

Cancer : its nature and treatment, with observations on certain diseases peculiar to women / by John Pattison, M.D.

Contributors

Pattison, John.
University of Glasgow. Library

Publication/Creation

London : William Kent and Co., 1863.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a8ne5jkg>

Provider

University of Glasgow

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The University of Glasgow Library. The original may be consulted at The University of Glasgow Library. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

8³/₈ x 5¹/₄ (1)

CANCER:

ITS NATURE AND TREATMENT,

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

ON

CERTAIN DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN.

BY

JOHN PATTISON, M.D.,

10, CAVENDISH ROAD, ST. JOHN'S WOOD, LONDON, N.W.

LONDON:

WILLIAM KENT AND CO., 23, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1863.

HAVE YOU ENEMIES?—Go straight on, and don't mind them. If they get in your way, walk round them, regardless of their spite. A man who has no enemies is seldom good for anything—he is made of that kind of material which is so easily worked that every one has a hand in it. A sterling character is one who thinks for himself, and speaks what he thinks. He is always sure to have enemies. They are as necessary to him as fresh air. They keep him alive and active. A celebrated character, who was surrounded by enemies, used to remark: "They are sparks which, if you do not blow, will go out themselves." Let this be your feeling while endeavouring to live down the scandal of those who are bitter against you. If you stop to dispute, you do but as they desire, and open the way for more abuse. Let the poor fellows talk—there will be a reaction if you perform but your duty, and hundreds who were once alienated from you will flock to you, and acknowledge their error.—*Rev. Dr. Campbell.*

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE	1
-------------------	---

CHAPTER I.

NATURE AND TREATMENT OF CANCER	7
--	---

CHAPTER II.

TREATMENT, CONTINUED—WHAT TO AVOID	35
--	----

CHAPTER III.

ON DIAGNOSIS ; OR, SOME RULES TO DISTINGUISH SIMPLE TUMOURS FROM CANCER	56
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

SOME DISEASES PECULIAR TO THE WOMB	61
--	----

CHAPTER V.

SELECTED AND ILLUSTRATIVE CASES	89
---	----

CHAPTER VI.

REMEDIES, AND OTHER AGENTS, USED BY THE AUTHOR IN TREAT- ING THESE DISEASES	103
--	-----

CONFIDENTIAL

CHAPTER 1

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

FROM 1776 TO 1865

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

THE AMERICAN WEST

THE AMERICAN SOUTH

THE AMERICAN NORTH

THE AMERICAN MIDWEST

THE AMERICAN PACIFIC

THE AMERICAN ASIA

THE AMERICAN OCEAN

THE AMERICAN SPACE

P R E F A C E .

My attention in early professional life was specially attracted to Cancer, and the various forms of disease to which it is analogous, or with which it is associated. The practical experience of twenty-three years has led me to a conviction of the fallacies that have obtained in the previous and ordinary treatment of the disease, and of the possibility of adopting a less painful, and more successful method. This previous treatment to which I refer, has been, in my opinion, imperfect as to close examination, severe in its nature, and unsuccessful in its result.*

* Indeed, a recent report of the Governors of the Cancer Hospital bears out this assertion ; for, speaking of operations by the knife (and, alas! they can do but little else), they state "that of 244 persons operated upon, the average lapse of time before the disease returned (and it nearly always returns in an aggravated form) was no more than fourteen months. In thirty-seven cases of operation noted during the past year, twenty-nine of them were attacked again in less than six months."

In a word, it has issued in the conclusion, dictated by despondent helplessness, that Cancer is incurable.

This conclusion I emphatically deny; and I do so on the evidence of my own personal observation. The advantage of my practice over the old and manifestly unsuccessful treatment, is mainly its *soothing* character. It may safely be laid down as a principle, "*that if success is to be obtained in treating a malignant disease, we should abstain, of all things, from setting up or increasing any inflammatory action by irritating applications.*" Such appliances are only justifiable when it is necessary to remove the disease by enucleation. The main advantage of this latter mode of treatment consists in its safety and its completeness as a curative method. This I have demonstrated by exhibiting the per-centage of cases in which its operation has been thoroughly justified, by showing the number of instances in which the disease has re-appeared after exsection, and has subsequently been radically cured by enucleation. And this I have abundantly verified by the adoption of the treatment in the most desperate and far-advanced cases. The advantage of it is further confirmed by its soothing effect, and by the mitigation of the intense suffering which always attends the ulterior stages of the disease.

Even when it is not successful as a cure, it affords a greater or less measure of relief.

In this method of treatment there is indeed nothing which is absolutely novel or peculiar to this branch of surgical science; on the contrary, it is founded on the principles of common sense and reason. I do not claim that it is infallible, or universally successful, but I do maintain that it is the best that can be *adopted*, so far as the nature of this disease is at present scientifically understood; admitting at the same time that the application of such soothing remedies must necessarily be limited in peculiar cases, and must depend in no small measure on the constitution of the patient and the stage of the disease.

Another important point is the keeping up the general health—a matter too frequently neglected by the adoption of a lowering medicinal and dietetic regimen. In conjunction with this, should be employed the use of the resinous alkaloids. These preparations have but lately attracted the attention of the medical profession, and even now, only those of the more advanced among its members. I have, however, used them, and endeavoured to introduce them to general adoption for more than ten years past. In consequence of the success with

which I have employed them, and of the large number of cases submitted to my care during the last ten years, it is not unnatural that I should have many grateful patients and friends, who are anxious to extend the benefit of this treatment to other sufferers; but to the non-professional world it may be matter of some surprise to know, that many medical men, of education and repute, resort to the most unworthy methods of fabrication and detraction, in order to deter those sufferers, whom they are unable to relieve, from seeking assistance and relief elsewhere.

Such a course can only be attributed to professional jealousy, unbecoming men of education, and medical rank, who ascribe to what they call empiricism, the simple, but ascertained results, which they are unable to realize in their own practice. I neither hold, nor seek to hold any professional secrets. I have developed my views in the usual professional organs. My prescriptions are written in the usual way, and are patent to professional inspection. In a word, I am obliged to express my conviction that my success, is the most probable cause, of the professional opposition which I have had to encounter, and some calumnies which have been stated respecting it, it is, perhaps, worth my while to notice.

A statement has been widely circulated that I had a ward given to me in the Middlesex Hospital, for the treatment of cancer, that this treatment was totally unsuccessful, and that the patients could not submit to its severity. In all this, there is not one word of truth. My name has been confounded, I hope unwittingly, on the part of my medical brethren, with that of an American adventurer, to whom a ward in the Middlesex Hospital was given some eight years ago, and whose treatment was to burn out the diseased part by the use of chloride of zinc.

Nearly eleven years ago I made an offer to the Hospital to undertake twenty-five cases, and to treat them by my own method, and the unsuccessful result of this application may be seen by a reference to some of my former publications.

Without enlarging further upon matters which are chiefly personal, among which I should be obliged to mention instances in which medical men, actuated by professional jealousy, have declined to meet me in consultation, I will only say that my diploma and credentials are as valid as their own; that my experience of this particular disease has been at least as extensive as theirs; that my success has been unquestionably greater than that which has been realized under any previous method of treatment, and with

this most unequivocal declaration I commend these pages to the candid consideration of the profession at large, and to the study of the public, for whose perusal and benefit they are chiefly designed.

10, CAVENDISH ROAD,
ST. JOHN'S WOOD.

CANCER:

ITS NATURE AND TREATMENT.

CHAPTER I.

NATURE AND TREATMENT OF CANCER.

CANCER is a malignant disease, generally, but not always, appearing as a small tumour, possessing a power within itself of extension and reproduction. The cause of this disease is unknown; for at one time it attacks the healthy and robust, and at another the sickly and weak. It can only be traced to hereditary taint in about 23 per cent. of cases. Age does not appear essentially to affect it; for although in the majority of cases it occurs between the ages of forty and fifty years, yet I have had cases in infants of eighteen months, and in adults of more than ninety years. We know nothing of the primary causes that originate this disease, for although we know that anything that causes much or continued irritation will frequently develop it, such as a blow, a fall, or a jagged tooth irritating the tongue or cheek; yet, previous to this irritation, the disease must have been in the system; for it is a constitutional disease, existing

in the blood ; otherwise, every blow or every cause of irritation would produce it, which we know is not the case. The only cause that I am aware of that will produce it, even in a constitution where it did not previously exist, is the frequent application of such caustics as nitric acid and nitrate of silver, when long applied to a mucous surface, as the mouth, tongue, or neck of the womb. There are many forms of cancerous disease, as scirrhus, or stony cancer ; medullary, or soft cancer, frequently called encephaloid, or brain-like cancer ; epythilial, or superficial cancer ; colloid, or the gelatinous form of the disease ; melanosis, or black cancer, and many others, known by different names ; but all slight varieties of either the scirrhus, medullary, or the epythilial forms of the disease. In pursuance of my present purpose, I will confine my remarks only to two or three forms of this disease.

The progress or growth of cancerous tumour may be divided into three stages: 1st. The disease appears as a small, movable tumour—if hard to the touch, it is of the kind denominated scirrhus ; if soft, it assumes the sarcomatous form ; or if epythilial, it appears, in the first instance, as a wart, generally with a small neck (pedunculated). This latter exists in many cases for years, causing no apprehension—indeed, existing for a long time, unnoticed, until through some irritating cause, its malignant character becomes distinctly developed.

This disease may remain in the primary stage for months, or even for years, before it is noticed or attended to, as generally there is no pain, and nothing

to call attention to it. Often it is first discovered (if in the breast) in washing; in other cases, the nipple is drawn in; or, in a few instances, slight pain attracts attention. Pain, however, in the majority of cases (not in all, for I have known of cases where patients have died from cancer in its final ulcerated stage without even having felt pain), soon occurs. At first a slight prick or dart, like what might be produced by a needle, felt at long intervals, perhaps occurring only once in four or five days, alarms the patient. The frequency and the severity of the attacks increase, and these always are most severe when the patient is most comfortable and free from pain or anxiety; indeed, so severe and sudden do they afterwards become, that they often cause the sufferer to start, with a sharp cry of anguish. The third stage soon commences, when the destructive process increases so rapidly, as to act upon the tissues; the tumour becomes softened in its centre, the skin ulcerates, the pain increases, and the cancerous growth is matured. Such is a short sketch of the general course of a cancerous growth. As all cancers, if not arrested by judicious treatment, or by death, terminate sooner or later in ulceration, it is necessary, before describing the proper treatment of cancer (the object of treatment in ulcerated cancer, being, to convert a malignant ulcer into a simple, or normal, one, that can be easily healed), and before warning the non-professional reader what to avoid, that I should describe what an ulcer is, and what treatment must be avoided to prevent a healthy sore from degenerating into a malignant or cancerous one.

An Ulcer may be described as an unhealthy or abnormal condition of structure, produced by a process in which is induced a softening and removal of the skin and the immediate tissue underneath ; thereby a cavity, more or less deep, is formed in the soft parts. When this is the case, a granulating process is required for its reparation. Almost every writer on this subject, divides ulcers into many varieties, but for my purpose, it will be best to consider them under four divisions, and these divisions will include every form of ulceration, viz. :

- 1st. The simple, or non-malignant Ulcer.
- 2nd. The semi-malignant kind, as Lupus and canceroid Ulcers.
- 3rd. The malignant, or true cancerous Ulcer.
- 4th. The concealed, or fistulous Ulcer.

The first and most frequent form of the disease, which I have termed the simple ulcer, embraces many varieties, differing from each other from local or constitutional causes. These I must quickly pass over, for it is my object to direct attention to the more malignant forms of disease.

Simple ulcers usually present themselves, when seen by medical men, under one of two aspects,—either in a congested and inflamed state, or in a convalescent or reparative condition.

In the first state the edges are hard and inflamed, and raised above the surface of the wound, more or less dry, but covered with a thin layer of unhealthy slough, from which there exudes a thin fluid, more or less offensive. It resembles serum, but is exceed-

ingly irritating in its effects on the surrounding skin whenever the fluid comes in contact with it.

In the second stage granulations appear springing up, more or less healthy, though the edges may perhaps be still raised and painful, and the surface exuding a white, purulent fluid. Yet, upon the whole, it may present a healthy appearance.

The order of this arrangement may be regarded as not invariable ; nay, may be pronounced somewhat arbitrary. For it must be admitted, that there are often observed the two processes going on in the ulcer at one and the same time. But these deviations may nevertheless be induced by constitutional and local causes.

In the treatment of ulcers one fact should be borne in mind, that neither constitutional nor local remedies, *per se*, will ever ensure a perfect cure of the disease, unless all extraneous deposits are removed, as such deposits will effectually prevent the inducement of a healthy condition. But if the latter precautionary measures are observed, then nature herself will effect the reparative process.

But there is not anything discrepant in affirming that among the causes which prevent the healing of an ulcerous sore may be some constitutional irritation or local idiosyncrasy. Among the constitutional causes may be mentioned, a debilitated state of the system from great excesses, or from the use of mercurial medicines ; or from an hereditary disposition to generate ulcers, as in scrofula. Whilst among the local causes may be included, the presence of an irritating extraneous body, such as a piece of bone,

or an unhealthy discharge from another affected part which has long continued to suppurate ; or bed sores induced by long confinement, or a weakened state of the vessels, as in varicose ulcers ; and lastly, the pressure of a morbid cancerous growth, capable of generating an unhealthy secretion from itself. In the treatment of chronic ulcers, the fact should be kept in view, that they are always accompanied by a more or less depressed state of the constitutional vigour ; and that, although depletion may effect in some instances a temporary improvement in the appearance of a sore, yet it never fails to increase the difficulty of effecting a state of reparation and cure.

For instance, in the first stage, described as presenting a state of congested inflammation, the vessels are found to be so engorged and so distended as to be unable to secrete anything but a serous fluid. And on inquiry, it will in all probability be rendered apparent, that this state had been produced by some functional derangement of the stomach, or by some debilitating attack, such as influenza. Local depletion, it is true, might reduce the state of congestion of the blood-vessels, but such treatment would also greatly increase the constitutional debility. It would therefore be sounder practice to endeavour by soothing local applications to remove congestion ; and if besides this there is given a nutritious diet, they would conjointly enable nature to effectuate a more healthy action, and a cure of the ulcer would ultimately be the result. The soothing local applications should consist of fomentations or poultices ; but bread-poultices, as they are injurious from their

being improperly made and too heavy, and are, besides, placed on the surface of the ulcer either too hot or too cold, render such altogether unfit for any sanatory purpose. Besides which, the latter kind become sour, and necessarily retain the discharge in contact with the ulcerated surface, and are, therefore, often exceedingly painful. Poultices made of figs are still more objectionable, as they adhere to the diseased surface, and draw too violently, inducing much pain without any actual benefit. Indeed, the only poultice that is really beneficial is that composed of the powdered bark of the slippery elm (*Ulmus fulvus*). This powder when mixed with cold water becomes mucilaginous and very soothing. Although this poultice is admissible on the treatment of simple ulcers, yet it should be borne in mind, that all poultices are highly prejudicial (as will be shown hereafter) in the malignant forms of the disease.

Water dressings, as generally used, are also objectionable, because the oiled silk covering them, not only retains the discharge and exhalations from the wound, which is injurious, but it also acts as an irritating poultice, producing great pain and mischief.

I prefer putting a piece of cambric or muslin over the wound, allowing this covering to envelop the inflamed and painful edges; over which there is placed a compress of lint saturated with water, or any other fluid which the special case may require; but whatever is used, it is invariably essential that it should never be allowed to become dry; therefore water should, from time to time, be dropped on the compress in order that it may always remain moist;

for if allowed to dry, it will be almost impossible to wet it again ; it will adhere to the cambric covering the sore, and, in trying to remove them, the sore will be more or less irritated. The cambric should be allowed to remain until there is sufficient discharge beneath it to permit its removal without tearing or greatly irritating the surface of the wound. In a simple ordinary case, water would perhaps answer every purpose ; but in more serious ones there is required a more stringent and antiseptic lotion. From my experience, I am induced to give preference to a cold infusion of the *Hydrastis Canadensis*.* This exerts a most extraordinary action peculiar to itself ; for example, after it has been applied for some hours it relieves all pain, the surface of the wound becomes white, the active ulcerated portions become altered in character, and then a hard slough is formed on the ulcer, which, on its removal, which usually takes place in from four days to two weeks' time, there is left a granulating surface of a healthy character. At this stage, however, when granulations are forming, the use of water dressings should be discontinued ; for the latter, if they are perseveringly applied, have a tendency to render the granulations large and flabby, and they would gradually break down again from the want of sufficient vitality. When the latter condition is manifested, there should be applied a gently-stimulating dressing, in order to preserve a

* I have the honour of having been the first to introduce this valuable remedy, as also *Podophylin*, *Veratrum viride*, and many other new medicines, which are now recognised and approved by the more advanced in the profession.

sufficient tone of the blood-vessels in the affected part.

If the discharge is very great, dry applications of lint should be substituted; or, what is better in some cases, a mixture of powdered hydrastis and honey; or an ointment composed of the garden rue, or of the common marigold. From the preceding remarks, it is obvious that great care is absolutely necessary to apply the remedies smoothly on the surface of the ulcer, so as to bring every part in actual contact with the dressings; and when the latter are removed, the manipulation should be carefully performed without lacerating the granulations, or permitting any irritating edges to remain. The difference, however, between a wound being curable or incurable depends greatly on the care and skill of the dresser.*

* While on the subject of the uses of the *Hydrastis Canadensis* I will insert the report of a medical friend, who has devoted much attention to its remedial action. He says:—

“In answer to your request that I should furnish you with any experience I possess of the virtues of the *Hydrastis Canadensis*, or *Golden Seal*, I have to report, that since you brought that drug under my notice, I have at various times made a cursory proving of it on myself, by chewing one or two grains of the root, for which purpose, the thickest pieces, which break with a radiate resinous fracture, are to be preferred.

“The effects noticed were bitterness, long lasting, and almost like bilious bitterness, in the mouth; ending in exceeding dryness, while the bitterness still continues, even till the next morning; occasionally pain, as from a hard and cornered, foreign substance in the stomach; much flatus from the colon; and aperient action marked in the morning.

“The cerebral effects are very prominent, generally a feeling of agreeable vivacity and unusual clearness of ideas, and force and facility of expression. In the pleasurable excitement, the *Hydrastis* almost rivals *Opium*; but whereas the victim of the latter is easy and

It is also important to mention, that the last or reparative stage of ulcers may be best healed by the mildest and least irritating means. I have often found that blotting paper, torn into small pieces, and kept wet with a hot solution of an alkaloid preparation of hydrastis diluted, possesses sanatory virtues. In other

satisfied, and triumphs in the oblivion of cares and difficulties; the patient under *Hydrastis* feels his wits sharpened, and his head cleared. A kind of agreeable suffusion pervades the sleep, owing, I presume, to slight cerebral congestion. In the morning the head is hot, and the forehead pink, and in movement and walking more or less giddiness is perceived. These effects pass off in the course of the day.

"The *Hydrastis* appears to produce similar symptoms; but I think less sharply than the root or mother tincture of *Hydrastis*.

"I have employed the *Hydrastis* with success in dyspepsia and bilious derangements, and also in obstinate constipation, and have found it very useful in hæmorrhoidal constitutions. It appears to exert a sedative influence upon the rectum; and in one case, where the motions had been flattened for years, great improvement in this respect is experienced, and pain well nigh removed. Also, in hard swellings of the mammary gland occurring at the change of life, and causing great anxiety, where Cancer exists in the family, the relief has been prompt and sustained, though I cannot report the entire disappearance of the tumour. In these cases the general health has been remarkably benefited by the *Hydrastis*. In a case of obstinate ulcer on the chin—the result of a blow—and attended by almost stony induration of the lower lip, a few weeks' application of the cold infusion produced a cure.

"*Hydrastis*, locally applied to the skin, will speedily produce in some constitutions a crop of vesicles like shingles, and I have used it in shingles with good effect. In the distress arising from confluent small-pox on the face, the cold infusion of *Hydrastis* acts with magical efficacy, affording full relief in a short time. It seems probable that it has a great part to play in the treatment of small-pox.

"In gonorrhœa, injections of the cold infusion have speedily cut short the disease, or left only a slight gleet, which was easily cured by gallic acid, in substance, internally. In womb cases its local application is invaluable in induration and ulceration of the os uteri of long standing. Under your management, I have seen it produce the best effects; the relief of pain has been immediate, the broken surfaces have healed, and the induration has at length given way. I know of no single remedy which, as a topical application to ulcerated or irritated mucous surfaces, rivals the *Hydrastis Canadensis*."

cases, cold water used in a similar manner on the surface of the wound, tends to induce rapid cicatrization. In these latter statements is indicated, the ordinary treatment of simple wounds ; but there are many complications in ulcers, greatly depending on some local or constitutional cause, which necessitate some difference in the remedial treatment ; for instance, in very debilitated health, when any ulcers exist, there is often perceived a phagedœnic condition, when the solids break down, from the want of sufficient vitality to sustain them. This peculiar abnormal state may occur, when there exists a congestive condition of the ulcer. When such is the case, there is required a bolder treatment, and the use of stimulating applications.

Again, in cases of large ulcers in the legs, dependent on the state of blood vessels, as in varicose ulcers, these require careful and judicious bandaging, with rest, to enable nature to carry on a curative process. In other cases, the surface of the ulcer is found to be exceedingly irritable, in consequence of the nerves of the part being morbidly sensitive, which indicates, that the application of a gentle stimulant is required. And, lastly, the ulcer may be in such a position—as in the mouth, for instance—where it is almost impossible to keep the affected part at rest. Or if in a gland in the neck, as in scrofula, there is great difficulty in applying topical remedies.

The chief object required in the treatment of all these different kinds of simple ulcers is, to endeavour to find out the disturbing or predisposing cause which obstructs the natural curative action ; and having

made the discovery, the next endeavour should be, to remove the antagonistic influence. And besides these judicious and precautionary modes of proceeding, the scientific physician will not omit, to sustain the strength of the patients by means of diet, fresh air, and other hygienic appliances.

I now proceed to offer a few observations on the second species of ulcers, namely, "*The semi-malignant kind, as Lupus and Cancroid Ulcers.*"

The semi-malignant kinds have been attributed to very diverse causes, whilst in reality they seem the result of a breaking up of a structure, resembling the true malignant disease. And this presumption is tenable from the fact, that in the latter form of ulcer there exists an inherent power to increase by means of nucleated cysts. But both the semi-malignant and the malignant kinds may be said to be incurable, unless the morbid growth is effectually eradicated. For when this is not positively effected, the consequence in both instances may prove fatal to life, by the gradual destruction of the surrounding parts, and the exhaustion induced by continued suffering. But having stated when there is an apparent resemblance between the semi-malignant and the truly malignant kinds, it seems important to intimate wherein there is an absolute difference—a very necessary preliminary knowledge for treating the two species respectively. For instance, the semi-malignant ulcer rarely, if ever, leaves the organ in which it was first formed, as it is never known to have broken out at different parts of the body at one and the same time. Besides, the destructive process may exist for years, with little incon-

venience, as there is a tardiness in its action, and there is experienced but little pain, except what is induced by the local sore. To which may be added, that when the semi-malignant ulcer is effectually removed, it does not (as in the malignant kind) re-appear at some other part of the body.

The cancerous or cancrioid ulcer is a disease which may appear in different parts, but its usual locality is about the face, including the lips ; or it may be evolved in a gland, or where the follicles of the skin are numerous.

It often makes its appearance in old people as a slow, indolent-looking wart, usually under the lower eyelid, on which there is formed a crust, and if removed, there is observed a small ulcer at its base, the edges of which are more or less irregular and indurated.

It secretes a little fluid, is painless, and not prone to bleed. It increases very slowly ; it may even heal over the whole surface for a time, and if not tampered with, may remain for years without occasioning much pain or inconvenience.

This disease may also arise from other causes than those already enumerated. A simple tumour, for example, if subjected to much irritation, will often assume a malignant form. It may also be mentioned that a bite from a gnat, mosquito, or other insect, capable of producing an injury of the skin, may develop the disease ; and if the injured part is kept in a state of irritation by any extraneous agent, it may assume the character of a cancrioid ulcer.

The wisest plan is not to tamper with the bitten part ; but unhappily, there are few cases in which it

is allowed to pass through the ordinary slow and passive stages of the disease.

The history of most of these cases is as follows :—

The small ulcer may be considered, to be of little consequence by the surgeon who may be consulted. Yet he applies various caustics, or poultices, or an irritating ointment, the tendency of which is to enlarge the wound, the part getting worse and becoming more painful, and then a consultation is deemed necessary. The result usually is, that an operation is decided upon, and the irritable ulcer is removed with the knife. The operation is pronounced perfectly successful; but, alas! the disease re-appears. This occasions another consultation, and again the knife is used. Or, if it is not, there is substituted for it an application of the pure nitrate of mercury, or the pure chloride of zinc; and when these fail to cure, the poor patient consults some other professional man, when it is possible that all the difference he may make in his practice is, to apply *his* favourite caustic; probably arsenic, and the consequence of such treatment is, that the bone is exposed at the very place where the original ulcer existed, and the affected person remains a wretched, incurable sufferer to the end of his days. Thus in the brief period of a few months more injury has been effected, and that by the most agonizing treatment, than would have taken place in many years by the disease itself, and without the infliction of any pain.

If such a patient had consulted me at the commencement of his disease, my object would have been to avoid all irritating applications; and I should have

merely tried constitutional and local soothing remedies, with the view by these conjoint means of healing the wound. If either a soothing lotion or ointment failed, then I should have had recourse to a gently stimulating lotion applied to the surface ; and if this should have proved unsuccessful in exciting a healthy action in the affected part, the true nature of the disease would have been manifested ; and then after having determined its real character, I should have been justified in recommending its removal—not by the method above described, but by the application of hydrastis, mixed with a small proportion of chloride of zinc, a safe and proper remedy, similar to the one used in the removal of a malignant tumour.

As in the latter kind of cases, this application should be applied around the ulcer, as far from it as possible as experience may suggest. *For in this first operation, if successful, it is but a question of extent of scar, whilst a more contracted space might prove a failure, because if there is left a particle of the diseased substance behind, such must be the inevitable result.*

In this operation care should also be taken to go sufficiently deep without coming in contact with the bone, and then it is seldom unsuccessful. It is true that it may occasionally fail in extirpating the disease, for there is not any infallible rule to guide the operator, and all he can judge by is, merely the sense of touch, as to the extent and the depth it may reach beneath the surface.

Should, however, a second operation fail, it would not be prudent to repeat it ; but the patient should

be apprised of the remaining resources of a mitigating character; for instance, that by keeping the disease under control he might live for years without much inconvenience. And such a promise could be realized by using soothing lotions; and when a more healthy action partially restored the surface, the treatment might be continued, using blotting-paper or cambric, wetted with the *hydrastis* lotion when the edges become dry and hard. It has been recommended by Mr. — to use the face powder, which would, by its colour, supersede the necessity for a bandage.

It would, however, be very advisable to alternate the treatment, the ointment at one time and the fomentation at another, as the appearance of the ulcer might indicate. Besides which, all depressing agents should be avoided, and everything done to preserve the health; and extremes of heat or cold should also be carefully guarded against. Should the edges of the wound ulcerate, it would be still the safest practice to continue a soothing treatment, rather than to have recourse to caustics; for it should never be forgotten that whatever irritates a malignant growth accelerates its proneness to increase in size. And this is essential to be considered in the treatment of a non-malignant ulcer as of a truly malignant one,—that whilst a mild soothing application retards the development, caustics increase the morbid action; and these considerations constitute the difference between the former and the present mode, as advocated in this work.

For caustic invariably alters the surface of an ulcer,

and stimulates the subjacent vessels ; whilst in the more malignant form of the disease, a feeble attempt may for a time be established to act on the surface ; but in fact, the action is more directly on the subjacent structure, and, as a consequence, there is a tendency to increase the mass of nucleated cysts.

These views and the results apply with equal force to the treatment of malignant sores. As caustics, for the most part, act in a direction vertical to the surface on which they are applied, and only affect the ulcer laterally in a minor degree, it follows that whenever a caustic is applied to the centre of an ulcerated tumour, it but destroys a mass of abnormal growth in the middle of it, whilst the disease extends in the circumference from the very irritation set up in the centre ; and the result is, that the diseased action goes on deeper and deeper, until great injury is effected by the exposure of an important structure. The only hope, therefore, of ensuring any good by the application of caustic must depend on a reverse procedure, that is, such an application of it as will work from the circumference to the centre.

Although an indiscriminate use of caustics is deprecated, yet there are cases in which their application may be necessary ; as when, for example, the disease is spreading rapidly as in a phagedœnic ulcer, such an application may tend to check the progress of the morbid action.

The caustic should be combined with an oleaginous substance, and thinly spread either on soft calico or cambric, and placed carefully on the ulcer, where it might remain twenty-four hours. The effect of one

application should be observed, as often there is seldom any necessity to apply another.

The next form of semi-malignant disease, is Lupus.

This disease is found in two varieties. 1. Lupus non-exidens, or the non-ulcerating kind. 2. Lupus exidens, or the ulcerative form of the disease. The first kind usually appears by a small raised spot near the nose, which hardens with a crust, exposing, when this is removed, a superficial destruction of the skin, beneath which it contracts and puckers up, occasioning great deformity, and spreading over the face ; but never going very deep below the surface.

But the Lupus exidens commences as a tubercle covered with a crust, which, if removed, exposes a deep foul ulcer. This rapidly extends ; or perhaps several tubercles unite and form a large sore. The destructive process goes on to a great depth, spreading more or less with great rapidity over the nose and other parts of the face ; so that this fearful disease has not been inaptly termed *Noli me tangere*, since mere irritation produces increased rapidity of growth, and accelerates the destruction of the parts implicated.

It is, indeed, a frightful form of disease, affecting not only the nose and lips, but inducing other slow tubercular affections about the face, often ending in rugged ulcerations of the forehead, eyelids, cheeks ; and sometimes appearing on other parts of the body, where it destroys both the skin and muscles to a considerable depth.

This disease is, however, usually found associated with an extremely unhealthy constitution, enfeebled

by dissipated or intemperate habits, and often in scrofulous people with a more than ordinarily strumous habit.

From such *data* it follows, that where this disease is manifested, and associated with debilitated constitutions, it must be evident that the soundest treatment must be to invigorate the system by means of generous living and fresh air; but great changes of temperature should be avoided. Therefore the seaside is not the best locality, with the exception of Torquay, and similar mild climates. As in these views I dissent from the ordinary mode of treating the affection under consideration by the profession generally, who are in the habit of administering either strong medicine, generally of a mischievous nature,* or the local remedies usually recommended are equally bad, such as the nitrate of silver, which is generally applied freely on the surface for the purpose of setting up an altered action of the skin.

This preparation does not destroy the disease, but only excites greater irritation in the affected part, and therefore always does much harm.

I have generally found the infusion of the *Hydrastis Canadensis* the best application in this form of disease, as generally it will be found to answer the purpose, and arrest the more rapid development, even when

* As a proof of the above may be mentioned "The Plummers Pill," which is composed of calomel, oxymuriate of antimony in equal parts, and one part of resin combined with treacle. From my experience of the action of this compound in this form of disease, it is not too strong an expression to say, that I detest it!

Sarsaparilla is often recommended, but I have little faith in its utility, believing it to be positively inert in Lupus.

the disease may not be ultimately cured. In the more severe form of the affection, I should endeavour to remove the whole diseased structure by the same applications I use in removing malignant growths, which experience has proved safe, and effective.

Should the disease, nevertheless, increase in intensity, so as to manifest its destructive agency in greater severity, its progress must then be arrested by a still more energetic practice, embracing both constitutional and local means, as the exigency of the case may render necessary.

Fortunately, the infiltration in this form of ulcers is not generally very thick, and consequently there is not any insuperable difficulty opposed to arrest its destructive agency, particularly as the hydrastis in this form is more manageable, as it has not the tendency to become deliquescent ; nor is it so violently destructive as the caustics usually applied. The inflammatory consequence is, therefore, less intense, and the application can be repeated with perfect safety, until the object is realized.

Some care is required in the use of this remedy, as it is observed that sores of this kind always extend in certain directions by angles—which angles, as it were, wedge through the skin ; and these have a tendency to extend the surface of the affected part.

The precaution which is now suggested, has resulted from experience in their treatment, and hence it is my wont, to attack the protruding points in the first instance, instead of applying the agent to the flattened ulcerated surface ; because, the latter method tends to increase its rapid growth in all directions. My

method consists in using a succession of thin strips, the effect of which treatment is, so to speak, to immediately effect control over diseased portions, which may be seen to heal up rapidly; and the desired object is attained with precision and certainty.

MALIGNANT ULCERS.

In the preceding remarks, I have already said so much on the subject of malignant tumours, and of the treatment of other forms of ulcers, that there will require but a very few observations to be made on Malignant Ulcers.

It is, however, important to impress the fact, that there is little probability of any successful result, of an operation, in the cases under consideration, when the malignant disease becomes inveterate, as it invariably does, after the destructive stage has commenced. For the increased adhesions which are formed under the conditions referred to, and the fear of any malignant infiltration into the neighbouring glands which may have taken place, greatly augment the difficulty of any attempt to remove the diseased mass by the knife.

When, however, the judgment is satisfied that none of the symptoms just mentioned exist, then the operation of enucleation may be recommended, but still with a doubtful *prognosis* of any certainty of curing the disease.

Again, when a large diseased tumour is breaking down, the process being attended with great constitutional disturbance, so that ultimately death from

hæmorrhage may be deemed probable, the operation may be performed under such circumstances as a means of prolonging life. But here any mere verbal directions must be futile; for the question of the judiciousness of an operation, in such cases, must, after all, be left to the discretion and experience of the surgeon.

When the glands in the first instance become infiltrated, they are usually so painless, as to give no intimation to the patient of their actual condition. This fact should, however, be regarded as important to guide the medical man when consulted, to be careful in examining the affected organ or organs, so as to discriminate whether such are enlarged by infiltration, or increased from mere sympathetic irritation. For in the latter condition, the glands are more or less inflamed and painful even at the commencement of the first symptom of their enlargement.

In speaking of malignant ulcers (treated in this section), my mind has been chiefly directed to those situated in the breast, lip, and womb. But when the disease appears either in the throat or tongue, any possibility of cure is, alas! hopeless, unless treated at the very earliest stage of the affection. All that can be done subsequently is to relieve the patient's sufferings; and there is not any local sedative equal to the *Hydrastis Canadensis* for ensuring this object.

From my own experience I can say that this agent seems to exert a most powerful action, especially on ulcers connected with mucous membranes, even more than on those in the skin. And to this circumstance

must be attributed the great success I have had in the treatment of diseases of the womb. It may be added, that as a rule I never apply caustic to an ulcer, whatever its character may be, if situated in a mucous surface. For whenever it is used in such cases, it always induces most injurious effects; and by causing great pain and irritation over the whole surface of the ulcer, it rapidly aggravates the disease and increases its intensity.

The mode of applying this or any other remedy deemed necessary in case of disease of the womb, will be explained in Chapter III.

It will be admitted after what has already been said, that a correct diagnosis is essential if any positive good is to be done, or any chance of mitigation of suffering can be anticipated, when a cure cannot be effected.

It may be remarked in evidence of the great advantage of being able to distinguish one form of disease from another, that instances are on record where an indurated state of an organ, simply arising from chronic inflammation, has been mistaken for scirrhus, and treated as such to the injury of the patient.*

On the other hand, when the experience of any one consulted will not enable him to distinguish the carcinomatous change in a true scirrhus mass, he will not be prepared, to prevent the tumour from morbidly augmenting, or the organs in its immediate locality from being implicated. The only school in which these differences can be practically learned, such as

* See Chapter on Diagnosis,

between simple and malignant ulcers, or scirrhus and carcinoma, must be that, in which the teacher is nature, and the lessons patient experience and a devotion of years to the study. Then, indeed, such a student is enabled to mark the minutest change in their respective aspects. And when such knowledge is obtained, he has, besides his collegiate diploma, that of nature, and he may hope to cure with greater certainty, or when this is not practicable, to apply such means as may best mitigate the sufferings of those thus afflicted.

It is, indeed, very sad, and, alas! a daily occurrence, where anxious sufferers put the question to a physician, whether their case is curable?—and too frequently, the terrible answer must be given, that there is not the least hope of a cure. In such instances they will leave sick at heart, with their minds desponding and gloomy, to brood away in solitude the brief period that seems to be allotted to them.

To them I address a few words of comfort, and suggest a few simple rules for their own especial attention.

Those who are suffering, for example, from cancer of the breast in an advanced state of ulceration, and if with it there are one or more of the axillary glands enlarged, which press painfully on the veins and nerves, causing the arm to swell, and to be tender to the touch, frequently rendering the latter perfectly useless. In such a case it is of the first consideration, not only to keep the arm, but also the other affected parts, perfectly at rest, to prevent, if possible, any increased inflammation. To effect this purpose, the arm should

be supported by a sling ; but there is some difficulty arising from the tenderness of the neck forbidding the use of the ordinary kind of sling. There has, however, been one contrived, which derives its support from the hip, and not from the neck. This is one mode of relief, but others are suggested.

For instance, means should be used to promote the general health. These means principally consist in nutritious diet, fresh air, change of scene, gentle exercise, agreeable society ; and, above all, the avoidance of all things which may induce physical or mental exhaustion.

With generous diet, may be used, in moderation, stimulants. But the food should be rather nutritious than stimulating, and strong tea and other excitants to the nervous system should be avoided.

The bedroom should be well ventilated, and if the patient should be constrained by fatigue or exhaustion to remain in bed, the bed should be removed now and then into another apartment, if for no other reason, merely for the sake of change.

So far as the disease itself is concerned, every care should be taken to preserve cleanliness, not only of the body linen, which may occasionally be soiled, but also of the bandages to the affected parts, as they often become impregnated with an offensive odour injurious to the general health. These should never be washed, but immediately destroyed.

If the wound is painful and inflamed, a tepid fomentation of water should be used at the temperature of the skin. This often gives relief if the dressing is removed before it becomes dry.

In ordinary circumstances water will answer the purpose, but if there is excessive pain, then other agents must be used. At other times, if the part is perfectly quiet, then a piece of cotton spread with soothing ointment will suffice. In particular, care should be taken, to avoid all applications which may give pain, and all extremes of heat or cold should be specially avoided.

Wrappers in winter, and in summer the cool and homely application of a cabbage leaf, will suffice.

As regards sedative medicines, where there exists great pain, these may be regarded as indispensable. Codeine is the best form for allaying pain and suffering, but unfortunately it rarely induces sleep. For this purpose Battley's sedative is the best.

The use of purgative medicines should be avoided. The mind, on which the nervous energy of the body so much depends, should be kept tranquil, and supported by the intercourse of cheerful society.

The chief cause of the disquiet in such afflicted persons is not what they endure, but what they may still have to bear. There are conjured up the most gloomy ideas; the dread of bodily pain, helpless dependance on others, increasing deformity, seclusion from the world, languid prostration, form the predisposing causes of despondency.

These should be regarded as a trial of strength, and it should be some antidote to these painful anticipations, that what is so much dreaded may never occur.

And even if these evils should come, it is an acknowledged truth, that suffering, patiently borne, and in humble submission to the will of God, is sup-

ported by a power so marvellous, that indeed it may be said, "that God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb;" and those who witness the tranquillity and peace of mind, thus induced by Christian resignation, acknowledge the merciful hand which thus chastens.

In these remarks it may be supposed I have stepped out of my province; but the physician who witnesses such scenes of trial, can testify to the happy results which change temporary sorrow into permanent joy, and give to such scenes a moral influence which can never be forgotten.

NOTE ON FISTULA.

It had been my intention to give my own views on the best mode of treating fistula without the knife; but my present professional engagements have prevented my doing so with satisfaction to myself, although I shall endeavour to do this at some future time.

There are many species of this disease, a few of which may be enumerated:—

The *fistula in ano*, which is situated at the side of the rectum, may be the locality of an abscess, so that the matter may burrow at the side of the bowel, and accumulate in a most extraordinary manner. And in the ratio of the danger, so is the necessity for early attention to these morbid changes.

There are other fistulous affections, named from their respective localities: *Fistula in perinæa*, *Fistula lachrymalis*, *Salivary Fistula*, *Fistula in the windpipe*, &c. All of which I hope to notice hereafter.

But I cannot conclude this brief note without saying, that in many, if not in most, of the cases, wherein the knife has been used, the affection has been greatly aggravated and often fatal. And from my own experience I can affirm, that a cure is more likely to be effected without any such operation.

CHAPTER II.

TREATMENT CONTINUED, AND WHAT TO AVOID.

THE title of this chapter sufficiently indicates its design, differing, as I do most widely, from the treatment previously and generally adopted, in relation to the disease which has been the main object of my study. I feel it necessary to introduce, as a special topic, "What to Avoid." It will not, however, be supposed for a moment, that I would recommend a passive and expectant treatment of a disease, which is, in the meantime, active and malignant. Nothing could be more remote from my theory and my practice. I have already laid down in general terms my objections to the severe and exacerbating treatment, which has been so extensively adopted with reference to cancer and its cognate maladies. I have learned the mischievous tendency of this terrible and pernicious practice. What I desire is, in the following chapter, to reduce these generalities to particulars, to point out special errors, to exhibit what I have found the more successful methods, and to fortify the principles of my practice by authentic and accurate exemplifications.

In pursuance of this design I shall be led to exhibit

the various forms in which cancer exhibits itself, the methods of treatment to be specially avoided, and the practice which, in the course of an extended experience, I have found to be successful, either in the cure of the disease, or in the mitigation of the sufferings of the patient.

DISEASES OF THE BREAST.

Diseases of the breast may be divided into two classes: the functional, or those dependent upon the secretion or suppression of milk; and the organic, or those affecting the organ itself. This latter class should also be subdivided into two classes: the non-malignant, and the malignant. Although the former class contains many important diseases, as atrophy, or wasting away of the breast; hypertrophy, or enormous increase of the same; neuralgic, or hysterical affections, and adipose and scrofulous tumour. Yet, as this work is more especially intended for those labouring under malignant disease, I shall, for the present, pass over the former class, and proceed at once to consider cancer as a disease of this important organ.

CANCER OF THE BREAST.

This form of disease is more frequent in the right than in the left breast, and is but seldom met with in the male; for during the last ten years, out of nearly 2000 cases, I have only met with five instances of true cancer in the male breasts. The most frequent exciting cause that develops the disease (provided it

previously exists in the system) is change of life, that is, occurring at that period when the catamenia are about to stop. In 606 cases of this disease, that have come under my observation within the last four years and a half, I find cancer first developed, in 150 cases, at change of life, and in only 38 cases could a blow or injury be traced as the exciting cause.

The progress or growth of cancerous tumour, as I have said, may be divided into three stages:—1st. The disease appears as a small, movable tumour—if hard to the touch, it is of the kind denominated scirrhus; if soft, it assumes the sarcomatous form.

The first stage of this disease is the stage for treatment. In most cases, if the patient is under the age of thirty, and if proper remedies are internally given and locally applied, the disease may be removed by absorption; that is, the tumour slowly, but surely, disappears. Cancer is, no doubt, a cellular blood disease; *i.e.*, it is constituted by numerous cells floating in the blood, which are deposited in one particular organ, that deposit consisting of cancerous cells; and therefore it has been urged that absorption is a dangerous mode of treatment, as these cells must now be absorbed, and carried again into the circulation. This is a great mistake, and fatal to many. The tumour is certainly absorbed, but the vitality of the cells must be destroyed and rendered innoxious before absorption can take place. Besides, the many internal remedies which I use cause the destruction of the tumour, and remove and destroy the poison floating in the blood. The principal external as well as internal remedies (for this disease, to be treated

successfully, must be treated both ways), are the various preparations of the *Hydrastis Canadensis*, of myricin, of caulophyllin, of viburnin, of rumin, of xanthoxylin, of helonine, &c., &c., used both externally and internally, as the case may specially require.

If there is any irregularity of the menstrual period, it must at once be rectified by administration either of baptisin or of macrotin. In cases of obstinate constipation, which usually exists in the cancerous subject, it must be corrected by the administration of leptandrin, or of podophyllin, or of nux vomica, and of sulphur, or of rhein and jalapin, generally, using the second decimal dilution. These are the principal remedies employed by me in the first stage of a cancerous growth; but, of course, to determine which of them to adopt, requires experience and tact. One remedy, as hydrastis or myricin, will act as a specific in some cases, in others it may be absolutely injurious. Let me now consider briefly some of those malpractices to which the patient ought never to submit.

1st. *The Knife*.—I have written so fully on this subject in my other books, that for full information regarding the evils that result from exsection by the knife, I must refer the reader to them; only stating, that if this disease be one of the blood, the mere extirpation by a severe, and often fatal, operation, is worse than useless, as in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred operated upon, the disease returns within two years and a half; indeed, the average period of the re-appearance of the disease is only eleven months.

2nd. *Never allow the Tincture of Iodine, or any*

other irritating substance, to be applied.—Write it down as a golden rule, never to irritate a malignant growth; always try to soothe it, if you hope for success. I frequently see cases, which are hastened in a few weeks from the first or simple stage into the third or ulcerative stage, through the ignorance of the medical attendant, applying linseed poultices with the hope of producing suppuration (they foolishly believing that they detect matter, for many tumours, especially those of a malignant character, have the feeling of fluctuation, as if they contained fluid, when in reality they contain none). These applications should never be submitted to; and any surgeon who can recommend them is deplorably ignorant of malignant disease. Of all applications iodine is perhaps the worst, as it not only sets up an inflammatory action, with much pain, but it destroys the skin and hastens the period of ulceration.

3rd. *Leeches ought to be avoided.*—They are frequently applied, with the idea that the tumour is owing to inflammatory action. The use of leeches is highly injurious and dangerous, for these diseases seldom owe their origin to inflammatory action. I have seen several melancholy cases, where leeches have been applied, in this and the second stage, where erysipelas has set in, and death has followed in a few weeks.

4th. *Anything that may tend to reduce the system must be avoided.*—I frequently meet with cases where the poor sufferers have been half starved by their foolish attendants, whose practice necessarily causes a rapid increase of the disease. It is a cardinal rule in

the treatment of cancerous disease, to support the system by means of the most nourishing diet, with a moderate use of stimulants—but never to reduce the vital power.

5th. *Rubbing the breast should be avoided.*—Friction always sets up, in the delicate gland, more or less inflammatory action ; therefore, this must be avoided. *Lay your applications on the breast*—never rub it.

6th. *The application of poisonous substances, especially mineral and metallic poisons, is dangerous.*—The acetate of lead, for instance, is accompanied with danger. I have had many cases from the Cancer Hospital, at Brompton, where the patients were suffering from lead poisoning, induced by the lead and oil lotions used there. The sufferings from the disease are hard enough to bear, without adding the risk of poisoning to it.

7th. *The diseased parts ought never to be kept too warm, or warmer than the adjacent parts of the body.*—Most patients come to me the first time with their breast carefully protected with large masses of cotton wool, or with a dressed hare or rabbit skin, &c., &c. These appliances are often recommended by men of high standing, whose opinion ought to have great weight. I think they forget, that if one portion of the body is kept at a higher temperature than the rest, there must be an increased flow of blood to that part, the vessels must be distended, and, disease existing there already, the increased supply of blood must tend rapidly to increase the mischief.

8th. *The arm on the afflicted side ought to be kept at rest as much as possible.*—The patient ought to

avoid raising the arm to the head, as, for example, in attempting to dress the back hair.

9th. *Avoid poultices of figs, and the pernicious habit of drinking the milk in which they are boiled.*—

Fig poultices, some years ago, became fashionable through an article supplied to a morning paper by a chemist in London. They are very injurious, owing to their dragging, drawing nature ; they cause much irritation, but, what is worse, the poor sufferer places such confidence in doing something recommended by a fashionable paper, that often too much valuable time is lost, and a favourable case for radical treatment often, through these figs, is removed in a few short weeks from the first to the third or last stage of this terrible disease. Do nothing, rather than try figs. Further, the milk in which the figs are boiled is given as a drink : this is objectionable, for, although the boiled milk can have no specific effect upon the disease, yet, in several instances, I have known it to induce nausea and indigestion, thereby further reducing the system.

10th. *Avoid delay in seeking proper advice.*—Many good people are lulled into false security, by the too good nature of their medical attendant, who tells them it is nothing, it is only a tumour. How often have ladies come to me with what they call “only a tumour !” It can be only a tumour, for their medical attendant has assured them so, but I have found them in the last stage of scirrhus. If only a tumour, then the proper treatment will be so much the easier and simple, and ought immediately to be commenced. *Never let us forget that tumours after a time fre-*

quently become malignant, also bearing in mind that cancer of the breast always appears in the first instance as only a tumour, and the smaller the tumour first appears, the greater is its malignancy and difficulty of cure; yet we are told "it is *only* a *very small* tumour."

We must now pass to a consideration of the second stage, in which local suffering is first experienced, which may be attributable to increased inflammatory action, produced in many instances by injudicious treatment in the first stage. A local injury, as an accidental blow, or a fall, anxiety of mind, or change of life—all these tend to hasten the development of this stage. The pain of a cancerous tumour is *sui generis*, or peculiar to the disease, and can be distinguished from all other pain by never being constant (except in the later stages) but intermittent, and often the period of attack is so far distant as to make the patient, if not forget, at least hope, that there is nothing serious; but soon, alas! and generally when the mind is otherwise engaged, the fatal sharp darting pain comes on for a second, and then is felt no more for some days again. Again it is repeated, again, and again; gradually the period of ease is lessened to a few short minutes, the intensity of each attack and the agony increase; it is not now the prick of a needle, but the sharp dart of a knife that frequently draws a cry from the most patient sufferer. In such a phase of the disease we can have no hope from absorption; energetic means must now be used, or otherwise the patient will fall a speedy sacrifice. In such cases, if I find that the

neighbouring glands in the neck and armpit are as yet unaffected, then I propose to enucleate* the tumour without delay. As I have stated before, this I accomplish by combining a concentrated extract of the *Hydrastis Canadensis* with a caustic, as sulphate or chloride of zinc, or with some of the acids. The effect of the hydrastis is to deaden the pain natural to any process that will remove a morbid mass; caustics alone cause much pain and suffering, but by this combination pain in a great measure is avoided. When the diseased mass is removed, a healthy sore is exposed, with entire freedom from pain, which is generally dressed with honey, mixed with hydrastis, or with hydrastis, starch, and glycerine, or with some of the alkaloids mentioned when speaking of the treatment of this disease in its first stage, combined with glycerine and starch. In most cases greasy applications cause irritation, but in some few they are useful. By adopting these means a radical cure is often effected in from eight to ten weeks. During the whole of this period, hydrastis must be freely administered, to destroy the tendency for reproduction, which always exists; indeed, in those cases where this medicine has been fairly taken for some months, I have never known a single case of return of the disease. This, however, is the history of a most favourable case in this stage of the disease. Often, before the sufferer comes to me, other remedies

* To remove a mass by a process which separates the morbid growth from the more healthy structure, and it is the most apposite form to express a method in which there is not any cutting away with the knife.

have been tried, valuable time has been lost, and I find the glands in the armpit and neck seriously affected. In such a case it would be madness to attempt enucleation at once. Means must be taken to arrest disease, and to absorb, if possible, the affected glands. To accomplish this, various ointments must be used, with frequent and careful fomentations: the former composed, according to the case, of tinctures prepared from the alkaloids mentioned in Chapter VI., mixed with lard, or the alkaloids themselves mixed with glycerine, or with lard; sometimes, again, with ointment made from the rue; sometimes, with benefit, that made from the marygold. For constitutional treatment, I often give the hydrastis 6 and arsenicum 3 with advantage for a short time; then changing to other means, as the rana bufo, the alkaloids of rumin, caulophyllin, myricin, &c., &c., administered according to the state of the patient; or any remedy, that may tend to recruit the exhausted energies of the sufferer, may be had recourse to. Even in such sad cases, I have always been enabled by these means to arrest this disease, and so to prevent its degenerating into the third or ulcerative stage; and in some cases I have seen such rapid improvement produced by the means employed, that I have been afterwards able to perform enucleation with perfect success, and the sufferers are now in the enjoyment of strong, robust health.

1st. If the knife can be considered a malpractice in the first stage, when the disease is in a quiescent state, how much greater is the error to propose, or

submit to it, in the more advanced stage. I think the majority of modern surgeons would not suggest an operation ; but some I know, and of eminence in their profession, who have proposed it, and who do not only operate, in this stage of the disease, but they operate, even, in the third or ulcerative stage of this sad complaint. I firmly believe that a patient will live longer, and with more comfort to herself, if she does nothing but calmly resign herself into the hands of God, than by submitting to such a barbarous and utterly futile course of treatment, as that of exsection of the living parts. By doing nothing, I do not mean that people should carry non-interference to the extent practised by a celebrated London surgeon, Mr. W——, who does not permit his patients even to wash the affected parts. This I would call “ *the dirty system* ” of treating disease, and one which ought to be avoided.

2nd. I would warn all persons to beware of allowing caustics to be applied with the hope of relieving the disease (of course I except scientific enucleation, for then the whole of the disease is removed). Indeed, strange as it may appear, I have seen more than one case in which the surgeon has burnt a circular hole in the breast, *for the purpose of letting it run out*, as he told the patient.

3rd. Leeches, and stimulating lotions, which have the effect of irritating and drawing the skin, are often applied, with the hope, that counter-irritation will relieve the pain. Always remember, *that everything that reduces the strength increases this disease*—and therefore, a little brandy and water, or a drop or two

of the tincture of hydrastis, will do more to relieve pain and suffering, than all the leeches, or counter-irritants in the world. In a word, *do nothing to irritate, always attempt to soothe.*

4th. Avoid the application of chlorine and arsenical gases, as used some years ago by a Reverend Quack. These empirical remedies ought to be avoided. There is employed for the generation of this gas, chloride of lime, and diluted sulphuric acid, or oil of vitriol. The gas is applied by the following method: The diluted acid and chloride of lime are put into a Florence flask, and the latter is placed over a spirit-lamp, the wick of which is ignited, until the contents of the flask boil, and then the heated steam is conveyed through a glass or gutta-percha tube attached to the apparatus, to act on the affected part; and this treatment is repeated daily, for a quarter of an hour each time. I may be asked, what would be the effect of this mixture, and whether that effect must not be more potent, at the temperature at which it is applied? When the heated and irritating steam comes in contact with the diseased sore, it certainly destroys all odour, but from its affinity for water, it also tends to destroy a partially disorganized structure,—the slough becomes dissolved, reducing these unhealthy structures; so that, for a brief time, the surface becomes dry, and by removing the ichorous discharges, some alleviation of pain may be experienced; but the results prove that, ultimately, the tendency of this practice is, to greatly aggravate the disease of the organ. For if applied day by day, the sloughings are removed so rapidly that the edges of

the wound are unable to contract, and thus the process of healing is rendered nugatory. And when in this condition, the hot-gas steaming process is constantly applied to a highly organized structure exposed to its destructive influence, inflammation becomes more active, and, as a consequence, there is more intense pain experienced.

This arises from the fibrous cysts becoming more freely organized and dense, and from the inflammation extending to the neighbouring tissues. Agonized by the result of the treatment, the poor patient abandons all hope of cure by such means.

I have seen and heard from many of the reverend gentleman's victims. In every case he solemnly promised a cure, and in every case death has occurred—for all die; he has declared that their disease was cured, that their death was not owing to the disease, but to other causes. Far better to live with a cancer, and let it alone, than suffer torture from this burning acrid gas, your hopes and strength failing daily, and to be assured, when dying, that you are free from disease.

5th. Avoid the lead and oil mixtures, and the potassa powders, of the too celebrated Cancer Hospital; the one softens the skin and encourages the growth of the disease, and the lead, assisted by the potash, utterly destroys the constitution, the one by inducing lead poisoning, the other by irritating the coats of the stomach and destroying digestion.

Scarcely a week passes, without some poor sufferer (who has wasted strength and precious time in attending this charity) coming to me, and the treatment in

all cases is so similar, judging as I do from their prescriptions, that I should fail in my duty, not to expose the system. For this purpose I will select only one case, from many, from my case-book, copying the prescriptions from Mr., or rather Doctor, Marsden's own MS., so that every statement I make can be verified.

CASE 942.—Mrs. W——, aged 47 years. This lady first observed a small lump in her right breast, in the early part of the year 1857. She immediately came up to London, and consulted Dr. Marsden, the chief Surgeon of the Brompton Cancer Hospital. When he first saw it, he said it was not far enough advanced for an operation, but gave her the following prescription; meant, I suppose, to bring the disease into a stage fit for an operation by the knife, for the merest tyro in the profession would never dream for a moment that such means could check its progress, much less effect a cure.

The following are verbatim copies of these prescriptions:

R. Sod. Bicarb. ℥iij.
 Divid. in Pulv. xii.
 Cap. I. bis die. Die Junii 29th, 1857.

In plain English this is merely fifteen grains of carbonate of soda to be taken twice a day. The following November, Dr. Marsden pronounced the breast to be ripe for the knife, and he accordingly operated. The internal treatment, after the operation, was merely an increased quantity of the carbonate of

soda. For I see, by a prescription dated the 9th December, 1857, he orders twenty grains, instead of fifteen grains. Notwithstanding the knife and the carbonate of soda, the disease re-appeared almost immediately; for in the following April she again came up to Dr. Marsden, the disease having re-appeared in the cicatrix; then the internal medicine was slightly changed for the following prescription:—

R. Sod. Carbon. ζ iv.
 Pulv. Calumbæ ζ j M.
 Divid. in Pulv. xii. Cujus Cap. j. J. D. M.

This means, that 240 grains of carbonate of soda was to be mixed with sixty grains of calumba root. This was to be divided into twelve powders, so each powder contained twenty grains of the soda, and five grains of the calumba root.

The too celebrated lead and oil liniment was also ordered; and by the prescription we see that it is composed of the following ingredients:—

R. Liq. Plumbi Acet.
 Ol. Amygdal.
 Aquae, singul. ζ ij.
 Fiat Embroc.

i.e., two ounces of sugar of lead water, two ounces of almond oil, and two ounces of water, are to be mixed together. Whether the oil and water will mix, I must leave to chemists to decide.

No experienced surgeon will be surprised to learn, that she grew slowly worse. She persevered in using this liniment for more than a year; and what was the result? Why, exactly what any man who has got a tyro's knowledge of his profession would have predicted, from using such a lotion so long; not

only did the disease increase, but she also suffered from lead poisoning. If such a liniment could do good to cancer, one would scarcely be justified in using it for so long a time, for fear of its poisonous effects being developed ; but when it is worse than useless in cancer, can any person justify its use ? This lady came to me on the 29th June, 1859, not only suffering from ulcerated cancer, but also, as I have stated before, from lead poisoning, accompanied by paralysis. I pointed out her danger, and, at her husband's request, I immediately undertook the case, although a most unpromising one. And now I have succeeded in removing all traces of the lead, and have nearly cured her of the cancerous disease.*

In July, 1859, Dr. Marsden heard that the lady was suffering from the poisonous effects of his remedy, and wrote to her on the 29th of the same month, advising her to leave off using the lead lotion, but to substitute in its place the following :

R. Cerate Saponis.
Ol. Amygdal. a.a. ʒij.
Tinct. Hyoseyam. ʒj.
Fiat Embroc.

In English this means, mix two ounces of soap

* This lady never completely recovered from the operation she submitted to ; the lead poisoning, and the carbonate of soda, injuring, as they generally do, the stomach ; the disease was deposited in different organs before she placed herself under my care, and although at one time (when the above was written, August, 1859) I had strong hopes of effecting a radical cure, in this I have failed. However, the means for relieving and checking the progress of this disease were greatly blessed, and in a letter received from her (July, 1861), she states that she is very comfortable, free from pain, and able to take and enjoy moderate exercise ; but she never recovered from this absurd treatment. I heard of her death about four months ago.

cerate, two ounces of almond oil, and one ounce of the tincture of henbane, and use as an embrocation.

Also, the following, to be taken to drive the lead poison out of the system :

R. Sp. Ammon. Arom. ʒij.
 Tinct. Rad. Serpent.
 „ Gentian Co. a.a. ʒss.
 „ Aq. Fontan. ʒviii.
 Cap. coch. iij. Ampl. D. M.

The literal translation of this prescription, intended for removing lead poisoning from the system, is, 120 drops of the aromatic spirits of ammonia, half an ounce of tincture of the root of serpentaria, the same quantity of the compound tincture of gentian, mixed with eight ounces of water ; of this, three table-spoonfuls, or one-sixth of the whole, was to be taken at a dose.

I have entered into detail in this case, from no ill-feeling towards Dr. Marsden ; but I think that the contributors to the noble hospital at Brompton should be aware of the peculiar mode of treating this terrible disease by the person whom they have elected as their chief surgeon. I might detail many more cases of similar mal-treatment, but this is enough.

6th. *Avoid the treatment by compression.*—This mode of treatment was first introduced by Mr. Young, some fifty years ago. The late Mr. Joherns states, that “ bandages and metallic plates were firmly attached around the chest, so as to produce pressure to a considerable extent ; the result was that the breathing became laborious, respiration impeded, and the patient soon sank exhausted.” I mention this subject as, lately, attempts have been made to revive it. Surely,

in such a constitutional disease, pressure on a particular part can never cure it, but only aggravate the symptoms, and hasten death by forcing its growth inwards to more vital organs.

7th. *Beware of congelation or freezing of a cancerous tumour.*—This mode of treatment was introduced some few years ago, by Dr. James Arnott. It is objectionable from its exciting the parts to violent action and rapid growth ; for, although a part may be frozen for the time, yet when reaction takes place the pain is agonizing ; and the inflammatory action is increased, and rapid destruction of the affected organ takes place. Indeed it is worse, and more unmanageable, than the actual cautery.

8th. Avoid using the hand and arm on the affected side more than absolutely necessary ; above all, never raise it to the head.

9th. Avoid over-fatigue. Gentle carriage exercise, provided the tumour is not too large and painful, and affected by the motion, is of advantage ; but if the motion should cause the least pain, then walking exercise is alone admissible. In fine weather the sufferer ought to be in the open air as much as possible, but carefully to avoid over-fatigue, which always tends to aggravate disease.

THE THIRD OR DESTRUCTIVE STAGE OF THE DISEASE.

I shall now pass on to consider practically the third or destructive stage of cancerous development. It is sad to think how many cases arrive at this dangerous

stage, either from an ignorant mode of treatment, or from the unwillingness of those who suffer under the disease, to reflect on their actual condition, with the view of being relieved, until the ulcer, or cancer, becomes painfully inconvenient, and arrives at an active ulcerated condition. By the term ulceration, in the sense now used, I mean the softening process, which tends to the destruction of the tissues, either by an active inflammatory condition which they assume, or a stage of congestion, or sometimes from both causes combined.

In the progress of a cancerous growth, the breaking down, from the softening of the structure, usually commences in the centre of the tumour, whereby one or more abscesses may be formed. The fluid generated in such an abscess, usually rises to the surface. The skin becomes discoloured and puckered, and is often soft to the touch ; and in others it is of a resisting and hard nature, when a small opening or sinus is formed, enabling a thin, yellow fluid to exude through the skin. This opening gradually breaks down, and rapidly extends the cavity, and exposes to view a deep sinuosity ; the edges of the wound become inverted, and thus a thin, scirrhus ulcer is formed. The latter can never be mistaken by those who have carefully studied the disease of sarcoma, as the latter is characterised by a fungous excrescence which projects from the wound.

In this sad stage we must not consider the case to be altogether hopeless ; for there are cases where the neighbouring glands are not yet affected, and in these we may still enucleate, with hopes of perfect success.

But even in those cases which are too far advanced for this operation, the weakening discharge may be restrained, the ulcerative progress checked, pain assuaged, and the patient's strength improved, and her life prolonged for many months, or years. No rule can be laid down for this treatment; everything depends upon the diathesis of the patient, and the extent of disease; and to prescribe with any hope of success, the patient must be seen by the prescribing physician.

In most cases I find that watery preparations agree with the ulcerated surfaces, better than those of a greasy character. However, in a few cases, ointments seem to agree better than infusions. In others, again, glycerine mixed with starch produces good results. *Hydrastis canadensis*, arsenicum in the form of tincture and in different dilutions, also the preparations of arsenicum, phosphorus, rana bufo, zinc, viburnin, helonin, trillin, &c., &c., should be given, as the condition of the patient requires; and also some of them may be either mixed with the starch and glycerine, or with water, and may be applied directly to the sore. The edges of the sores are apt to bleed; therefore, great care must be taken in wetting those dressings that are not of a greasy nature, before they are removed. If hæmorrhage should occur, however slightly, it may be stopped at once, by means of a styptic, which should always be at hand,—“*one drop of blood in this state is worth an ounce of gold.*” Gradually under this treatment the ulcer will contract, and, to a certain extent, heal; the discharge will become more healthy, and less offensive; and

pain may be reduced to such a point, as scarcely to be worth the name of pain. It has been my fortunate lot, through God's blessing, to afford such relief to many. On the other hand, sometimes I meet with cases in the last stages, where but little relief can be effected. In these sad cases, through delay or mismanagement, I frequently find that both breasts and both armpits have become extensively diseased before I am called in.* The arm frequently swells, and the poor sufferer feels as if she was bound tight in an iron girdle; respiration becomes difficult; the arm feels like a log, which she cannot move; nausea and vomiting frequently occur; yet, even in this dying state, much can be done to ease pain, and make the patient comparatively comfortable. This may be accomplished by great attention to the wound, in keeping it properly cleansed; in never allowing your dressings, if of a watery nature, to become dry. If there is much difficulty in breathing, arsenicum and phosphorus will, in the majority of cases, afford relief. If nausea, ipecacuanha and hydrastis are useful. If the arm is swollen, gentle and repeated frictions upwards towards the shoulder will afford great relief; and with proper dressings, the sore may be arrested in its characteristic progress.

As to what the patient ought to avoid in this stage, I must refer to the advice given in the other stages of

* I attended a lady of rank some two years ago, along with her family physician. It was a case of extreme suffering, and no results were produced by my remedies. I afterwards found out, that what I had advised was not carried into execution, nor the medicines I prescribed given to the sufferer. Of course, in such a case no relief could be expected.

this disease ; for although none but the professional reader can believe it, yet I know men of the present day, calling themselves enlightened surgeons, who advocate, and who perform those operations they advocate, even in this far-advanced stage. The other remedies I have warned the reader against, will be proposed in this ulcerated stage, by their advocates ; and I know of one case, in which the reverend quack before referred to, solemnly promised a cure to a dying, bedridden lady ; but, fortunately for the sufferer, she died before the gases could be applied.

Before closing, it will be well for me to say a few words on treatment of cancer, that has re-appeared after an operation for its removal has been performed by the knife. The question is almost daily asked of me,—“ Can you do anything in these cases ? ” and I can answer, unhesitatingly, that, with God’s blessing, I can. The mode of treatment adopted is precisely the same as if no operation had been performed ; only, if time will allow to place the patient, for at least two months, on constitutional treatment, before interfering with the local disease ; so as, if possible, to destroy the tendency for its reproduction, before attempting local removal. In proof of this statement, among the cases given, will be found some in which enucleation has been successful in procuring a radical cure, where the knife had totally failed.

CHAPTER III.

SYMPTOMS BY WHICH THE NATURE OF TUMOURS MAY BE DETERMINED.

It is important that I should mention a few symptoms of this sad disease, by which many can ascertain for themselves, whether they are suffering from malignant or merely from simple tumour, which, if left alone, will produce no future mischief. This I consider to be more important, as almost daily I see cases, beyond the reach of radical cure, the poor sufferers having been assured, from time to time, that they were suffering only from tumour.

A malignant tumour, as a general rule, increases (especially in the first instance) very slowly, almost imperceptibly ; it feels either hard, with prominent edges, or soft, as if it contained matter. A simple tumour, however, generally feels smooth, being contained in a cyst, or sack. At first, cancerous tumours are movable, but gradually, as they increase, the skin becomes puckered and attached to the diseased mass, or the nipple, sooner or later, becomes retracted. In simple tumours this is never the case : the skin never becomes attached, nor is the nipple ever drawn in. In malignant tumour the pain at first is *nil* ;

by and by, a slight pricking sensation, like the pain produced by a sudden dart of a needle, is felt. This speedily passes, and it may not recur again for days (for, as a general rule, the pain of a malignant tumour before the stage of ulceration sets in is never constant). This pricking pain advances with the disease, until, in the latter stages, it becomes almost constant. In simple tumour, if any pain exists, it is constant, and not of a sharp darting character, but more of a dull heavy aching. In those of a malignant type, in their second stage, there is always more or less pain and uneasiness in the shoulder-blade, and inside of the arm, immediately above the elbow joint. In simple tumour this never exists. There is another and very serious form of disease, which, from its being generally painless in the first instances, is often passed over until too late for treatment. In this fatal form a flattened tumour can be felt in the breast, which in reality is the whole of the gland in a state of disease, and from the nipple there is at first a slight, but soon a constant discharge, only a drop or two, at long intervals, in the first instances, perhaps tinged with blood; but as the disease advances, so does the discharge, until it becomes constant. In this form, ulceration has already commenced in the centre of the breast, and the gland is gradually melting away in the centre, until, sooner or later, the nipple itself gives way, and a large cavity occupies the place of the gland. This is no uncommon case, and the poor patient is lulled into a fatal indifference, thinking nothing is wrong because she suffers no pain. Indeed, this form of disease

does not seem to be understood by the profession at large, for I have seen men of education who did not dream of the mischief going on. As a rule, therefore, I would urge all who have tumours or lumps on their bodies, at once to consult some duly qualified surgeon ; if simple, that means may be taken to disperse them in time, for all simple tumours in time are liable to degenerate into malignant growths ; and if malignant, that proper measures be at once adopted for their absorption or removal. As a general rule, it is observed that the smaller and harder a tumour is in its first stage, the more malignant and dangerous it will prove to be ; on the other hand, the larger a tumour is at first, the least likely it is to be malignant. Another rule regarding tumours of the breast, all small tumours that appear close to the nipple are malignant, at least they are so in ninety cases out of a hundred ; and when they appear in this situation, no time ought to be lost in applying remedial agents.

Generally there will be found in those predisposed to cancerous disease (which has never been noticed by writers on this subject, as far as I know), that in the majority of those cases where malignant tumours appear, there will be found, either in the immediate vicinity of the breast, or in some part of the body, warts ; warts, generally, in my opinion, being indicative of malignant disease, as we find that epythelial, or superficial cancer, always first appears in this form. Therefore, in all cases where a tumour is discovered in the breast, and if warts have existed previously in the cuticle, the probabilities are that

tumour is of a malignant character. I do not presume to affirm that all afflicted with warts have cancer, but this I do affirm, that those who are subject to these excrescences are more subject to this form of disease than others. However, the diagnosis, or the knowledge of the nature of tumours, must in a great measure be decided by the surgeon—not by what he may have learnt by his lectures, or by his books, nor by his sense of sight, but by the delicacy of his touch. If a surgeon has not a delicacy in touch, his opinion as to the nature of a tumour is worthless. The true surgeon must have his eyes at the tip of his fingers, and these only, can convey to his mind the true nature of the disease. For all tumours affect the sense of touch differently ; in some, their stony hardness at once betokens the nature of the tumour ; in others, the sensation of softness or of fluid (although none in reality exists) betokens its fatal character ; whilst in others, the sense of smoothness and mobility, dispels all alarm.

CHAPTER IV.

SOME DISEASES PECULIAR TO THE WOMB.

DISEASES of the womb are of two kinds: the functional, or those dependent upon derangement of the uterine functions; and the organic, or those in which the structure of the organ itself is involved.

1st. Functional disease, or disease owing to derangement of one or more of the functions of the womb.

In the healthy female a periodical discharge takes place, once in the lunar month, generally first occurring from the age of fourteen to sixteen years, and terminating at from forty to fifty-five years of age. Among the profession it is known by the name of the catamenia. No female between the ages of sixteen and forty years can be said to enjoy good health unless the discharge takes place with regularity, is sufficient in quantity, and lasts a proper length of time, which is from three to six days. When the discharge suddenly ceases between the ages mentioned, or continues longer, or occurs more frequently than the lunar month, then we say there is functional derangement of menstruation. These diseases may be considered under three different forms;

AMENORRHŒA ; or, *stoppage of the flow.*

MENORRHAGIA ; or, *profuse flow.*

DYSMENORRHŒA ; or, *painful flow.*

AMENORRHŒA, OR STOPPAGE OF THE MONTHLY DISCHARGE.

This affection is technically spoken of, as being either retention, or suppression, of the discharge. 1st. Retention.—In speaking of retention, we refer to cases where the discharge has never appeared, and this may be owing, either to some inflammatory action, or to imperfect development of the organ itself, &c., &c. As the period comes round when the discharge ought to appear, we generally find the patient suffering from headache, giddiness, palpitation of the heart, pain in the back and loins, all more or less aggravated. The treatment demanded is, to find out, by careful examination, the cause of the retention, and if possible, rectify it ; and also to use such remedies as are indicated to establish the important discharge. Among these macrotin and baptisin, with gossypiin, are indicated.

2nd. Suppression of the discharge.—This is a very different case from retention. In suppression, the discharge which has at one time been established, has been stopped or suppressed, generally through carelessness on the part of the sufferer—as exposure to draughts, wet feet, bathing in cold water, &c., &c. The symptoms in cases of suppression are sometimes very alarming, as fever, hysteria, mania, epilepsy, &c., &c. The first step in these cases is to subdue the

fever, and other serious symptoms, and to re-establish the discharge. *Veratrum viride* is the best remedy for the fever, which it will soon subdue. Baptisin, macrotin, gossypiin, and senecin, are the best agents for re-establishing the discharge, and if properly used cannot fail. Rest and quiet during the period when it is re-established should be strictly enjoined. The higher dilutions of sulphur, and of pulsatilla, as recommended by Dr. Laurie and other eminent men, exert extraordinary powers in cases of suppression; but the object of this pamphlet is not to detail the well-known homœopathic modes of treatment, but to advocate my own views, and introduce to the reader those new vegetable preparations that exert such power on what were formerly considered incurable diseases. There is one remedy practised still by gentlemen of the old school of medicine; I mean leeching, a practice which is always attended with serious results, and one that, instead of hastening the re-appearance of the discharge, actually retards it, and aggravates all the painful symptoms that usually accompany suppression.

MENORRHAGIA, OR PROFUSE MENSTRUATION.

In this disease the womb itself usually retains its ordinary size, although in some cases it is found to be slightly enlarged.

It is most frequently met with in the married female, and in many cases is owing to too rapid child-bearing. However, it is not unfrequently met with in the childless. It occurs either as a prolongation of

the menstrual period, or by sudden gushes between these periods, and is generally accompanied by leucorrhœa, or the whites, between the attacks. Again, the discharge is frequently accompanied with coagulum and fibrine, giving rise in their passage to much pain. These two forms may occur at any age during the menstrual period, but perhaps the most serious form of menorrhagia occurs at the change of life. This discharge then often amounts to a flooding, being composed of blood, besides the catamenia or menstrual fluid, and sometimes lasting for months at a time; in these cases, serious disease of the womb itself may be suspected. In all, this unnatural discharge is accompanied by feelings of exhaustion, inability or disinclination to move, weakness across the back and loins, chills, palpitation of the heart, giddiness, and throbbing headaches, diarrhœa, dropsy, &c.

The first step to be taken is to stop the exhausting discharge, and this can only be done after a proper examination to ascertain the cause of difficulty, and, generally speaking, we find the os (mouth) open, or the womb, or its neck, enlarged, or displacement of the organ. The treatment must, of course, depend upon what condition the organ may be in.

It may not be out of place here, to make a few remarks on the proper manner of making examinations of the womb. It may seem strange to the non-professional readers when I tell them, that I have met with few men in the profession who know, or seem to care, how they make these examinations, in the cases of delicate females. The first object to a

refined mind is to avoid, in every case, any exposure of the person. This is easily done. Secondly, the examination in every case should always in the first instance be digital; and not until after this, should an instrument be used, and then, only, if absolutely necessary. This is most important; for in malignant disease especially, we are not aware how far the vagina (passage) may be filled with morbid growths, and I have seen much injury inflicted, and violent floodings resulting, from the rash introduction of the speculum. Digital examination ought always to be employed first, to ascertain if any impediment is in the way to the introduction of the instrument, and if the slightest pain is caused from this mode of examination, it ought to be at once relinquished for some time, until the parts are soothed by proper treatment. When no impediment exists to the use of the speculum, then one of a proper size, and of a form adapted to the case, should be employed, not using one instrument for every case; and if this be properly done, no pain, no irritation, and no exposure, so terrible to the refined mind, need be occasioned. If we find a want of contraction in the neck, then styptic injections must be used, and hamamelin and myricin, with hydrastis, be employed internally. If there is enlargement of the womb, injections of hydrastis, and appropriate internal remedies should be used; if displacement, the difficulty can only be rectified by replacing the womb in its proper position. In all these cases nourishing food, with wine, must be freely given. Over-fatigue must be avoided, and, above all, carriage exercise is very injurious, more

especially the peculiar shaking of a railway train. Indeed, a person suffering from this form of disease should never attempt to travel, or the results may be most serious.

DYSMENORRHŒA, OR PAINFUL MENSTRUATION.

This occurs at all ages at which the menstrual discharge takes place. Most frequently the pain comes on a day or two before the discharge which affords relief. These pains are always accompanied by febrile symptoms, and the discharge is generally mixed with small clots of blood, or fibrine. Sometimes it is owing to the os, or mouth of the womb, not being sufficiently opened to allow the passage of the clots; in these cases dilatation of the os sometimes affords relief. In other cases it is owing to inflammatory action; if this is the case, injections of the *hydrastis canadensis* will afford relief. During the attacks the patient should confine herself to her chamber, avoiding all exposure to cold; hamamelis virginica, or its alkaloid *hamamelin*, will often give instantaneous relief from pain. It must, until the discharge be established, be exhibited with great caution. I might now proceed to describe many diseases dependent upon functional derangement of the womb, as the various forms of hysteria, chlorosis, or green sickness, mania, &c., &c., but space and time forbid my doing so at present.

I shall, therefore, next briefly glance at a few of the most important diseases dependent upon organic derangement.

These diseases may be divided into two classes :—
1st, *the non-malignant* ; 2nd, *the malignant*.

THE NON-MALIGNANT DISEASES OF THE WOMB.

It would be out of place here to say anything of metritis, or inflammation of this organ depending upon parturition, but I shall at once proceed to consider the cause of most uterine difficulties, viz., CONGESTION OF THE WOMB.

Congestion of the Womb.

As there is a periodical discharge from the healthy womb, from the age of puberty to forty or fifty years, it can be easily understood that, if anything should stop that flow, congestion of this important organ must take place. The symptoms in these cases are a dull, aching pain above the groin and the vagina, causing constant uneasiness (rather relieved by pressure), with a feeling of weight upon the bladder, until the flow commences, which in these cases is generally dark and thick ; relief is afforded for a time, but previous to the next period the symptoms are all aggravated. The inflammatory action speedily extends to the cervix, or neck of the organ, which being covered with a mucous membrane, gives rise to a white, thick, pus-like discharge, accompanied with a sense of heat, loss of appetite, nausea, and great mental despondency. These symptoms, if not speedily relieved, are the precursors of more serious mischief, the first of which is generally prolapsus, or displacement of the womb, owing to its increased weight from the accumulation

and determination of blood to these parts. In such cases I have found nothing so beneficial as injections of the *hydrastis canadensis*, an agent which has a wonderful power, and an effect *sui generis*, in inflammation of mucous membranes. These injections, however, must not be applied in the manner usually recommended by surgeons, which is to thrust the syringe up the passage as far as possible, and standing over a bidet, or chamber, to use the instrument. Common sense might long ago have shown to every one, but the most prejudiced, that thrusting an instrument up a passage, and bringing it in contact with an inflamed organ, must cause much mischief and irritation, and aggravate the complaint. No wonder, therefore, that this important appliance in treating this class of diseases has fallen into disrepute, among the more scientific practitioners of the present day. But if the injections are applied in the manner now first recommended, and shown to many of my professional friends by me, then they will be found to be most beneficial, often affording relief in a few hours. The first step is to procure a proper syringe, very unlike the ordinary instrument usually employed. It ought to be made of glass, of a proper diameter, regulated by the consideration whether the patient be married or not. It ought not to be more than four or five inches in length, and ought never to be introduced further than half an inch into the passage. My chemist has had these syringes manufactured at my request. About half an inch from the extremity, there is a small ridge, and about an inch beyond that, another ridge; between them I wind cotton wool, and

the entrance of the instrument further than desired is thus prevented. The syringe having been filled with the fluid to be injected, the patient lies upon her back, having her hips well raised by pillows—the neck of the womb in this situation, is lower than the vagina—and introducing the instrument, she can herself throw up the injection; and remaining in the same position for a quarter of an hour, the medicated agent is kept for that time in constant contact with the diseased parts, and that without the usual irritation produced by the former useless modes. These injections ought to be repeated frequently, and relief will soon be afforded. Constitutional remedies ought also to be adopted—and probably the best of these are myricin, caulophyllin, and veratrum viride; and the bowels may be regulated with podophyllin. The general health ought to be supported with a nourishing diet and a moderate allowance of stimulants; for this, in reality, is not a disease of general inflammation, but only local; for if the system be reduced, the disease will rapidly degenerate into a malignant form.

In these cases I would implore all to avoid—1st, Local depletion by leeches. This is the too common malpractice of the old school of practitioners; they recommending leeching with the idea of relieving the engorged vessels, without adopting means at the same time to cause their contraction. The consequences are, that, as soon as the vessels are emptied by the leeches, they are again filled, and the patient is worse than ever—it being forgotten all the time, that this is a disease of debility. I know several ladies, at

present, who are in the constant habit, every week or two, of applying these noxious reptiles to themselves. Of course, they are only relieved, for a day or two, and all are confirmed invalids, with shattered constitutions; and can scarcely leave their homes for the slightest exercise without suffering severely for days afterwards, while in two of them, dropsical symptoms have been developed.

2nd. Iodine, in the form of tincture, ought also to be avoided. I have known one instance in which this cruel application was applied to the neck of the womb, causing it speedily to degenerate into a state of malignant cancerous disease. And this experience of mine is borne out by Mr. Leadam, in his work, who states,—“Iodine has been known to accelerate the metamorphosis of induration of the cervix into cancer, and one of its properties is to cause the disappearance of the cellular and adipose tissues.” (Leadam on “Diseases of Females,” p. 214.)

3rd. Cold hip-baths have been highly lauded and enforced. In my opinion, they are worse than useless; because they lower the temperature of the hips and adjacent parts, reaction occurs, and an increased flow of blood rushes to the parts; and the disease becomes speedily aggravated, and, assuming a chronic form, entails misery and suffering upon the patient for the rest of her days.

I might fill pages with the remedies advocated by many surgeons who have written on this subject, but, surely, the above are sufficient. In conclusion, I should state, that in these cases, if a cancerous diathesis exists at the time, the congestion, acting as, or

being, an exciting cause, will probably cause a speedy development of malignant disease in the cervix of the womb.

Leucorrhœa, or Whites.

This disease is frequently classified among those, dependent upon functional derangement of the womb; but, in my opinion, it is better to class it among those diseases that are owing to its organic derangement, because in most cases where it exists it is accompanied by organic lesions, and in all, if it continues for any length of time, it results in ulceration. It is dependent upon an increased flow of the secretion that lubricates the organs of generation. The secretion is greater than the absorption; and, if not arrested, not only proves a great discomfort to the female, but, sooner or later, impairs the health, and lays the seeds of fatal disease. At first the discharge is thin and glairy; as it increases, it assumes a white character, becoming more purulent; sometimes it is opaque, and yellowish and thick; and, eventually, erosion takes place. The discharge is streaked with blood at times; it becomes acrid, watery, and offensive, and is the certain precursor of malignant disease. It may be caused by miscarriage, or great sexual excitement, displacement of the womb, tumours, ulceration, &c., &c. The proper mode of treating this disease is, to discover the exciting cause; and if nothing counter-indicates local treatment, the use of injections of hydrastis, viburnin, or hamamelin, or of some of the other alkaloids, to the affected part, may become necessary. Hydrastis, hamamelin, &c., &c., ought to be administered internally, with

nutritious diet. Avoid in these cases all sources of irritation, as caustic or astringent injections.

The diet ought to be of the most nutritious kind, with liberal allowance of stimulants—port or claret wines, or, what is still better, some of the pure Hungarian wines lately introduced into this country by Max Gregor, Esq., probably being the best. Above all things, avoid all cause of irritation, especially by allowing the application of caustics. If they are applied, leucorrhea will speedily degenerate into malignant disease.

Displacement of the Womb.

Displacement of the womb is, probably, of all other causes, the most fertile source of discomfort and of malignant disease to women. It arises from many causes, as getting up too soon after childbirth, too frequent child-bearing, long and fatiguing exercise, lifting heavy weights, long-continued dancing, violent horse exercise (more especially immediately before the menstrual period), congestion of the womb, injudicious use of purgative medicines, relaxed and enfeebled constitution, long-continued leucorrhea, &c., &c, &c. Indeed, this too common complaint often arises from very slight and seemingly trivial causes. It is most frequent in the lower classes of life, but not at all uncommon in the higher ranks, who, as a general rule, from their well-known susceptibility to pain, suffer most.

This complaint generally commences with slight relaxation; and, if not attended to, may speedily relapse into the second stage, where the displace-

ment is greater, and which is now known by the name of prolapsus of the womb. In this, the uterus sinks low into the pelvic basin, causing a sense of great uneasiness in the back and groin, and pain above the hips, with occasional pain down the thighs, a sense of uneasiness, and a heavy dragging sensation from the back, and a bearing down feeling, as if the contents of the body were coming down. These symptoms are increased by exercise, and the recumbent position alone affords relief. As the mischief advances, a sense of fulness is felt at the mouth of the vagina (passage), with a constant desire to make water. If nothing is done, the womb descends from the body (the occurrence is now known as procidentia of the womb), hanging down between the legs (I have seen it reaching as low as the knees); the vagina is inverted like the finger of a glove, and great debility ensues. The patient becomes exhausted. The urine flows spontaneously, ulcerating the parts, and making the wretched sufferer miserable, and death alone (if the difficulty is not overcome) relieves her from her misery. The young unmarried woman, as well as the elderly female, the mother of children, are all liable to displacement of the womb.

In such a sad complaint the question arises, Can anything be done? I unhesitatingly answer—much! In this disease the sufferer ought to throw aside all false modesty, and let her difficulty be known at once, not to delay, until it has reached the stage of procidentia, but, if possible, before true prolapsus occurs. The symptoms of relaxation are too well marked to allow them to pass unnoticed, and, but for false

delicacy in the young and the unmarried, medical advice would be sought and permanent relief afforded. The symptoms are a dragging, wearying pain in the back, pain above the groin and hip, feeling of exhaustion and great disinclination to move, a sense of weariness in the limbs increased by walking, anxiety of mind, constipation, and almost always leucorrhea. The treatment is very simple. First ascertain the extent of derangement by making a careful digital examination (which ought to be done when the patient is standing); the sufferer ought to be confined to the horizontal position for a few days, the physician first replacing the womb in its natural position with his finger (which to the expert surgeon is no difficult task), and injections of myricin, senecin, or hamamelin, should be carefully and frequently administered. Tonics, as carbo v., china, and hydrastis, should be judiciously administered. Nourishing food should be given to restore the exhausted energies, but above all things, a carefully fitted bandage (made to support the abdomen) should be worn constantly for months. In prolapsus, the womb having descended further into the pelvic basin, all the symptoms are aggravated, but the treatment is the same, only the patient must submit to a longer confinement to the sofa, until time is given for the relaxed parts to contract, and so support the organ in its natural position. In child-bearing women, immediately after the birth is the proper time to effectually cure this difficulty. In these cases, if proper attention be paid in restoring the womb to its natural position, the reclining posture kept for a sufficient time, and a

proper bandage worn, in a short time a radical cure will be effected.

In procidentia the difficulties are greatly increased, the constitution suffering much more. The first object is, if possible, to reduce and return the womb into the pelvic basin; this, with care, and with patient manipulation, can often be done; and frequently, from the inverted vagina having become ulcerated from friction, or dribbling of urine, when returned these ulcers cause adhesions, and a radical cure is in this manner effected. This, however, is not always the case, and in many cases it is impossible to return the protruded mass. In these unfortunate cases, all that can be done is to alleviate the suffering, and to subdue the inflammatory action by the usual means, such as by aconite, or, better still, by veratrum viride, belladonna, barosmin, and other remedies that may tend to relieve the distressing symptoms. Fomenting, and gentle use of the taxis (manipulation), sometimes even after weeks of disappointment, may eventually reduce and return the prolapsed womb.

In such cases great patience and forbearance are demanded from the physician; above all things, the general health must be attended to, the bowels must be regulated; the acrid urine, always acrid from the irritation to which the bladder is subjected, must be corrected, and the reclining position be insisted upon. In these cases, I would strongly urge the sufferer to avoid the use of that abominable instrument called a pessary; though this is still a favourite resource with many accoucheurs. It is made either of a circular piece of gold, or of silver gilt, or of wood, generally

box-wood, or of india rubber, with a hole in the centre, or it sometimes consists only of a sponge, which is worse and filthier than any of the others. The good old gentlemen of the ancient school of medicine, after replacing the womb in its natural position, are accustomed to introduce one of these abominations, with the vague idea that it will support the womb ; let reasonable, unprejudiced readers consider the anatomy of these parts, and they will at once see the absurdity of this practice.

Supposing the womb has been reduced to its proper position, and one of these pessaries introduced, what supports it in its new position ? Immediately after it has been passed under the arch of the pubis, the vagina is always found to be relaxed to a great extent, especially near the neck of the womb ; behind, it can only be supported by the soft yielding rectum, separated by only a thin membrane from the vagina, and in front by the soft yielding bladder ; therefore the only two points that can support the pessary are the yielding bladder and rectum. Let it also be remembered, that when the patient walks, the pessary, having no adequate support, falls down to the vulva, leaving a space between the support and the parts to be supported ; therefore its only use is to cause irritation and discomfort, giving rise in many cases to ulcerative, and eventually to malignant disease. Supposing, again, that the instrument is sufficiently large, and that it does keep its position, and that it has been introduced with no little pain (especially in the case of the unmarried) into the vagina, we then find that it will press upon the

rectum and the bladder, and the mildest consequences that can arise are constant irritation, constant inclination and desire to pass water, and if the instrument is kept *in situ*, it eventually deadens the sensibility of the rectum, and produces obstinate constipation and piles, besides causing increased leucorrhea and inflammation of the vagina; so that often it is impossible, or it is with extreme difficulty, that the pessary can be withdrawn. These are the most favourable results, for often the mischief these instruments produce is far greater, giving rise to violent inflammation after introduction; ulceration then takes place, and a fistulous opening is speedily formed between the vagina and rectum, or between the vagina and bladder, and the patient is rendered wretched for life. She now suffers, in addition to her other troubles, either from a recto-vaginal fistula, or from one known as a vesico-vaginal fistula; in the former the fæces are discharged through the uterine passage, in the latter the water dribbles from the bladder through the passage, rendering life insupportable.

This is not a too strongly drawn picture of the evils produced by these pessaries, but it is the sad story of every day. There are no physicians or surgeons of extensive practice, who do not, week after week, hear the same tale. The sponge pessary is still worse, because it soon becomes engorged with the discharge, and speedily putrefies, its size is increased, it forms adhesions to the adjoining parts, and is often withdrawn with extreme difficulty. This is certainly bad enough; but some years ago a man,

who claimed for himself the honourable title of M.D. — I forget his name — actually introduced into fashionable practice an original instrument of his own invention ; it consisted of a long, finger-like apparatus, which was attached to a shield, and this being introduced up the passage, the point pressing upon the tender neck of the womb, the shield was pressed against the orifice, and kept in position by a number of straps and bandages. The poor victim in this manner was actually impaled ; and great care and caution were required, on the part of the lady, in either rising up or sitting down, to avoid not only dreadful suffering, but also serious consequences. These, with the other pessaries, may well be named GENERATORS OF MALIGNANT DISEASE, for I have known them to be worn for months, and when suffering obliged the patient to give them up, extensive ulceration and induration of the neck of the womb were found, on examination, and the sufferers slowly sank under their accumulated afflictions. I am happy to say I have not seen or heard of any of these diabolical machines for some years, and I trust that they will never be heard of more. Again I beseech all sufferers to avoid using the pessary.

I might now write upon prolapsus of the vagina (not an unfrequent occurrence), and of induration or hardening of the neck, of ulceration of the neck itself, &c., &c. ; but I must now briefly describe scirrhus of this organ. I could fill pages in speaking of ramollissement, or softening of the womb, of fungus hæmatoides, of polypus, of strange growths or false conceptions, which are expelled with great pain.

I might also write upon the diseases connected with the womb, as ovarian dropsy, and tumours upon hydrometra, or dropsy of the womb, and on other affections connected with the uterine functions, as the various forms of hysteria, chlorosis, or green sickness, mania, &c., &c. But the treatment of these topics would swell this work beyond its intended compass, and will probably form the subject of a separate book. I confine myself here to *cancer of the womb*.

CANCER IN THE WOMB.

Under this head we will consider induration, or hardening of the neck, and ulceration of the same part. I do not, however, mean to state that induration and ulceration always degenerate into cancer; but I believe that they do degenerate into this form wherever a predisposition exists, for the development of scirrhus; for owing to the vascularity of the parts, when excited by induration and ulceration, this region becomes a common situation for its development.

1st. *Induration of the Neck of the Womb*.—This hardening may be caused by inflammation of the body of the organ, by suppression of the menses, by painful connection, or by irritation of any kind—as, for example, by the operation introduced some years ago by a doctor in Edinburgh, for sterility. This has been a prolific source of induration and ulceration, and, in some cases, of malignant disease of the womb. We are told, from THE BOOK OF BOOKS, “that children are an heritage from the Lord! and the fruit of the womb is His reward” (Psalm cxxvii. 3); but

this man seems to have thought differently ; and delicate women—women of refinement—have submitted to treatment, in *Puritan* Edinburgh, that would be considered disgraceful, in the most corrupt and depraved continental city !

This operation consists in dilating the mouth of the womb, thereby causing irritation, induration, ulceration, for which caustics are used, giving rise to such an extent of mischief, that the unfortunate women seldom completely recover their former good health during the rest of their lives. Nature exacts a terrible penalty from all those who allow her proper functions to be interfered with, and she makes no exception in these cases. However, if these exposures of the person, and these dilatations were successful in making woman fertile, even in a small per-centage of cases, there might be some apology for adopting it ; but I believe, from what I know of the physiology of conception, that dilating the mouth of the womb would do more to prevent conception, than to ensure it. I know of only one case, that of Mrs. R—, of B—, in which he was successful, or at least in which, after the dilatation, a child was born. I know of fifty in which he has failed, and incurable disease has been induced. When induration exists, if it is not absorbed or softened, it generally terminates in ulceration. The proper mode of treating induration, is to arrest inflammation, to encourage resolution, and so to avoid ulceration. If this is not done, induration speedily degenerates into ulceration, either of a simple or of a malignant corroding character. The symptoms attending ulceration in its first stages

are not so alarming nor painful as might be expected, owing in a measure to the natural insensibility of the neck, except when in a state of acute inflammation. As the parts become destroyed by ulceration, the violence of the symptoms increases ; there is a feeling of heat in the upper portion of the vagina, pain above one or both of the hips ; inflammation (in some cases) of the vagina itself, with great tenderness, constant desire to pass water, or inability to do so ; pain of a dragging, cutting nature in the back, with a constant unbearable bearing-down feeling ; irritation in the rectum ; profuse leucorrhea, often streaked with blood ; indisposition to move about, headache, and, above all, a peculiar sinking feeling at the pit of the stomach, as if it was pressed back to the backbone ; a desire at times for food, but when it is placed before the patient a certain inability to taste a mouthful ; a flow of tears, without crying, &c., &c. These all mark the aggravated form.

Now has arrived the last time for treatment, if we wish for a radical cure ; now is the time to prevent degeneration into cancerous disease. The first object is to reduce inflammatory action. This must be done by using constitutional remedies and local applications, either in the form of injections, or of direct applications to the parts. The constitutional measures for subduing inflammation are too well known for it to be necessary to describe them. The injections I prefer are in the form of an infusion of some of the resinous alkaloids before mentioned, dependent upon the particular nature of the case ; and after this has been tried, I would then treat the ulcerated neck

in the same manner as I would treat a sore of the same character in any other part of the body, by proper and judicious applications, immediately upon the diseased part itself; for a plaister or any other form of application can be placed upon the neck of the womb as easily as it can be laid upon the breast, by properly using the speculum.

And these applications are perfectly free from the slightest pain or suffering, while they afford a sense of great and almost immediate relief to the sufferer. In such cases, only the most soothing applications ought to be made to these delicate parts. The vagina and the neck of the womb, with its os or mouth, are covered with a peculiar membrane, exuding in a state of health a peculiar, clear, insipid fluid, known under the name of mucus, which is for the purpose of lubricating these parts, and preventing friction and irritation. This mucus is generated by minute glands, thickly studded over the surface of the membrane. It must, therefore, follow that if any irritating injections, either of an acid or of a caustic nature be thrown up, they must cause irritation of the glands, and these being irritated or inflamed, the nature of their secretions must also be changed, and instead of being mild and soothing to the parts, these very secretions will add to the mischief, by increasing the irritation. Indeed, morbid secretions from these glands are alone sufficient to produce, and in some cases do produce, serious disease; therefore, let it be borne in mind that whatever application you may make to the neck of the womb, it should be of such a character as not to bring the mucous follicles into a state of inflammation;

therefore, above all things, never allow caustics to be applied in these cases. If they are applied, in seven cases out of ten, malignant or cancerous disease will be developed. I am sorry to say, that caustics are used unsparingly in this sad complaint, even by men of some standing in the profession ; but, in almost every case in which they have been used, especially of late years, they have proved most injurious ; indeed, I have had, and at present I have, ladies under my care who are suffering from caustics applied by a physician in Edinburgh. In all, I have found parts fearfully destroyed ; in some, no trace of the neck of the womb ; and in not a few, from the liquefaction of the caustic used (generally the Vienna paste), the vagina itself is extensively injured.

At one time I was in favour of using caustics, and did so extensively, but finding in 1850 that the Vienna paste (composed of fused caustic potash mixed with caustic lime) was unmanageable from its deliquescent qualities, I was the first to use pure anhydrous sulphate of zinc, and with as much success as the use of a caustic in such cases can command. When I came to England, the following year, I made known the use of this agent to a Dr. Archibald W. Cockburn, who communicated the same to a Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh. This gentleman appears to have the habit of appropriating to himself, the discoveries of others, and as soon as he received this information, he straightway announced to the medical world this new agent as another result of his laborious researches. Fortunately, those gentlemen that appropriate things in this manner are not always sufficiently circumspect,

and, unwittingly, one day, the learned professor admitted to one of his friends, that this discovery was due to me. This gentleman, however, is welcome to all the honour; for what I used ten years ago in this disease, I should be sorry to use now, as experience has taught me that all caustics, applied to such cases, are most injurious. If there exists in the system a predisposition to cancerous disease, and if irritation be kept up by the use of caustics, tincture of iodine, or other irritating applications, the malignant disease is sure to be developed in those parts. The symptoms are all those, accompanying induration or ulceration, but in an aggravated form. So great is the pain in the back, that the sufferer might imagine that it had been broken; there is the sensation as if a tight cord were tied around the body, and cutting it in two, with fearful bearing-down pains, foetid and ichorous discharge, retention of urine in some cases, in others a constant flow. Pain amounts to agony, when at stool. Hæmorrhage suddenly takes place, not like the usual catamenia, but in sudden gushes of blood, sometimes continuing to fainting, with a sense of burning heat in the vagina and vulva, which soon become excoriated by the discharge. The general health becomes speedily impaired, the countenance assumes a sallow waxy appearance, vomiting frequently takes place, then hectic, and a lingering death.

This is not always the course pursued by this terrible disease. I have met with several cases in which the patient was ignorant of her state, until at last an ulceration stage was reached; one case in particular attracted my attention last year. A lady of

wealth came up to London, and spent some three weeks in town, apparently in robust health. One day she was suddenly attacked with flooding. A celebrated accoucheur was called in, who pronounced that she was in the last stages of cancer of the womb. Much shocked and distressed I was sent for, and was obliged to confirm the first opinion, that the womb was hopelessly involved. From this case (and it is no solitary one), we see that even cancer may exist, and advance to its third, or ulcerating stage in the womb, and the sufferer be unconscious of the fact; for, as I stated before, pain is not a constant accompaniment to malignant disease; although, alas! in the great majority of cases, the agony endured when the disease has been maltreated, is beyond description.*

Such being the results of the common modes of treatment, I may perhaps be allowed to show, by

* In such cases the old methods of practice could avail nothing. Irritating injections of chloride of zinc, to destroy the smell, or of oak bark, or of alum, to check the discharge, were formerly employed; also leeching to prevent hæmorrhage (upon the erroneous system of emptying a vessel before it should empty itself); tonics of steel and of bark and wine; but in some cases these were forbidden, as it was feared by some that they might produce violent inflammation. All these remedies could do nothing, but in many cases they hastened death and aggravated suffering. In such a disease the reader will be surprised to learn, that some men have been so fool-hardy as to propose the knife when the disease has been confined to the neck of the womb. Among others, Mons. Lisfranc, some years ago, startled the world by the announcement that he had amputated numerous (I believe twelve was the number stated) necks of wombs with entire success. This staggered the medical profession, but it was believed for a time; unfortunately, however, Mons. Lisfranc quarrelled with his assistant, and this cruel assistant spoiled the wonderful tale, by stating that Mons. Lisfranc, instead of amputating so many necks of wombs, had only operated in one case, and in that case the woman died. Mons. Lisfranc is not unlike our veracious clerical quack, if we may judge from what he says he has done.

cases, what I have done, not in curing (for when this disease takes possession of the organ there can be no cure), but in relieving patients from their terrible sufferings. Yet, I must warn the reader, that, although in some cases I have been successful, in others, the means used have not produced such good results. This is generally owing to various causes; as prescribing for a patient at hap-hazard without seeing her, and thereby knowing nothing of her real state (which I do not intend to do again); carelessness on the part of the sufferer or nurse in making the various applications, or in taking her medicines; over-fatigue when a little better.*

All these prevent the full benefit we should expect to derive from the means employed. The means I use vary according to circumstances, dependent much upon the extent of disease and the particular form of cancer that may be developed. As a rule, I make the same applications and use the same new remedies (the resinous alkaloids) as if the disease were in the breast, or any other part easily seen and easily got at. To the experienced surgeon there is no difficulty in doing this. The same medicines are given internally, with good nutritious food and stimulants, and rest is enjoined, in the reclining position, as much as possible. And this is one of my greatest difficulties, for when a sufferer is free from her accustomed pain, this position becomes irksome, a little moving about

* This I find is a too frequent cause of relapse, especially in cases like these, where carriage exercise is so injurious, and the motion produced by railway travelling always aggravates the disease and hastens death.

seems to do no harm, and she is led from one imprudence to another, until a relapse takes place, and never does the patient recover her former comparatively easy condition. Again, many are anxious to see me, and attempt to come up to London by rail; in many cases the attempt is disastrous, for this shaking, vibrating motion produces terrible effects on the diseased womb, and in more than one case I have known violent hæmorrhage take place in the carriage, and the patient saved with difficulty.

In this class of diseases, I would strongly urge, both the physician and the patient, not to place too much dependance on constitutional remedies alone. No one can deny that constitutional treatment is of vital consequence; but it *alone* can never touch these desperate diseases. In hopeless cases, local applications are necessary, not only to retard the disease and afford relief; but in those cases in which there is every prospect of cure, they are absolutely indispensable. In proof of this, I will only cite one case. I have been attending a lady, in consultation with one of the most experienced and celebrated physicians of this city. She was suffering from menorrhagia, or profuse flow, and from tumour in the breast. The former complaint she has constantly suffered from for the last four or five years. She was reduced by a flow of bright arterial blood every few days, and at the period suffered great pain from severe dysmenorrhœa. All that skill and great experience could do in the way of constitutional treatment had been tried; but the weakening discharge still continued. A few months ago I was requested to prescribe injec-

tions ; in a week the irregular discharge was stopped ; when the period came on, the catamenia flowed without pain, and for the proper period, and her health has been completely re-established.

I would merely add to what I have already written, regarding the application of gases to inflamed tissues, a case which came under my observation. In this case, the ignorant although reverend quack, had the temerity to introduce chlorine gas to the neck of the womb of a lady suffering from cancer of that organ. As might have been expected, it hastened the fatal termination of the case. In a few days violent inflammation, ulceration, perforation, acute anguish, mortification, and death, occurred. This case alone ought to be sufficient to deter every one from the application of noxious gases.

Space forbids me entering into this subject, but I will refer my reader to some cases extracted from my note book in the following chapter, proving the soundness of the doctrines I advocate and the efficacy of my mode of treatment.

CHAPTER V.

SELECTED AND ILLUSTRATIVE CASES.

PREFIXED to these pages will be found a Tabular Statement, recording the particulars of 986 cases which were under my observation and treatment between January, 1859, and June, 1863. This, of course, only exhibits the matter to which it refers in an aggregate and statistical form. I have had some hesitation in determining whether or not, to exhibit a selection of cases in detail. On the one hand, I have considered that such a course has sometimes been pursued in a manner alike unprofessional and unprofitable, but, on the other hand, as this Treatise is intended for the perusal not only of the medical profession, but of the public generally, to whom simple statements of facts are far more acceptable and useful, than elaborate and theoretical dissertations, I have resolved upon the course I am about to pursue. Although some of the conditions which predispose to the development of these painful affections have been noticed incidentally, yet there is another cause to which some consideration should be given, the fact that these peculiar *diatheses* are inherited. In other

words, that these affections, like others to which humanity is liable, are hereditary : and amongst other evidence which could be adduced, I select the following from my case-book :—

HEREDITARY CANCEROUS TUMOUR OF THE BREAST.

Mrs. W——, a young married lady, applied to me on the 30th August, 1860, having a small, hard, stony tumour in the breast, just above the nipple, which had increased rapidly. She stated that her grandmother and two of her uncles had died of cancer, and that her mother was at that very time suffering from the disease. The tumour was painless, and I therefore determined to try what constitutional remedies might effect, before attempting enucleation. She was placed under an absorbing treatment; and I had the satisfaction to find, on her last visit, December, 1860, that all traces of the tumour had disappeared. I had my doubts at the first consultation, whether this tumour was of a true scirrhus structure, and the result confirmed my diagnosis.

The necessity for exercising this precaution is further confirmed, in a case reported by Dr. Nankeville in the *Monthly Journal of Homœopathy* in a letter to me. It is so interesting and instructive that I re-quote it.

“ *St. Columb, Cornwall, Dec., 1859.*

“ DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged to you for your kind letter of the 5th instant. The tumour I described was called scirrhus by a medical man living in an adjoining town, who advised an operation. It never was, however, of a malignant character, and so I stated to the patient. Still I thought if *hydrastis* was so potent a remedy, it might influence a diseased structure, not being cancerous; and I am delighted to inform you that, to the gratification of the patient, and to my own astonishment, it disappeared, as if by magic, in the course of a week from the time the medicine was given. The case, as far as it goes, is most satisfactory. What has

astonished me is the rapidity of the absorption. In twenty-five years' experience, I have witnessed nothing like it.

"Yours, faithfully,

"J. H. NANKEVILLE, M.R.C.S.E."

HEREDITARY CANCER OF LEFT BREAST.

Miss —, of Glasgow. This young lady had a hard cancerous tumour in her left breast for more than a year. The usual symptoms of the disease were fully developed. It was a case of hereditary cancer, her mother having suffered from it. I commenced the treatment for its removal by enucleation on 28th May, 1856. On the 28th June the tumour came away, and on the 15th July she returned home quite well. She remains free from any symptoms of its re-appearance up to the present time.

As the last-mentioned case was removed by the process of enucleation, the one I now mention (also an hereditary case), was cured by absorption.

HEREDITARY CANCER OF LEFT BREAST.

Miss H—. This lady came to me on the 12th August, 1854. Upon examination, I found a small hard lump, about the size of an egg, in the left breast. She suffered at times from sharp darting pains through it, while it was, at the time, rapidly increasing in size. The disease was hereditary in her case, her mother and sister having died from it. I put her under treatment for removing the disease by absorption. She returned home to Bristol, improving by degrees until July, 1855, when all remains of the disease had disappeared. Although the hereditary taint was strongly marked, yet I have no apprehension of a return. I received a letter from her brother in 1859, in which he says, that "she continues quite well."

The following case is especially interesting, because when I first saw the patient, there seemed to be such little chance of benefiting her, that it was with great reluctance that I undertook the case ; and only did so because there was some probability of affording her a little relief.

CANCER OF RIGHT BREAST.

Mrs. B——, of Yorkshire, suffered from cancer of the right breast. She was an unhealthy looking woman. About three years previously, she noticed a swelling in her right breast, which gradually increased in size, giving rise to constant darting pains, and much uneasiness in the arm and hand. She had been seen by several medical gentlemen, who noticed a peculiar waxy appearance and an anxious expression, which are usually observed in this disease when the system is fully impregnated with it. I undertook her case with but little hope of ultimate success, and commenced the treatment October 6th, 1856 ; and upon the 12th November the diseased part came away, and she returned home quite well, December 29th. The great influence of my remedies upon the well-marked cancerous diathesis was rendered manifest ; for as the disease became absorbed, there was a daily change in the expression of her face, indicating the improved state of her health ; and she continues quite well to the present time (July, 1863).

These examples will suffice, confirming the views which have been previously advocated.

I shall now select a few cases of disease of the womb, in order to demonstrate the safety and advantage of the method advocated in this work.

Fearful as these affections usually are, it is some consolation to know that they are not altogether hopeless, and that in a majority of cases their painful condition may be relieved, when, from some particular idiosyncrasy, they cannot be cured.

ULCERATION OF THE NECK OF THE WOMB.

Mrs. — placed herself under my care, May 30, 1855. She told me that for nine months she had been cauterised almost weekly, and her sufferings at times were very great. She complained of great pains in her back and in the loins, with a draining discharge, which was sometimes mixed with blood. Upon examination, I found the anterior and left side of the neck of the womb in a state of semi-malignant ulceration (not cancerous). I applied dressings daily to the parts, without her suffering any pain; and in the course of six weeks she returned to Ireland, quite well.

HEREDITARY CANCER AT THE NECK OF THE WOMB.

Mrs. —, aged 29 years, informed me that about three years since (1855) she was alarmed by hæmorrhagic discharge, which had at intervals troubled her ever since; and that her anxiety was very great, from the fact that both her mother and her aunt had died from cancer of the womb. She had been under the care of many eminent surgeons, who pronounced her case incurable, but advised her husband to take her to Professor S—, of Edinburgh. However, he was advised by some personal friends, whose wives had been under his care, not to consult the distinguished professor. Mr. — was then induced, contrary to the warnings of his medical attendants, to bring his wife to London, and, by the advice of a celebrated physician, to place her under my care. I commenced the curative treatment in the beginning of February, 1858; and in a few weeks, from not being able to move any distance without great suffering, she could take exercise without fatigue. Finally, on the 30th of April following, she returned home perfectly well.

The next and last case of this form of disease which I will at present cite, shows how greatly practitioners may err as to

the actual disease of an affected organ ; and at the same time shows that there is an advantage in studying these special cases, so as to discriminate, on an examination, whether it is, or is not, a malignant form of the disease.

EXTENSIVE DISEASE OF THE WOMB, NOT CANCEROUS.

Mrs. —, aged 54. The lady was a patient of my friend, Dr. W—, with whom I attended the case. For some years she had been a great sufferer, having had constant pain in the left groin, hip, and thigh ; and for two years had been unable to move, except with the aid of crutches. She had been attended by Dr. F—, Sir C. L—, and other equally distinguished men, who differed in their opinions. One said it was a disease of the bowels ; another, of the hip ; and a third, that it was disease of the womb. Although the latter diagnosis was the correct one, yet the case was not successfully treated. Among other serious difficulties, this lady had periodical profuse floodings. When I first saw her, on the 2nd of April, 1859, she was completely exsanguinated, and almost pulseless, having suffered from excessive hæmorrhage for nearly three weeks. I succeeded in stopping it ; and on making an examination, some days afterwards, I found extensive disease, but nothing of a cancerous character. My remedies were at once applied, causing neither pain in the application, nor suffering afterwards. In a few days, a marked change for the better took place ; and the improvement gradually progressed, and all her usual pains soon afterwards left her. In a month, she was able to take a drive daily in her carriage ; and by the end of July, she was so far recovered as to be able to walk without assistance, the womb being restored to a healthy state ; and this condition continued, when I had the pleasure of hearing of her in May, 1863.

It would answer but little purpose to narrate a number of other cases of this kind ; but, in order to illustrate the special

views which have been given of the numerous modifications and complications which often occur in the treatment of ulcers, whether they are arranged as either malignant, semi-malignant, or otherwise, it may not be altogether a useless task to give a few cases of other forms of ulcers alluded to in the previous pages.

The following four are selected as examples of cancrroid ulceration.

CANCROID ULCERATION OF THE CHEEK.

Mr. —, of Yorkshire, 35 years of age, suffered for some time from ulcerated disease of the cheek. It was the usual story,—the commencement with a small pimple, to which caustics were applied, its rapid increase, and ulceration. I saw this gentleman on the 27th January, 1858; and in the course of a few weeks he returned home, perfectly well.

CANCROID ULCERATION OF THE NOSE.

Mrs. —, aged 60, had suffered for some years previous to coming under my care. I first saw her on the 13th May, 1854. It was rather a difficult case to manage, from the extent and situation of the disease; yet, in the course of a few weeks, she got well, and returned home. However, in the following year, a small spot appeared on the seat of the original disease. She immediately came up to consult me; and after remaining in London a fortnight, she returned home cured, and has remained well ever since.

CANCROID ULCERATION OF THE GUM, AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE PAROTID GLAND.

Miss B—, aged 58 years, had her gum injured, about twenty-seven years ago, by artificial teeth, the spring of which produced an abscess, which was lanced, and it then

became rapidly worse. She then consulted Sir C—— H——, who operated, and took away a portion of the bone. The wound never properly healed, but has always been painful and sore, and has discharged, more or less, ever since. The parotid gland commenced enlarging about Christmas, 1858. I commenced treatment on the 18th February, 1859, and in six weeks she was perfectly well, and has remained so.

CANCROID ULCERATION OF THE ROOF OF THE MOUTH.

E—— B——, aged 66 years, had been for over forty years in the service of a clergyman in Dorsetshire. For about a year she has suffered much pain in the roof of the mouth when eating, and from the part there was also at times a great discharge. She felt much alarmed, as her sister died from cancer of the mouth. I commenced the treatment of her case on the 12th October, 1858, and some time before Christmas she returned home, perfectly well. She called to see me about three years afterwards, when I found her restored to perfect health, and no symptoms of her former disease could be discovered.

The following cases of cancer of the lip will render it manifest, that a correct *diagnosis* is the first essential in treating forms of disease which assume many symptoms in common; and that, therefore, to ensure any rational chance of cure, it is essential to distinguish one kind from another.

CANCER OF THE LIP.

Mr. L——, of Glasgow, is a foreman in a manufactory in that city; he said, that some time before last Christmas (1853) he was coming out of the gates connected with the works, when he was accidentally struck by a boy on the lip, with a small switch. The accident was painful at the time, and left a small hard lump. About three months after this it

commenced growing and shooting out a stem-like form, of three-quarters of an inch in length. He went to a doctor, who burnt it with caustic, which made it bleed profusely, and gave great pain; it grew again almost immediately, and was burnt down with caustic several times. He came up to consult me on the 20th July, 1854, when, upon examination, I found a small cancerous tumour in the lip. I at once commenced the treatment, and he returned home, perfectly well, on the 22nd of August, having been just one month under my care. I lately heard of Mr. L——, that he remains quite well. This was in May, 1863.

CANCER OF THE LOWER LIP.

Captain D——, of Liverpool, felt, about nine years ago [1854], a small hard lump which appeared on the lower lip, but did not give him any pain or uneasiness. Unfortunately, in February, 1856, he fell and broke a tooth, and immediately after this he felt for the first time a sharp darting pain. Soon afterwards he went to Harrowgate and put himself under the care of a galvanist, who galvanised it. This, to a certain extent, alleviated the pain, which by this time was constant, as the lump increased with great rapidity. He now placed himself under the care of Dr. ——, of Birkenhead, who used caustics; under his treatment it still rapidly increased. Seeing that it was getting so much worse, he went to a Mr. O——, of Birmingham, who said he could cure it in three weeks. This gentleman first applied a powder to the disease, and then plasters. This treatment, instead of curing, aggravated all the symptoms. It not only increased the size, but the pain became almost unbearable. He remained with Mr. O—— four months. He came up to me on the 27th of November, 1856, when I found a large cancerous growth, involving the lower lip and chin. It was a most unfavourable case; yet I consented to treat it. I commenced on the 28th of November, 1856; on the 17th of December all disease was removed, and on the 8th January, 1857, the

parts were all healed, with little or no deformity, and he returned home quite well. I have frequently heard from this gentleman. He remains quite well.

LUPUS.

It will be remembered that in the remarks on the disease called Lupus, it was stated that it principally attacked the nose and lips; but it also attacks the cheeks, forehead, and eyelids.

Its destructive agency is so great, that if not arrested, it destroys the parts it may attack, and that until the whole of the substance is implicated, and many unseemly scars remain to mark its ravages.

That these cases, when they occur, are not altogether hopeless, is verified by the following:—

Mrs. —, aged 48 years, had been afflicted with Lupus above twenty-three years. The nose was partly destroyed, and the nostrils obliterated; had been under the care of the most eminent men in London. I commenced treatment on the 23rd February, 1853, and the cure was complete on the 20th of July, and I have the satisfaction of stating that the lady still remains quite well.

TUMOURS.

In selecting a few cases of the cancerous tumour, the object is obvious, as they will manifest the importance of distinguishing this kind from ordinary inflamed swellings, and of not confounding them with sarcomatous ulcers.

A CANCEROUS TUMOUR ON THE RIGHT SHOULDER.

Mrs. —, aged 27 years. This lady was the wife of an officer in the Royal Artillery. Her mother and grand-

mother had died from cancer. About three years ago a small lump appeared upon the deltoid muscle of the right arm. The sleeves of her dress having irritated it, it rapidly increased. It had all the symptoms of malignant cancer. Upon the 9th of September, 1856, I commenced the treatment for enucleation. On the 26th of the same month the disease came away, and on the 28th of October, she was quite well.

TUMOUR ON THE ANGLE OF THE LEFT JAW.

I was called in by Dr. — to see Mrs. —, as a remarkable case. This lady had been struck on the parietal bone of the left side by a spent cricket-ball. She immediately experienced great pain, but not on the spot with which the ball came in contact, but upon the molar process of the same side. About six weeks afterwards, a tumour made its appearance under the angle of the jaw. The swelling was reduced by means of arnica, but the tumour remained about the size of a nut. It was movable, and caused but little pain. With the approval of my medical friend, I prescribed an ointment which had the effect of entirely removing the tumour within a month, and that without causing the slightest pain, or abrasion of the skin.

MALIGNANT TUMOUR IN THE ABDOMEN.

Miss —, aged 56 years. This lady first noticed a small tumour, during 1857, immediately below and to the left of the navel. From the irritation by her clothes it rapidly increased, and for *eight months* she placed herself under the care of a caustic doctor. The irritation produced was so great, that she was threatened with inflammation of the bowels, and was compelled to give up this treatment, without deriving any benefit after all her sufferings. Indeed, she became rapidly worse. I saw this lady on the 25th August, 1859, and on the 5th September following she commenced

my treatment, and by the 28th of the same month she returned home perfectly cured.

It is now my intention to select from my case-book a few that were relieved by my mode of treating the disease, although they were not cured.

There is not any need of comment; they are reported with sufficient detail to explain their actual condition when I was first consulted.

CANCER OF THE AXILLA.

Mrs. ——. I saw this lady for the first time on the 8th of August, 1855, and found her labouring under cancer of the axilla (armpit). It first appeared about two years ago. Since then she has been under the care of the most eminent surgeons in London. Upon examination I found that the left breast and the axilla were fearfully involved with cancerous disease. The arm was also enormously swollen, and she suffered much pain, which seemed to be constantly darting through parts to the lungs, in which I detected slight effusion. I was unwilling to interfere in such a hopeless case; but as all others had been tried, and urged to do so, I had the satisfaction to reduce the swelling of the arm in a great measure, checking the disease both in the armpit and breast, by which she was relieved of much suffering, and at the same time the effusion in the lungs was checked. She was removed to Ramsgate, where the effusion rapidly increased, and she died on the 15th of October, 1855. Her husband, in writing to me on that day, says, "*Your remedies certainly greatly relieved her.*"

CANCER OF THE NECK OF THE WOMB.

I was requested to visit Mrs. —, March 24th, 1854, and found her in bed, suffering from cancer of the neck of

the womb. She had been cauterised very frequently, which caused her great pain. Her sufferings were so severe that she could not sit up for any length of time, from the discharge being so profuse, and so highly offensive. Upon examination, I found the greater portion of the neck of the womb had been destroyed, and the remainder affected with true cancerous ulceration. The neighbouring parts had been much injured by the caustics, and one portion was also affected by the disease. In this case there was little hope of cure, but only relief. I commenced my course of treatment on the 26th of March, 1854, and in three weeks the sufferer was sitting up in her drawing-room. As the pain slowly disappeared, the narcotics were given up at nights by degrees, so that her appetite and general health improved; and in the course of four months she was able to be removed into the country. I did not see this lady again. She lived for about a year after this, and I have heard that she suffered little or no pain to the time of her death.

I adduce one other instance of mitigation of a fatal case; as it will be admitted that when a disease of such a malignant character becomes inveterate and incurable, either from neglect or mal-practice, there is some consolation in knowing that any extreme agony, consequent on such a condition, may be mitigated, and the last days of existence not embittered by any excessive suffering.

CANCER OF THE TONGUE.

Mrs. — had a cancer of the tongue, and she came up to London to place herself under my care on the 14th of July, 1856. The tongue was involved to a frightful extent with the disease. Professor —, a provincial surgeon in Edinburgh (strange to say) refused to operate. I at first refused interference with the case, and she went to Mr. F—, who proposed an operation. To this her brother, the Rev. Mr. —, would not listen, and seeing her again afterwards,

I agreed to undertake the case, with the hope of prolonging life and easing her of some of the dreadful anguish she endured. As an additional annoyance, she was also suffering from ptyalism, and I did not think she could possibly live longer than two months. Although the applications were painful when on, averaging from three to four hours daily, yet she suffered nothing comparatively speaking from the disease, and her life was prolonged nearly five months. She died upon the 12th of December the same year, free from all suffering.

CHAPTER VI.

REMEDIES, AND OTHER AGENTS, USED BY THE AUTHOR IN TREATING THESE DISEASES.

SOME of the alkaloid preparations used and introduced by the Author, into this country, for the treatment of these and other diseases:—

ASCLEPIN, *prepared from the root of the ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA*.—An excellent alterative, diuretic, and tonic. I frequently give it with success in the peculiar rheumatic pains which are a frequent sequence to cancerous disease.

APOCYNIN, *prepared from the root of the APOCYNUM CANNABINUM*.—It possesses cathartic and diuretic properties. A good medicine in cases of ovarian dropsy.

ATROPIN, *prepared from the leaves and roots of the ATROPA BELLADONNA*.—Useful in neuralgia, fevers—especially those accompanied with eruptions, as scarlet fever, &c.—and of benefit in mania, dependent on uterine disturbance.

BAPTISIN, *prepared from the stalks and leaves of the BAPTISIA TINCTORIA*.—A most valuable agent in treating Amenorrhœa; indeed even in the most obstinate cases of suppression of the monthly discharge: I have never failed speedily to restore it, either by giving baptisin or macrotin. Both are equally valuable for this purpose. (See MACROTIN.)

COLLINSONIN, *prepared from the root of the COLLINSONIA CANADENSIS*.—This medicine exerts a peculiar influence on the rectum and adjacent parts. It is useful in treating piles and abscesses.

CYPRIPEDIN, *prepared from the root of the* CYPRIPEDIUM PUBESCENS.—A good tonic, and useful in chorea from its affinity to the purple lady slipper of Canada (*Saracenia purpurea*). It will probably be found useful in treating small pox and similar exanthematous diseases.

CAULOPHYLLIN, *prepared from the root of the* CAULOPHYLLUM THALICTROIDES.—Excellent in the treatment of dysmenorrhœa, leucorrhœa, &c., &c.

CORYDALIN, *prepared from the root of the* CORYDALIS FORMOSA.—A useful medicine in cases of scrofula.

CERASEIN, *prepared from the bark of the* CERASUS VIRGINIANA.—One of the best tonics I am acquainted with. It can be given with success in place of quinine. Indeed, from my experience of this agent, I prefer it to quinine, as it never gives rise to the pains in the head and the other disagreeable symptoms that frequently follow the use of the latter medicine.

DIGITALIN, *prepared from the leaves of the* DIGITALIS PURPUREA.—Useful in rheumatism, &c., &c.; and in those cases where abortion is threatened.

GELSEMIN, *prepared from the root of the* GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.—An excellent febrifuge, useful in the rheumatic and neuralgic pains peculiar to cancerous disease.

GERANIN, *prepared from the root of the* GERANIUM MACULATUM.—A good astringent; therefore useful in hæmorrhages, leucorrhœa, &c., &c.

HYDRASTIN, *prepared from the root of the* HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS.—Exerts a peculiar action on mucous surfaces, and has a *sui-generis* action on the liver—useful in cancerous affections of the liver or stomach, piles, leucorrhœa, gonorrhœa, otorrhœa, &c., &c.

HAMAMELIN, *prepared from the leaves and bark of the* HAMAMELIS VIRGINICA.—Astringent and sedative. One of the most valuable agents that we possess in treating uterine disease.

LEPTANDRIN, *prepared from the root of the* LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA.—A gentle laxative, useful in the treatment of piles, dyspepsia, &c.

MACROTIN, *prepared from the root of the* MACROTYS RACEMOSA. (See BAPTISIN.)

MYRICIN, *prepared from the bark of the root of the MYRICA CERIFERA*.—A valuable alterative, and stimulant. I use it in all cases where a low state of the body exists, and invariably with marked success.

PHYTOLACIN, *prepared from the root of the PHYTOLACCA DECANDRIA*.—Useful in glandular affections. Formerly, the Phytolacca was extensively used among the slave population in the West Indies, for treating cancerous and malignant sores. For this purpose, it has proved inert in my hands.

PODOPHYLLIN, *prepared from the root of the PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM*.—A most valuable cathartic, exerting a special influence on the hepatic circulation—in many cases, preferable to mercurials.

SENECIN, *prepared from the stalk and leaves of the SENECIO GRACILIS*.—Diuretic and tonic—useful in dropsy, and in cases of debility, with loss of appetite.

STILLINGIN, *prepared from the root of the STILLINGIA SYLVATICA*.—Alterative, and stimulant—useful in cutaneous diseases.

SCUTELLARIN, *prepared from the SCUTELLARIA LATRIFLORA*.—An excellent tonic, and anti-spasmodic—useful in mania hysteria, and in nervous debility.

VIBURNIN, *prepared from the bark of the VIBURNUM OPULUS*.—Anti-spasmodic, alterative, and tonic—useful in convulsions, threatened abortions, &c., &c.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.—The concentrated tincture (*not the alkaloid*) is the preparation I always use. It is almost a specific in erysipelas, and similar diseases. I frequently employ it in painting the inflamed surface three or four times daily. A medical friend told me, he had treated confluent smallpox (preventing pitting) with success, by painting the whole face with equal parts of the concentrated tinctures of the *hydrastis canadensis* and of *veratrum viride*.

XANTHOXYLIN, *prepared from the bark of the XANTHOXYLUM FRAXINEUM*.—Useful in rheumatism and scrofula.

In addition to these, I use many of the medicines that are in general use, dependent on the symptoms

that may arise. In some few cases narcotics for a time, are indispensable, and when such is the case I generally prefer codeine, where the object is to allay suffering; but where sleep is necessary, I generally prescribe Battley's solution of opium, in preference to all other preparations; for it is a curious fact, that although codeine allays pain, yet it seldom induces sleep. In some few cases, I find nepenthe and chlorodyne agree better with the patient than either codeine or Battley; but these are exceptional cases.

Great attention should be paid to diet. Only those articles of food that are of the most nutritious character should be given. All salted food should be prohibited. (I do not mean by this that salt is not allowable, for every dish should be made as savoury and enticing to the palate as possible.) If there is much flatulence, which is frequently the case, the quantity of vegetable food should be reduced to a smaller quantity than usual. The bowels may frequently be regulated by means of fruit, &c. In those cases, where debility is the most prominent feature, stimulants must be judiciously administered. Always where the poor patient is much reduced by long suffering, pale brandy is the best—indeed, it is the only admissible spirit in such cases; but in the majority of cases, where the prostration of strength is not so great, I find great benefit from the free administration of the pure Hungarian wines—more especially those wines known as the Carlowitz and Tokay wines, imported by Max Greger, Esq. These wines are valuable to invalids, from their containing phosphoric acid and iron, and from their freedom from adulteration.

It is from using these medicinal remedies, from strict attention to Hygienic and dietetic agents—but, above all, to God's blessing—that I have been so successful in treating these formidable classes of disease.

THE END,

