of the chest, or other fatal malady. No reader of these pages, it is hoped, will be such a fool as to think a gouty man
must

must be immortal, unless he takes a gout-medicine. The more imperfect cases therefore are meant but as relatively such ; nor would they be worth recording, if in so serious a concern, it were not, at this period of the enquiry, a matter of conscience to lay the whole of the evidence before the public.

1. A female complained during my visit to a consumptive relation, on whom she was attending, of gout in her stomach. On questioning her more particularly, she described herself as suffering from pain, and sense of coldness there, with much flatulence. She said her family was gouty and that she had sometimes had tension and throbbing in the ball of the great toe for many hours together, though no full inflammation had ever settled there. Very frequently shootings in the foot had alternated with the affection of the alimentary canal, under which I found her
suffer-

suffering. This being a form of gout, with which females are often afflicted, I mentioned the remedy; she embraced it with eagerness. The complaint was much diminished by the first dose of the remedy, and subsided after the second. In two days it threatened again, and then the remedy was continued for a day. The family stayed only three weeks longer at Clifton; during which the gouty complaint did not recur. The patient promised to inform me of her future attacks; but I never have heard from her since.—The remedy being administered in the form of a tincture, I did not lay any stress upon this result, but imagined it might be owing to the spirit.

2. A member of the corporation of Bristol, a deplorable victim to gout, upon perusing the above mentioned communications, resolved to try the remedy. He was soon afterwards (that is, about a twelvemonth ago)

ago) visited by his malady; but it was accompanied with a very considerable inflammation of the chest. The cough, he told me, was brought on with excessive violence, even by a cup of warm tea. Unfortunately, I did not see him, but he began taking the remedy (with which he had been provided) in the manner in which, according to the discoverer's letters, it had been administered in unmixed gouty inflammation. The first dose, he thought, and probably with great justice, brought on a fit of coughing as the tea had done; and he very prudently desisted.

Soon afterwards, (in January 1801,) this patient, I was informed, had recovered to a certain degree, and then suffered a violent relapse, as I knew from observation to be usual with him during winter. At this time I was attending a gentleman of Glamorganshire, at the distance of seventy miles. The case was well known, by report, as
 one

one of the worst existing, to the present patient; and will be afterwards related. The encouragement I met with on this occasion, induced me to write to him, to exhort him to the use of the remedy. He complied; on my return, I found him convalescent; but, as he observed, the fit seemed on the decline when he received my letter; and the trial therefore was not decisive. He has had, I understand, severe attacks since; but has never returned to the remedy, though he expressed himself perfectly satisfied with its effects, and made a sufficiently encouraging representation to a gouty patient who went to question him concerning his experience.--- But every prudent man will be scrupulous about a gout medicine till its safety is well established; and it behoves every one, concerned in the administration of such a medicine, to prepare himself for bearing the causeless desertion of his patients with an equal mind.

3 & 4. Two patients at Bridgewater, long subject to the true inflammatory gout, in a most violent degree.---In one the pain was rapidly subdued; but the stock of medicine being too soon exhausted, it returned with force. This patient in a paper before me says, "he verily believes had he had more medicine, it would have removed the disease for ever." This sanguine expression bespeaks the relief that was experienced.

The other patient declared the seizure likely to disable him for six months. But by the vigorous administration of the remedy, he was free from complaint in six days, though his stomach was at first most dangerously affected. The effect astonished those who witnessed it; but on a return of the gout, which took place soon, and was probably brought on by imprudent exposure, the medicine not being opposed to the complaint, he suffered severely.

5. A poor man, who applied to the Pneumatic Institution, one of the few of his class who have suffered much from inflammatory gout in his extremities, now complained violently of gout in his stomach. He returned in three days and declared that the medicine had immediately removed the attack, though he had before taken strong volatiles in vain. I have not seen him since.

6. A gentleman, who had had violent but very transitory inflammation, judged gouty, in the ball of the great toe, which had been succeeded by pains in other parts and a prodigious diversity of alarming symptoms, was seized with an attack in his stomach, which he considered as gouty. Before the medicine could be procured, (though he had a supply in his own house) the pain had quitted the stomach and seized the head. On taking the medicine, it immediately disappeared.

7. A hale

7. A hale yeoman, aged 39, who had been subject to the gout but for two years and a half, and had suffered but three previous attacks, took the medicine in the commencement of his fourth fit. The onset threatened as much pain, fever, and inflammation as are ever seen in what is called healthy gout. All uneasiness vanished in twelve hours: and the pulse had fallen from 104 to 82. On the third day the patient was about out of doors. I consider this as perfectly decisive for a single trial. But I lost sight of the patient almost immediately, and am unacquainted with his address.

8. Mr. Crowther, Woolstapler, of Wakefield, Yorkshire, very active and considerably above 70 years of age (if my memory does not fail me,) for the last ten years has generally had two arthritic paroxysms in a year: one in spring, and one late in autumn. Each fit generally lasts three
or

or four weeks in its acute state; and convalescence takes up from four to six weeks besides. Being wet, will at any time bring on a fit, but these intervening fits have lasted but about a week.

Mr. C. has seldom drank above a pint of wine and a couple of half pints of punch in the week. This quantity of wine has not been distributed regularly through the seven days, but taken at one sitting. At dinner and supper, he drinks half a pint of porter or ale. He goes to bed about ten, rises about seven, and has healthy sleep; appetite, and digestion. Bowels costive. He attends closely to his business.

When he experiences pain or dizziness in the head, he takes two or three pints of port wine in the evening. These feelings he knows to be the precursors of gout. The next morning, the great toe becomes inflamed, and the affection of the head ceases.

The following is the degree of disorganization left by the gout. This minute description is introduced that it may be known if any improvement arises in the course of time.

Right hand-wrist free from injury. Joint formed by the metacarpal and first bone of the thumb enlarged, as also are the correspondent joints in the two next fingers, but their motion is nearly free. Motion of the joint formed by the first and second phalanx lost in the index, and much impaired in the middle finger. In the little finger the motion of the terminating joint is lost.

Left-hand, wrist free. Thumb, metacarpal joint enlarged, motion impaired: terminating joint not enlarged, but motion impaired. In the two next fingers, metacarpal joint enlarged, and motion a little impaired. Motion of the terminating joint
of

of index finger lost; of middle joint impaired. In the middle finger, terminating joint much impaired, middle joint enlarged, and motion lost. In ring finger, motion of the terminating joint nearly lost; in little finger quite so, and middle joint enlarged.

Right leg, lame; ankle joint somewhat enlarged; motion of all the metatarsal joints nearly lost; as also that of the joint of the great toe.

Left leg, ankle joint somewhat enlarged.

I was consulted on Mr. Crowther's account in August, 1802. He was represented to me as a person steady and likely to persevere. I proposed that he should apply the medicine (that is, the tincture) externally till he had a seizure. He began his frictions in September, and has pursued them with great exactness ever since. Dr.

Crowther, of Wakefield, now finds it much more easy than before to distinguish betwixt the osseous depositions on the joints and the thickened periosteum; but judiciously adds, that this advantage is probably owing to the constant rubbing and stretching. It is indeed highly improbable that the medicine externally should have any peculiar effect in forwarding absorption. A quarter of a year's similar treatment without it will determine the point.

On the 7th of November, 1802, Mr. Crowther was attacked with the gout in his right foot. Conceiving the attack to be slight, he made use of the pediluvium in the evening, and deferred taking the tincture till the symptoms should become more urgent. In the afternoon of the eighth, the pain became severe, and "he commenced," says Dr. Crowther, "taking the tincture according to your directions, and had very little pain after Tuesday, since

since which time he has walked about and attended to his business.

“He does not consider the effect of the medicine as decisive in this instance, because he used the pediluvium*, which
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* I have never advised the pediluvium while the gouty action was at all going on. I have known medical persons, who plunged their feet in this state into cold water; and I have heard a physician relate of another, that he applied cold water with advantage to his stomach when affected by the gout. Doubtless, if the stomach and head carry on their healthy movements with so much vigour that they can bear rude assaults with impunity, the application of cold to the extremities may be useful. But we have no sure means of estimating when the operation of cold will be confined to the reduction of inflammation in the part to which it is applied, and when internal parts will be affected by torpor in a limb. The more robust the constitution, the more recent the disease, and the more entirely former fits have been confined to the leg, the less hazard from the topical employment of cold water. But the many well-attested examples of a fatal transfer of the gout from this cause, will deter every prudent person from seeking to relieve pain or prevent disorganization by such means; notwithstanding the great HARVEY'S example.

I have

has frequently on former occasions, relieved his pain. Should he have another attack, he will rely on the tincture alone; and if he should experience similar relief to what he apparently experienced during the last paroxysm, I have no doubt that the curative operation of the medicine will give him perfect satisfaction."

I have been lately informed of an instance of sudden death from immersing a gouty foot in warm water; and I cannot doubt my authority. A recent publication gives a similar example. "A woman, aged 67, had at distant periods of life, had several apoplectic attacks, and at last lost the use of the right side. Some months afterwards, pains which had affected various articulations, fixed in the left ankle. They were lancinating, and attended with redness and swelling.

"Three months afterwards the affected foot was immersed in very warm water; the pain disappeared that very instant; two hours after, weight at the stomach, sense of constriction in the epigastric region, oppression, fear of suffocation." The symptoms gradually grew worse; and notwithstanding æther and sinapisms, she died on the 14th day after the retrocession of the gout.—*Pinel Medicine Clinique*, 1802, p. 240.

On this head it is to be observed, that the pain is stated to have increased after the pediluvium, and that the attack took place at the season of the worst fits.---As I have received no intelligence since, I may presume that to have been the regular autumnal fit.

9. Sir W. Lawson, Bart. very early shewed symptoms of hereditary gout, and of late years has had it in almost every variety of form, seldom recovering perfectly from the effects of a preceding fit till a succeeding made its appearance. Last winter he was supplied with the medicine, and directed how to use it. In Spring, he was seized, to use his own expressions, "with a very violent rheumatic gout, owing, I believe, to cold caught in travelling imprudently. I immediately followed your prescription in regard to the medicine, and am happy to say that I found infinite benefit from it, not having had near so much

pain as usual." In a few days after this very violent attack, he felt vastly well, and had nothing to complain of but a weakness in the ancle bone of the left leg. (*Letter dated April 25, from Brayton, near Cockermouth.*)

Since that period, I have received information from the practitioner who usually attends Sir W. Lawson, of an attack originating in incautious exposure to cold and consisting of a great degree of *pneumonia* (pleurisy), complicated with gout; and it being justly doubted whether the medicine ought *immediately* in this case to be entered upon, my opinion was requested before its exhibition, and I have heard nothing of this patient since.

10. R. Waller, Esq. aetat. 68, had been long subject to the gout, but latterly had only occasional threatenings or pains of short duration in the feet. He informed
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me that his father, mother, and all his paternal uncles and aunts, had fallen victims to apoplexy or palsy: and added, with the utmost composure, that several physicians, from symptoms observed in himself, had warned him to be on his guard against a similar attack. In the course of the autumn and winter 1801, and throughout the last spring, he had frequent gouty pains in his feet, just sufficient to hinder him from walking for a few hours or for a day, and then going off, but perpetually recurring in the same manner. He suffered from most distressing head ache; his face shewed great fulness; his memory was much impaired; he spoke of dizziness and dimness of sight, with scintillations before his eyes. He breathed heavily, particularly during sleep; his appetite was utterly gone.

My attendance on the family gave me daily opportunity of witnessing these sufferings; and as I had, by this time, acquired

quired confidence in the gout medicine as safe, I encouraged Mr. Waller to try it. He took two pint bottles in the course of little more than two days without effect. I then proposed that some blood should be taken from about the head; he was accordingly twice cupped in the nape of the neck, to at least twelve ounces each time. On resuming the medicine for about a day, and not before, a perfect and strong gouty inflammation took place in the lower extremities, and the head became quite free. The patient indeed declared the fit to be the most acute he had experienced for twenty years. The inflammation kept up for as long a time as I should have expected in a case left to nature; and this in spite of several pint bottles in the course of a month. But the doses were often not briskly followed up. Nor did I advise such as I should now. During a slow convalescence, the head was often disagreeably affected, but not, for a considerable

able

able time, with the same severity as before the gouty paroxysm. The weakness of the feet was in proportion to the severity of the preceding inflammation. In the course of the summer, the head often suffered much, and once it seemed entirely relieved for a time by an eruption, produced by rubbing ointment of tartarized antimony on the nape of the neck, so as to excite a copious eruption. This confirmed me in the idea that it would be highly useful to establish a drum near the head: a measure which I had often pressed before, though I believe it has not yet been adopted. I have just been informed that, for some months, there has been less imperfect and irregular gout than for a long time before the last fit indeed next to none.

In a letter dated Nov. 25, 1802, from Allenstown, Mr. Waller's residence in Ireland, he observes:—"As to myself, I am very well, and free from all symptoms of
gout.

gout. The medicine you were so kind as to give me, certainly relieved my head at the time I took it, and brought the complaint to my feet. It remained there longer than usual, and a weakness remained also much longer; on the whole, I cannot say the medicine had all the effect I expected or hoped from it."

12. George Courtenay, Esq. of Weston, near Oulney, Buckinghamshire, had his first fit of the gout in 1784; it affected the joints of the great toe, and, he believes, lasted from two to three weeks. For several years afterwards Mr. Courtenay had one and sometimes two fits in the year, but not of any long duration; nor did they much prevent his walking in the intervals. About the year 1790, by exerting his right arm in jerking, he brought the gout into his right elbow; and since, he has had annual attacks in that part, and sometimes in the right wrist; but his
left

left arm was never affected. The gout occasionally attacked the ancles and insteps.

During the first seven or eight years, the knees were not affected; but since that time, Mr. C. has constantly suffered in them whenever he has been confined, and this has generally been twice a year, and sometimes oftener. The swelling of the knees is always considerable and attended with very great pain; but these do not appear so red as the feet and ancles.

In the year 1795, Mr. C. began to take hemlock, the celebrated remedy of the *Abbé Mann*. He continued it with small intervals for fourteen months. "Beginning" says Mr. C. in a memorandum before me, "with the smallest dose, I took at last as much as forty three grains at once. I did not find that it diminished the frequency of the returns. I therefore left it off. The fits,

fits, in the mean time, were longer; sometimes of six weeks—of two and even three months. I consequently became more crippled, but my stomach has been always quite free, though when the pain has been very violent, particularly in the arm, I have found myself so faint as to be obliged to have recourse to some cordial. I frequently take paregoric elixir to enable me to sleep during the violence of the attacks.”

In June 1800, Mr. Courtenay, began to take woodsage* tea; at first a large tea-cup full twice a day, afterwards only once a day—it was made strong. This, with the intermission of only two months, was continued till May 1802, when it was totally laid aside. Previous to the last fit (which commenced in October 1801) Mr. C. had escaped for eighteen months, the longest

* Woodsage, *teucrium scòrodonia*; a fine bitter. By the taste, I can scarce distinguish the infusion from that of the hop; though the colour is much deeper.

interval he ever experienced. But this fit, which commenced during the course of woodsage tea, was also the most violent and the longest he has had at all. It lasted at least five months. Both feet, ancles, knees, and the right arm were violently and repeatedly attacked.

After each of the long fits, particularly after the last, there has been considerable pain across the lower part of the trunk; about the os sacrum.

Mr. C. is more crippled since the last fit than he ever was before, though for some years he has felt much pain and difficulty in walking at all. When able, he uses gentle exercise on horseback, and is pretty clear that any extraordinary exertion (such as would seem slight to another person) would bring the gout either into the arms or feet immediately.

Mr.

Mr. C. mentioned to me his age. As I remember it is about forty five; and his conformation bespeaks *ditissima atque optima vitæ stamina*.

In the second week of November 1802, I visited this gentleman at Sir John Throckmorton's, near Faringdon, Berks. He had previously, with great prudence, made the most rigid enquiry among persons who had taken the medicine, concerning its safety; and being thoroughly satisfied on this head, determined to give it a fair trial.

On the 12th of November he had feelings, strongly indicating the approach of his formidable autumnal attack. These grew more sensible in his left hand the following days. The medicine did not arrive till the 15th; when the inflammation of the hand and arm had arisen to a very great height. The patient had previously taken
by

by my desire, a moderate purge of calomel. This I prescribed from observing some signs of affection of the liver. I requested the same always to be taken on every gouty accession, particularly if the white of the eyes should appear yellowish, or the hypochondria feel too full.

Mr. C. began with three table spoonfuls every fifteen minutes for the first hour and the same quantity every hour and half during the remainder of the day. The pain subsided in the affected parts; and, next morning, a foot and knee became inflamed. He therefore repeated the medicine as the day before; and the inflammation in the foot subsided. At least, it did not rise nearly to the same height as in all the late fits. On the eighteenth, the elbow of the left side, that first attacked, grew painful; however the pain, on persevering in the medicine, did not rise to any great height. But the stock of medicine being now exhausted, and no new supply arriving

ving in time from the mistake or negligence of the carrier, there was an intermission of its use for four or five days. The right hand and wrist were attacked on the 29th of November. Medicine had then arrived, and it was resumed as at first. By the 3d of December the pain and inflammation were so much lessened, that the medicine was omitted. Nothing has since been felt but stiffness and weakness in the joints.

On the 11th of December, Mr. Courtenay wrote to me as follows:—"I can go up and down stairs with help. I have taken, in the whole, eleven pints of the medicine. On the whole too, I think I may say, that this fit of the gout has not been nearly so violent as it promised to be by the symptoms, and that the inflammation did not continue so long in any one place, but shifted more than it used to do. The pain certainly was alleviated after
taking

taking the medicine for a day or two. And as the fit seized me with at least as much violence as it did last year, I probably should have been disabled even from standing, for three months, as I was at that time; whereas now I am able to walk a little with help at the end of three weeks."

The immediate effect of the tincture was to produce something of the same feeling as too much wine does, particularly when taken on an empty stomach. In the night, Mr. C. likewise complained of too much heat, though he cannot be certain that it did not arise from the disorder, which was judged the more probable, as his friends thought the attack was accompanied by a cold.

One small error in diet was committed, perhaps in consequence of my not sufficiently insisting upon the point. Mr. C.

drank a glass of wine at dinner and some diluted wine afterwards. Wine I hold to be quite unnecessary during the free use of a spirituous medicine ; and not only unnecessary, but pernicious in proportion to its quantity, during the inflammatory part of a regular paroxysm of gout.—Jan. 1, 1803, Mr. C. describes himself as clear of the gout.

13. A gentleman of feeble constitution from the north of England, had lived very irregularly at College, and for some time afterwards, in respect to wine. He told me that he had formerly drank more than two bottles of port. He was now visibly affected by three or four glasses. After imminent danger from *erisypelas* and other attacks, for the last three or four years, he had suffered almost perpetually from irregular gout. The stomach had been so often seized, that he never travelled without WARNER'S gout cordial. His appetite and digestion were habitually wretched. His whole constitution was in a state of obvious

obvious decay. He had many tokens of palsy about him, and particularly a paralytic faltering and indistinctness of speech, which his friends observed to be increasing. His powers of motion were much impaired, and in part from the same cause. He had the tottering gait we observe in the semi-paralytic.

On a gouty attack he took the medicine, but it was found necessary, on account of his weak head, to dilute it with twice its bulk of water. The paroxysm did not, as usual, quit the extremities; and it soon went off. On a subsequent attack in the stomach, the medicine proved at once efficacious; and for above four months afterwards, during which this gentleman continued under my eye, he had no gouty ailment. This was an unusual interval. But his constitution kept evidently improving. His appetite and digestion perfectly recovered.

Believing that a wine, so strong as port, must greatly over-stimulate such a constitution, I prevailed upon him to drink nothing stronger than wine and water. To this he steadily adhered, scarce ever taking above three glasses diluted in the day. To this as well as to the unusually long absence of the gout, I impute his constitutional amendment.

14. Mr. Bryan, of the Tuckies, near Broseley, Shropshire, of active habits and a free liver, has been subject to the gout for about two and twenty years. He has annually had two or more fits, and those as usual, gradually increasing in severity and duration. So that for the last five or six years he has been crippled in his hands and feet to a degree that has rendered him almost helpless. He has had most alarming attacks in the stomach.

In March last I saw him and gave directions how to use the gout medicine. In the course of the first two months, he was seized with pain and coldness in the stomach, for which he found instantaneous relief from the tincture. On May the 18th, after exposure to cold, he had a very severe attack in the extremities. At first he took of the medicine at the rate of a pint in twenty-four hours; and in two days the pain and inflammation were gone. In a fortnight, he recovered to a state of better health than he had experienced for some years. Since that time he has suffered no relapse, and has of course, made no further trial of the remedy. These last particulars are from a letter of my friend, Mr. Yonge, surgeon, Shefnal, bearing date Dec. 16, 1802. I should observe, that not long before I saw Mr. B. he had been advised to leave off fermented liquors. But believing this plan to weaken him, he dropped it.

15. I cannot so well describe the following case as in the words of an intelligent medical practitioner;

Dunraven, March 26.

SIR,

Having just read a letter of your's to your friend Mr. Wyndham, wherein you express a desire of being informed by me of the effects of your medicine in the case of Capt. Bulmer; I think it may perhaps be necessary previously to describe to you the state of his disorder and constitution.

This gentleman, though a young man, has been for some years afflicted with severe paroxysms of gout. It has successively attacked almost every joint in his body; the articulations of the fingers are almost destroyed; the knees are exceedingly enlarged and stiffened; the muscular parts are much reduced in size, you may say
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disorganized ; and the motive powers are consequently so debilitated as to render him almost helpless. About two months ago, his disorder came on with more than usual violence, the attendant fever ran very high, and excessive inflammation seized almost every joint, but more particularly the knees and shoulders. Having on former occasions attended him, and knowing the height to which the symptoms generally ran, I could safely assert that I had never before witnessed his complaint in such a state of exacerbation. His pulse was exceedingly quick, the urine very high coloured, and the tongue was covered with a dark brown crust and as dry as you have ever seen it in the most urgent stage of synocha. This was a period of the disease in which it had been desirable that the gout medicine had been administered, but Mr. W. had none to spare ; for at that time you were unable to procure any for himself. My patient was growing worse, the powers of digestion

digestion were so weak that scarcely any thing remained upon the stomach for a few minutes, an intense thirst added to the pressure of other afflicting circumstances,, requiring the continual supply of some tepid liquor for the purpose of quenching it, as well as supplying the defect of saliva. He was bathed in profuse perspirations, and the general debility was so great that in endeavouring to have his bed made he sunk into a state of syncope. Appearances were now so unfavourable, that I was induced to despair of the rallying powers of the constitution, supposing it would fall a victim either to anasarca or paralysis, or dreading a sudden retrocession, and its thereby extinguishing life as it were at once. But contrary to expectation a change for the better took place, the urine began to deposit a dark lateritious sediment, the dark brown crust was falling off the tongue, the appetite in some degree returned and the stomach became able to
take

take small quantities of nutriment. By this time Mr. Wyndham was enabled to supply him with bottles of the medicine, but as the disease was leaving him, he rather wished to retain it for a future occasion, than have it administered under circumstances where effects would have been dubiously ascribable, either to the renovating energy of the system, or to the beneficial operation of the medicine. As he continued in this state of amendment for some days, I was little apprehensive of a return, but hoped that he would have been reinstated in health as far as a complete martyr can be ; but suddenly, without any assignable cause, he was attacked with the most excruciating gout in the stomach I had ever seen, so much so as to make him cry out so loud as to be heard at a considerable distance. Under the urgency of danger, no time was to be lost, as a short delay in not affording relief would be attended with the most serious consequences.

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I therefore gave him the new medicine undiluted; it was soon followed by a sense of great heat in the stomach, and in less than an hour the pain had completely ceased. The pleasure he felt on the occasion may be more easily conceived than it is possible to describe. I urged him now to continue in a regular course of the medicine, but he obstinately refused to comply, saying, he would keep it by him for another occasion. It was not many days after, ere such another alarming occasion presented itself, whereupon having immediate recourse to the same means of relief, he had the happiness and satisfaction to experience the same beneficial influence. He has ever since been gradually growing better, and is now able to sit up the greater part of the day. If called upon to speak as to the effects of the medicine, I can adduce the most respectable testimony of having administered it in the most debilitated state of the constitution, as well as in the

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the most alarming stage of the disorder, with all the success which the ardor of expectation could ever hope for. I have often conversed with Mr. Wyndham upon the effects he has experienced from the use of it, and he has invariably told me that it has constantly calmed and removed the febrile disposition that attended the paroxysms of his disorder, its operation is not marked by any violent effects on the system, either by renal or cuticular discharges, but that it always takes away that unpleasant taste from his mouth, and is succeeded by a copious secretion of saliva, the nasty tough mucus which lines his fauces is easily thrown off, and it produces that gentle effect on the bowels as to preclude the necessity of using other aperients.* He rests satisfied that his general health is ameliorated, his appetite much better than it has been for years, that he

* The medicine is not an aperient. By strengthening the bowels, it may occasionally be tantamount; and no opiate was now used.

T. B.

feels

feels lighter and enjoys a flow of spirits he has rarely before enjoyed. He strictly adheres to the diet prescribed, and limits himself to a very moderate quantity of wine. He justifies me in contradicting the language of a celebrated greek writer who has thus described those recovering from paroxysms of gout; “ *ην δε επανελθουσι, σωστοι τον βιον, ες την διαιτην αβροι. τωτο δε ως εκ θανατου εσομενοι αδδην οχρουνται τη παρρησι ζωη.*” — Aretæus Lib. 2. Cap. 12.

If its success generally coincides with what has been produced in the isolated case I have administered it in, it must prove a discovery of the first magnitude and interest to mankind. That its action is not like that produced by mercury, which kindles a different, more violent, and consequently a more dangerous one to extinguish the morbid effect of a most virulent person, I am fully satisfied; but that rather like a medicine which has obtained such general panegyric from acknowledged desert

desert, (I mean the *Digitalis Purpurea*,) it merely suspends a painful and deleterious process, leaving unrestrained other powers of the constitution to remove the morbid effects which have already obtained, and thus eventually producing an equilibrium of action in those powers so essential to the welfare and health of the system.

Having thus unnecessarily trespassed upon your time in detailing the history of circumstances foreign to the information you have required, I trust you will excuse the liberty I have taken in so doing, as well as in giving my opinion so unreservedly on the subject, and

Believe me to be,

Most respectfully,

Your's,

J. MORGAN WILLIAMS.

To Dr. Beddoes.

P. S. During Capt. Bulmer's first attack, he took one of the cordial draughts I used
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to leave with him in case of a sudden retrocession, but it was not until he had taken your medicine that he experienced relief. At the commencement of the second fit, he made use of nothing but your medicine in a clear state. I would not wish the least deception to be used in the business.

J. M. W.

16. —————, well known in public life, came to Clifton with a view to the trial of the gout-medicine early in September 1802. He may safely be numbered among the greatest sufferers from gout in any age or country. A history of his case would make a book. The following particulars may give some faint idea of its nature.

His family had been gouty. He himself is now near 60. About 27 he had a regular fit of the gout, which visited him with great violence once or twice every year

year

year afterwards. For many years, he recovered with the use of his limbs. By degrees, they became disorganized till the whole person appeared shrunk, and for every change of place, two servants were required to lift him under the arms. As the corresponding teeth of the opposite sides of the jaw decay one after another, so it happened here. The same parts of the left and right sides exhibit the same mode and degree of disorganization; the fingers, for example, are greatly injured, but two contiguous fingers are injured differently; and on comparing both hands, it is seen that the middle joints of the two fingers of the same name are drawn inwards or form a retiring angle, whereas at other two corresponding joints there is a salient angle.

The fits continually thickened, till at last they came every six weeks, and more frequently still. They lasted from fourteen to twenty days. Agonizing pain visited

many different parts; and after the pain, languor in proportion with a degree of listlessness, that defies all description. Nearly half of life was filled up in this manner. In a paper before me it is stated, that since January last, there has been no freedom from fits for three weeks at a time. During the intervals, the restlessness continued in a most tormenting degree, with a sort of hectic fever. Of late there was a regular want of appetite, and often the sight of food occasioned loathing. The stomach became most alarmingly affected. For fourteen days before the journey to Clifton, an icy coldness in the stomach and bowels required æther repeatedly every day. A memorandum put into my hands the 12th of September, has this expression: " I have a *continued* coldness in my stomach; and till it is *loaded* with wine or strong liquors, I do not enjoy any comfort;" that comfort too was of short duration. The nights were spent in distressing

tressing wakefulness, unless when disturbed and unrefreshing sleep was procured by opiates. The patient, though he was late lifted from his bed, was often worn out by four o'clock; and one leg particularly was swelled in the afternoon.

Among the incidents of these more than thirty years of suffering, the following deserves to be mentioned. About thirteen years ago, the patient for six months after a fit, was unable to use his right hand, and did not know when those about him were rubbing his right leg. He has also been plagued, like other worn-out arthritics, by St. Anthony's fire.

A great number of plans have been tried; one only, proposed by a Rev. Mr. Barclay, kept off the fits for a longer time than usual; nor did they return till it was discontinued. It consisted in giving up fermented liquors, and in the free use of a medicine supposed to be principally volatile alkali.

At an inn on the road, the patient was obliged to be raised out of bed in the night and suffered a most severe chill. The weather too in the second week of September, the time of his journey hither, was most unseasonably cold; after the chill, most acute pain was felt in the shoulder, but it did not last many hours.

On Sunday the 12th of September, I visited the patient for the first time, and found him exhausted and low beyond measure, with somewhat of a cold feeling in the stomach, for which I contented myself with recommending æther, as before.

The next morning, the most tremendous fit of gout I had ever seen, set in with agonising pain in the shoulder; there was no redness of the skin, or swelling; nor did any appear elsewhere, though in the course of the week the disorder visited every

every part of the arms, the sides and knees in the same severe manner, the legs rather less painfully. The pulse scarcely rose for two days above the natural rate.

Three wine glasses, of about two ounces each, of the gout-medicine, given in the course of half an hour, and a glass every half hour for a dozen times, produced no apparent effect; five pint bottles were consumed to as little purpose during the first two days and nights. The paroxysm held on its course apparently without aggravation or diminution under this treatment. Dover's powder, to which the patient had been accustomed, was as ineffectual, though it excited perspiration.

This fit seemed to be brought on out of its turn by the night chill, or by some other unfavourable circumstance attending the journey.

During the next short interval, which did not amount to a fortnight, I contented myself principally with giving volatiles for the coldness in the stomach, and regulating the diet so as to obviate the languor that had been (especially for a year and a half) perpetual in the morning and the evening feverishness.

On the return of the pains, antimonial powder with opium, was exhibited so as to produce gentle perspiration for two days, but without any effect in mitigating the pain, or preventing its attacking part after part.

I then determined upon another full trial of the gout-medicine. I shall ascribe to it none of the ease which the patient soon felt, but he came less exhausted and with his nerves less shattered out of this attack, than had been the case for years.

Before,

Before, he had always been, for many days, tormented with the restlessness above-mentioned. The depression of his spirits had been unspeakable. Nothing could exceed the tremulous and irritable state of his frame. After the first fit, on being asked how he found himself, I had witnessed tears and a convulsive shaking of the lower jaw, which put me strongly in mind of the tendency to startings and spasms in cold animals, to which opium has been administered. And these appearances, I was assured, were usual at the same period.

At present, all this was reversed; the spirits were good; the appetite gradually returned, till it became perfectly natural. From morning till night the patient felt comfortable, and at times amused himself by playing at cards with his family till eleven in the evening. The nights were good, sleep refreshing, and frequently no opiate was required.

I continued the gout medicine in doses of about two ounces four times a day till the appetite was restored. It was directed to be given the moment any coldness in the stomach or any chill whatever should be felt; Cayenne pepper and other spices were often added. Food of the most nutritious kind was ordered to be frequently taken, and instead of sheer port, Madeira diluted with at least an equal quantity of water; and this rather at any other time than after dinner, especially if there was dry heat upon the skin. But as long as four doses a day of the gout medicine were taken, wine in any form was represented as unnecessary, except in case of languor.

Having seen constitutions, apparently worn out, renovated by the inhalation of *nitrous oxyd*, I endeavoured to improve the advantage we had gained, by the use of this air. It appeared to me to agree well,

well. During this lucid interval, the patient was quite equal to his extensive correspondence. It was the unanimous opinion of his friends that he was better than he had been for two years; some said than for six years.

A *cold*, taken during an airing, brought back the gout. It was tedious, but not nearly so painful: the appetite kept up the greatest part of the fit. What had been gained during the intermission seemed to assist greatly in bearing up against the attack. The patient was persuaded to forego opiates while the pain was most severe; and then he was much tormented with restlessness by nights. At the close of the fit, three or four tea-spoonfuls of syrup of the white poppy calmed all agitation, and he emerged without any nervous debility. The appetite was also good; indeed, quite healthy: so appeared the digestion. The gout medicine was freely given.

At

At the close of the last two fits, some degree of diarrhœa took place. This had often happened before, and seemed salutary. Near the close of the last fit, a distinct redness and swelling took place at the left elbow, the only sign of gouty inflammation I had yet seen.

The patient, when recruited, left Clifton. It was greatly apprehended that a severe fit would be the consequence of the journey: he performed it well. Last winter he had travelled to and from Bath. The number of miles was less by the distance between Clifton and Bath, yet he suffered extremely; and, indeed, in returning from Bath, was supposed in great danger.

A severe cold was, however, this time, the consequence either of the journey or of imprudent exposure in his own grounds immediately afterwards. That severe cold brought

brought on some gouty pain in the shoulder; but, from a journal before me, the fit seems to have been very slight; nor did the pain pass from one part to another. The gout medicine was administered in doses of three and four ounces. In two or three days the patient was able to attend in London at a meeting on public business. Some diarrhœa took place at this time, and a slight coldness of stomach; of which, however, for above three months less, appears to have been felt than often in one day before.

17. T. Wyndham, Esq. M. P. was believed to have a fit of the gout at about twelve, at Eton school, in which case he must be reckoned as subject to the disease for above twenty-seven years; at all events, he ranks among the greatest of those sufferers, whose stomach and head have not been seized. He has been reduced to crutches, though a fracture of
one

one leg helped towards disabling him. He has been of late accustomed to suffer from gouty paroxysms and their immediate consequences, at least one half of the year.

I was desired to visit him in the second week of January 1802. I found him with a violent gouty inflammation in the leg, pulse strong, and 104 in the evening; urine scanty, high coloured, and with a brick-dust coloured sediment: tongue covered with a white crust; spirits depressed.

I immediately began to give him of the gout medicine two table spoonfuls with one of water; and this was repeated every hour for three doses, and every two hours during part of the night. At ten o'clock next morning I found him, after some refreshing sleep, with the pulse at 82, and the pains much abated. The medicine
was

was continued during the day. He felt lighter and more cheerful, and the inflammation grew gradually less, without any febrile exacerbation or increase of the pulse in the evening.

On awaking next morning, there was some pain and swelling in the left knee, which went off on giving a few doses every hour. Some appearances, threatening gout, were observed also, on the third day, in the left foot; but these subsided without coming to any thing troublesome. The appetite and spirits were at least as good as in the intervals. Mr. W. within the fortnight, drove out thrice; whereas a confinement of at least three months had been predicted.

Soon afterwards he caught cold during one of his excursions; and this, as usual, produced gouty inflammation, which ran on for a day or two for want of a due supply

supply of the medicine; but was immediately removed, when this arrived, upon taking it.

Other threatenings occurred during winter, but the medicine was always speedily effectual. In March this patient took a very much larger quantity in a short time, than he, or, I believe, any one else had done, though I am not exactly informed how much. Nothing of inconvenience followed but a strong diuretic effect, with some transitory uneasiness in the region of the kidneys. Mr. Williams observed on this occasion “ *small pellicles floating in the urine soon after it was made.*”

The immediate operation of the medicine was a slight sense of intoxication, particularly from the doses taken early in the day.

Lately

Lately, Mr. Wyndham had an attack which came on in the manner of the grand attacks of the present season. He was from home; and though obliged to send from Swansea to Dunraven castle for medicine, it enabled him, in four days, to bear the motion of his coach. On the 6th of October he wrote to me—"I have reason to believe that it has repeatedly kept off the fit in summer; and if it continues to do so, or to drive them off soon, then there can be no doubt of its efficacy." So late as December the 7th, he says, "if it keeps off and shortens the fits through the winter as it has hitherto done, I shall then be certain of the sovereignty of its qualities." He repeats this language at the present time, just twelve months after first using the tincture. My directions respecting regimen, were not to drink any fermented or spirituous liquor above half the strength of Port wine.

In the course of the summer, this gentleman came to Clifton. He said himself, he was lighter and better in all his feelings than for some time past. His improvement was to me exceedingly striking; and those who had known him before agreed in the same opinion.

I have received the following information in time for insertion here. It makes the trial in a most inveterate and formidable case satisfactory for three quarters of a year, and it adds the sanction of another medical practitioner to the facts, stated in the pamphlet.

Mr. Lomas, surgeon, of Aspatria, Cumberland, writes to me as follows, under date of Jan. 3, 1803.—“ Your letter of Dec. 24, did not reach me before the 30th.—I have since called on Sir Wilford Lawson; and he requested me to inform
you

you that he is now fully convinced the gout-medicine has been of essential service to him,—his attacks having not only been less violent, but less frequent; and that his general health is better than it has been for some years past.

“ I have the pleasure to add, that the above statement perfectly corresponds with my own observation.”

I am, &c. &c.

WILLIAM LOMAS.

To Dr. Beddoes.

I have thus far confined myself to the character of witness. Nor will I now assume the office of judge to observe, or jury to decide, upon the evidence. Whether the medicine in question have a peculiar or specific power over gout, depends upon the facts, and not upon my opinion.

In justice to the proprietor I think it right to mention the following particulars. When I asked, what use was to be made of my suffrage, supposing I found the medicine entitled to it? he disclaimed all intention of making it a quack medicine, justly supposing, that no substance in nature could be expected to act uniformly in that immense variety of ailments, comprehended under the name of gout; that in many cases, (as in arthritic pneumonia) preparation or addition would be necessary; and declaring that he wished these and other points to undergo the investigation of professional men.

I felt that it would be desirable to myself, and imagined it might be satisfactory to the public, that *one* physician, should at least be acquainted with the nature of the substance. In consequence I offered security for my silence. But the discoverer disclosed his secret in confidence.

The

The vegetable is not an article in any pharmacopoeia known to me. I never heard of it as a popular remedy. That I have not been deceived, I have the fullest assurance. *I have prepared the tincture with my own hands.* It may of course be equally procured in the form of extract or syrup. In some cases, these forms, I imagine, will be preferable.

The feelings of the physician make no part of the patient's case, and throw no light on the virtues of a drug. Otherwise I might have told how gladly I would have declined the treatment of the last case but one, and how much I dreaded during the first terrible paroxysm, lest in consequence of a fatal event, the medicine should have lost its character without reason. If any thing further can be wanting to make the reader sensible of the desperate extremity, to which that patient was reduced, it may be added that the

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admini-

administration of the *Portland Powder* was intended; and intended too, by one of that class of physicians who have been remarkable for the imbecillity of their measures.*

I balanced within myself whether I should declare (as I really feared) that it was not a case, in which any thing could be expected from medicine. But the intention of the journey was known in a wide circle. It would soon have been whispered through a much wider; and those falsehoods would have been engrafted upon it, for which every new method of medication

* "The delicacy of constitutions among women in high life has produced an imbecillity of practice, not only in London, but throughout the kingdom, which first infects the medical people who are immediately employed in the disorders of this class. Although there may sometimes be found one or two among these who are not the most learned or judicious practitioners, yet they are the richest, which contributes not a little to the spreading of this infection." DR. GEORGE FORDYCE, *Med. Trans.* Vol. I. p. 254, 1793.

is so suitable a stock, and which a new method of treating gout cannot fail to produce in the greatest profusion. By withholding the medicine, therefore, its character was sure to suffer without a chance of its acquiring that reputation, to which it would be entitled from any degree of beneficial operation in circumstances so desperate. I firmly believed the trial to be destitute of risk: and I saw no hope either from nature (I mean the restorative powers of the constitution) or from the established practices of art.

The reader is acquainted with the consequences of these reflections. Many days, indeed I can by this time say, several weeks of unwonted ease and cheerfulness have been procured. What may be their number to come is uncertain. But nothing in the practice of physic was ever, in my opinion, clearer than the cause to which they were owing. The medicine first amend-

ed the habit, as it would seem, and then gradually acquired power over the paroxysms. A regimen, adapted to the varying state of the system, did much to prevent feverish chills and heats. I was astonished to find how totally this simple mode of alleviation had been hitherto neglected.

Were I obliged to lay before a gouty sufferer what, according to my present opinion, he might justly expect from the new remedy, my representation would be nearly of this kind. “ The question of safety presents itself first to every man of common
 “ prudence. It is a question on which I
 “ can throw no new light. The first trials
 “ are not of yesterday; and, in the trials
 “ from first to last, you see there is great
 “ variety of habits, callings and stages.
 “ As far as I know from observation and
 “ enquiry, every patient who has taken the
 “ medicine is alive; which is perhaps more
 “ than could be expected from the com-
 “ mon

“ mon chances of mortality, much more
“ in a disease, of which the *natural* con-
“ sequences are so fatal. Where any differ-
“ ence is observable too, every one of those
“ who have given it a fair trial, is, I be-
“ lieve, improved in constitution. Whether
“ this favourable change will hold, time
“ must tell.

“ For the rest, you must allow me, in
“ the first place, to lay down some dis-
“ tinctions. I fancy I perceive good rea-
“ son for believing that persons even of the
“ same standing in the disorder, and af-
“ fected apparently in the same degree, will
“ experience very different effects from
“ medicine.

“ The facts appear clearly to point out
“ a difference, depending upon the differ-
“ ence in rank or station. And it is not,
“ this time, in favour of the rich. Read
“ the cases over again in this view. If

“ already those we have and such as may
“ occur hereafter, shall prove this opinion
“ to be capricious, I shall readily give it
“ up. If it turn out just, I think I can
“ account for the variations.

“ What is the point, in which those,
“ that have money enough to command
“ the productions of art and nature, whe-
“ ther peers, simple squires or traders, most
“ generally coincide? Is it not in labour-
“ ing to undermine the constitution? Does
“ not almost every day contribute something
“ towards weakening the vital stamina?
“ Do not they begin early, and persevere
“ uniformly, in eating and drinking to
“ excess? Do they not, early also, if born
“ to wealth or even to the chance of
“ acquiring it, give into other debilitating
“ excesses, from which their inferiors are
“ happily preserved by hardship and fatigue?
“ When the organs are fairly worn down,
“ instead of giving them respite, do they
“ not

“ not do themselves violence by the sti-
“ mulus of imagination? And, as they
“ otherwise would pine in listlessness, do
“ they not perpetually use the ideas of
“ past pleasures as provocatives? Thus they
“ whip and spur themselves till they are
“ absolutely foundered.

“ Whatever it is that labour and air
“ contribute towards recruiting the frame,
“ in this the gentry fall short of the class
“ immediately below them—a class which
“ shares with them, in some measure, the
“ honours of the gout.

“ One article seems to me of the ut-
“ most importance here. It is that of arti-
“ ficial warmth. Whatever living system is
“ exposed for any considerable time or
“ number of times, to heat beyond the
“ degree that feels comfortable to a robust
“ person, inured to moderate labour, not
“ stinted in food, and accustomed to the
“ free

“ free air, loses of its vitality or becomes
 “ less susceptible or dead to many agents.
 “ All observation and all experiments upon
 “ animals, of which a vast number might
 “ be enumerated, agree in this conclusion;—
 “ that the gentry, (comparatively with the
 “ yeomandry, for example,) stew themselves
 “ into this sort of lifelessness or insuscep-
 “ tibility. Those who compare the diseases
 “ of the poor with those of the rich, will
 “ find that some capital articles of the
 “ materia medica produce a much more
 “ certain and speedy curative effect upon
 “ the poor. No one cause, perhaps, has
 “ more to do with this than the difference
 “ of heat, in which the parties live. The
 “ other ways, in which the rich oversti-
 “ mulate themselves without giving their
 “ jaded organs breathing time, doubtless
 “ contribute their share.

“ This is not to be understood as if there
 “ could be no compensation. So much
 “ gin,

“ gin, for example, may bring a poor
“ man’s nerves to as great torpor, as so
“ much warmth a rich man’s.

“ Thus then I would account for the
“ *less ready* agency of the new gout-me-
“ dicine, should the fact prove to be so,
“ upon opulent patients. Stomachs less
“ vitiated are so much more alive to its
“ impression; or else the sympathy of dis-
“ tant parts with the stomach is so very
“ variable, that one must wait two or three
“ days for that benefit in one case, which
“ a few hours may bring in another.

“ This distinction may sound unplea-
“ sant to the discoverer. It may deter
“ rich patients. They will be apt enough
“ to say: *Oh! if I cannot be eased imme-*
“ *diately, I’ll none of your pretended pana-*
“ *cea.* I am sorry, but it is not in my
“ power to help it. I wish the gout
“ would always go at the first touch, like
“ a spring.

“ a spring. But since I think it will not
 “ be so, I must apprize patients of the fact.
 “ And should I ever have truths, more dis-
 “ agreeable still, to tell on the same sub-
 “ ject, I shall tell them with equal blunt-
 “ ness.

“ But there is another circumstance of
 “ frequent, though not general occurrence.—
 “ I do not speak of mental irritation, though
 “ concerning anxiety and the passions that
 “ slowly prey upon the frame or tear it
 “ to pieces, we may assert that this part
 “ of the account is not in favour of the
 “ rich.—What I have in mind is *the use*
 “ *of opiates* early in attacks of gout. While
 “ the inflammation lasts, this powerful drug
 “ acts perniciously, I believe, in two ways.
 “ It co-operates with the gout in pro-
 “ moting the disorganization of the affect-
 “ ed parts. The most remarkable gouty
 “ cripples I have seen, have been where
 “ medical attendants most abused opiates,
 “ or

“ or where impatience has led the patient
 “ to abuse it most himself in the rage of
 “ pain. When the liver is inflamed or
 “ gorged, nothing can be more pernicious
 “ than opiates. They increase the evil, and
 “ so tend to bring on palsy* or hydro-
 “ thorax.

* As far as I am acquainted with the unwritten history of modern medical practice, Dr. WARREN had a large share in the introduction of opium during high gouty inflammation. Early in his career, when he applied his faculties seriously to his profession, he had success with opium. Afterwards, I suspect it ceased to be the habit of his mind to analyse and class the multifarious phænomena that fell under his notice, and to compare them with the observations of others. Concerning opium, an opinion of his stands recorded by Dr. Blane, which I think likely to do as much mischief in the world as any ten quack advertisements, if they were all believed to the full extent of their professions. “ Opium, “ in complaints both of a general and local nature, “ proves useful not merely as a palliative, by the re- “ moval of temporary pain or spasm, but as a prin- “ cipal instrument of recovery, *by allowing the powers “ of life to exert their natural action in consequence of “ the removal of irritation.*” (*Blane on muscular mo- tion*, p. 30.) What sort of analogy Dr. Warren fol- lowed, it is not easy to say. It was probably one equally gross and inapplicable. He seems to have made

“ thorax. That great man who had such
 “ strong personal inducements to seek for
 “ lenitives, and such power to observe and
 “ distinguish what were ultimately hurtful,
 “ when used early in the attack, dissuades
 “ from opiates. (*Sydenham opera*, p. 476.)
 “ And yet it is since his time that the

made three abstractions—*the powers of life—the disease—the irritation*. When the two latter are combined against the former, the odds become too great. But opium, taking off the *irritation*, makes fair play. Now, according to the best observers from SYDENHAM downwards, opium is one of the most powerful of all agents in affecting the powers of life; in producing permanent changes of the habit; in removing or aggravating diseases. What then must be the consequence of a man's prescribing all day long, every day in the year, with such a notion as the preceding at his fingers ends—especially if he considers gouty inflammation as an irritation to be taken off by opiates.

Should it be asked, *who are you that take upon you thus to censure opinions, entertained by a man of Dr. WARREN's eminence?* I have much to reply. But it is enough to say, the higher the authority for error, the more urgent to combat it. But, indeed, as far as I know, Dr. WARREN's authority was never such in the medical world at large as to overawe the enquirer, intent upon truth alone and careless about fashion.

“ whole

“ whole extent of the mischief from opium
“ and analogous agents, improperly em-
“ ployed, has been more exactly ascer-
“ tained.

“ Now if you be one of our rich
“ sensualists, consider what I have said,
“ and determine, in case you wish for the
“ new medicine, whether you can have a
“ little more patience with your diseased
“ organs than you had mercy upon them,
“ when they were sound. Your's will
“ probably not be one of those marvellous-
“ sounding cures, which read as if they
“ were only fit to furnish materials for
“ the next edition of Baron MUNCHAUSEN.

“ In that stage of the disorder, which
“ precedes permanent lameness, the preser-
“ vation of the limbs would appear to be
“ a very easy matter. It would be thought
“ an intolerably tyrannical measure if it
“ were to be enacted, that you should be
“ put

“ put in irons and obliged to limp with
 “ them about your legs all the rest of
 “ your life. Yet he that wishes for gout
 “ fits wishes for worse, since internal chains
 “ are worse than external: and even these,
 “ of many evils which the wish implies,
 “ are really among the slightest. It is a
 “ vulgar prejudice to suppose, that any
 “ dross is discharged during a gouty pa-
 “ roxysm from the rest of the system upon
 “ the exquisite workmanship, bestowed by
 “ nature on the joints. It is the very in-
 “ flammation itself in the part that does
 “ the mischief; and if that inflammation
 “ can safely be prevented, no doubt it
 “ ought to be done. To this point of
 “ safety, the whole discussion perpetually
 “ reverts.

“ Where the joints are disorganized,
 “ their suppleness can often be wholly or
 “ in part retrieved, by rubbing, stretching,
 “ and the like means, if the fits can be
 “ pre-

“ prevented. The most crippled patient I
 “ have treated, found that what has been
 “ called *muscular exercise* brought his limbs
 “ a good deal to themselves. But to what
 “ purpose, when the fits were so frequent?
 “ He found it to be the labour of the
 “ Danaids. So he cast his bucket aside
 “ and lay quiet.

“ I understand that no change has ta-
 “ ken place in the regimen of the patients,
 “ mentioned in the first division of these
 “ papers. Persons, both athletic and labo-
 “ rious, stand, we see, upon a very different
 “ footing from those, who though once
 “ perhaps tolerably robust, have led a life
 “ of indulgence. I await the issue, but at
 “ present I cannot persuade myself that
 “ temperance in regard to fermented liquors,
 “ and abstinence from the strongest, will
 “ not be essential towards restoring the
 “ constitution and the locomotive powers of
 “ this latter sort of patients.

“ SYDENHAM'S observations cannot be
 “ too often repeated even in a tract that
 “ proposes to supersede his advice—not to
 “ attempt any thing of moment during
 “ the paroxysm. He says, and let it al-
 “ ways be remembered, that he is speaking
 “ from his feelings. *Should any object that*
 “ *life is not worth having, if one is to*
 “ *abstain from wine and fermented liquors,*
 “ *I ask in reply, if it be not more into-*
 “ *lerable still to be perpetually on the rack*
 “ *of inveterate gout, (for I do not require*
 “ *this strict abstinence when the disorder*
 “ *is of the milder kind) than to confine*
 “ *oneself to an unfermented liquor;—when*
 “ *during its use one can indulge in almost*
 “ *any sort of food.*

(“ He gives a recipe for the liquor—a
 “ particular diet-drink—and says it comes
 “ more agreeable by use.)

“ Cer-

“ *Certainly whoever has had experience*
“ *of gout, if he be a man, and not a brute*
“ *beast on two legs, will see at once what*
“ *part he ought to take.*—So far Syden-
“ ham.

“ On one point I need not drop a
“ word. Nobody in the world with the
“ gout in his stomach will hesitate to take
“ a preparation that shews such power to
“ remove it.* Nobody would nurse the

* In addition to the other statements, it is worth while to lay before the reader an account by Mr. Symes, surgeon, of the effect of the new medicine upon the second Bridgewater patient formerly mentioned. “ In July last, C. B. was attacked with a very severe
“ fit of the gout accompanied by incessant vomiting.
“ He had recourse to the volatile tincture of guaiacum
“ and to various other medicines, which had relieved
“ him on former occasions, but without effect. Two
“ bottles of the new gout medicine were given him by
“ Mr. W. R. with directions to take three large spoon-
“ fuls every half hour. After three or four doses he
“ found himself considerably easier and the vomiting
“ much abated. After a few more doses the vomiting
“ ceased. He fell into a gentle perspiration and had
“ some hours undisturbed sleep.”

“gout there. How much the spirit con-
 “tributes to this effect, must remain un-
 “certain. The quantity, I find, by the
 “preparation and by distillation is not much
 “more abundant than in Madeira wine.
 “On the 28th of December, 1802, five
 “ounces by measure yielded, on distilla-
 “tion, 10 drams, 55.42 grains of spirit,
 “whose specific gravity was .925 at 45°.

“of Fahrenheit.

“Probably too there will be little ob-
 “jection to take the chance offered by
 “this preparation of driving the gout out
 “of the head into the feet. The case, in
 “which this *metastasis* took place, is the
 “least satisfactory of all. It may be said
 “that merely relieving the brain by cup-
 “ping, might occasion the transfer. I in-
 “cline to suppose the contrary; the change
 “not having taken place in less than seve-
 “ral hours; and, more particularly, on
 “account of the remarkable severity of
 “the

“ the fit. Perhaps the new remedy will
 “ procure to some patients, who shall
 “ chuse to stop at a certain dose, the
 “ satisfaction of a fit in the extremities,
 “ after removing it out of the vitals. It
 “ may be that this was a real instance of
 “ failure. Mercury and bark fail in com-
 “ plaints, for which they are respectively
 “ reputed specifics. But there are two facts,
 “ which ought to be taken into the ac-
 “ count. I did not give the medicine near
 “ so freely as I now know I might; nor
 “ did the patient follow it up quite as I
 “ ordered. In such alarming complications
 “ shall we discard a medicine if it does
 “ not forthwith answer all one’s wishes,
 “ even when fully dosed? After exhibition
 “ of the bark, the ague has not only not been
 “ stopped, but the next fit has been more
 “ severe; though perseverance in the same
 “ mode of exhibition has prevented the
 “ succeeding. The fact stands attested by
 “ the physician, at present, I believe, most
 “ widely

“ widely celebrated throughout Europe as
 “ a practitioner and writer.* The last case
 “ but one seems to shew that this medi-
 “ cine also may gain power on successive
 “ exhibitions. But, at present, we have
 “ only hints for future observation, by no
 “ means, data for general inferences. Our
 “ prospect in one direction is, however,
 “ encouraging. Gouty invalids, absolutely
 “ palsied or standing, as it were, under the
 “ tomahawk of apoplexy, are not made worse.
 “ The observation goes to remove one ter-
 “ ror which every gout-remedy must justly
 “ inspire. But I do not expect all who
 “ shall take this medicine to escape palsy
 “ for ever. Does any man, who has had
 “ much gout, require to be told how this
 “ disorder shakes the nerves? Successive
 “ paroxysms, then, may have wholly de-

* *Non rarum est, primum ab assumpto cortice
 paroxysmum adeo non imminui, ut et validdior inde
 insurgat invasio: continuato constanter remedio in prox-
 imum facile praecavenda. J. P. FRANK, de cur.
 Hominum morbis I. 65.*

“ ranged the nervous system; and a specific
“ for gout may do no more than defer the
“ fatal stroke, unless the patient consent to
“ observe the most consummate prudence in
“ regimen, and submit to all necessary pre-
“ ventive measures.

“ How easily one may misjudge in this
“ respect, the following anecdote will shew.
“ Mr. WATT will, I hope, excuse me, if
“ during his absence abroad, I quote him
“ as a guarantee of its authenticity. He
“ had heard, with lively interest, my ac-
“ count of the discovery, and of the first
“ trials. A person, for whom he had great
“ regard, was much afflicted with gout.
“ In spring, I was to go into the neigh-
“ bourhood where this person lived; it was
“ in contemplation to procure an interview
“ at the time. Had the patient felt satis-
“ fied with the statement, and received
“ encouragement from me as to his own
“ particular case, he would naturally have
“ taken

“ taken the medicine. But lo! the critical
“ intervention of a stroke of palsy prevented
“ even an interview on the subject. My
“ journey was delayed a day or two; and
“ on the very day before my arrival in his
“ neighbourhood, this stroke of palsy fell
“ upon the patient. How near therefore
“ were we to an unjust sentence! Had the
“ patient begun upon a course, and the
“ palsy happened, it is evident what con-
“ clusion every body would have drawn.
“ I must myself have borne an erroneous
“ unfavourable testimony, and, without any
“ real cause, have abandoned the use of
“ the medicine.”

If the person, with whom I had to deal, had arrived at the last act of that tragedy, in which it has been said that the greatest philosophers, warriors, potentates, more rich men than poor, more wise men than fools have gone through their painful part;—if, according to the ideas of
our

our predecessors, the veins be full of lees and faeculencies in place of blood, and the peccant matter instead of being repelled to the extremities, be settling about the sanctuary of life;—if the patient is wearing down by continual uneasiness, rather than occasional torture;—if mind as well as body, have been harrassed till they have become too feeble to bear the slightest impulse;—if the sufferer be equally burdensome to others and to himself; if his paroxysms be as much paroxysms of peevishness and passion as of gout, I should then undoubtedly not be so absurd as to waste my breath in preaching patience to the sufferer himself. Nor should I perform feats for a mountebank to proclaim in the market place. And what I could do, a thousand gossips would vilify round the tea table. But it would be sufficient for a person, acquainted with the misery, that attends the last scenes of gout, to shed a few unexpected gleams upon the clouded evening

evening of life, and to introduce some comfort, where it seemed for ever banished.

The calamities of life—I do not speak of the calamities which historians and epic poets perpetuate and perhaps reproduce, but its in-door calamities—are too numerous and severe to allow any new or promising means of alleviation to be slightly rejected. And as to medicine, the art that professes to relieve a large share of these calamities, what is it when put to trial in many emergencies? What is it in inveterate gout? Nearly as insignificant when measured by what it can do for the patient as it is the contrary when estimated by the deference paid to its practitioners; by the solemnity of our proceedings; by the quantity of things we can say or write in diseases we can neither remove nor palliate. Before its reputation was established an Englishman carried the Peruvian bark to the French court as a
secret

secret remedy for the ague. As he was going to administer it to his royal patient, some of the members of the Paris faculty of medicine stopped him, and demanded a definition of the complaint:—"Why the ague, gentlemen, is a disorder which you cannot cure, and I can." See, to what a humiliating situation we are reduced by the lesson we have learned from a horde of American savages! We can cure the ague, to be sure. But of its nature we are utterly ignorant.

It will probably be seen ere-long, whether the person who brings forward the present medicine, has a right to adopt the same language; whether he will add to our efficiency, while he shortens our disquisitions.

I will only here remind the reader that the late DR. HEBERDEN had the courage to vindicate the *Portland* powder at the expence

expence of the gout. His reasons, as detailed in his posthumous *commentaries*, are well worthy of the curiosity of gouty sufferers, though they will go much against the grain of their self-love. For every one would rather suppose palsy and dropsy owing to medicines which he can shun, than to a pertinacious disorder. But as the disorder itself produces the very consequences, imputed to the preparation, it should seem as if these consequences had been, with a great deal too much confidence, wholly laid to the account of the powder. However we may receive Dr. HEBERDEN's supposition that the Portland powder is convertible into an useful gout-medicine, we must admit one thing on the authority of this most accurate observer. Gouty people die *exactly in the same manner*, whether they take the Portland powder or not.

Gouty patients, in general, may not be exactly informed of the effects, imputed to the Portland powder. The following is Dr. CULLEN's statement. And I wish those, who have taken the new medicine for any time, would compare it with their own experience, and decide whether they do not feel themselves more exempt from low spirits and less in danger of the fatal consequences specified than while the gout raged unchecked. " I have, says Dr. CULLEN, had occasion to know, or to be exactly informed, of the fate of nine or ten persons, who had taken the Portland powder for the time prescribed, which is two years. These persons had been very liable, for some years before, to have a fit of regular or very painful inflammatory gout; and particularly when they had completed the course prescribed, had never a regular fit, or any inflammation of the extremities for the rest of their lives. In no instance, however,

“ ever, that I have known, was the health
 “ of those persons tolerably entire. Soon
 “ after finishing the course of their medi-
 “ cine, they became valetudinary in differ-
 “ ent shapes and particularly were much
 “ afflicted with dyspeptic and what are
 “ called nervous complaints with lowness
 “ of spirits. In every one of them before
 “ a year had passed, after finishing the
 “ course of the powders some hydropic
 “ symptoms appeared, which gradually
 “ increasing in the form of an ascites or
 “ hydrothorax (particularly the latter) joined
 “ with anasarca in less than two, or at
 “ most three years, proved fatal.”

At present, there is no question of a
 powerful stimulant to be largely swallowed
 every day for years. The use of the re-
 medy, here spoken of, is only occasional;
 and, in many cases, will be very rare in-
 deed: Nor need the intelligent reader be
 told that the justest objections to old re-
 medies

medies cannot hold against a new one, totally different from any preceding. It would be an odd kind of justice to convict fresh criminals upon evidence given against others a century ago, when nothing appears against themselves. Nor is the theory of gout so perfected, as to accommodate us with a fair *prima facie* sentence.

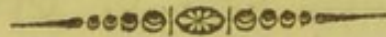
To allow more authority to any opinion that has yet been held on the general nature of the complaint than to a body of particular facts, would be the utter perversion of sense and equity. It must therefore remain a question upon the case. In reality, there are two questions; and both highly important: *Whether the fits can properly be prevented or subdued?* and, *how far the gouty disposition can be eradicated?* We approach much nearer to a solution of the former. For although the medicine with
a due

a due regimen may keep suffering almost entirely away, it ought to be understood that according to all observation in times past, indiscretions will produce new paroxysms after a lapse of years.

APPENDIX

BY THE

DISCOVERER.



THE discoverer of the remedy, announced in the preceding pages, had closed the narrative and the cases he had been witness to, and sent them to the printer, before the occurrence of the following case, which from its dissimilarity to whatever had been observed before, he does not feel himself at liberty to suppress; though it appears so disjoined from his other cases. He has felt this impulse the more strongly, as it will probably excite an investigation among medical practitioners; and from their researches he is unwilling to conceal any operation of the

new medicine for gout, more especially its untoward appearances; for his only wish is that its *just* character may be ascertained.

Mr. PORTER, of the Victualling office, Deptford, applied for the medicine sometime in the first week of December 1802. He had been for six or seven days confined to his bed with gout: it was very apparent and severe in his feet, knees and hands; nor could it be said that any part of him was free from it, except his stomach and head. He was costive, and feverish. His appetite was very bad---even to loathing; he had taken but very little sustenance of any kind during his confinement, and a great degree of langour was prevalent. Mr. P. is not a man that looks on things indifferently. His discrimination is good, and he seeks for occasions of exerting it. He had read the Nos. of Dr. Beddoes's Hygeia, particularly

ly

ly the ninth, which treats of the gout, and that determined him to try the new medicine. In this situation he began to take it about one o'clock P. M. The next day at that hour he was again visited: he was in some respect apparently better, but his stomach still rejected food. He was now enabled to sit upright with a bed-chair, till the reporter left him about half past two; though considerable care was necessary to raise him to this position, even by a person who had often moved him before in fits of gout, and appearances seemed to augur favourably for the cure. The medicine was continued; but in the evening sickness occurred, attended with much debility—nearly to fainting: the vomition brought off much offensive matter from the stomach, which mingled with the high colour of the medicine exhibited an unusual sight. These appearances alarmed his nearest friends, and he was easily prevailed upon to send for an apothecary from Deptford—particu-

larly as no physician or practitioner, acquainted with this medicine, was that night within call. This procedure is rather to be applauded than censured: nor will any intelligent reader be surprised that the new medicine was then omitted by the advice of his apothecary: for who would call in advice, on such an occasion, without intention of following it. This was announced to the reporter the next day, when he called at two o'clock. The patient was then however still more free from pain, and his spirits pretty well recovered, The novelty of the case and the surprise of the operation of the medicine on this patient was inducement enough not to press the continuation of it. Mr. P. however, from that time, had less severe pain of gout, and there is good reason to say that his convalescence was, at least, equally favourable to any of the preceding. Mr. P. is a man of intelligence and well respected; and will

will justly appreciate what has here been said of his case.

The lapse of time has also given the discoverer of this medicine for gout an opportunity of subjoining the following cases: One of them will assist the judgment in estimating the case of Mr. Porter, above recited.

Mr. WILLIAM PETTIT, of Hosier Lane, West Smithfield, London; a person well known, and esteemed in the Ward of Farringdon Without; about forty five years of age; of regular habits; lives freely—not to excess; his most general beverage is wine, or rum and water. Mr. P. has been subject to gout for twelve or fifteen years, its seat was generally the feet and hands when it reached the paroxysms; for one or two years its action was much confined to the stomach; and he can hardly say that at any time during its operation there,

M 3

that

that he was free from pain of gout, though at some times it was much more distressing than at others; had been to Bath for relief, by prescription of his physicians; for the last five or six years, his gout has not appeared except in his hands and feet, and the paroxysms have not occurred at regular periods, though he has not escaped a year without more or less. Mr. Pettit made application for the medicine on the 15th December 1802. He had been for eight days confined to his room by gout in his feet. It had then reached his right knee, which was swoln, very red, and extremely painful, and the patient was filled with alarming apprehensions that it would again reach his stomach, and it had never reached his knee before; and he considered it the most painful seizure he had ever endured. About half-past six o'clock, P. M. Mr. Pettit took the first dose of the medicine from the reporter's hand; and what follows he declares that he should not be willing

willing to hazard the narrative on his own assertions, had it not been witnessed by many respectable persons in that ward, who were then in the house, and saw Mr. Pettit every day. Within two hours after first taking the medicine, Mr. Pettit left his bed and walked, without crutch or stick, into an adjoining chamber where his wife lay ill; that he passed a comfortable night, with refreshing sleep; that the next day he dined below stairs, and entertained his friends in the evening with cheerfulness; the third day was the same, except having an additional number of friends about him; had on his leather shoes, and a silk handkerchief about his knee; he limped a little from weakness in the parts that had been affected, but had continued free from pain; and the fourth day he walked about the town for several hours, and experienced no inconvenience: as he declared in the evening.

This trial of the medicine, so prompt in operation, shews not only its power, but also the necessity that still remains to keep it exhibition under due observation, till its best administration shall be more fully ascertained: for, in this case, it was given, in the first instance, with greater latitude than formerly, and a less quantity in the end, accomplished the cure—i. e. he was given a full wine glass, that would hold at least three large table spoonfuls at first, and in about five minutes after half a glass more; then directed to take a wine glass full every hour and an half, and about four or five doses completed the cure: but Mr. P. was advised to continue to take one wine glass of the medicine every evening, for a little time, to prevent a relapse, and confirm the cure; which to this time (January 10, 1803,) appears unequivocal.

The foregoing case, so publickly known, soon brought other applications. Mr. CRIPPEN, a tradesman and a man of active habits, No. 70, Snow Hill, London, on the 18th December, 1802, applied for the medicine. His gout first seized the ball of the great toe of his left foot; it had spread, and was then particularly severe, quite round the ankle and instep, with considerable swelling, and marked with that particular redness which denotes the severity of gout-pain. The attack was of about three days standing: and it was his third or fourth fit. He is about forty-five years of age; and a regular and temperate liver. His gout he considers as an inheritance from his ancestors. He had been confined to his bed for two days, and had not slept, particularly during the night preceding his application. At two o'clock P. M. he took nearly a wine glass and an half of the medicine, or, five large table spoonfuls, and was directed to take
a wine

a wine glass every hour and half till the pain subsided. He slept well the succeeding night; and on awaking in the morning, to use his own expression, "felt about with his well foot to find if there was any pain or soreness still remaining in the gouty ankle." The pain he found was gone: but the swelling and colour did not so soon leave the affected part; for by walking up and down stairs and attending to his business, he kept it in constant irritation; at the same time leaving off the use of the medicine. On the 23d, having urgent business, he served most of the day in his shop, and imprudently left his knees open. While so employed, he felt the cold operating intensely on his left knee, which when he returned to the fire he could not speedily warm, although he rubbed it with flannel, his hand, &c. In the evening it became very painful, quite to distress, and considerably swoln, but no red or gouty colour appeared,

appeared. He then again applied to the medicine as before; by the morning this pain also had subsided, and during the day he slept quietly and found refreshment from it. Since that time he has had no pain either in the knee or ankle; and at the close of this report (January 1, 1803,) he remained well, and was about his business as usual.

From a respectable quarter the reporter was requested to see Mr. PEACH, who keeps the Castle Inn at Highgate, on the 22d December, 1802. For three or four years he had been subject to gout; and a brother of his died of it about two years ago. He is about thirty years of age; and rather corpulent. He had a general gout all over him. Both his feet, both his knees, and both his hands were greatly swoln, red, and very painful. The gout had just then seized his right shoulder with particular acuteness. His appetite
was

was *bad* in the utmost latitude of the word. He had been confined for more than a week in this dreadful situation, and could scarcely be said to have taken any sustenance during the time. He was very costive. A considerable fever was evident by the appearance of the tongue. And he was as helpless as an infant.

The full recollection of Mr. Porter's case here passed in review; and the reporter would have gladly declined giving the medicine; especially as no medical person who had known any thing of the new treatment, could then be consulted: but the patient was urgent, from the character he had heard of the medicine, to have it administered; and at two o'clock P. M. he was given a wine glass full, and in five minutes afterwards half as much more. He was advised to take any food that his appetite would suggest: and he eat a little boiled tripe. After which and a second
glass

glass of the medicine in about an hour and a half, he *fancied* that he felt better. He was then left, and directed to take a glass every hour and half till the pain subsided. At about seven o'clock in the evening he became sick, and discharged from his stomach a quantity of offensive matter, attended with very great langour. When his vomiting was gone, his pain also was nearly departed, except in the right shoulder; and he passed the night tolerably comfortable. He had courage to resume the medicine in the morning, which nearly dispelled the pain in the shoulder before evening, and he passed the next night still more comfortably, and the *faeces* passed naturally. And his appetite was gradually restored, though his convalescence was lingering; which latter circumstance had always followed his fits of gout; so that a swelling and stiffness of his feet and ankles had become habitual. From urgent concerns this patient was not so well attended

tended to as his case required.* And after the first visit all intercourse passed by letter. He could however go up and down stairs without assistance, and also serve in his bar before the 29th of the same month.

A reputable tradesman, near West Smithfield, London, aged twenty six; whose connections and prospects are good, has had the gout since he was sixteen years old; although he has been a regular and temperate liver. His grandfather, father and mother were all gouty. For several years past he has seldom been free from gout, which showed itself by swelling and redness in his feet and hands; the joints of which had become rigid and permanently enlarged: the middle joints of his fingers were apparently doubled—and chalk-stone appearances very discernible. Walking a mile or

* The same urgency has obliged the narrator to neglect some other worthy persons; to whom he thus publicly apologises.

two, or slight exertion in his business, would generally confine him with half formed fits of gout, that were almost general over his whole body, attended with loss of appetite. On the 21st of December, 1802, he went a mile or two in a coach on business, which brought on the gout before he returned. The next day it increased to considerable violence, particularly about his hips, so that he could not rise from his chair. Between eight and ten o'clock that evening he took three large wine glasses of the medicine,—and passed the night tolerably comfortable; though the pain was not wholly gone in the morning, but had shifted its seat. He was directed three glasses the next afternoon, and he passed a good night. The next day, in the afternoon, he was visited, and found serving his customers in his shop—avowed himself to be very comfortable, and appeared so. On the 26th he dined out with his friends, and found no inconvenience. His nights
have

have since been pleasant, and his days constantly employed in business. On the 17th January 1803, he declared to the reporter, that during all the severe weather that had lately passed, he had found himself mending; and that he had frequently gone abroad during that time; whereas formerly such weather and such exertion would have surely confined him with gout; and that he could even wear his boots with comfort. No apprehension of contradiction is entertained, when it is stated that both himself and his friends are most highly pleased that the medicine has been administred to him.

This case will, most probably, come again before such part of the public as shall feel an interest in these relations; as this patient has cheerfully undertaken to give a fair trial to what the medicine will do towards (not only stopping the progress of his deplorable malady, but) restoring the
proper

proper size and free use of his, now, stiffened and enlarged joints. For this purpose he uses the tincture as a liniment once a day, and once a day drinks a wine glass full of it. This treatment has already taken away all the red colour and the less permanent swelling from the enflamed and enlarged parts (though the ossifick protuberances still remain, to appearance the same), and has enabled him to pursue his avocations with cheerfulness and comfort—for, with a continued good appetite, he has also a return of good spirits: and the discoverer hopes that he has gained so much of his cause, as to induce a belief that he will not withhold from his judges any evidence that may lead to a just decision of the merits of this new medicine.

London, Jan. 18, 1803.

FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS

FROM

DR. BEDDOES.

I UNDERSTAND that the patient, whose case is described No. 16. p. 112. has been lately visited by the Gout. But the fit, so far from being equal in violence to that of January, 1802, was even milder than any of his later ones. He was placed, too, under unfavourable circumstances. It is believed, that some of the persons about him insinuated terror of the medicine, when his mind was weakened. He certainly did not take enough of the medicine. However, he returned to it at the close of his short paroxysm, and is now recovering finely. The gradual

gradual diminution of such terrible symptoms is the utmost that can be expected. Less suffering in the fits, and better intervals, would be a most highly desirable consequence, in cases of such extreme inveteracy.

Mr. Courtenay, as I learned by a letter dated January 23d, got clear of his violent attack. He had no more gout, and took no more medicine.

Mr. John Powell, Hotwell Road, forty-two years old, robust, florid, and what would be called plethoric, engaged in businesses that require much exertion of body and mind, has always been very temperate, particularly in regard to strong liquors; the utmost he has drank, beside small-beer, for a long time, being half a pint of cyder at a meal. Aug. 12, 1802, he applied to Mr. King, surgeon, Hotwells, to whom I am indebted for many of the following particulars. He complained of a highly uncomfortable sensation in the head: he had been subject to

it since November, 1801, and it had lately become insufferably distressing. He described it as deep seated between his eyes and the root of his nose. It was generally dull and heavy, with occasionally somewhat like *snapping* within the nose. Discharge from the nostrils always gave some relief. Every evening, there came on an irresistible drowsiness, terminating in deep sleep. On awaking about two or three o'clock A. M. the pain in the head was extremely acute. His pulse was strong, and about 68.

He said that, about November, 1801, his ankles swelled, and that the skin had a red, shining appearance, and was very sore. At this time, he bathed his legs daily in warm water; and one day, while they were immersed, he felt a sudden pain shoot, like an electric shock, into his stomach, and thence ascend into his head, where, he says, it has continued ever since, with such pertinacity as not to leave him one hour's entire freedom. His ankles

ankles lost the pain and redness in a few hours after the seizure in his stomach. His spirits have been much dejected, and his appetite and digestion at times very bad, never good. Walking up the hill to Clifton fatigues him to a degree which he has never experienced since his childhood, and more than a walk to Bath in his good health.

His family have never been gouty, nor has he himself, before the inflammation of his ankles, had any symptom of Gout.

August 13th, 1802, he was cupped, to eight ounces. The operation relieved him considerably, and was twice repeated within a fortnight. After the second cupping, he took snuff, mixed with powder of Savin and Asara, which produced a copious thick discharge from his nostrils. He used the warm bath for three weeks, and, on awaking with pain in his head, he used the shower bath; but this was seldom required.

Very early in September, he was suddenly seized with strangury, without suppression of urine. Antispasmodic and diuretic medicines, exhibited for two days, did not remove it. September 3d, he complained of total loss of appetite, with nausea. An emetic brought away a prodigious quantity of tough, frothy, grey mucus. The same symptoms occurring the two following days, he took an emetic each day, with the same effect. From this time, he had better health, though he says, the pain in his head, and lassitude, with diminished appetite, continued. He took cathartics and absorbents occasionally.

December 26th, a catarrh, with sore throat, occasioned a return of the former sensations in his head, with great violence.

January 3d, 1803, he was excessively drowsy, and wished to be cupped, when about eight ounces of blood were taken from the nape of the neck.

January 5th, he was seized, in the night, with a violent pain in the first joint of the right great toe. This increased till nine A. M. It consisted of continued pain, with intervening throbs, so acute as to occasion outcries. The skin was slightly discoloured, and three leeches were applied.

About mid-day on this day I saw the patient for the first time, and he began to take the new Gout Medicine. The first dose was three table spoonfuls of the tincture, with one of peppermint water. It was repeated every quarter of an hour for three times, and then every hour and a half.

By the next morning, he had experienced a considerable degree of intoxication. The right foot had become considerably inflamed. He this day exerted himself for four hours in the capacity of auctioneer. He was desired to take two spoonfuls, with one of peppermint water, at such intervals as

should occasion no feeling of intoxication ; but if the gout should seize his stomach, he was to take four spoonfuls of the medicine undiluted.

On the 7th, he again exerted himself as before, for three hours. He had had a good night. The inflammation of the foot was still strong. He had no appetite. His pulse, at first taking the medicine, was about 70, and rather weak. It was now not above 80, but stronger.

On the 8th, he complained of considerable purging, which increased in violence, when he had half an ounce of tincture of rhubarb, with chalk.

He complained of the piles along with the purging, but there was no bleeding ; and, on examination, but little enlargement of the hæmorrhoidal veins was perceptible.

The purging declined from this time, and, in two or three days, the bowels took rather the contrary turn; and on repeated complaints of pain from the piles, from one to two tea-spoonfuls of an equal mixture of calcined magnesia and flowers of sulphur was prescribed.

On the 9th, the ball of the great toe in the left foot began to grow painful. The medicine was taken more freely; and the Gout in both feet declined from this time to the 17th, when the medicine was discontinued. Cramps in the stomach were several times felt from the 9th to the 12th. They were instantaneously removed on taking the tincture.

On the 11th, the patient described a great change as having taken place in his head. He said the long-continued, varying, but always disagreeable sensation, went off. To expedite

expedite the recovery of the right foot six leeches were applied.

On the 18th, while the feet were still weak, and the patient by no means recruited, he went out on business—was obliged to stand for an hour and half, and to attend all this time to the casting up of a very long and minute account. In the evening, he eat imprudently of water-gruel, and had a vomiting of glairy matter, similar to what the emetics had brought up in Sept. 1802. He had felt a snapping in his nostrils; but no disagreeable sensation in the head.

On the 19th, he felt well, and found his appetite returning.

On the 23d of January, Mr. Powell's appetite returned—his head and stomach well—some uneasiness in his right foot last night. The severe trial of his feet and head, together
with

with the error in diet, had no further tendency to produce a relapse.

On the 26th, he took Port wine and water, with sugar. He afterwards became sick, and threw up some extremely acid matter from his stomach, and had scalding stools. He has also had some pain of his right foot. His head has continued free from pain. He says, the discharge is become less gross and copious. His appetite has returned, to which the use of a chalybeate medicine may have contributed. He says also, that he has a feeling of health to which he has been long a stranger.—January 30th.

This case is not sufficiently advanced to furnish any decisive conclusion respecting the efficacy of the medicine. A twelvemonth,
at

at least, must intervene before any sure opinion can be formed. The gout will probably again and again attack the parts it has so long infested. It is intended to oppose the medicine instantly to every new attack, in the hope of removing the disposition altogether, or, at least, of freeing the head and stomach. Probably a quantity of Madeira would have increased the inflammation in the feet to the same extent. One thing only I regard as peculiar to the medicine. It probably prevented the attack from rising to any height in the left foot; for here, as far as could be judged from the pain, it threatened to become as violent as in the right. The pertinacity of the inflammation in the right foot is remarkable. It is similar to what occurred in Mr. Waller, whose head had been so long affected.

When the stomach was threatened, the medicine performed all that its most sanguine advocate could expect. If it had an
immediate

immediate tendency to produce any of the bad effects ascribed to former Gout medicines, this was an occasion in which they should have appeared. The vital organs had been much affected by gout for above a twelve-month before. Indeed, from the patient's expressions, one would suppose they had never been entirely free. There were frequent tendencies to apoplexy; and, we see, all affection of the head disappeared under the use of the tincture. On first seeing Mr. Powell, I told him, that I supposed the first effect of the tincture would be to occasion an increase of inflammation in the extremities. This patients, subject to irregular gout, should always be prepared to expect. And, perhaps, in some constitutions, the first doses will aggravate the pain, when it is not misplaced.

The above case would be worth relating, if it were only on account of the admonition it holds out to the gouty to be careful what external applications they use. Here is a patient

tient with constitution enough for two or three ordinary men; and yet his robustness did not protect his vitals, when a change was effected by hot water in the external inflammation. The history of the case seems to point out the pediluvium as the cause of the retrocession. It is of no consequence that it had been used many times before without detriment. The different states of the system are sufficient to account for this difference in result. We cannot point out the circumstances in which the difference of state consists; but the analogy runs through the operation of all natural and artificial agents. At one time they are innocent, at another prejudicial. And no prudent man would run the risk of being caught at last, though he could count upon escaping a certain number of times.

MARY LONG, æt. 26, about seven years ago, had a violent rheumatic fever,
by

by which she was confined to her bed and disabled for a quarter of a year. Ever since she has been much subject to chronic rheumatism, as also to rheumatic pains, attended with feverishness, which latter have, at times, confined her for two months at a time. During the last quarter of a year, she suffered almost perpetually from severe pains after getting warm in bed; and her limbs were becoming stiff, probably from incipient muscular disorganization. Her health appeared greatly on the decline. She lost flesh and strength progressively. She had little appetite, and was subject to frequent sicknesses in the forenoon.

On the 13th of Jan. 1803, she was seized with violent rheumatic pains about the head, shoulders, and breast. Her pulse was 96, and strong. Concomitant shiverings, and all appearances, indicated a new seizure of rheumatic fever. In the evening, I desired
her

her to take two table-spoonfuls of a fyrup (prepared by evaporating the gout tincture before-mentioned to one half, and adding sugar) with one table-spoonful of the tincture and one of water. The first dose produced nausea. After the second, which was taken in twenty minutes, there was some vomiting. She took a third dose at going to bed, and it sate well on the stomach. In the morning, the rheumatic pains had subsided, and the pulse was natural. On continuing the medicine every three hours, no pain whatever was left by the night of the 14th, and in two or three days all stiffness was gone.

January 30th, she says she has lost every rheumatic feeling. February 2d, finds herself better than for a long time past. Her appearance is greatly improved. What is particularly satisfactory, is, that she took a violent cold on the return of the frost, but
without

without the least return of rheumatic affection. I had formerly considerably mitigated the pains of chronic rheumatism in this patient by the ammoniated tincture of guaiacum. But its effect was not nearly so complete, nor was the general health so improved. Of the gout tincture and syrup together she took only fifty ounces in twelve days. Its action appeared as efficacious in *this case*, where there was so small an admixture of spirit, as in any other. The vomiting at first probably depended on a disordered state of the stomach, and seems to have been useful, as the vomitings excited by the emetics undoubtedly were in the case of Mr. Powell.

I would not suppress so decisive an instance of the utility of this remedy in a disease nearly allied to gout. But I have hitherto been less anxious to prove its virtues either in rheumatism, or in any other complaint where analogy might suggest a trial. It is

to its efficacy and to its safety in gout, that I have steadily and anxiously looked.

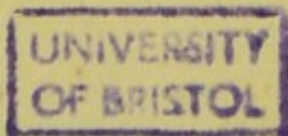
I daily flatter myself more and more, that I shall never have occasion to regret having introduced the knowledge and use of so powerful an agent among that class of persons, to whom it promises to be most eminently serviceable, and who have it in their power to make it a public benefit. Let them lose no time in ascertaining the real merits of the discovery, and then satisfy the just expectations of the discoverer, who is probably discouraged from disclosure in confidence by a late most glaring example of national parsimony.

If the preceding cases be not inaccurately observed, or falsely related, there have been, in the course of ages, but few occasions upon which men might, with more propriety, congratulate one another.

ERRATA.

- page 2. line 13. for should require, *read* required.
- p. 3. l. 3. after "arduous" *read* "as the management of a new specific and the treatment of a disorder, subject to so great variety. He has, therefore,"
- l. 8. for this *read* his present
- p. 7. l. 1. after for *read* all
- p. 17. l. 1. for phænomena *read* phænomena
- l. 2. for Physical *read* Medicinal
- p. 19. l. 16. *dele* comma after consequent
- p. 22. l. 5. for withheld *read* held
- p. 23. l. 8. for fullest *read* largest
- p. 25. l. 10. after respectable names, *dele* full point, and *add* "let me state
- p. 50. last line. for *Croydon*, 29th Oct. 1802. *read* *Croydon*, 19th Oct. 1802.
- p. 66. l. 6. for hunc *read* huic
- p. 68. l. 3. at the end, *add* an
- l. 17. after only *read* with safety
- p. 73. l. 2. for year's *read* years
- l. 6. for decique *read* dicique
- p. 91. l. 12. for drum *read* drain
- p. 107. l. 3. after with *insert* some
- p. 110. l. 20. for person *read* poison
- p. 127. l. 20. for were not *read* were—not
- p. 130. l. 19. for should at least *read* at least should
- p. 136. l. 1. for already those we have *read* those we already have
- p. 154. l. 19. for in *read* on

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 O. B. ...

