

Observations relative to the use of belladonna, in painful disorders of the head and face : illustrated by many cases / by John Bailey.

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OBSERVATIONS

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RELATIVE TO

THE USE

OF

BELLADONNA,

IN

PAINFUL DISORDERS

OF THE

HEAD AND FACE;

Illustrated by many Cases.



BY JOHN BAILEY,

MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OF HARWICH.

Saltem non Nocere.

LONDON:

Printed by W. THORNE, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street;

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1818.

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TO
DOCTOR WILLIAM SHEARMAN,

WHOSE EXEMPLARY CONDUCT

AND

UNBLEMISHED INTEGRITY,

AS

A MAN;

WHOSE ZEALOUS AND PUNCTUAL FULFILMENT

OF HIS DUTIES,

AS

A PHYSICIAN;

AND

WHOSE CLASSICAL ACQUIREMENTS,

AS

A SCHOLAR;

THIS HUMBLE TRIBUTE,

IN TESTIMONY OF

ESTEEM AND RESPECT,

IS DEDICATED:

BY HIS OBEDIENT AND HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

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WHOSE EXCELLENT CONDUCT

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PREFACE.

PODALIRIUS, the son of Æsculapius, imbibed his medical knowledge from Chiron, the friend of his father, who, on the lofty summit of Mount Pelion, in Thessaly, transmitted to him those precepts by which he was to regulate his future life ; instructed him in the uses of those salutary herbs which the beneficent hand of their tutelary God had dispersed over the fertile and widely extended valley beneath ; and carefully admonished him of those, which, attired in a sombre and warlike livery, seemed to announce their hostility to the health of mankind.

In the dark ages of superstition, when fancy gave to Form, to Colour, and to Fragrance, divine attributes, and when the feeble powers of infant Science had not developed their qualities, nor disclosed the œconomy of vegetable life, it is likely that those plants which were unattractive in their appearance, and disagreeable in their odour, would be considered as unfit for healthful purposes, be shun-

ned rather than supported by the hand of Culture, and sink from thence into the deepest and darkest shades of obscurity.

In the fabulous story of the son of Æsculapius, the Thessalian Mentor cautions his pupils against the use of certain plants. The author puts these words into the mouth of Podalirius: “ Nous remarquons avec soin pour les redouter, la ciguë, tachée d'un sang noir; la fleur livide d'*atropos*, et celle de l'*aconit*, faite comme le casque des guerriers: leur sombre verdure; leur facheuse odeur, annoncent leur funestes effets, que Chiron nous enseigne à combattre.” *

The deleterious effects of the whole tribe of plants in the Order Solanacæa, according to the Linnæan arrangement, have occasioned them, even in more enlightened periods of time, to be regarded as possessing qualities too potent to be subservient to medicinal purposes. Modern Chirons, therefore, have not been wanting to hold out the warning voice; to lay in the way of their disciples this caveat — *Sunt plantæ suspectæ*.

* *Vide* Podalire, ou le premier Age de la Médecine, par M. Marquis, Professeur de Botanique, &c. &c.

On taking a retrospective view of *Materia Medica*, it will be seen, that those substances, whether chemical or Galenical, which are innocuous in their action upon the living animal body, are also nearly incapable of effecting much good. The antidotes of disease will be found among the more powerful kind of medicaments: among those whose doses require to be weighed in the balance of judgment, matured by experience and reflection, and modified and combined with temperance and caution.

The various preparations of antimony, of mercury, and of arsenic, each of them indispensable in its place, and highly beneficial if judiciously applied; become, in the hands of the incautious and unskilful, extremely noxious and destructive of life.

Opium, that grand panacea—the resting-place of both Physician and Patient, requires to be duly administered, and apportioned to age and strength: otherwise, this soother of human sorrow may be converted into a deadly poison.

The same reasoning may be applied, with

equal justice, to every article in the class Sedantia.

The powerful operation of the medicine proposed in the following Observations, as a remedy against a tiresome and painful disorder, is an argument in its favour, and calls loudly upon those persons whose pursuits are directed to the melioration of disease, to try its powers, and weigh its merits.

In presenting this hasty performance to the Public, I make no apology for its appearance; because, I conceive, that every person who believes he has something useful to communicate, is incited by an honest, fearless principle of rectitude, which at once entitles him to a fair hearing, and atones for his inelegance and incorrectness of composition. I have desired to be useful in the humble and circumscribed sphere of my duty; and if, in the present instance, I have strayed beyond those boundaries which Nature and circumstances have prescribed for me, I may yet console myself in the reflection of having been prompted by the purest motives.

October 24, 1817.

OBSERVATIONS,

&c. &c. &c.



SOME years have now elapsed since, through the medium of the Medico-Chirurgical Journal and Review, I took occasion to call the attention of the medical public to the operative powers of the *Atropa Belladonna* in painful disorders of the face. Further and more extensive trials, enable me to speak with greater confidence upon its good effects in that painful and usually intractable malady.

I have, for the announcement of these facts to the public, chosen the method of a detached publication, in preference to the more common and easy way of inserting them in any of the periodical works of the day; in the hope, that as they stand alone, they may

the more readily attract the notice of those persons who consider that isolated tracts carry with them an air of importance and veracity not frequently bestowed upon the *me-lange* of monthly publications.

In offering this small Tract to the world, I am actuated by no other motive than that of directing the pursuits of practitioners in medicine to a subject in which, as conservators of the public health, they are intimately concerned: and, as candour forms a prominent feature in the character of every scientific member of the medical profession, I hope to see it fairly exhibited.

It may be, that its good effects, so far as they have appeared to me, are too highly appreciated; and that partiality has given to it an undeserved portion of efficacy.

It is possible, that fondness for our own discovery may magnify its utility, and attach to it an importance much beyond its legitimate demand; such fondness does, however, at the same time, urge us to its more frequent employment; to give to it a more varied combination; and so to modify its powers as to produce effects which, in other hands, might not be elicited.

A celebrated Divine has observed, that those books, like those animals, live the longest whose parents go the longest before they give them birth. This observation is founded in truth, but does not apply to those publications whose object is not to establish fixed notions of things; nor to promulgate theories or hypothetical reasonings: but, for the exclusive purpose of summoning the evidence of contemporaries. It is this circumstance, combined with the almost daily opportunity that I have had of using the remedy, and of witnessing its powerful and *peculiar* sedative powers, that simultaneously urge and apologize for its appearance to the world.

Persons engaged, like myself, in the multifarious duties of general medical practice, have little opportunity for collating facts, and for arranging and properly adjusting them for the public eye. Where, however, the intention is merely to incite to inquiry—to hold up to general notice general good—appropriate phraseology and grammatically constructed periods may be dispensed with.

It has been the lot of the Author of the following sheets to toil for the last twenty years in a wide field; out of which, no path has led either to wealth or fame: to be use-

ful has been his chief endeavour; and the only riches which he has gathered, or can hope to obtain, are self-gratulation and the luxury of doing good.

BELLADONNA.

Presuming that the natural history of this plant is understood, I do not intend in this place to offer any general description of its botanical characters and habitudes, but to confine myself to its operation upon painful disorders of the face.

The sedative quality of Belladonna, although descanted upon by every writer on *Materia Medica*, probably from the powerful and unpleasant effects which it produces upon the human system, is not properly understood. With regard to most of the more potent remedies of this class, there is a similar lack of knowledge. Time, perhaps, and the researches of an inquisitive mind, may rescue them from their oblivious condition, and give them a leading place among those sanative remedies with which an all-wise and an all-bounteous Creator has bestrewed our path, for the purpose of assuaging and diminishing the sum of that misery which human flesh is heir to.

My own individual acquaintance with the powerful sedative qualities of this plant, and its singularly local influence on the human system, justifies all the eulogy that can be bestowed upon it; however, as I offer myself to the public in the character of a mere narrator of facts, I lay it before them, supported by the best of all recommendations, its own effects: and, as I lay claim to no merit for the discovery of the remedy, I shall, in a few words, relate the circumstance which suggested to my mind its utility in that disorder; as a remedy for which, I now propose that it should be more generally applied.

In the year 1812, a respectable gentleman, who had been under the care of some eminent surgeons in London, for the cure of an obstinate ulcer adjoining to, and including a portion of, the ala nasi, getting no better, and resisting the use of the knife, which was, after an ineffectual trial of various topical remedies, recommended to him, placed himself under my care. After using a variety of applications with no better success than followed the use of those in London, and the aspect of the sore assuming a form and character approximating to carcinoma, he was or-

dered to take Belladonna in form and manner advised by Dr. Cullen, in his work upon *Materia Medica*.

It happened, at the same time, that an elderly lady laboured under an excessive irritability in both organs of vision; for the relief of which, she took the same medicine. Not being at this time well acquainted with the effects of the medicine, but having good authority for my guide, I gave to the gentleman five grains of the extract in a pill, and four grains to the lady, accompanied by a direction to repeat it every six hours. Shortly after the first pill was taken, I was summoned in a hurry to attend the lady, who was supposed to be attacked with paralysis. I found her with a bloated countenance, like one under strangulation; the tongue was thrust forward between the teeth, and swollen; articulation was very confused and indistinct, and the fauces so dry as to prevent the act of swallowing. Vision was darkened, and both sides of the face perfectly benumbed. The violence of these effects soon subsided; the power of swallowing returned with the return of the tongue to its proper place; but the face and head continued numb for many hours. The other patient suffered in the same manner, but in a less powerful degree: he took four of

the five grain pills, but could not be prevailed on to give them the trial which was required, in consequence of their unpleasant effects upon the sight, and the loss of sensibility in the muscles and skin of the face.

The exact resemblance of symptoms between these two cases left no room to doubt of their arising from the same cause, and that cause likewise was an over-dose of the *Bel-ladonna*. The privation of the sentient principle in the skin of the face, lingual and optic nerves, which this account shows, was an occurrence that could not escape observation. The application, then, of the remedy to that common and intensely painful disorder of the head and face, in which the nerves of these parts are in a state of increased sensibility, became a rational and an easy transition.

There are few persons accustomed to reflect upon and witness the progress of painful diseases, who would not, as it were, naturally have fallen into this belief, and have eagerly cherished an idea which promised to accomplish an object so highly desirable.

A residence near the sea side, where valedudinarians of different descriptions are, at

certain seasons of the year, accustomed to resort, in addition to a populous neighbourhood, supplied ample materials for putting it to the test; and the subjoined Cases, which are recorded with fidelity, will show with how much success.

Unlike most other active medicines, *Belladonna*, when used internally with moderation, occasions no disturbance in the general system; its operation appears to be exclusively confined to the nerves, which ramify upon the skin of the face, tongue, and fauces, and to those which administer to the function of sight. Over these parts, when given with a cautious hand, it excites transient paralytic effects, suspending both sensation and irritability.

It affects neither the stomach nor bowels, nor any of the secretions or excretions, those of the salivary glands excepted. This observation stands in contradiction to the account given of the effects of this plant upon the human system, by those who have written upon the subject; who assert, that its leaves, given in medicinal doses, operate upon the *urinary* organs; the *skin*, by perspiration; and sometimes by stool.

The facts which I have to adduce upon this subject quadrate but indifferently with the foregoing statement, and demonstrate, to the clearest proof, that the powers of the medicine have been neither fairly investigated nor properly represented.

I have, in two instances only, seen it produce effects upon the system at large; *vide* Cases, Nos. 14 and 16: slight giddiness has followed on the succeeding day; and some inconvenience to the sight mostly attends it: but these effects have always been cheerfully borne in exchange for severe suffering.

The foregoing remarks are not applicable to this medicine, when given in doses much beyond the quantity which I have made use of. When largely taken, like every other powerful narcotic, it destroys life.

According to historical authorities, this is the plant which produced such fatal effects amongst the Roman soldiery, under the command of Anthony, upon their retreat before the Parthians; who, suffering from the want of provisions, were driven to the necessity of eating unknown plants: and Buchanan, the Scotch historian, informs us, that the juice of this plant was mixed with the provision

with which, by their treaty, they were to furnish the Danes; and so intoxicated them, that whilst they were overcome by its effects, the Scotch destroyed the greatest part of the Danish army.

Every botanical writer, both ancient and modern, has described this plant as possessing highly deleterious properties, and has drawn around it lines of circumvallation so deep and so permanent as nearly to proscribe its employment.

However, as it commonly happens, in conformity with a well known propensity of our nature, that mystery excites curiosity, the forbidden fruit has been tasted; and although it has not opened the bodily organs of vision, we now understand more clearly, how to discern between good and evil.

In his work on Medical Botany, Dr. Woodville, speaking of Belladonna, says, "its operation is so uncertain, that the proper dose is with difficulty ascertained: the most prudent method of administering it is, by beginning with one grain, or less (of dried leaves powdered, I presume), which may be gradually increased according to its effects."

It does not appear that this gentleman

speaks from any information that he himself had obtained by using it; and Dr. Cullen, who seems to have tried it for the cure of cancer, upon the authority of others, admits, that his experience in its effects are too limited to enable him to say much concerning it.

The manner in which I have made use of it has been by tincture and extract; forms which, in the sedative class of plants, I am of opinion, are to be preferred before all others, provided sufficient attention be employed in their preparation, as well as in the care of them afterwards.

The dried leaves, whether used in the form of infusion or in powder, become deteriorated by time, by insects, and by exposure to light and air.

The same objection holds good to digitalis, hyoscyamus, and cicuta; on this account it must be obvious, that those preparations are to be preferred to which such accidents are not so liable to happen.

The pharmaceutical mismanagement of the more active plants has, no doubt, given rise to much of that discordance between the reports of medical practitioners, as to their effects

upon the human body. Instances of this sort are too common to need being particularized; and although general and proper directions have been laid down, with much care and precision, by the Royal College of Physicians, yet too little attention is paid to the subject by those whose business it is to see that preparations are cautiously made and carefully preserved. I deem it necessary to make these observations, in order that those gentlemen who may feel disposed to give the Belladonna a trial, should commence its employment with the genuine medicine.

Long acquaintance with the extreme precision and attention to all their medicinal preparations, justifies the partiality which I feel for the house of Corbyn and Co.; and, notwithstanding there are, doubtless, many other druggists of equal repute in the kingdom, yet, invidious as it may seem, I cannot refrain from recommending both the tincture and extract which are prepared by them.

The tincture which I have made use of is thus made:

R. Belladonnæ foliorum exsiccatorum

uncias duas.

Spiritûs tenuioris octarium.

Macera per dies viginti et cola.

Of this tincture from 20 to 40 minims may be given at a dose, in any mild vehicle, augmenting or diminishing it according to its effects, and repeating it with that frequency which the degree of uneasiness that it is intended to subdue requires.

Of the extract, prepared agreeably to the directions of the London Pharmacopœia, I at first began with a single grain, and repeated it every four hours, until relief followed; but, upon a further and an improved acquaintance, I found it more successful to commence with three times that quantity; and, if a repetition were necessary, to give it in diminished doses afterwards.

The well known fact of the accommodation of the constitution to large doses of the most active vegetable and mineral substances, arrived at by small beginnings, determined me upon this mode of using the plant; for I found among some of my first patients, who took it in that way, that it required a degree of perseverance much beyond what I could urge, in consequence of its unpleasant effects upon the sight.

NEURALGIA FACIALIS.

THE designation, *Tic-Douloureux*, which some French surgeons of eminence have affixed to a painful disorder of the face, being so vague and indefinite, applying with equal propriety to a painful condition of any other part of the body, I have adopted that of *Neuralgia Facialis* from the *Medico-Chirurgical Journal and Review*, not from the love of novelty, nor from the high opinion which I entertain of that well conducted periodical publication, and of the talents which direct it, but because it conveys to the mind at once an idea both of the nature and seat of the disorder.

Amongst those writers who have distinguished themselves by particularly describing this complaint, Dr. Fothergill in this country appears to have been the first; Messrs. Pujol, Thouret, and Andry, in France, have followed in his train.

Every writer since, and all the detached accounts we have had of this complaint, leave us with but little more than sterile and useless

descriptions, interspersed with but few remarks as to the most important part of the inquiry, viz. the Cure.

Men of science, in all ages and in all countries, have discovered a proneness to investigate causes, rather than search for means for the removal of effects.

It is true, that in this department of science the inquisitive mind may display the brightness of its genius; that the remotest recesses of fancy may be laid open; that the intellectual and well cultured faculties may shine with dazzling lustre; and that the scholar and the philosopher may triumph over and trample upon the more humble efforts of him, who, with his face reclining upon the lap of mother earth, seeks there a solace, there a balm, to soften human sorrow.

It is not meant by this remark to decry the philosophic investigations of morbid corporeal derangement: such researches are indispensable, and reflect honour upon the present age. Too much importance has, however, been bestowed upon this department of medical literature; whilst that which points directly to the object that most concerns us, is only tritely or transiently adverted to.

That this is the fact, in all the accounts which we have of Neuralgia Facialis, the treatment of the present day proves. What, laying aside the scalpel, has been done beyond the practice long since recommended by those medical authors who lived and flourished many years ago? And how far in successful cases, does the modern physician, aided by all the light which philosophy beams upon his knowledge, exceed his predecessors? Alas! the superiority is so very small, as to be scarcely perceptible.

Painful as this reflection is, it cannot be controverted. In most of the acute forms of disease, he stands pretty much in their situation; and, notwithstanding all the boasted improvements of his day, his efforts bespeak the mere sciolist. The nomenclature of his art holds out to him a long list of diseases, that elude the best directed exertions of his skill, and say, or seem to say, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." Providence, for wise purposes, appears to have set bounds to his attainments, lest he should arrive at too great perfection in the knowledge of the phænomena of animal life.

Although the torch of genius and philosophy throws such feeble rays of intelligence upon those causes which lead to the produc-

tion of disordered health, we may nevertheless hope, that in the less brilliant paths of inquiry, much real good may arise from contemplating and investigating those objects which the God of Nature has, with evident design, scattered over the face of the earth, to meliorate the condition of humanity.

I do not undertake in this place to enter into a minute detail of the history of Neuralgia; I mean, that form of it for which I here offer the Belladonna as a remedy, and which is confined exclusively to one side of the face, generally described by every writer on medicine, and commonly spoken of now under the modern Gallicism, *Tic-Douloureux*.

Some trouble has been taken by our own countrymen, the two Doctors Fothergill, to establish amongst us the belief, that this is a disease *sui generis*, a non-descript of modern origin; and Mons. Pujol, a French author of some eminence abroad, who has written copiously on the subject, has fallen into the same opinion. The sanction of a great name, like the umbrage of a large tree, whilst it shelters, obscures the light; and M. Pujol would perhaps have taken some pains, had such an opinion sprung from an obscure source, to have placed it *hors de doute*. Many excellent

practitioners in our own country have entertained the same notions, actuated perhaps by the same feelings as the author just mentioned. The bulk of mankind is apt to give credence to the assertions and conclusions of authority; but it sometimes happens, that, upon close examination of the premises, their conclusions have been found erroneous. That such is actually the case in the matter now before us, is a position that I do not assume; it is foreign to the design of these observations: and it would be deemed presumptuous, perhaps, were an obscure observer to propose an opinion, at variance with that of a Cooper, a Pearson, an Abernethy, and a Palmer; but I cannot avoid going a little aside, to enter a protest against the individuality of this disease.

Long acquaintance with all its modifications, aided by some particular attention to the subject, incline me strongly to the notion of its identity with that old-fashioned tormentor, Hemicrania, described in plain and simple language, by old English writers on medicine, under the vulgar appellation of *Megrim*. This belief arose from the result of the following occurrences.

A young woman, twenty-five years of age,

in the year 1802, was attacked with a severe pain on the left side of her face, which appeared to originate in one of the molares that had suddenly elongated and projected below the rest; so that when she closed her mouth, in the act of eating, it occasioned a smart pain in the nerves of the cheek on the same side of the face. As the tooth did not appear to be carious, she was anxious to retain it. A great variety of means were tried, but with no good effect; the pain got worse, and the tooth was extracted. Relief followed the removal of the tooth for a short time; it suddenly returned with increased force: and the tooth adjoining the one that had been removed, was considered to be the cause of the present uneasiness. It was not perfectly sound, and was therefore, at the request of the patient, taken out. No relief of any duration followed this removal: the pain continued on the side of the face and head, gradually augmenting at times, so as not to be endured without contortions of the whole body. Large doses of opium and ether; fomentations and blisters, and the whole tribe of nervous medicines, had no effect: at length it suddenly disappeared. A twelvemonth afterwards it returned, with a painful uneasiness of the lower jaw, which it soon quitted for an upper molar tooth.

From this, as a *point d'appui*, it played off all its fury, assuming now the style and title of genuine Neuralgia Facialis, or Tic Douloureux, as the patient afterwards learned to call it. At intervals, roused by the most simple causes, it tormented her night and day; and it was expected, that her worn-out frame would have given way under the insupportable distress which she endured. Tired of medicine, from its long use and inefficacy, she despaired of subduing her malady; time, however, put an end to it. After a lapse of several years she got tolerably well; and from being very slender, became rather corpulent. Changing her residence to a distant part of the county, I am not acquainted with the present state of her health.

Mrs. HARRIS, aged 47, was afflicted for many months with a severe pain on the left side of the head, occupying its exact half; commencing from the left parietal bone, and extending, as it usually does, along the middle of the nose to the chin, including all the integuments within that line. Upon inspecting the mouth, all the molares were found in different stages of unsoundness. Her distress had been of such long and obstinate continuance, that

she readily yielded to the proposal of their removal. Seven stumps were taken out in one week; but the expected ease did not ensue. The complaint changed its manner of attack: from having been in some degree permanent, it only came on at intervals, passing with electric celerity through the branches of the fifth pair of nerves, which expand upon the cheek. The faculty of vision was destroyed; both the eyes protruded through the distended eyelids; and her senses were wholly impaired. She endured these horrible lancinating shocks for many months, until worn down with sorrow and pain, she fell at last a victim to her hard fate. A more distressing instance of intense suffering rarely presents itself than in the case of this unfortunate woman.

The history and progress of these two cases serve to show, that Hemicrania simplex, or symptomatica, may at last exist as an idiopathic disease, after the removal of its parent cause, and sink into that aggravated form and character which some medical writers have described as having no connection with any *local* or explicable cause.

A cautious attention to the predisposing and exciting causes of Hemicrania seems to establish its identity with Neuralgia Facialis,

and to induce us, in a plain, simple and easy manner, to account for its origin in the diseased state of the membranes lining the cavities of the molar teeth.

The persons who are subject to this disease, the time of life at which it commences its attack, and the causes that produce it, are strongly confirmative of such an opinion.

Neuralgia Facialis commonly arises in persons of a delicate, irritable habit, at that period of their lives when the bodily strength begins to give way; for the most part between the fortieth and fiftieth years, and is excited into action by exposure to a cold and humid atmosphere; by fatigue; by external violence; and by uneasiness of mind. Let this be compared with the diagnosis of Hemicrania, and mark the slight shades of character: that complaint is rarely seen but in delicate persons, chiefly women who are hurried into premature age by some debilitating cause peculiar to their sex; or, if in men, at the period just alluded to; and is *always* connected with a diseased state of the molares. Its exciting causes are exposure to cold and damp air, particularly after exertion; fatigue; watching; and emotions of the mind.

From the striking affinity between these two states of disordered health, from their origin as well as from the predisposing and exciting causes, there is good reason to infer that Hemicrania and Neuralgia Facialis are only degrees of the same disease.

The means of relief which medical practitioners of the highest respectability have made choice of, add strength to this opinion, and refer us at once to the extremities of the dental nerves, as the legitimate source and cause of all the suffering.

However positively it may be insisted on, that the decayed state of the molares is not the remote cause of this disorder, the practice of every judicious and reflecting practitioner has been directed to their removal; and although relief has not always followed such removal, the inference that the practice is erroneous, and that the cause must be sought for elsewhere in the entire system, appears to me incorrect, and not supported by the collateral fact of the cure of the malady through the agency of general means.

These means often excite local effects. The most important and universal medicament which modern practice exhibits, and which

has been frequently employed in the cure of this disorder, with considerable efficacy too, if those who have employed it do not over-rate its merits, operates so much in this way, that its very action demonstrates the verity of local disorder.

Mercury, the remedy above alluded to, when given to the extent of exciting the salivary organs, operates as a cure by inflaming the membranes lining the cavities of the teeth; in this respect, resembling the actual cautery, or the still more effectual radical remedy, extraction.

Every instance of Neuralgia that has fallen under the sphere of my observation, whether it was seated in the face or elsewhere, has seemed to admit of a ready explanation, either in a diseased state of the extremities of the affected nerves, or in some other part or parts remotely situated, with which a sympathetic action might be traced.

A stout and vigorous man, aged sixty, whose constitution had been hardened by exposure to many an angry winter's wind, and whose mind was rough and sturdy as his frame, became timid, effeminate, and irritable, from a long and debilitating attack of Neu-

ralgia Cruralis. Every local and general remedy was employed, and pertinaciously and resolutely kept up; but with no diminution of uneasiness. Ease, however, one day, came unexpectedly, whilst he was trying, by the aid of his elbow chair, to raise himself upon his feet. He could bear the foot of the affected side upon the ground, and sustain the superincumbent weight of his body upon the limb, with as much freedom as at any former period of his life. In short, from having been confined for many months to his house, and tormented with shooting pains up the limb and along the side of the body every time his foot touched the ground, he became a sound, healthy, and active man. A month afterwards, a jagged urinary calculus, about the size of a large pea, was extracted from the urethra. The passage of this substance thro' the ureter into the bladder, explains the nature and cause of his sufferings.

If mercury, on the use of which, either alone or combined with opium, so much stress has been laid, be of use in Neuralgia, why did it effect nothing in this case? The answer to this interrogatory will be, because the complaint was one of pure sympathy; and so long as the cause, (the calculus in the ureter) remained, the irritative sensation would

be kept up in the leg. Mercury, therefore, in such case, could not be useful.

A stout and healthy woman, aged forty-five years, suffered in a similar way to the foregoing patient. The detail of the progress and treatment of her case need not be entered into. She took mercury, in combination with opium, regularly; and her system was under considerable excitement from its operation. No melioration of pain followed. There were no evidences of disorder going on any where else; nothing to shew that this was not an idiopathic disorder; yet mercury was of no avail.

It was tried in another instance, upon a gentleman, aged forty-five, with no happier result. An alarming inflammation, which threatened gangrene, produced by the application of a sinapism, cured him; how like the influence of mercury on the teeth!

These instances of failure in this potent remedy, induce a degree of scepticism as to its sanative properties, in this species of ailment, in any other part of the body than the head: at which part, likewise, through the medium of the system at large, it only excites a local powerful inflammatory action on the nervous

filaments ramifying upon the membranous expansion on the inside of the teeth; which, there is strong reason for believing, is the seat of the disease.

If mercury, then, exert a salutary influence in Neuralgia Facialis *only*, it is useful *quoad* the teeth; and, if so, goes a great way in establishing the truth of the foregoing remarks, and seems to settle the question, as to the cause and seat of the disorder, as well as to its identity with Hemicrania.

Whether the pathological sketch here taken of the subject be correct or otherwise, is not of the least importance; the *modus medendi* is the point most essential: and, as far as relates to that, if I have not been overtaken by ridiculous and vain credulity, although Belladonna may not be entitled to the character of infallibility, it will recommend itself to a place among the *juvantia*, in a very common and distressing ailment,

CASE I.

IN the autumn of the year 1811, a married man, of an irritable habit and delicate form, was tormented with a most severe pain, which commenced its attack over the orbit of the left eye. It was not of the continued kind, but arose occasionally, and darted down the cheek with great fury. The molares in the upper jaw were in a state of decay; but as they were numerous, the patient did not choose to have them all removed. In the beginning of the month of November, an oblong blister was applied over the orbit of the affected part, and another behind the ear of the same side: he took likewise considerable doses of ether and opium. The state of his bowels was duly regulated, and a cautious attention was directed to the avoiding of those external causes which had induced the attack. Having persevered fruitlessly for a long time, he grew impatient, and wished to try something else. Six grains of extract of Belladonna were ordered for him, to be divided into six pills; one of which was to be taken every six hours. In twenty hours he took four of the pills, and obtaining perfect ease, he thought it unnecessary to employ the remainder.

OBSERVATION.

During the residence of this person in the neighbourhood for two years afterwards, he had no return of his complaint. From the number and state of the molares, being almost all decayed, it is likely, that by this time he has been a sufferer in the same way more than once.

CASE II.

A married healthy-looking woman, mother of three children, had, at various periods of her life, suffered considerably from the decayed state of all her teeth. She applied to me in the month of October, 1812, for a most severe pain on the right side of the face. She had been under the care of a medical gentleman, who had tried in vain the remedies usually employed on such occasions. The pain could clearly be traced to a diseased molaris, which she showed some anxiety to have removed; but the recollection of the former case being fresh in my mind, I determined upon trying the effect of Belladonna. At the time of her application, she expressed herself to be in great distress, and would have

cheerfully submitted to the trial of any means, which might probably afford her the smallest relief. She took six grains of the extract in the course of twelve hours; a quantity much beyond what she was ordered to take. It produced its usual disagreeable sensations in the throat, but all her sufferings entirely ceased, and have not since recurred.

The complete and perfect removal of pain in these two instances, determined me upon seeking for opportunities of putting the powers of Belladonna, in this kind of ailment, to the test.—The following cases, selected from many others, will show to what degree of consideration it is entitled.

CASE III.

Mrs. D. aged about thirty-five, had been a long time afflicted with severe pains on the right side of the face. It attacked her with the greatest violence whenever the upper and lower teeth came in contact, particularly in eating. The pain was of short duration, and produced upon the application of the most trifling external cause. The gentleman under whose care she had been previous to her attendance upon me, advised the removal of two

of the molares, which she had consented to. Obtaining no relief from that operation, and tired of medicine, she lost her patience; Belladonna, in the manner directed in the former cases, was ordered for her. Some relief followed; but as her sight became much affected, she discontinued the pills. However, upon receiving an assurance that the imperfection in her sight was a temporary effect of the pills, she again resumed them, and ultimately lost all uneasy sensation.

CASE IV.

A stout good-looking man, aged 46, of sanguine temperament, who had officiated as pilot in one of His Majesty's ships of war, suffered terribly, at times, with what had been called *Tic Douloureux* by his former medical advisers. On examining his mouth, the last molaris in his upper jaw was seen to be unsound. I recommended the tooth to be removed; but as he had previously been informed that tooth-ach had nothing to do with his ailment, and not liking the operation, he wished to decline it. He was, at this time, in extreme distress from the violence of the pain on the side of his face; which, he said, seemed

to be entirely in the skin, darting from thence upwards, in a radiated direction, to the side of the head: it was then evening. At bed-time, I directed him to take thirty minims of tinct. Belladonnæ in a draught of aq. menthæ pip. At ten o'clock next morning, he said that he had slept very well all night; had lost the pain; and, excepting a *sore throat* and *confused sight*, which he ascribed to catching cold, was as well as at any time of his life. Whilst this person remained on shore, which was more than five weeks, I heard nothing further about him; I therefore conclude that the pain did not return.

CASE V.

Mrs. T. a married woman, aged upwards of forty, has been several times afflicted with severe Hemicrania. In July, 1815, she was again attacked, and applied for my assistance. A medical friend, then on a visit at my house, saw her in my absence, and ordered a blister, with the other usual means; but desirous of witnessing the effects of Belladonna, before any other medicine was tried, I directed that she might take two grains and a half of the extract in a pill at bed-time. On the following morning, having been visited

by this gentleman, he reported her as quite free from pain, and that it was unnecessary to use the means which the day before he had recommended.

CASE VI.

Mrs. —, a married lady, mother of three children, had a most obstinate painful affection over the orbit of the left eye, which returned periodically for many weeks. The part had been well leeches and blistered, and she had taken, under the superintendence of a medical gentleman, bark variously compounded, preparations of zinc, and arsenical solution. Notwithstanding a steady and regular perseverance in these means, and although a febrile state of her habit, which had accompanied every return of the pain, was subdued, yet the pain itself came on at the regular period, and lasted for three or four hours; mild in its approach, violent at its acmè, and gradually fading away at the last. She was ordered to go on with the medicine, to which were added five drops of the tincture of Belladonna to each dose. In twelve hours, the sight became so much affected as to create considerable alarm; but as she was unaware of the cause, she kept on with the draughts.

In two days, the pain ceased, and never returned. The Belladonna was not persisted in, as a continuance of the bark prevented a return of her disorder.

CASE VII.

Mrs. F——, nurse to a lying-in woman, is much troubled with a painful complaint on one side of her face and head. All her teeth are in an unsound condition. During her service in this situation, in which I frequently saw her, she was visited by a return of her complaint: it was so severe as to occasion her to prepare for quitting her duties as a nurse. She took two grains and a half of extract of Belladonna in a pill at bed-time, slept soundly all night, and awoke in the morning free from pain. A dryness of the fauces, and a slight vertigo, troubled her the next day; but she has had no return of uneasiness since that time.

CASE VIII.

Mr. B——, aged thirty-five, subject to attacks of atonic gout, was suddenly struck

with pain on the right side of his face, in the month of September, 1815, which he called gout. On examining his mouth, his teeth appeared to be all sound. A stimulating embrocation was ordered to be rubbed upon the cheek; but the pain which friction excited could not be endured. He took three grains of Belladonna extract in a pill, which very soon gave him ease. On the following day, the pain returned, accompanied by a gouty feel in his feet. He took a second three-grain pill, placed his feet in water heated to a high temperature, had them afterwards rubbed with a dry flannel with some degree of force, and retired to bed. Next day, the pain in his face ceased, and the gout took possession of one of his feet.

OBSERVATION.

This Case was not one of those for which I offer the Belladonna: it evidently depended upon a gouty diathesis then present in his system. It is, however, worthy of remark, that in constitutions where that troublesome disorder moves about from one part of the body to another, exhausting its force nowhere, and creating troublesome head-ache, Belladonna may prove serviceable. Further information upon this point is necessary be-

fore it can be proposed as a remedy for gouty pains in the head.

CASE IX.

In the month of June, 1814, Miss —, a lady aged 30, came to this town, for the purpose of trying the effects of sea air and sea bathing, upon a frame as fairly worn down with suffering as any that I ever recollect to have seen. She had been under the care of different medical gentlemen, who each in his turn had had an opportunity of exerting his skill. The following is her own statement:

“ In the autumn of last year I was in as good health as at any time of my life, which was never very strong. Being exposed, late one evening, to a damp cold air, I could not sleep during the night, for a disagreeable darting pain upwards, between my eye and ear. The next day it disappeared, but returned at night. In this way it came on for nearly a week; then left me. About a month afterwards I caught cold, and the disorder returned with aggravated force, darting like lightning up my cheek, &c.; sometimes to the

side of my head. When I attempted to chew my food, if the teeth accidentally struck each other, I could not avoid screaming out; and at night, if, in the short sleep that I obtained, the bed-clothes happened to touch the cheek, it was certain to bring on a return of the pain. The fear of this kept me commonly on the watch: thus I could neither sleep nor eat without the greatest alarm. Three months have passed in this dreadful manner. 'At the request of my friends, I am come to try what the invigorating air of a sea-side residence will do for my faded health; but I despair now of ever losing the pain.'

The dread of having her teeth meddled with, lest the pain should be brought on, did not allow me to ascertain their condition; and she had, besides that, been warned against any proposal for their being taken out, because the complaint was not supposed to be connected with them. I ordered her two grains and a half of extract of Belladonna at bed-time; and to repeat it every five hours until she obtained relief. For the first time, for three months, she got a comfortable night's rest. She took nine grains of the extract; lost the pain entirely; and she could eat, and bring her teeth firmly together, without feeling any uneasy sensation. The effect

of this remedy upon the visual organs alarmed her so much, that she was fearful of repeating it. During her residence here, which was not more than a month, she had no return of the pain; and I have not been informed of the state of her health since her removal.

CASE X.

Mrs. G——, resident in a parish a few miles from hence, came to consult me upon a severe uneasiness in the cheek and right side of the head, which had tormented her nearly a year, and for which she had tried a great many remedies without avail. Her medical attendant, judging that an unsound tooth was the cause of her complaint, had very properly taken it out; but she did not obtain the promised and expected relief. She had been blistered, leeches, and electrified, with as little good effect. At the time of her application to me, she said she was suffering with more than usual severity; and from having been an active healthy woman, she had become pale, emaciated, and irritable. She was ordered to take three grains of extract of *Beladonna* in a pill at bed-time, and another three grains on the following morning, if the

pain remained. The first pill operated with so much efficacy, as to make a repetition of the dose unnecessary. She slept soundly, and awoke in perfect freedom from uneasiness of every description, vertigo and dim-sightedness excepted. Two months afterwards, having been exposed to the air, on a cold evening, in an open carriage, the pain returned: the second pill was then taken, which operated, by her own verbal report to me, so as to "charm" away her suffering. Some months from the second attack, it revisited her with a degree of violence beyond all former visitations, but was again put down by a repetition of the remedy.

CASE XI.

A toothless woman, Mrs. W——, aged 70, has been afflicted, at times, her whole life, with severe Hemicrania, occasioned by the unsound state of all her teeth. By her account, she has gone a complete round in materia medica, and has had the assistance of numberless medical practitioners, all of whom have proved nearly alike unsuccessful. Since her residence in this neighbourhood, she has been exempt from any attack of this disorder, which she ascribes to her having, for some

time, parted with her last tooth. In the winter of 1815, having occasion to get up in the middle of the night, and walk through a fall of snow, she was visited by her old complaint on the evening of the next day, to such a violent degree as to affect her senses very materially. The pain at first was of a permanent kind, lasting several hours, and augmenting at times, so as to produce the most piercing shrieks. Having experienced the inutility of medicine on former occasions, she did not apply for medical assistance until the complaint had assumed a new form. When I saw her, she had been troubled for several months; it had then put on the transient character of genuine Neuralgia Facialis. Her age and long suffering had so worn down her frame, that she would have submitted to any proposal for ease, though it endangered her life. The lank and fleshless state of her face gave great facility to the division of the sub-orbital nerve; a temptation which was resisted for a trial of the power of Belladonna. This being a fair opportunity of putting it to the test, and the result so satisfactory, I hope to be excused for going more into detail than usual.

On February 23, at ten o'clock in the morning, Mrs. W——'s pulse was at 68. Her skin was cool, tongue clean, and no thirst:

she had not eaten any breakfast, for fear of bringing on the Tic. By way of ascertaining its presence, and taking, as I hoped, a farewell of it, I pressed the nerve with my thumb-nail, as it passed out at the suborbital foramen, and occasioned a more severe shock than she had ever before experienced : she fell back upon the pillow, and had several slight shocks afterwards. The pulse at this time had risen to 73. When she had recovered a little, she took 40 minims of tinct. Belladonnæ in a small quantity of tea. Six hours after, I saw her again : she had obtained some sleep, but was excessively uncomfortable from the effects of the tincture. Her mouth and throat were dry, face numb, and she complained of great thirst; the pulse was 68. She took some tea, which she swallowed with difficulty, but remarked to the by-standers, that the pressure of the cup against her lips and gums did not give her the uneasiness it used to do on former occasions. At half past five, P. M. she took 40 minims more; she made great complaint of her throat and tongue, and again swallowed a little tea with some difficulty. She slept at intervals during the night in a hurried and confused manner, but felt grateful for the change from that excruciating anguish which she had encountered so many months before. At half past eleven at night, the

pulse had risen from 68 to 75; an increase not imputed, I believe, to the effect of the medicine. She took at this time 30 minims more of the tincture in a cup of warm tea, and passed a disagreeable restless night, from the dry state of the tongue and fauces, which compelled her to be frequently drinking. At ten in the morning, February 24, the pulse 73; skin hotter than usual; face numb; eyes suffused; tongue protruded; and the faculty of vision so much interrupted, that she could not distinguish accurately any object that was placed before her. Four and twenty hours had now elapsed, and there had been no return of pain; a circumstance that had not occurred for more than three months. As she was yet under the influence of the medicine, and there being no pain present, it was not considered needful to push its use any further. She took light nourishment, kept in bed, and had refreshing sleep. In the evening, the pulse was 72. The thirst and disordered vision, though somewhat abated, still remained. She sat up an hour, passed her natural evacuations, and retired to rest. February 25, ten, A. M. Slept well the whole of the preceding night; dryness of the fauces gone; tongue clear, and at liberty; vision a little disturbed, but much improved; pulse 65, full and equable. Eight and forty hours elapsed, and no

return of pain. Forgetting herself, she passed her hand across her face, to replace the hair beneath her cap; a movement which she had always made before with extreme caution; and was astonished that no uneasiness was excited by it. I ventured then to make pressure upon the nerve, as had been done on the 23d; and, to her surprise and my own satisfaction, no pain ensued. Having accomplished so desirable an object, and shewn at the same time the efficacy of the remedy, I took my leave of this patient, directing her to take 20 drops of the tincture every night for a week; and after that time to diminish it, guttatim, for a fortnight. With this advice she complied, and has not had any return of her malady.

OBSERVATIONS.

A cursory perusal of this case may convey to the reader's mind the notion of idiopathic Neuralgia; and although it seems to place the remark, made in another part of these Observations, in a controvertible light, yet upon a cautious review of all the circumstances connected with the attack, and the history of the patient's sufferings anterior thereto, it may, without any aid from the imagination, be considered as a resuscitation of dormant disorder. To those persons who are in the habit of mak-

ing attentive observation upon the progress of disordered animal health, effects are known to go on, or be excited into action, long after the cause which gave them birth has ceased to exist. The intermitting endemic of some parts of this county, without citing other analogies, fully establishes this position: a reference then to former hemicranial attacks; to idiosyncrasy thereby induced; and to that never yielding and ever prevailing influence in all distempered animal bodies—habit, satisfies us in this respect, and does not militate against the foregoing conclusion.

CASE XII.

Mrs. B——, a lively and healthy woman, aged 30, mother of three children, was attacked, in the month of September, 1816, with Hemicrania in a very violent manner. Two molares in the upper jaw were in a decayed state; and as the pain commenced in one of them, there was little doubt as to its cause. The gums were inflamed and tumefied, and the jaw-bone excessively tender: a great degree of general disorder prevailed at the same time. The state of the bowels being first regulated by saline aperients, a blister was placed be-

hind the ear of the affected side. She was put upon a mild and simple regimen; took saline medicines combined with antimonials; and reduced the heat upon the inflamed cheek by spirituous lotions. Eight and forty hours made no change in her uneasiness; but the inflammatory appearance on the cheek, and the soreness of the jaw, disappeared: the febrile state of the system, owing to the violence of the pain, continued. Having had no sleep for many nights, she took 40 minims of tinct. Bellad. at bed-time: she obtained rest, but of a disturbed uncomfortable kind, and the pain still tormented her. Ten minims of tinct. Bellad. were added to a saline draught, and three grains of pulv. antimon. in a bolus, to be taken every four hours. She went on with these with regularity for the next thirty-six hours, but no relief was procured. The usual effects of Belladonna, although thus freely given, were not produced. Forty minims more, in addition to what she was taking in the saline draughts, were ordered to be taken at bed-time: this somewhat benumbed her uneasy feeling, but failed to procure that abolition of distress which it had done in other cases. Mrs. B—— took, during the night, 70 minims of the tincture; a quantity much beyond what I had ever occasion before to prescribe: it affected her sight materially, and

occasioned a dryness in the throat all the following morning; proofs that it was not incapable of exciting the system in any way, notwithstanding it did not accomplish its accustomed influence over the disorder. Having given the medicine a fair trial in this Case, and meeting with an unsatisfactory result, we were compelled to resort to other means. The removal of the teeth cured this patient, as soon as she could be brought to submit to the operation.

OBSERVATIONS.

In some other analogous instances, Belladonna appeared to do harm, by adding to present pain those unpleasant effects which ought to follow its administration whenever it does good. As the repute of this medicine would be likely to suffer, should it ever be given under the direction of others in similar instances, be it remembered, that whenever the system is under excitement from febrile action, or local inflammation is going on at the base of a carious molaris, it will be injudicious to propose it as a means of cure.

CASE XIII.

Miss S——, an intelligent young woman, about twenty years of age, has been afflicted for many months with an obstinate pain, of the intermitting kind, on one side of her face. She has been under the care of the most respectable medical practitioners, both in and out of London, and has received little or no benefit from their advice. The molares in the upper jaw are in a state of decay, and occasion, probably, all her distress. In the hope that a change of residence near to the sea-side might improve her general health, she quitted her home, some miles from hence. On the evening of her arrival, she was under the necessity of retiring early to bed, having been visited with an attack of her complaint, which had left her some days before. Her uncle, a physician of eminent abilities, chanced to be upon the spot. At my suggestion, he ordered the patient two grains of the extract in a pill, which was taken at nine in the evening. I expected to have heard next morning that she had slept well, and been free from pain. On the contrary, she experienced but trifling ease; by no means, agreeably to her own account, commensurate with the disagreeable effects of the pill upon her throat,

tongue, and eyes. I did not see this young lady at the time she took the Belladonna; but I am disposed at this time to believe, from the intermitting character of her complaint, that some degree of fever was present, and that it was not a fair case for its exhibition.

From the inutility of the medicine in this Case, I am inclined to believe that the medical gentleman who, at my request, prescribed it, became sceptical of its salutary operation; for, witnessing its disagreeable tendency to disturb the faculty of vision for many hours afterwards, he took an objection to it, as appears by the following case, which fell to his exclusive management, and which resisted all his efforts.

CASE XIV.

In the month of July, 1816, Miss F——, a delicate young woman, after walking late in the evening, was attacked at night with a pain in the jaw, so severe as to keep her awake the greatest part of the night; towards morning she got better. At noon, the day following, she was attacked again in the same part; and in this manner, almost regularly, night or day, with short intervals, for eight months. During this long and harassing period, she tried

all the means that judgment and the best directed skill could devise.

No impression being made upon her obstinate and intractable disorder, and her general health appearing to give way under the weight of her suffering, she was advised to try what change of air would do for her; conformably with such advice she came to Harwich, and placed herself under my care. Since the latter end of the month of March, she had not experienced a return of the pain. From her description, it commenced usually with a slight uneasiness in the lower jaw on the left side, which augmented to intolerance in the space of an hour or two, and extended up the cheek and side of the head. She had regular paroxysms every night about bed-time; and if she were fortunate enough to escape it at that period, it was sure to make its appearance at the same hour in the day-time.

On examining the teeth, two large molares were seen to be in a state of decay; and a soreness, with a slight intumescence, remained at their base. I could not prevail on this patient, as she was then free from pain, to submit to their removal, notwithstanding she was brought to believe that they had been the cause of all her anguish. This inspection took place at the latter end of the month of

April in the present year: from that time to the middle of May, she acquired strength, and her general health became much improved; but on the 24th of that month, having exposed herself too late one damp evening, she was again attacked with the pain in her face. It was very severe, and kept her awake the whole of the night: towards morning it took its leave. At two o'clock on the 25th, it returned with great violence: at three in the afternoon, she took two grains of extract of Belladonna in a pill, which gave her ease in the space of an hour. Four hours afterwards, it showed signs of returning. At bed-time, a second pill of two grains was taken, which put away the uneasiness again. In the morning, after a good night's rest, she awoke free from pain. During the next day she complained of obscure vision, and a numbness in the *legs* and *hands*: it was but of short duration; in other respects, she felt perfectly well. On the 26th and 27th, she considered herself no longer an invalid; this was, however, a conceit of but little continuance, for being too long exposed to a keen easterly breeze off the sea, she endured a sharp visitation from her old tormentor. At bed-time, on the 27th, she took fifteen drops of tinct. Belladonnæ; had a tolerable night, though not exempt from pain. On the 28th, at three in the afternoon, having felt it all the day, in a trifling degree, it aug-

mented to a pitch beyond endurance. A three-grain pill was taken, which procured rest; but it did not completely put aside the pain: she, however, had a fair night's rest. The next day she took ten drops of tinct. Bellad. in decoct. cinch. once every six hours, which, it was intended, should be persevered in: but, owing to the disagreeable interruption to the sight, it was discontinued. Two days from this time, having in the interval suffered no uneasy sensation, the pain came back; forty drops of the tincture were taken in a draught, which was rejected by the stomach, with a quantity of bilious matter. She took an emetic; and when that had ceased to operate, forty drops more of the tincture procured her perfect and permanent relief. Fearing, from some tenderness that remained about the jaw and face, that the disorder would recur, she took, for several successive nights, a few drops of the tincture at bed-time; but up to the present date, September, she has not suffered the slightest pain.

OBSERVATION.

Although this was one of those simple and common ailments which delicate females are particularly subject to when the teeth are in a state of decay, yet its pertinacity of character, and the inefficacy of every other means of

cure, hold it up to reflection as a striking exemplification of the curative properties of Belladonna in facial disorders; blisters, leeches, fomentations, extraction of the teeth, had all been tried in vain. The cure was left to be accomplished by a remedy which, among other effects, has called from this patient the most lively and energetic expressions of a grateful heart.

CASE XV.

Mrs. G——, a woman aged upwards of forty, has been dreadfully afflicted for many years, six or eight months in succession, with Neuralgia Facialis; sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other. Before accident had disclosed to me the efficacy of Belladonna in painful nervous affections of the head, I had repeatedly gone over all that class of *Materia Medica* denominated nervous, accompanied by topical stimulants, scarifyings, leeches, extraction of the teeth, &c. &c.; cicuta, hyoscyamus, opium, electricity, tractors, acromatics, and conjurations of various sorts, which the harassed patient had been advised to resort to, proved alike unsatisfactory, as the promised reward, ease, never came.—The two or three remaining molares, which she could

not summon resolution to have taken out, on account of obtaining no relief by tooth-drawing on former trials, crumbled away at length, and her wretchedness gradually subsided. She got flesh, and acquired a lusty and healthy appearance. For eight or nine years she enjoyed good health, feeling now and then for a few days only a trifling degree of her complaint. In the month of January, 1817, whilst engaged about her house, she was struck suddenly with as violent an attack as she had endured at any former time of her life. She took very soon after this attack thirty minims of tinct. Belladonnæ; the pain disappeared in an hour, and she felt quite easy: next day it returned, and was put away by an increased quantity of the tincture. She was now ordered to take it regularly three times a-day, in doses of thirty drops at a time. Although it succeeded in keeping down the pain, it did not produce that dryness in the throat and numbness in the skin of the face, which, in almost all other cases, it had been found to do: a circumstance deserving of notice. In some other cases, it has been observed likewise, that the dose of Belladonna may be augmented to any quantity, until these unpleasant effects arise. This patient lost all pain in about a week, and has not suffered from it since.

CASE XVI.

Mrs. ———, the wife of a medical practitioner, has been afflicted many times during the last fifteen years, with most severe pain on the left side of her face, in consequence of the decaying state of all her teeth. The least exposure to a cold wind or damp night air, has brought on an illness of many weeks' duration. She has used the means of cure that are commonly applied to on such occasions with but little benefit; and latterly, has submitted to palliatives and anodynes, rather than be teased by taking and resorting to doubtful means. Two years ago, being much weakened by a lying-in, she was attacked by her former disorder; and expected, as the energies of her constitution were much enfeebled, to have to encounter a long series of painful sufferings. She took, by my direction, two grains of extract of Belladonna in a pill, at ten o'clock in the morning, after a sleepless night: in an hour she became easy, and fell asleep. At noon she arose, complained of numbness in *her legs and hands*, with dimness of vision; these sensations soon went off, and left her in perfect ease. At bed-time, she took two grains more of the extract, had a good night's rest, and awoke in the morning in perfect free-

dom from any facial disorder. A few months back, being debilitated from another cause, and without any external assignable reason, she was attacked by the pain on the opposite side of the face: two grains of the extract, taken at the onset of the complaint, put away the pain at once. She fell asleep, and awoke free from uneasiness.

This patient finds so much relief from Belladonna, that she calls out instantly for a pill, on feeling the slightest approach of the pain in her face. She describes its anodyne effects as resembling opium, without the vertiginous disorder that succeeds a large dose of that drug on the following day. It has never been necessary to give her more than a medium dose; on which account, the unpleasant operation upon the eyes and fauces has not been excited.

The following Cases have been furnished me by a medical friend residing in London; who, witnessing the effect of Belladonna in Case V. has tried it in many instances of facial disorder, under his care; and, as the history of these descriptions shows, with a degree of success as invariable as among those patients who fell under my own management.

CASE XVII.

Mrs. C——, aged 60, residing in Robert Street, Bedford Row, applied, on the 5th of May, 1816, for relief, in what she called rheumatism of the face: she had been subject to it for several years. It came on at irregular periods, and was much influenced by the state of the atmosphere; cold and moisture usually bringing on a fit which lasted generally three or four weeks. During the paroxysm of an attack, the pain was so violent as entirely to deprive her of rest. As this lady had two carious teeth, I directed the one which appeared to cause the pain, to be removed; but this gave her no relief. With a view to lessen her plethoric condition, she was likewise freely bled; notwithstanding

which, she obtained no alleviation of pain. Three grains of extract. Belladonnæ were ordered her, to be taken at bed-time, at the period when she happened to be suffering from a violent paroxysm. The effect of the pill soon manifested itself upon her system, by affecting the tongue, fauces, and eyes; but more particularly upon the disorder, by entirely dispelling the pain, and procuring sleep. Next morning, on re-visiting the patient, she expressed pleasure at the relief she had found, but qualified her commendation of the remedy by inveighing against its unpleasant mode of operation. More than three months elapsed without any return of the complaint. She has had trifling uneasy sensations since that time, but not so great as to require a repetition of the dose.

CASE XVIII.

Ann Henley, aged 24 years, lives in Oxenden Street, Haymarket, has suffered for fourteen years with a chronic pain in the sides and back of her head, which is always augmented when she is placed in a warm temperature; on which account she dreads the

approach of summer, and is tolerably easy in the cold weather of winter. She has submitted herself to the trial of various means, and unhappily with no advantage. It having been considered that her local disorder was occasioned by a defective state of the digestive organs, mercury was had recourse to, and some advantage appeared to be obtained by it at first; but this was a mistaken idea, for the malady returned on the disuse of the mercury, and the subsidence of its action upon the constitution. Three pills, agreeably to this form, were directed for her.

R. Hyd. subm.

Ext. coloc. c. ā gr. ij.

Ext. Belladon. gr. iiss. f. pil.

She took one pill at bed-time, and experienced no relief. Two hours after, she took another, which tranquillized the pain, and procured sleep. Thirst, heat, &c. &c. the common consequences of its operation upon the system, disturbed her towards the morning; but, upon the abatement of these symptoms, she found herself with trifling vestiges of the original pain. In a short time she was quite free. Ten days afterwards it returned. She took the remaining pill at night, and repeated it three successive nights. The pain left

her for a month (the month of June), which was passed in the country: whilst there, she was attacked again with great severity; and being without pills, endured its violence for three days. She returned to town, and resumed the pills, which operated as in the first instance: the pain showed great reluctance to quit, but was finally put down. The dose of Belladonna, in this case, required to be augmented as the system seemed to grow familiarized to its effects.

CASE XIX.

ANN CALLOW, servant to an upholsterer in Lisle Street, Leicester Square, was sent to me by Dr. Nuthall, senior Physician to the Westminster General Dispensary, who had received her under his care for some weeks, with a painful affection of one side of the head and face.

The Doctor, who is eminently gifted by science, and whose professional talents are of the first order, candidly confessed that the remedies he had employed were unavailing; and presuming that electricity might be serviceable, he wished it to have a trial in this case. I accordingly applied the electrical aura about

the head and face for some days, and afterwards drew gentle shocks from the affected parts. After unavailingly employing this remedy three weeks, I prescribed two pills, containing each two and a half grains of extract of Belladonna; one of which was to be taken at bed-time, and the other two hours after, if the first produced no relief.

On the following day, the patient came to acquaint me that she had taken both the pills, and that her pain had completely subsided; but that she experienced some very distressing symptoms after taking them: such as flashings of light; imperfect vision; giddiness, and tendency to vomit; dryness of the fauces, and excessive thirst, which had not entirely left her at the time she was giving the account.

An aperient medicine was now ordered, and the patient did not return for some days, when she again applied, on account of her disorder having recurred in a trifling degree. The Belladonna was again prescribed, with equally beneficial consequences; and during the space of two months, in which she occasionally waited upon me, the complaint had not reappeared. She was enjoined to lose no time in applying again, should there be any intimation of another attack, which she promised

to do: and, as I have heard nothing from her since, I conclude she continues in good health.

This patient exhibited no evident signs by which her sufferings might admit of explanation; her health, in other respects, was perfect. Every scientific mode of treatment which the skill and talent of her physician could devise, was employed previously to her commencing with the Belladonna.

Her pain was often so intolerable as entirely to prevent sleep throughout the night: she submitted to the extraction of a firm and healthy tooth, in the hope of thereby getting relief, but none followed; she at last began to apprehend she was doomed to suffering for the remainder of life. Her gratitude for the benefit she received from the medicine was scarcely to be expressed.

CASE XX.

Mrs. COLEMAN, aged 45, housekeeper to a gentleman in James Street, Westminster, applied to me, in the autumn of 1816, with the true Tic-Douloureux, situated in the direction of the infra orbital division of the nervus max-

illaris superior nervi trigemini, and extending to the facial branches of the portio dura of the seventh pair of nerves, which form the pes anserinus, and which ramify so intimately with the branches of the before-mentioned nerves. All the parts on the side of the face, that derived their sensibility from these nerves, were more or less affected, particularly the upper lip and corner of the mouth: the irritability of these parts was so extreme, as to prevent the patient from opening her mouth sufficiently wide to admit of her taking solid food, without exciting intolerable pain. This patient has been afflicted with the complaint several years, and has been under the care of very eminent professional men, in different parts of this metropolis, without obtaining any relief. For some years previous to her waiting upon me, she had not resorted to medical advice. The distress which had latterly been added to her former suffering, from her inability to open her mouth, led her to solicit my assistance. All the animal functions proceeded with regularity, excepting those of the bowels, which were habitually torpid: I therefore ordered an aperient, in combination with Belladonna. The first dose she took contained two grains and a half of the extract, which produced no effect; the second, on the following night, occasioned the usual unpleasant sensations,

with only a trifling mitigation of the pains: an augmented dose was therefore ordered, which had the effect of assuaging the pain in a remarkable manner, and of enabling her to open the mouth, to take in solid food, without inconvenience. She continued in this amended state two days more, when the pain recurred with an increase of violence: the medicine was repeated, and ease, as on the former occasion, ensued. Being thus enabled to take a more nutritive diet, her health rapidly improved. Having an opportunity now of accompanying the family to Margate, she gladly embraced it; and returned to town with an improved appearance, and an amended state of health. She had never, during her stay near the sea-side, entirely been free from pain; but it was in degree so mild, as not to make it necessary to have recourse to the medicine.

Three weeks after her return to town, she came to me, with a recurrence of the pain; and as it was inconvenient for me to see her often, I ordered her a box of Belladonna pills, which she was to make use of at her own discretion. I learn that the Tic occasionally visits her, and seizes upon the angle of the mouth as formerly, but that she puts it away by taking a pill or two whenever it prevents

her eating. I feel disposed to believe, that if this patient could fairly submit to the full operation of the remedy, it would annihilate the disease. The disagreeable consequences of large and repeated doses offer an objection in her mind to a trial; particularly as she can temporize with the disease, and make her situation comfortable, by comparison with the forlorn and wretched lot which she at one time thought would always be her portion.



In the foregoing Cases I have forborne to enter into a minute detail of every occurrence attending their rise and progress; and also of the effects that have not any reference to the action of the medicine upon both the disease and the constitution of the patient.

To dwell upon the number of pulsations in a minute; the state of the tongue and skin; the quantity and quality of the ingesta; and the diurnal state of the excretions and secretions, would be to encumber the more useful parts of these Observations with an uninteresting and tiresome prolixity of description; and to enlarge the bulk of this little Volume without adding any thing to its usefulness.

The number of Cases which I have selected out of many, have been few : they are, I trust, though much condensed, sufficiently clear to show the striking influence that Belladonna exercises over those chronical sympathetic irritations that particularly belong to the head and face, which harass and distress the sufferer to an almost interminable length, and which hitherto have shown an unyielding obstinacy to the power of every other kind of medicine.

The decayed state of the teeth being admitted as a cause, it can hardly be expected that pain and irritation should cease so long as that cause is suffered to remain ; and it is commonly to be observed, that patients afflicted with complaints of this nature, unless the suffering amounts to torture, refuse to allow the removal of the teeth : indeed, where they are numerous, extraction would be of little avail, without carrying it to an extent much beyond that to which the fortitude of few is equal. In cases such as these, there are few practitioners who have not had to deplore the frequent inutility of medicine ; who have not been compelled to fly from one mean of cure to another ; and who have not at last often found themselves little better than mere spectators, doomed to witness the lamentable inefficacy of the resources of their art.

To such persons as these, if they feel and delight in softening the painful lot of a fellow creature, I recommend the trial here proposed; and if the feeble light which glimmers upon my humble intellect has suffered no obscuration from night shade, or the more deadly gloom of ignorant prejudice, I do not deceive myself in the consideration of its proving a most potent auxiliary in the cure of a common and tormenting disorder.

After the former part of these papers were put to press, I received the following Letter from my brother, Mr. H. W. BAILEY, who also appears to have witnessed the good effects of this medicine in several cases.

“ THETFORD, Sept. 15, 1817.

“ SINCE I read your Paper in the Medico-Chirurgical Journal, upon the use of Belladonna in Tic-Douloureux, &c. I have had several opportunities of witnessing its superior efficacy over many medicines of a sedative kind. Should you find the relation of these Cases of any use to you in your intended publication, they will be much at your service.

“ Mrs. A——, aged 52, a lady residing at Brandon, had been affected many months with an excruciating pain in the right side of the face, beginning from the angle of the lower jaw, extending up the temple and over the cheek. When I first visited her, she was then suffering under a most violent paroxysm, which lasted some minutes. From her history of the case, I learnt, it first attacked her in December last, while eating her breakfast, with a violent pain in the under jaw, which she supposed was occasioned by a decayed tooth. The pain, however, soon subsided, and in the course of that day only returned once. After undergoing many paroxysms, she applied to the medical practitioner who had formerly attended her, and had the tooth extracted (being the only molar tooth on that side). Not experiencing any relief from the operation, and the paroxysms returning more frequently, blisters behind the ear, stimulating embrocations, leeches, and fomentations, were had recourse to; and opium, cicuta, and many other sedatives, were given, but without any permanent relief. Under this state of suffering, she was advised to consult some physician in town; by whom mercurial frictions, electricity, and a course of tonic medicines, were pursued, but no advance was made upon the disease, and she returned home in May, when

I was first requested to visit her. At this time the system was rendered extremely irritable, the appetite had failed, and the powers of Nature appeared to be fast declining. The pain returned very frequently and violently; the least breath of air, the sudden closing of a door, and the act of putting any thing into the mouth, brought on a recurrence of the pain. The seat of the disease she described to be behind the ear, the eye, temple, cheek, and gums, on the right side. I communicated to her the Paper I had read of yours, and the success you had witnessed from the use of Belladonna in similar complaints. You may well suppose how eager she was to try any medicine from which she might obtain relief. I began with two-grain doses of the extract every three hours. The sensations caused by the medicine were alarming to her; the sense of dryness in the throat and suffocation, the tightness in the chest and impaired vision, were almost as distressing as the disease. During its operation, complete relief was obtained, and she had no return of the pain for nearly five hours; an interval of ease she had not experienced during many months. As soon as the paroxysm returned, another pill was taken, and with the same relief. It would be tedious to relate the daily progress; suffice it to say, the pain returned less frequently;

she has regained her strength, the appetite is restored, and she has the power of mitigating the violence of her pain. Since July, I understand, she has been entirely free from the complaint.

“The success I met with in the above case, led me to give the same medicine in hysteria; a disease oftentimes baffling the exertions of practitioners.

“A poor woman, aged 32, has been for years affected with this most distressing complaint, lasting several hours at a time. From the whole list of antispasmodics, and opium in large doses, I cannot say I have been even successful in cutting short the fits. About three weeks since, I was called to her, and found her labouring under the most violent struggling fit I ever saw, requiring the assistance of many neighbours. I immediately gave her four grains of the ext. Belladonnæ, rubbed up with some mucilage, in a draught; which, in ten minutes, relieved her from pain in the stomach, and recovered, her to the astonishment of her neighbours. She has since been two or three times in the same state, and the extract has always relieved her.

“Mrs. S——, aged 42, of full habit, applied

to me in August last, (from accidentally hearing of the success in the case of Mrs. A——) complaining of a fixed and an acute pain over the left eye, coming on every morning, and lasting several hours; during which time the eye became irritable, secreted an abundance of tears, and its function impaired. She felt extremely desirous of trying the Belladonna, which was made into two-grain pills; one of which was directed to be taken a little time before the pain was expected. The sensations caused were similar to those in Mrs. A. excepting the sense of suffocation being more distressing. No pain was experienced that morning, nor did it return until the following day, when another pill was taken, and the pain soon abated, and went entirely off. Many days elapsed without any return of the pain. The disease entirely left her in about a fortnight after taking the pills.

“ Another Case, in which its use was singularly beneficial, occurred to a gentleman in this town. He had been affected with a constant and dull pain in the hip and thigh, depriving him for some weeks of his rest, and producing an extremely irritable state of the nervous system. Many applications had been made; embrocations, blisters, the hot bath, &c. without the least benefit. He was unable

to bear his weight upon the limb. I advised his taking the ext. Belladon. in two-grain pills, and to increase the dose should not relief be procured. He took one pill at bed-time; slept well; and the next morning awoke free from pain. Whenever the pain returned violently, he always found relief from the pill; and in a short time he was enabled to walk about a great part of the day.

“ These Cases must be satisfactory, and are highly gratifying to me. I have given the Belladonna in acute pains of the stomach and head, with decided advantage; and cannot help considering it a highly important addition to the class of sedatives, and especially in those constitutions in which the action of opium is distressing.

THE END.



